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## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

At the beginning of a new year it is usual and, indeed, natural to contemplate the prospect offered by the future, but the upheaval all around us and the uncertainty of the times in which we are living make a forecast not only impossible but almost futile. No one can say what will happen in the world in the days ahead, and, therefore, in ringing matters as in every other sphere, we can only wait upon events, planning to go ahead as opportunity offers. This much, however, can be said, that 1940 opens in conditions more encouraging for ringing than at one time seemed possible. When war broke out it appeared likely that ringing, for the time being, would come absolutely to an end and had the events which were anticipated materialised it is probable that there would have been such a collapse of activities that there could have been no revival until peace came. Happily disaster, in the sense that everyone expected, did not befall us; and in the recovery that has taken place throughout the normal activities of the people, ringing has held its own and the prospect of our art now keeping alive through the stressful days ahead is very bright. It is now realised that church bells rung for the church services and for other customary purposes are not out of place; that the public welcome them and the authorities do not object to them when used under reasonable conditions. Some evidence that the recovery has been really effective is to be found in the number of peals rung for the Christmas festival and, subject to a proper appreciation of the occasions when bells should be silent, there is no reason why peal ringing in moderation should not be continued.

Most associations are now finding it possible to hold meetings, even though, on account of the black-out, the hours of actual ringing are restricted. When the longer days come there will, of course, be even more scope for gatherings of this kind. In the meantime plans can well be laid for making the most of the summer-time meetings, but there ought to be something done now to add interest to the winter gatherings, where ringing is curtailed, by making them educational. There must be in every association some members who, for instance, could give informal instructional talks on various matters connected with bells and the art of ringing, and a profitable hour or so could be provided by such talks and a subsequent discussion.

The return of peace may yet be long delayed, but there seems no reason why associations should not prepare plans for getting quickly into their full stride at the first opportunity. Indeed, it may happen, although at  
(Continued on page 2.)

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present it seems very unlikely, that a cessation of hostilities may come in the not distant future, and if schemes are prepared and kept constantly adapted to changing circumstances, they will be ready to be put into operation on the shortest notice. In this respect we refer not only to the internal affairs of all the associations. There are larger problems which need to be dealt with, problems which have been recognised but allowed to slide for want of the desire or the lack of spirit to solve them. One such is touched upon in lighter vein in our present issue; but in this article there is much food for thought. This war which we are fighting should teach us lessons in many directions, and one of them is that there is little place for rivalries which embitter feeling. Ringing has not been without such sources of friction and in the days before us, when curtailed activities in some directions give opportunity of thought on other matters, those who could and should help to mould the future of the Exercise might well consider what changes might be made to wipe out the outworn and unproductive sources of rivalries of the past.

## TEN BELL PEALS.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

F. VICKERS... .. Treble	R. H. HOWSON ... .. 6
J. E. ARNOLD ... .. 2	F. J. PLUMMER ... .. 7
H. B. WHITNEY ... .. 3	H. V. FROST... .. 8
*V. W. CONQUEST ... .. 4	G. W. DEBENHAM ... .. 9
G. E. DEBENHAM ... .. 5	E. A. BELSON ... .. Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by E. A. BELSON.  
\* First peal. First peal of Royal by the ringers of 1, 2, 3, 7, and 10.  
First peal as conductor.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

*ALICE M. SCOTT... .. Treble	ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 6
REGINALD A. REED, R.F.A. 2	GEORGE WILLIAMS ... .. 7
LEONARD KNOTT ... .. 3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER... .. 8
† WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... .. 4	LESLIE A. TREMEER ... .. 9
ERNEST J. AYLIFF ... .. 5	HAROLD P. REED ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.  
\* First peal of Royal at first attempt. † First peal of Treble Bob Royal.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-A-BECKET,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb. in E.

THOMAS B. KENDALL ... .. Treble	ALFRED SMITH ... .. 5
HARRY DAVISON ... .. 2	HERBERT DAVENPORT... .. 6
MISS MARY WHITE ... .. 3	GEORGE ROBINSON ... .. 7
KENNETH SIMPSON ... .. 4	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.  
Specially arranged and rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. Joseph Broadley, of Bradford.

AMPTHILL, BEDS.—At the Church of St. Andrew on Sunday, November 26th, a quarter-peal of Doubles, being 780 of Grandsire and 480 of Plain Bob: W. Foreman 1, A. C. Sinfield 2, S. Daniels 3, R. J. Sharp 4, C. E. Jeffries (conductor) 5, K. Garrett 6. Rung for even-song.



GUILDFORD, SURREY.  
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,  
**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**  
PITSTOW'S TRANSPOSITION OF THIRSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... Treble	WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... 5
CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 2	† DONALD E. BRISTOW ... 6
HENRY HUTTON ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
C. ERNEST SMITH ... 4	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

\* First peal of Triples in the method. † First peal in the method. Specially arranged for Leading Aircraftsman Donald Bristow, who was home on leave.

PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,  
**A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 19½ cwt.

LEONARD LUCK ... Treble	JAMES E. DAVIS ... 5
WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD ... 2	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 6
WILLIAM R. MADGWICK ... 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7
HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 4	CECIL C. MAYNE ... Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
**A PEAL OF OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;**

ILKESTON ARRANGEMENT.

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

* WILLIAM DAWSON ... Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 5
* CHARLES HUTCHINSON ... 2	JACK BAILEY ... 6
WILLIAM H. J. KING ... 3	EDWARD C. GOBEY ... 7
HARRY HARRISON ... 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY ... Tenor

Composed by ED. C. GOBEY.

Conducted by ED. F. GOBEY.

\* First peal of Combined Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Rung in honour of the 38th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C. Hutchinson and the 21st anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. William Lancaster.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,  
**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Treble	† NORMAN H. MAKIN ... 5
DEREK M. SHARP ... 2	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 6
ERNEST H. OXENHAM ... 3	JAMES BENNETT ... 7
* FREDERICK G. GROOMBRIDGE 4	THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Tenor

Composed by J. GEORGE. Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. A.R.P. sentry duty: Edwin Barnett. \* First peal in the method on tower bells. † First peal of Major. A silver wedding peal for the conductor.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,  
**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

RICHARD LEE ... Treble	ROLAND BIGGS ... 5
GEORGE MARTIN ... 2	* HARRY JONES ... 6
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ... 3	PERCY NEWTON ... 7
FREDERICK G. BIGGS ... 4	HARRY WINGROVE ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

\* First peal in the method.

CHICHESTER.—At the Cathedral on Sunday, December 3rd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): T. A. Doick 1, W. Falconer 2, L. Atfield 3, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 4, A. E. Holden 5, L. Stilwell 6, H. Stovell 7, A. J. Doick 8. Rung for the 40th anniversary of Mr. H. J. Tucker's 100th peal.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,  
**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different callings with all 5-6's at backstroke. Tenor 15 cwt.

* K. J. JONES (Cathedral) ... Treble	G. W. DEBENHAM (St. Peters) 4
A. B. HALSEY (St. Michaels) 2	REG. EWER (St. Stephens) 5
R. BEDFORD (St. Stephens) 3	† H. V. FROST (St. Peters) ... Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD V. FROST.

\* First peal of Minor. † 50th peal.

GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 23, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,  
**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of an extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Court Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. in E.

ALBERT C. HALES ... Treble	ALAN R. ANDREWS ... 4
VIOLET A. FROST ... 2	LESLIE WRIGHT ... 5
DAISY M. ANDREWS ... 3	RALPH BIRD ... Tenor

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.

A birthday compliment to Pte. A. O. Hales, of the 5th Essex Regt.

MOLD, FLINTSHIRE.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,  
**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores.

J. S. METCALF ... Treble	* S. WILLIAMS ... 4
* L. GRIFFITHS ... 2	E. P. EVANS ... 5
* H. EDWARDS ... 3	J. H. JONES ... Tenor

Conducted by J. S. METCALF.

\* First peal. First peal as conductor.

CAPENHURST, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,  
**A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Comprising one extent each of Surfleet, Bevorley, York, Durham, London, Wells and Cambridge. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in G.

ROBERT SPERRING ... Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 4
LESTER L. GRAY ... 2	PERCY SWINDLEY ... 5
RALPH G. EDWARDS ... 3	FRANK VARTY ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

PRESTON, LANC.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,  
**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 of Oxford Single Bob and two 720's each of Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

* ALEC DIMMOCK ... Treble	JOHN JACKSON ... 4
* HARRY CLARKE ... 2	W. KENNETH MARTIN, R.A.F. 5
E. ROGER MARTIN ... 3	CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... Tenor

Conducted by C. CROSSTHWAITE.

\* First attempt for a peal.

CUCKNEY, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two 720's of Double Bob, one 720 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

WILLIAM DICKENSON ... Treble	HAROLD DENMAN ... 4
GEORGE E. FOSTER ... 2	HERBERT T. ROOKE ... 5
FREDERICK FLINT ... 3	JOE READER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. T. ROOKE.

ASHBRITTLE, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.  
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.  
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,  
At the Church of St. John,  
**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven 720's.	Tenor 10 cwt.
WILLIAM C. NEWBERRY ... Treble	WALTER STEVENS ... 4
STANLEY BRISTOW ... 2	CLAUDE W. J. TARR ... 5
FRED ALDERMAN ... 3	CYRIL J. STEVENS ... Tenor

Conducted by CLAUDE W. J. TARR.

First peal of Minor for all except the conductor. First peal of Minor as conductor. First peal of Minor on the bells. Arranged as a compliment to Mr. James Hunt on his retirement from the Mastership of the Taunton Deanery Branch.

WARBLETON, SUSSEX.  
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.  
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 12 six-scores of Plain Bob (four callings) and 15 twelve-scores of Grandsire (Morris' and Pitman's Arrangements). Tenor 10½ cwt.

*MISS C. MURIEL ORLEBAR Treble	† WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE 4
*WILFRED BOOTH ... 2	FRANK H. HICKS ... 5
*BERT STANDON ... 3	*FREDERICK BAKER ... Tenor

Conducted by W. A. KITCHENSIDE.

\* First peal in two methods. † 100th peal.

SUTTON COURTENAY, BERKSHIRE.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,  
At the Church of All Saints,  
**A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Comprising a 720 each of York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Nether-seale, Norwich and Cambridge. Tenor 17 cwt.

*GEORGE AYRES ... Treble	*REV. MALCOLM C. MELVILLE 4
MARIE R. CROSS ... 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 5
FRANCIS E. TAYLOR ... 3	ALAN R. PINK ... Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

\* First peal in seven Surprise methods. First peal of Surprise Minor on the bells.

THORINGTON, ESSEX.  
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.  
On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,  
At the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene,  
**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of an extent each of Ipswich, Norwich and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Court Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 22 lb. in G.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD ... Treble	ALBERT C. HALES ... 4
DAISY M. ANDREWS ... 2	HARRY J. MILLATT ... 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS ... 3	GEORGE A. ANDREWS ... Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.  
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.  
(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,  
At the Church of All Saints,  
**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Plain Bob, St. Clement's, Childwall, College Exercise, Oxford, Kent and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 13 cwt.

PETER WOODWARD ... Treble	ERNEST BROOKES ... 4
*SIDNEY BRIGGS ... 2	ARTHUR GILL ... 5
CLIFFORD ROBINSON ... 3	DANIEL SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

\* First peal in seven methods. Rung as a thanksgiving peal for Mr. A. Panther, who is now at home progressing favourably after several serious operations.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.  
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,  
At TRENTWOOD,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven extents in 50 methods:—

1. Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury, Oxford Treble Bob, Carisbrooke, Wath, Donottar and Pontefract Delight.
2. Hereward, Double Court, Oxford Bob and Court Bob.
3. Iver, Buxton Alliance and Little Bob.
4. Finchley, Ellacombe Alliance and Crayford Little Court.
5. Fulmer, Walsingham, Lammas, Olney Alliance and Little Bob.
6. Chalfont, Cromer, Steventon, Tibenham Alliance and Crayford Little Court.
7. Windermere, Frodsham, Killarney, Horsmonden, Ennerdale, Cumberland, Lytham, Thelwall, London Bob, Double Oxford, Waver-tree, Childwall, College, St. Clement's, Canterbury Pleasure, Fulbeck, Reverse Bob, Double Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY ... 1-2	GEORGE E. FEIRN ... 3-4
JACK BRAY ... 5-6	

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEIRN.

There were 138 changes of method. The greatest number of methods yet rung in seven extents 'in hand.'

LINCOLN.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.  
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Friday, December 29, 1939, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,  
At 95, SINCIL BANK,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED ORIGINAL, REVERSE, DOUBLE, GAINSBOROUGH, LITTLE AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN ... 1-2	JOHN FREEMAN ... 5-6
JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... 3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT ... 7-8

Composed by GEORGE E. FEIRN. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

\* First peal of Spliced Major. First peal in six Major methods 'in hand' by all the band. Each course was rung with one lead each of the methods as given above, and there were 377 changes of method.

## A PHOTOGRAPHIC FAKE.

HOW A PRESSMAN CAPTURED NEW YEAR 'ATMOSPHERE.'  
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While ringing was in progress for morning service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on December 31st, a Press photographer entered the belfry, accompanied by two soldiers.

When the ringing was finished and the bells lowered, the camera-man proceeded to pose the soldiers as ringers and took their photograph holding ropes.

On being asked for what purpose the pictures were required, he said it was to illustrate New Year celebrations in the Press—the London dailies.

Neither of the soldiers had ever been in a belfry before and the ringers present had considerable difficulty in persuading them to remove their hats, which the pressman wanted retained 'for added effect.'

It was stated that the name of the church would not be published, but if any ringer should see such a picture in any paper he will know just how much truth there is in whatever caption may be underneath it.  
G. W. STEERE.

## ORDINATION OF A FORMER BOURNEMOUTH RINGER.

In the list of Advent ordinations in the Manchester Diocese the name of Fred Frankland Rigby appears. Mr. Rigby returns to his native Lancashire after having spent some years in the South of England as a member of the Bournemouth St. Peter's band. He was originally captain of the Westhoughton (Lancashire) company, and is a member of the Lancashire Association, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, the Salisbury Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths. His address is now 100, Hall Road, Smallshaw, Ashton-under-Lyne.

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**A GREAT HANDBELL PERFORMANCE.****FIFTY METHODS IN A PEAL OF MINOR.**

There was a wonderful performance on handbells at Burton-on-Stather, Lincs, on Boxing Day. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bray and Mr. George Feirn rang a peal of Minor in fifty methods; easily, of course, the greatest number of methods yet rung in seven true extents on handbells. This trio, it will be remembered, are members of the six-bell band that hold the tower-bell record, of 104 methods of Minor, and their latest achievement is no less remarkable.

The peal included both plain and Treble Bob methods and was called by Mr. Feirn from the middle pair. In the first 720 there were no fewer than 13 Treble Bob methods, and in the last 720 there were actually 19 plain methods. Altogether there were 138 changes of method. It makes the average ringer dizzy even to think of it.

Another excellent Lincolnshire performance is also recorded this week. A Lincoln company on Friday rang a peal in six Spliced Plain methods, and it was the more notable from the fact that the ringer of 1-2, Michael Freeman, is only 14 years of age, and the ringer of the tenors, Kenneth Croft, is only 17.

Each course of the peal consisted of Original, Reverse, Double, Gainsborough, Little and Plain Bob Major, and, as a result, there were 377 changes of method.

**CHRISTMAS PEALS.**

A silver wedding peal was rung at Crayford, Kent, on Boxing Day, it being the 25th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Groombridge, jun. Mr. Groombridge called the peal and a hearty welcome was extended to his father, Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., who made his first attempt for a peal since his accident last August. It should be noted that while the peal was in progress Mr. Edwin Barnett did A.R.P. sentry duty.

A peal of Minor in seven methods was rung on the front six of the ten bells at Preston, Lancs, on Boxing Day. Kenneth Martin, of the R.A.F., took part and the band would like to associate with the peal the name of Kenneth Hall, a member of Penwortham company, now serving in the Royal Navy.

The first peal of Minor on the bells at Ashbrittle, Taunton, was rung on Boxing Day. It was specially arranged by Mr. S. Bristow as a compliment to Mr. James Hunt upon his retirement from the Mastership of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association after 21 years' service.

A peal in seven Surprise Minor methods was rung at Sutton Courtenay, near Oxford, on Boxing Day. The tenor bell at this tower has had a huge hole torn in the centre of the crown at some time, and a plate has been screwed across it, the bolts coming through on

the very edge of what is left of the crown. The damage, we are told, does not seem to have affected either the tone or go of the bell.

Mr. William A. Kitchenside, who has done good work for ringing on the Kent and Sussex border, scored his 100th peal on Boxing Day, when he called a 5,040 of Doubles at Warbleton.

**FOUR ST. ALBANS TOWERS.**

There are four towers with rings of bells in the city of St. Albans, and on the Saturday before Christmas a band representing them all rang a peal of Bob Minor at St. Stephen's. It was Mr. Harold Frost's 50th peal, and he and Mr. G. W. Debenham (who represented St. Peter's) have now rung a peal in each of the towers.

Mr. William C. Shute rang his first peal of Treble Bob Royal on Boxing Day at North Stoneham, Hants, and has thus scored peals of Treble Bob from Minor to Maximus.

The first peal on the ten bells of All Saints' Church, Leighton Buzzard, since they were rehung in 1937 was rung on Boxing Day. It was a 5,000 of Plain Bob Royal and was called by the Luton district secretary, Mr. E. A. Belson, at his first attempt. The peal was of great value to the local ringers, as they all scored their first peal of Royal and one his first peal. The inclusion in the band of Messrs. G. W. Debenham, G. E. Debenham and H. V. Frost, of St. Albans, greatly strengthened the team, and the local men were all eager to show their appreciation to the visitors for such a fine performance. The striking was of a high standard throughout, and the performance was a credit to the conductor and his band.

**COMPLIMENT TO VETERAN YORKSHIRE RINGER.**

A peal at Heptonstall, Yorkshire, on Saturday, December 23rd, was arranged specially as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. Joseph Broadley, of Bradford. Mr. Broadley reached his 80th birthday in October, but Hitler upset all the plans to honour it at the appropriate time. However, like other recent events, this peal performance shows that the German menace is being overcome, and the glorious tones of the splendid bells, situated high in the heart of the Pennines, seemed to echo a challenge to all strife and aggression.

Mr. Joe Broadley, who has made the bells and belfry at Bradford Cathedral his special care, joined the Yorkshire Association in 1879—four years after its formation by the late Jasper W. Snowdon, and has rung 402 peals under its auspices, the highest individual total. Although Mr. Broadley has done little peal ringing of late years, he is still more than 70 peals ahead of his runner-up. We accord him our sincere congratulations and greetings, and trust that he may long be spared among us.

The band would like, through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' to express their thanks and appreciation to the Vicar, churchwardens and local ringers for their kindness in granting permission to make the attempt, and also for making the necessary 'black-out' arrangements.

# John Taylor & Co.

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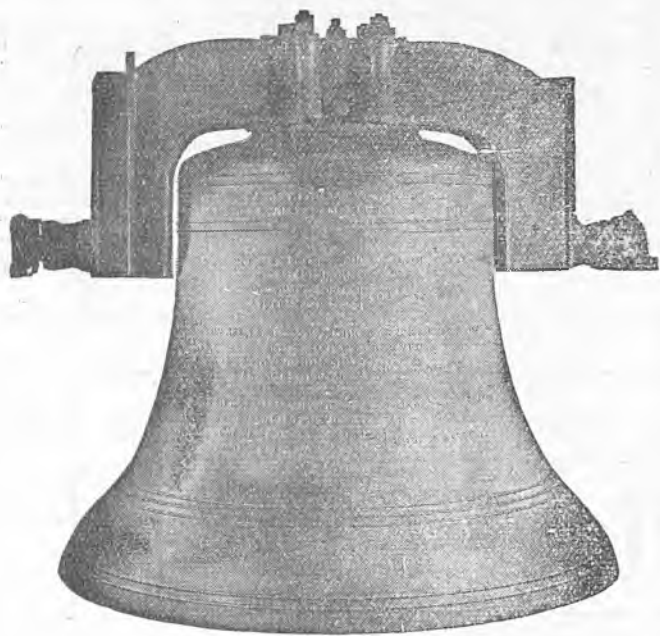
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, who, we are pleased to find, has been able to leave Glasgow for his Scottish home after his recent attack of influenza, informs us that the 720 of Stedman Minor, mentioned in his letter of last week, was rung on December 18th, 1905, at St. Michael's, Garston, Lancs.

A Sheffield correspondent writes: The 'Mad Band' returns compliments and offers all good wishes to Pay-S.-Lieut. C. Glenn, R.N.V.R., with a fervent desire that we may meet again in the future.

Greetings to their English fellow ringers have been received by the Editor from Mr. A. A. Savage, of Melbourne, Australia, Mr. A. R. Wilson and Mr. A. Pedder, of Hobart, Tasmania.

On January 1st, 1733, 'some select Oxford ringers' rang Christ Church bells for a wager. 'The wager was that they could not ring the five thousand and forty quater or cater changes on them. They were to have six trials, and if on the sixth trial they did not do it, they were to lose.'

It was the first peal ever rung in Oxford. In the previous year Annable and a band of the College Youths had visited the city, but had been defeated by faulty hanging and rotten ropes.

The Sherwood Youths, with W. D. Crofts, rang 8,064 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on January 1st, 1776.

On the same date in 1793 James Barham rang his 100th peal, one of Bob Major, at Leeds in Kent. Two years later, in 1795, the village band at Soham in Cambridgeshire scored one of the first peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major to be rung outside Norwich.

On January 2nd, 1909, the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Royal ever achieved was rung at Wednesbury, and on the same date five years earlier the 'John' peal of London Surprise Major was rung at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917, at a comparatively early age. His record of 250 peals rung in two consecutive years has never been beaten and probably will stand for many years.

On January 6th, 1851, the College Youths rang 7,524 changes of Stedman Cinques at St. Giles', Cripplegate.

The first twelve-bell peal outside London, Grandsire Cinques, was rung at Cirencester on January 7th, 1767.

Henry Johnson died at Aston on January 7th, 1890, full of years and honour. His is one of the great names in the history of the Exercise.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Caters was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on January 7th, 1817. Treble Bob on odd numbers is, of course, a freak method, as every bell has to lie still four blows behind, and at a bob eight blows.

## THE MESSAGE OF THE BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I thought the following two verses of Longfellow might be a stimulus to ringers at this present time of Christmas in war:—

And in despair I bowed my head:

'There is no peace on earth,' I said;

'For hate is strong

And mocks the song

Of "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;

'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep:

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail

With peace on earth, goodwill to men.'

A. TROTMAN.

## CENTENARIES IN THE YEAR 1940.

The year that is opening will contain no centenaries or bicentenaries of any particular interest in the history of change ringing. About 300 years ago what is practically the same thing as our Plain Bob Doubles was first rung, and so 1940 may be the tercentenary of the real beginning of modern change ringing; but the date is only an approximate one.

A century later in 1740 the art was full grown and peal ringing in our modern style had been in use for nearly 20 years; but that particular year was rather a lean one. Five peals were rung by London men belonging to two societies, the College Youths and the Eastern Scholars. Of them only one was of any particular interest—the first peal of Double Bob Maximus, rung by the College Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 24th. Benjamin Annable was the conductor.

The record of only one peal rung in the provinces during the year seems to have survived. This was Union Triples on September 21st at St. Laurence's, Reading, by the local band.

The year 1840 was also rather a lean one. In London ringing had been declining for some time, and in that year the College Youths rang only two peals. Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major. The Cumberlands rang 5,079 changes of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow on March 17th. There was a good band at Norwich, but they had already achieved all their best performances except the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. Birmingham, too, had many excellent ringers, but generally throughout the country the Art and the Exercise were reaching the lowest point in their history.



## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Saint Giles', Cripplegate, is one of the finest and most interesting of the London churches. Built in 1545 to replace an older building, it just escaped the fire of 1666, and, as narrowly, a great conflagration which destroyed Jewin Crescent in the opening years of the present century. The style—Perpendicular Gothic—is in marked contrast to that of the majority of the city churches and gives a good idea of what most of the larger ones were like before they were rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.

The church is closely associated with several great



ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

[From a photo by F. E. Dawson.]

men. Here, though the exact spot is unknown, lies John Milton. Here, too, are buried John Foxe, the author of the Book of Martyrs, and Martin Frobisher, the famous explorer. Here Oliver Cromwell was married, and here Lancelot Andrewes was vicar from 1588 to 1605.

The tower contained bells from early times and the inventory made in the reign of King Edward VI. returns 'fyve belles greate and small.'

In 1580 William Lamb left fifteen pounds for the bells and the church chimes, and in 1648 an inventory shows

that there were then 'in the belfry six bigge and lesser bells, and a saunce bell.'

Five years later Ellis Knight, of Reading, recast the tenor, the cost being as follows:—

Paid to Mr. Knight for casting the great bell	22	7	8
Paid for the bond and covenant between the Parish and the Bellfounder	1	0	
Paid for hire of 4 horses for 4 'c'wardens, etc.	2	11	0
Expended at same time on journey backwards and forwards	3	15	2

In 1665 twenty-seven pounds was paid to Christopher Hodson for recasting some of the bells at his foundry at St. Mary, Cray, in Kent, and in 1668 two were added to complete the octave at the expense of a Mr. Piggott, who paid £20 for the new bells and £20 for the frame.

In 1682 the brick top was added to the steeple, a new clock and chimes installed, and several bells recast. In 1683 the 'sixth biggest bell' was ordered to be recast and made tuneable in peal.

Hodson's foreman, William Wightman, and his brother, Philip, set up a foundry in the parish and the following extracts from the accounts show that they were employed on the bells:—

1685. The great bell to be recast forthwith and to ring in peal tunable to answer the other bells, and that Mr. Wightman do receive the sum of £30, little more or less, being the remainder due to him.

1686. That the fifth bell be now forthwith new cast by Mr. Wightman, and be made a good bell to ring tunable in peal to answer the others, and he to have the same rate as formerly he had for the other; and the same Mr. W. did promise at the same time to cast and make a new Great Bell, commonly called the Tenor, to ring tunable in peal, to answer and cover all the other bells and left to his discretion the weight of each so that they both perform as above exprest.

August, 1686. That the Great bell, commonly called the Tenor, be forthwith taken down before which time Mr. Whiteman shall have a week's time to consider whether he will bring or cause to be brought into our steeple the great new bell, commonly called the tenor; if not then the committee of Gentlemen of the Vestry to treat and agree with another bellfounder for a new tenor.

In 1688 the steeple keeper was paid £4 a year, which seems a not ungenerous amount, considering the then purchasing power of money, unless his duties included other things besides looking after the bells.

By 1726 the ring had been increased to ten. In August, 1742, it was ordered that the bells should be rehung at a cost of £9 10s., and a contract was made to supply ropes and keep the bells in proper order (barring stock and wheel).

In July, 1753, an estimate from Joseph Eayre, of St. Neots, amounting to £45 for repairs was accepted and the work ordered to be done within four months.

March 30th, 1772. It being represented to the Vestry that the eighth bell in the steeple is broken, it was ordered that there be provided a new set of ten bells at the expense of the Parish and that Messrs. Pack and Chapman, bellfounders, be employed in casting the same, the sum of £200 being raised by annuities towards defraying the expense.

Pack and Chapman's estimate was to recast and make a complete new peal of ten bells and recast the Saint's bell for the sum of £315 11s.

In 1783 John Warner, the founder of the well known firm of engineers and bell founders, was churchwarden, and under his direction the tenor was recast by Robert Patrick, and the third and eighth retuned. Warner's name appears on the recast bell as 'contractor.'

In 1792 the treble was recast and two new bells added, to make a ring of twelve, by John Briant, of Hertford.

The tenor, as cast by Pack and Chapman, weighed 36 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs., and the ring bore the rhymed couplets which are usually found on bells cast at Whitechapel in the middle of the eighteenth century. The present sixth

(Continued on next page.)

## CHRISTMAS BELLS.

### SOME QUARTER-PEALS.

Throughout the country, despite the war-time conditions, the bells were rung for divine service both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. Owing to the black-out there was not so much ringing for mid-night and early service as usual, but numerous reports of touches have reached us, among them the following quarter-peals of Grandsire Triples rung on Christmas Eve:—

St. Michael's, Great Tew, Oxon.—J. Morley 1, B. Morley 2, L. Lerner 3, D. Harris 4, V. R. Hitchman 5, L. Clifton 6, R. Laffin (conductor) 7, C. Shelton 8.

All Saints', Benhilton, Surrey.—A. Clayton 1, J. H. Pink 2, F. Randall 3, F. Woodiss 4, G. Chiverton 5, E. G. Talbot 6, W. C. Smith (conductor) 7, R. Freeman 8.

St. Mary's, Usk, Monmouth.—G. J. Thomas 1, A. Hawkins 2, G. Knight 3, E. W. Luff 4, L. Jones 5, S. A. G. Kear 6, D. C. Cliff (conductor) 7, N. Sweet 8.

All Saints', Martock, Somerset.—H. B. Perrott 1, A. E. Worner 2, F. Strickland 3, F. Farrant (conductor) 4, T. Gale 5, A. Dyer 6, W. Gould 7, J. Jetten 8. Electric light has recently been installed in this belfry, and the ringers wish to thank an anonymous donor.

Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Chiddingfold, conducted by A. J. Bartlett.

On Christmas Day the following quarter-peals, etc., were rung:—Lincoln Cathedral, 1,323 Stedman Cinques: Mrs. L. L. Neal (first quarter-peal of Cinques) 1, G. Flintham 2, K. S. B. Croft 3, T. Pyle 4, J. A. Freeman (conductor) 5, J. Freeman 6, L. Snell 7, S. H. Chester 8, G. M. Mayer 9, H. Lowman 10, J. L. Millhouse 11, A. H. A. Marcon 12.

St. Helen's, Darley Dale, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: D. Scott 1, K. Allsop 2, B. Allsop 3, H. Gregory 4, H. Taylor 5, Ron Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson 7, E. Paulson 8. Miss K. Devaney took part at the early service ringing.

Glemsford, Suffolk.—At the Parish Church for morning service, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob Minor: G. N. Ives 1, G. W. Bloomfield 2, E. W. Ambrose 3, T. E. Slater 4, S. Honeyball 5, A. Catterwell (conductor) 6.

St. Denys', Northmoor, Oxon. 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Trinder 1, C. Bowsher 2, P. Trinder 3, V. Clifton 4, H. Farmer (conductor) 5, A. Townsend 6. The first quarter-peal on the bells rung for service by a local band.

Burnham, Bucks. 1,232 Little Bob Major for the 6 a.m. celebration: M. A. Blamey, R.A.F. 1, C. A. Burgess 2, P. A. Blamey 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming 4, G. W. Limmer 5, B. O'Neill 6, J. E. Taylor 7, G. Gilbert (conductor) 8. 1,260 Grandsire Triples for 10 a.m. matins: W. Gowing 1, C. A. Burgess 2, P. A. Blamey 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming (first of Grandsire) 4, G. W. Limmer 5, M. A. Blamey 6, B. O'Neill 7, J. E. Taylor 8.

Cheltenham.—The Parish Church ringers assisted the Charlton Kings band in a couple of touches of Stedman Triples for their morning service, which, conveniently, began at 9.45. The Charlton Kings band returned the compliment by giving the Cheltenham band a helping hand for their service, which began at 11 a.m., when a touch of 936 Grandsire Caters was brought round by: M. Bridgeman 1, A. Humphris 2, G. Simmonds 3, S. Hayward 4, W. Hunt 5, W. Dyer (conductor) 6, F. Price (late of Lyme Regis) 7, A. W. Handoll 8, L. Williams 9, F. Simmonds 10.

### ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

(Continued from previous page.)

has, 'Ye people all who hear me ring be faithful to your God and king.' The seventh, 'While thus we join in chearfull sound may love and loyalty abound.' The tenth, 'In wedlock bands all ye who join with hands your hearts unite, so shall our tuneful tongues combine to laud the nuptial rite.' And the eleventh, 'Ye ringers all that prize your health and happiness be sober merry wise and you'll the same possess.'

In the early years there was a good deal of paid ringing in all the city churches. Much of it was for royal birthdays and anniversaries such as the Coronation Day. During the time of the Commonwealth that sort of ringing ceased, but the bells were still rung to celebrate civic and political events. The fee paid was then five shillings. This sum was paid when Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of the Realm, dined in the City, when peace was made between England and France, and when in 1659 'the secluded members were voted in,' which was the preliminary step towards the restoration of King Charles II.

(To be continued.)

## OUR 1,500th NUMBER.

### RINGERS' APPRECIATION.

Many congratulations have come to us upon reaching the 1,500th number of 'The Ringing World.' It is gratifying to know that our efforts through this long period have met with the appreciation of ringers. Among the letters that have reached us have been the following from old ringers who have seen the rise and fall of several ringing newspapers.

#### INVALUABLE TO THE EXERCISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I, in the first place, heartily congratulate you on the issue of the fifteen hundredth number of 'The Ringing World'? And I think also that we ringers should congratulate *ourselves* on the fact that we have, for so long, had such a man as yourself in our ranks, able and willing to devote such a lot of skill and energy in the production of such an invaluable aid to our Exercise.

Your leader every week must certainly have inspired very many ringers to a better appreciation of our Exercise, all of them having been entirely unbiassed and fair and of a nature tending to raise the standard of thought and action in regard to everything appertaining to the Exercise.

I subscribed to 'The Bell News' for many years, and also to all the other attempts at a ringer's paper which came later on—some of which were, certainly, good attempts, but 'The Ringing World,' whether looked at from a journalistic or from purely a ringers' point of view, at once soared far above any previous attempt, and has, week after week, continued to give us ringers food for thought and, when necessary, fair and considered criticism. I think, sir, that there is no doubt whatever that your efforts have 'fostered the interest of ringers and raised the standard of ringing.'

It is a pity that your remarks with regard to ringers giving their full support to 'The Ringing World' during the crisis we are now passing through cannot be got to the eyes and ears of the offenders in this respect. Unfortunately, in 'The Ringing World' pages you are preaching only to the converted.

Whenever and under whatever circumstances there is no 'Ringing World' published, as we have so long known it, it will, I am sure, constitute an incalculable disaster to our Exercise.

May you, sir, be long spared to continue your good efforts is the wish of—

ROBERT WHITTINGTON AND HIS WIFE.

Cranleigh, Surrey.

#### A RINGING PAPER SINCE 1871.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to congratulate you on reaching the 1,500th number of 'The Ringing World.' No other ringing paper has reached that number yet, except, of course, 'The Bell News.'

It may be of interest to you to know that Samuel Slater, my father, and I have taken a paper devoted to bells and ringing a long time. I still have the first one, dated January 1st, 1871. My father and I have taken over a thousand copies each of 'Church Bells,' 'Bell News' and 'The Ringing World.' I took the latter two for some time. I wish you every success for the future.

Mr. Trollope's accounts of the bells of London churches are very interesting, and I, for one, have been interested in them.

I think it is a pity he omitted to mention the long peal of Kent Treble Bob Major the College Youths rang at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in March, 1870. It contained 8,448 changes, the extent with the tenors together, and was rung by the same men who rang the long peal at Bethnal Green in 1868. It took 5 hours 36 minutes, was conducted by Henry W. Haley, and John Murray Hayes rang the tenor. In 'Bells Life,' a lengthy description of the performance is given, and it tells of some of the difficulties under which the peal was rung. It was no doubt a great performance.

With best wishes for 1940.

T. E. SLATER.

Glemsford, Suffolk.

#### A BOXING DAY EXCURSION.

A party from Cheltenham made good use of Boxing Day morning by visiting the nearby churches of Prestbury and Charlton Kings. The bells of Prestbury were set in motion at 10 a.m. with touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. During intervals the young Prestbury learners were given some good practice.

Thanks are due to the three Misses Richardson for obtaining permission to use the bells. These young ladies, daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, hail from somewhere in Kent (late of Hereford) and are staying at Prestbury for 'the duration.' They are instilling some enthusiasm into the ringing at this tower and the struggling young band there will benefit considerably.

The party afterwards proceeded to Charlton Kings and enjoyed more than an hour's ringing on this excellent eight.

## DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### WAR-TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

A meeting in lieu of the annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, which should have been held in Durham in September, was held at the Crown Hotel, Newcastle, on Saturday, December 16th. A small but nevertheless representative attendance of 30 was to some extent disappointing, but, considering the difficulties presented by the black-out and curtailment of travelling facilities, perhaps it should be regarded as satisfactory. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W. Story, J. Anderson, G. S. Taylor and R. S. Gowland.

Arising out of the minutes, it was revealed that the bells of St. Mary, Gateshead, appeared to be quite satisfactory after rehanging, although only limited opportunities for ringing had so far been available.

In his annual report, the hon. secretary (Mr. R. Park) appealed to all members who were not called away to do their utmost to keep interest in the association alive, even though unforeseen difficulties might be encountered, and to keep him informed of all relevant matters, especially of the names of members called to the colours, so that on the cessation of hostilities a complete record would be available.

The Rt. Revs. A. T. P. Williams and Leslie Owen, who had been appointed to the Bishoprics of Durham and Jarrow respectively, had both consented to become patrons and support the efforts of the association. Dr. Hensley Henson, who for a number of years was Bishop of Durham, had retired during the year, and the sentiments of the members had been suitably expressed and acknowledged.

Death had removed Mr. John Foreman, Mr. Jackson Pallister and Mr. S. O. Ferry. The last named will not be known to the present generation, but his name will long be remembered as the pioneer of the Sunday service ringing scheme, which has been in use by the association for upwards of 40 years.

In his statement, the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. N. Park) said that there was a balance in hand of £66 19s. 1d., which was slightly less than last year, and he appealed to members not to let the payment of subscriptions lapse during the war.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

Discussion took place on the conduct of the activities of the association in war time, and it was decided that the arranging of meetings and practices should be left in the hands of the district officers, who would be more in touch with local conditions. It was revealed that some towers were suffering from stringent local regulations owing to their close proximity to the East Coast, but efforts would be made to have the regulations relaxed a little if possible.

It was thought best that the competitive aspect of the Sunday service ringing scheme should be suspended owing to the fact that competition could not be equitable due to depleted bands and restricted ringing.

It was agreed that the payment of subscriptions by members serving with H.M. Forces should be waived during the war.

An annual report will be printed covering the year 1938-39, but no such report will be printed during the war; a composite report will be issued when practicable.

Mr. W. N. Park raised a point which may be of interest to members of the Exercise. He said that in the event of peal ringing becoming possible there might be men stationed in the area, engaged in war work, who would be desirous of taking part in peals, and it would hardly be fair to ask them to pay a life membership fee. On the other hand, association members might be in other districts and be asked to pay a life membership fee should they take part in peals. He thought a general ruling on the matter for the benefit of all ringers would be welcomed.

The President (Mr. M. D. Oubridge) referred to the passing of the immediate past president of the association, the late Councillor Arthur Payne, O.B.E., J.P., and Mr. C. L. Routledge added his tribute, saying that he had known Mr. Payne for a number of years and he had done valuable work for the association in various capacities. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

In presenting the peal report, Mr. Routledge said that the number of peals rung during the year was 22, which was less than last year, but perhaps more than it would be possible to ring for some time to come. The outstanding performance, he said, was without doubt the peal in seven Surprise Minor methods rung by members of the Darlington Holy Trinity band on handbells, and he congratulated Mr. G. W. Park on the performance.

Mr. Robert Falconer, of Gosforth, who has supported the association for a number of years, was elected an honorary life member.

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**DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM**

## BROWN'S DREAM. A VISION OF THE FUTURE. What might be done in London.

The morning of Boxing Day was fine, with a seasonable crispness in the air, when I met Brown early, to cycle to a small village in Buckinghamshire, where we had been invited to stand in a peal attempt. On the way he remarked casually that he supposed the peal would be for the Middlesex Association, as he was not a member of any other and could not afford another subscription just for the chance of a peal.

As the tower was in Buckinghamshire, the peal might have been rung for the Oxford Guild, but that was unlikely with a band of Londoners. So I thought carefully about the remainder of the band. Two of them were College Youths and two were Cumberlands, so the peal could not be rung for either of those societies. Of the other two in the band, one was a member of the London County Association and one of the Surrey Association. Fortunately three of these six had at some time or other been elected members of the Middlesex Association, so as I was a Middlesex man everything would be all right if the other three could be persuaded to join.

Brown then remarked how strange it was that this dilemma should arise that day, as he had had a very vivid dream the night before. He had been on duty at an air raid warden's post, and whether the cause of his dreaming was Christmas pudding, made from a war-time recipe, or was an excess of the ringers' favourite beverage, or was merely the hard bench on which he fell asleep, I do not know. But this is the tale he told me.

He had been idling turning the pages of a pile of 'Ringing Worlds' when his eye was caught by an account of the annual meeting, in St. Paul's Cathedral, of the Greater London Association of Change Ringers. That was so strange that he turned to the date of the paper—December, 1939. His interest was by now thoroughly aroused and he looked eagerly at the other papers in the pile. There he noticed accounts and notices relating to various branches of this Greater London Association. There were the St. Paul's Branch, the St. Martin's Branch, the Southwark Branch and the Eastern, Western and Northern Branches, and the leading members of each branch bore names he remembered as young members of the College Youths, the Cumberlands and the London territorial associations. And he saw that peals were credited to the Greater London Association, and where all the ringers belonged to the same branch, its name appeared as a sub-title. And he saw that the bells of all the churches in the Greater London area were rung regularly, though not yet all of them every Sunday. This was managed by a rota involving ringers from other towers and branches in the area. And in his dream examples occurred to him of other cases where, to avoid chaos, or waste of effort or inertia, centralisation and co-ordination had been adopted—the Metropolitan Police; the London Passenger Transport Board; the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee; the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority; the Port of London Authority; the Thames Conservancy Board; the Greater London Regional Planning Committee and, in the wars of 1914 and 1939 when the need for co-ordination was essential, the control of the fire brigades in the London region under the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade.

And he heard bells ringing out from towers that had been silent for many years. And he dreamed that at last what thoughtful members of the London societies had hoped and worked for years had come to pass, and those bells he could hear were rung by members of one large association who were helping each other in serving their Church, while still retaining their former identities and traditions in their separate branches. And he was glad, for with such an organisation, meetings could never again be spoilt by being arranged at adjoining towers on the same day. He could still hear the bells, but they seemed to change their tone and become harsh and insistent and all of the same note—and he woke up and felt for the telephone.

By the time Brown had finished his tale we had reached the tower and proceeded to elect three not very willing members of the Middlesex Association before starting for the peal. Unfortunately this was lost in the last course—the band had never really settled down into the complete harmony between individuals that is necessary before a good peal can be rung. I felt relieved that it did not fall to me to collect the new members' subscriptions.

P.S.—I think I must have been dreaming also, as it is not yet Boxing Day and peal attempts in war time are few and far between.

P.S.S.—It may be that some will call this experience a nightmare rather than a dream—but here is a hard fact which would seem to show that all is not well with ringing in the Metropolis. On a fine Sunday morning, December 10th, 1939, between 9.40 and 10.20 a.m., I cycled nine miles from Westminster through the western suburbs and did not hear a church bell of any description until I reached the tower that was my destination.

W. G. W.

### SATURDAY PRACTICES.

Arrangements for Saturday afternoon combined practices during the first quarter of 1940, in towers situated in the south-eastern part of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, are as follows: January 6th, Bramley, 6 bells; January 20th, Cranleigh, 8 bells; February 3rd, Womersley, 6 bells; February 17th, Ewhurst, 8 bells; March 2nd, Bramley, 6 bells; March 16th, Cranleigh; March 30th, Womersley; April 6th, Ewhurst; all from 3 to 5 p.m.

**NOTICES.**

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—North-East Branch.**—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Time of service and tea will be announced at meeting.—R. Harris, Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ringing St., Clement Danes, Strand, Saturday, January 6th, 2.30 p.m., followed by quarterly meeting, also Sunday, January 7th, at 10 a.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Measham on Saturday, January 6th. Bells (8) available at 2.45 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. Business important. It is hoped to arrange tea or light refreshment in Church Room at 4.45 p.m. Hearty invitations to all. Frequent bus service from Birmingham, Tamworth and Nottingham.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Mount Pleasant Lane, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, January 6th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. and also after business meeting. Tea at 5 p.m. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**BRIGHTON.**—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Future arrangements will be announced later.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sussex County Association.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Service at the Cathedral at 3 p.m., to be followed by business meeting and tea, at St. Maurice's Hall. The Cathedral and St. Maurice's Church bells will be available from 1.45 to 3 p.m.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch. The annual meeting will be held at St. John's, Devizes, on January 6th. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—W. C. West, 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Newhey on Saturday, Jan. 6th. A good attendance requested. — J. Hay, Branch Sec.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Ringing at St. Martin's Parish Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 prompt at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Annual dinner Feb. 3rd.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** —A quarterly meeting will be held at LONG ASHTON on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Further ringing after the meeting.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.** — Just to remind you that we meet to-morrow (Jan. 6th) at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells. Ringing from 3 o'clock to after black-out. Tea by kind invitation. Did you send that p.c.?—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, at 7 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch. —The annual meeting of the Lincoln District will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at Washingborough. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 to 4.30 p.m., short service to follow. Tea at moderate charge to those who inform me by Wednesday, Jan. 10th. — Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 31, Vine Street, Lincoln.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Dorchester Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells at Charminster and Fordington available from 3 p.m., St. Peter's from 4. Service in St. Peter's Church at 4.30. Tea in the Moule Institute, adjoining Fordington Church, at 5.30. Business meeting to follow. Please notify by Tuesday, Jan. 9th, how many we may expect.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing during the afternoon and evening. Names for tea to Mr. C. Brown, Sharnford Road, Sapcote, early as possible, please.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available from 2.30. A good attendance is requested.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** —Frome and Midsomer Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bispham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.; business meeting 5 p.m.—C. S. Sharples, Branch Sec.

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**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch. — Monthly meeting at Stratton St. Margaret, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) from 2.30 to 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Barnsley, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 5 p.m. Tea in Rectory Rooms, Huddersfield Road, 5.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 11th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.** — Northern Division. — A practice will be held at Sible Hedingham on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Davenport Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Davenport (8) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Usual arrangements. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, Jan. 3rd.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Davenport, Northants.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Macclesfield Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. A line from intending visitors would be appreciated.—Jack Tippen, 8, Arlington Drive, off Ivy Road, Macclesfield.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2 p.m. till black-out. Short business meeting at 3.30 in the ringing chamber.—Walter Yeend, Hon. Branch Sec.

**ST. WOOLOS' CATHEDRAL, NEWPORT, MON.** — Combined practice will be held on Jan. 13th from 3 to 4.45 p.m. Visitors welcomed.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — North Bucks Branch.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Emberton on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited. — Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Annual meeting of Southampton District at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells 1.30 to 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. only for those who notify by Jan. 11th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea if possible to arrange. All ringers welcome. Please come. A good company is requested. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at St. James' Church, Poolstock. Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Derby District.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. only. Business meeting for the election of officers will be held in the belfry. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Local Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.** —The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 20th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea, at 1/- each, in the Co-operative Hall. Important : Don't forget to let me know you are coming. — A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Annual meeting Jan. 20th. Business meeting in St. Chad's belfry at 3 p.m. prompt. Service, St. Aiden's Chapel, 5.30 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. St. Chad's bells (12) available 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 5.30 p.m., subject to war restrictions. Handbells otherwise and after tea. Names for tea to W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 18th.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The third annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained with remittance from Andrew Thompson (Hon. Secretary), 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs, until Jan. 18th. Ringing arrangements later.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Grimsby District.—Owing to the black-out it has been considered advisable to postpone the annual meeting until lighter evenings. It is hoped that the usual meetings will be possible during the summer months.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**THANKS.**—Will all those ringers, both in Sussex and beyond who have sent their good wishes and gifts on the occasion of my marriage please accept most grateful thanks? — S. E. Armstrong, 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. E. J. Taylor is now c/o National Provincial Bank, Ltd., 15, Market Street, Bradford, Yorks.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

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## AN OPPORTUNITY IN LONDON.

Last week we referred to the opportunity, presented by the restricted activities in ringing, of reorganising the Exercise in those directions where, in the past, unproductive rivalries have tended to hold up progress. There should be no place in ringing for anything that divides ringers into opposing camps. It may be, perhaps, that these things are not so marked as they were years ago, but there still remain cross currents which keep ringers apart. Personal jealousies will, of course, always be liable to come to the surface and cause friction, as long as human nature remains what it is, but there is no reason in these days why artificial barriers should be retained for the special purpose of creating divisions.

More than once we have referred to the utterly useless rule which continues to keep College Youths and Cumberland Youths segregated from one another. It is apparently still thought, in some quarters, that the prohibition which automatically cuts off the membership of a ringer from one society if he joins the other is a contribution to 'friendly rivalry' between the two organisations and to be in the best interests of the art of change ringing. Nothing could be further from the truth. This rule, which both societies act upon, is only a survival of the feuds which once upon a time existed between rival companies in London; gives disgruntled members an opportunity of spurning the society of their first choice, and results in keeping them officially at arm's length. It does nothing to develop 'friendly rivalry,' or even remotely encourage the art of ringing, and it would be a good thing if the barrier could be swept away. What drawback could there be, for instance, to any good ringer being a member of both societies at the same time? He would not be any less enthusiastic, and both organisations might benefit from the exercise of his skill, instead of only one as at present.

The only possible ground upon which anyone attempts to justify the preservation of this rule is that of tradition, but no tradition is worth preserving if it defeats its own purpose. The maxim that 'what was good for grandfather is good enough for me' is a hollow myth in any event; in this particular instance it was not even good for grandfather. It led to a state of affairs in ringing in London which was no credit to the art and the perpetuation of the fallacy that such a rule promotes friendly rivalry and the art of ringing is as out of place to-day as it is untrue.

Nowhere else in the country do ringing societies of repute prohibit their members from joining other associations on pain of expulsion, and in London itself members

(Continued on page 14.)

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of the College Youths and Cumberlands are free to join other organisations which have sprung up in their midst. In this the two old societies show their inconsistency, for while they have persisted in the obstacle to their own intermingling, they have allowed other and more vigorous organisations to step in and enrol their members without let or hindrance—and it has been all for the good of the Exercise. In these troubled times many things are in the melting pot and it might well be of great advantage if the hoary tradition, which rivalry, other than friendly, once forced upon the old societies, were relegated, if not to the limbo of a forgotten past, at any rate to the realms of memory. There is a new generation of ringers rising in London; they will reconstruct the Exercise there after the war, free from some of the trammels to which others have clung tenaciously. Theirs will be the opportunity to raise a new structure which might well embrace all the conflicting factions that during the past generation have brought division and friction. There is an immense field for an expansion of the art in London; no city offers such great opportunity. In the present enforced lull in belfry activity, therefore, thoughtful men will, we hope, find time to plan a fruitful reconstruction of the Exercise in the Metropolis.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

POOLE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE	... .. 6
CYRIL F. TURNER	... .. 2	*A. EDWIN HOARE	... .. 7
HARRY SMAILE	... .. 3	†REGINALD H. TRUE	... .. 8
*WILLIAM G. YOUNG	... .. 4	WILLIAM E. CHEATER	... .. 9
EDWARD T. GRIFFIN	... .. 5	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... .. Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS

\* First peal on ten bells. † First peal. First peal of Royal as conductor, first attempt. First peal on the ten bells since augmentation in 1937 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank (two trebles added). Rung on the feast of the Epiphany and as a compliment to the Rev. Arthur W. White, curate at St. James', who was recently ordained priest.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

KIRBY-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. in G.

ALAN R. ANDREWS	... .. Treble	EDWARD E. DAVEY	... .. 5
CHARLES A. ANDREWS	... .. 2	EDWARD B. SMITH	... .. 6
MRS. W. A. ROUSE	... .. 3	†LESLIE WRIGHT	... .. 7
*MISS VIOLET FROST	... .. 4	URBAN W. WILDNEY	... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by U. W. WILDNEY.

\* First peal in the method. † First peal on eight bells.

GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E.

FRANK HARRISON	... .. Treble	†GEORGE SAUNDERS	... .. 5
*MISS MAY MILLAR	... .. 2	RONALD SUCKLING	... .. 6
DONALD JENNINGS	... .. 3	JOSEPH C. JENNINGS	... .. 7
GEORGE PIPER	... .. 4	H. WALTER SMITH	... .. Tenor

Composed by G. F. WILLIAMS. Conducted by H. WALTER SMITH.

\* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Bob Major.



## REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

## THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 31, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

## A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK C. GUNTON ... Treble	EDWARD ETHERIDGE ... 5
GEORGE W. HOWLETT ... 2	FREDERICK W. MUNNINGS ... 6
ERNEST WHITING ... 3	RUSSELL RICHES ... 7
WILLIAM J. FLATT ... 4	CHARLES W. LOOME ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

The conductor has now conducted a peal from every bell in this tower.

## BROADCLYST, DEVON.

## THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 2, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

CRCIL BREALY ... Treble	HARRY G. WILMINGTON ... 5
ERNEST RETTER ... 2	JOHN SALWAY ... 6
*ALBERT COLLEY ... 3	JOSEPH BREALY ... 7
CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 4	CHARLES R. SANDFORD ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

\* First peal of Grandsire Triples. The first peal rung in the black-out in the West of England. Best thanks of the band to Mr. A. Lovering for making the arrangements.

## EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.

## THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*FREDERICK FLINT ... Treble	*ARTHUR E. CHILTON ... 5
MISS GRACE BURCHNALL ... 2	ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ... 6
HAROLD DENMAN ... 3	GEORGE E. FOSTER ... 7
MISS KATHERINE BURCHNALL ... 4	HERBERT T. ROOKE ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. CHAMBERLAIN. Conducted by G. E. FOSTER.

\* First peal on eight bells.

## SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

## BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.

## THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

## A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six extents of April Day and twelve each of Canterbury, Grandsire and Plain Bob. Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

THOMAS W. FLEMING ... Treble	MAX LAUGHTON ... 3
A. JAMES STUART ... 2	EDWARD SMART ... 4
DONALD L. COCKINGS ... Tenor	

Conducted by D. L. COCKINGS.

Rung for the festival of Christmas and in honour of St. Stephen.

## FELKIRK, YORKS.

## THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

## A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, Cambridge, York, Durham, Rossendale and Stamford. Tenor 10 cwt.

SIDNEY BRIGGS ... Treble	ERNEST BROOKES ... 4
J. THOMAS WHITE ... 2	ARTHUR GILL ... 5
HAROLD CHANT ... 3	DANIEL SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

Rung as a compliment to Leading Aircraft Gunner John Copley, who received the D.F.M. for bravery in the raid on enemy ships at Heligoland on December 3rd, 1939.

## MILTON REGIS, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two different extents each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

ERNEST J. DOBBIE ... Treble	WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 4
DORIS G. DOBBIE ... 2	STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 5
ARTHUR S. BOAR ... 3	GEORGE A. NAYLOR ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

## BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINGS.

## THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT TRENTWOOD,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY ... 1-2	JACK BRAY ... 5-6
*FRED JEFFERY ... 3-4	*PHILIP BARNES ... 7-8

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

\* First peal of Triples 'in hand.'

## CAMBRIDGE.

## THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At 3, St. Paul's Road,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ALWYN BEALE ... 1-2	WILFRID H. J. HOOTON ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	JOHN A. ACRES ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

## BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

## THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

## A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12.

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2	*FRANK K. MEASURES ... 3-4
JOHN H. BAILESS ... 5-6	

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

\* 50th peal for the Midland Counties Association. First peal of Stedman Doubles 'in hand' by all and by entirely Hinckley District members. The conductor has now rung Stedman from Doubles to Cinques on both handbells and tower bells.

## WOODDITTON, CAMBS.

## THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At SUNNY VIEW,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

ALWYN BEALE ... 1-2	SIDNEY BROWN ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	JOHN A. ACRES ... 7-8

Composed by FREDK. DENCH. Conducted by ALBERT E. AUSTIN.

## PRESTBURY, CHELTENHAM.

## THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At THE PRIORY,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents with three different callings.

MONICA J. RICHARDSON ... 1-2	BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 3-4
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6	

Conducted by DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON.

First peal as conductor. First peal of Minor by all.

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any make of Tower Clock

## FELKIRK RINGER'S AWARD FOR BRAVERY

MR. J. COPLEY RECEIVES THE D.F.M.

Among the peals recorded this week is one rung at Felkirk in honour of Leading Aircraftman John Copley, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in the New Year's Honours List for the R.A.F.

The rear gunner in a bomber, he was engaged in the aerial battle over Heligoland on December 3rd and shot down a Messerschmitt fighter. When the bomber got back home the wings were hanging in strips and the petrol tank was punctured.

Gunner Copley had a very narrow escape and was hit by a bullet which fortunately stuck in the belt of his parachute and stopped just touching his flesh.

Until he joined the R.A.F. in 1934 Mr. Copley was a regular service ringer at Felkirk, and he rejoined his old band this year to ring the old year out and the new year in.

## THE LATE MR. JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

AN APPRECIATION FROM DARTFORD.

On Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, the bells of Holy Trinity Church, Dartford, were rung half-muffled in memory of John H. Cheesman. Remembered by a big circle of ringers as a quiet unassuming man and an excellent ringer and conductor, he will be greatly missed at Dartford, which tower he used to visit regularly for many years.

He made the three-mile journey from Greenhithe on practice night and on Sundays and was always ready to come to assist with the ringing on any special occasions; in fact, he was always ready to join in anything that went on in connection with Dartford ringing. The tower has lost a great friend, whose influence on the standard of striking and encouragement in attempting higher methods will be a great loss.

His total of 82 is almost certainly the greatest number of peals rung by one man in Dartford tower.

They include two non-conducted peals, one of Stedman in 1924 and one of Double Norwich in 1929; peals rung in connection with the Silver Jubilee in 1935 and the Coronation of King George VI., and a peal of Stedman conducted by Mr. Cheesman in honour of Dartford receiving a Charter of Incorporation in September, 1933.

All these performances are recorded in the ringing chamber, and they will serve to perpetuate the memory of a great ringer and a real gentleman.

## THE LATE J. H. CHEESMAN AND THE FIRST 'JOHN' PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret that I read of the passing of John H. Cheesman, after his long and painful illness. I also regret that I was unaware earlier of his death, as I certainly would have made an effort to attend his funeral.

I think I am one of the last of those who rang in his early peals in North Kent, for he was in my fourth peal, one of Bob Major at Erith on September 12th, 1891, which was conducted by W. J. Sevier. It was my first peal of Major. Jack was 19 and I was 20. In later years I rang in peals with him in various methods, including Surprise peals up to London. I always found him most helpful, modest and unassuming. I deeply regret his death. He was, as all the ringing fraternity knows, a splendid ringer and conductor, and his record of over a thousand peals with many outstanding performances tells its own story. But he did not conduct the first John peal, as here is a copy of what I believe is the first that ever was rung, from the old peal book of 'The Bromley Youths.'

I. EMERY.

October 15th, 1828.

A

Select Band

Whose Christian Names were John,

Rang at Lewisham

A Complete Peal of Grandsire Tripples, 5,040 changes,

In 3 hours and 12 minutes.

John Read (Deptford) ...	1	John Jones (Lewisham) ...	5
John Wilbie (Greenwich) ...	2	John Allen (Bromley) ...	6
John Arnold (Deptford) ...	3	John Bray (Lewisham) ...	7
John Saunders (Bromley) ...	4	John Green (Bromley) ...	Tenor

Conducted by John Allen.

## EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

New Year resolutions prevailed over the miserable weather on Saturday January 6th, when 32 ringers, representing 15 towers, attended the East Grinstead Guild meeting at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells. With so many capable ringers present there was some excellent ringing. One touch of Plain Bob made a false start, and Superlative required two attempts, but the bells responded well to Stedman and Cambridge.

To comply with the local police regulations, ringers took turns in acting as air raid sentries outside the tower. The company was entertained to tea by the St. Peter's ringers, which was much appreciated by all. At the business meeting afterwards eleven new members were elected, a very good start for 1940.

## VETERAN CLENT RINGER'S DEATH.

SEVENTY YEARS' CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH.

The Worcestershire Association has lost one of its oldest members by the sad death of Mr. William Boughton, of Clent. He was 84 years of age, and on Friday, December 8th, after leaving work and going home, went out again about 4.45 p.m. to fetch his old age pension. Outside his house a van going in the same direction knocked him down. He sustained a broken shoulder and severe head injuries. He passed away on the following Monday.

The funeral was attended by many friends, and wreaths were sent by numerous parishioners, and there was one from the choir and organist and one from his fellow-ringers.

Mr. Boughton had been a chorister from a boy until last year—a period of over 70 years. He had been a ringer about 60 years, his best peal ringing year being in 1889. On December 26th that year he rang a peal of Minor in seven methods at Clent, and in the afternoon the same six ringers walked to Hagley, met T. Lees, of Hagley, and W. F. Hartshorne, of Brierley Hill, and rang Holt's Six-Part peal of Grandsire Triples, both conducted by Mr. William Short. Mr. Boughton's last peal was rung half-muffled in April, 1920, at the dedication of the Parish Churchyard.

Throughout the many years Mr. Boughton carried on his duties both in the choir and belfry he was most regular and punctual in his attendances. Even in 1938 he was present 103 times in the ringing chamber and in the 11 months of 1939 had made 75 attendances.

On the Saturday afternoon after the funeral ringers met in Clent belfry, and with the bells half-muffled rang touches of Grandsire Triples, six 84's all called differently, also a plain course and a bobbed course of Stedman Triples. At the grave a splendid course of Grandsire Triples was rung in slow time.

Returning to the tower the 'whole pull and stand' was rung 84 times and the bells lowered in peal. Visiting ringers came from Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Hagley, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Kidderminster and six local ringers also took part, ringing being conducted by Mr. Boughton's old friend, William Short.

Mr. Boughton has left two sons and a daughter in bereavement. Both sons are ringers, Frank Boughton being in Australia. When the English tourists were in Melbourne in 1934 Mr. Boughton met them on several occasions and rang the tenth to the memorable peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Paul's Cathedral on Armistice Day, when the Duke of Gloucester attended the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance.

## DEATH OF MR. W. T. BILLINGHURST.

FIFTY YEARS WITH TAYLOR'S, OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

Loughborough has lost one of its old ringers and the Midland Counties Association one of its earliest members by the passing of Mr. William T. Billinghamurst, at the age of 76 years. He was interred at Loughborough Cemetery.

Deceased, who was a bachelor, was born at Shiplake, near Reading, and in his 'teens' journeyed to Loughborough, where he obtained employment at Taylor's Bell Foundry. He became a first-class bell-hanger and carried out work for the firm not only in all parts of the British Isles, but also on the Continent and in the United States of America. He was with the firm for more than 50 years.

He joined the M.C.A. in 1883 and for this association he rang 60 peals—he was a safe ringer and excellent striker. During the last few years he led a quiet, unassuming life, and although he had taken no active part in ringing for about 10 years, he will nevertheless be sadly missed, particularly by his contemporaries.

## RINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

A DISAPPOINTMENT AT ACCRINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Christmas Eve, eight men assembled outside Accrington Parish Church for the purpose of ringing in Christmas at midnight. The sanction of the Chief Constable and church authorities had been obtained, but the sexton, the key man of the situation, could not be found, and the tower door was locked. A long ladder was obtained, but the window in the ringing chamber was securely fastened. In 25 years' ringing I have never seen more disappointed men. I believe ours was the only church for miles around where the custom of ringing in the festival at midnight was to be carried on.

CHARLES W. BLAKEY.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

**KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope, in his letter in 'The Ringing World' of December 22nd, acknowledges the fact that the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was without doubt rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820.

Mr. Trollope follows on with a list of peals rung by the Cumberlands in various methods from 1769 to 1795, viz., Double Bob Major, Double Grandsire Caters, Double Grandsire Cinques, Royal Treble Bob and Treble Bob Maximus. Each peal has the prefix 'Cumberland', evidently a habit of the society at that time.

The St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, during the period 1768 to 1793, rang several peals at St. Martin's, including Grandsire Caters, Grandsire Cinques, Plain Bob Royal, Plain Bob Maximus, Oxford Treble Bob Royal and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (1793), followed closely with Grandsire Maximus, Kent Treble Bob Maximus (1820) and Kent Treble Bob Cinques in 1832, all recorded in St. Martin's Guild peal books.

In the 'Clavis' and Shipway's book there are variations of Treble Bob Minor and Major, including Oxford, Kent, London and Cumberland Exercise, etc. Is this the 'Cumberland' Mr. Trollope refers to?

ALBERT WALKER.

Birmingham.

**BIRTHDAY COMPLIMENT TO VETERAN WESTBURY RINGER**

At Westbury, Wilts, on Sunday morning, December 31st, to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. William Hart, the oldest ringing member of the tower, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Gale 1, P. Chapman 2, C. Hughes 3, F. Brown 4, T. B. Holloway (conductor) 5, E. F. White 6, R. Newton 7, R. Clayton 8. Mr. Hart has been a ringer at the Parish Church for 55 years and in 1921 was chairman of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

**DEATH OF A STOCKPORT RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Mottershead, of the St. George's, Stockport, band, which took place on December 29th at the age of 66 years.

At the funeral on January 1st a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave, and afterwards on the tower bells half-muffled 323 changes of Grandsire Caters and a plain course of Bob Major. Mr. Mottershead was the last of the original band formed at St. George's in 1896 before the consecration of the church in February, 1897.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT CLAPTON.**

Ringers from Essex, Surrey and Middlesex, including West London, defied all attendant discomforts of fog and black-out and met at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, January 6th, to make another successful war-time ringing meeting of the North and East District of the above association. Such a meeting is enjoyed by all and is a pleasure to arrange. Well-known ringers, of the expert class, ensured a high standard of ringing, which ranged from call changes to two touches of Spliced Surprise Major to cater for all present. The former was for members of the young local band, who are manfully striving to keep their bells ringing and holding their practices each Saturday afternoon.

No service could be held owing to the Light Restriction Order, but an excellent tea was provided and served by some local ladies.

Before the business meeting, Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the association, referred to the loss by death of two long-standing members, namely, Messrs. A. Pye and J. H. Cheesman. Both joined in 1898, were highly respected, had great ringing records, and were of the type that the Exercise could ill afford to lose. The meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to these deceased gentlemen.

A vote of congratulation was passed to the two Lincolnshire bands on ringing the spliced peals recorded in our last issue.

The usual formalities of the business meeting were duly carried through and a few general items were discussed.

The Chairman, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, as hon. secretary of the Central Council, explained the present position of ringers and ringing in relation to the Control of Noise Order (No. 2). He pointed out that ringing is permitted under law and that, except in a few isolated cases, service and practice ringing and ringing at meetings would not be affected if co-operation with the local police authorities was sought and carried out. Two points were stressed, firstly, the Light Restriction Order must be complied with in the tower during the black-out period; secondly, a watch must be kept outside the tower during ringing to stop activities in the event of an air raid warning. The speaker was of opinion that the control authorities were ready and willing to assist the Ringing Exercise within the scope of their power. The meeting closed after the usual votes of thanks had been accorded.

Further ringing took place in the tower, while others enjoyed some handbell ringing, which consisted of a course of each of Double Norwich, Double Oxford, London Surprise and Cambridge Surprise, a short course of Spliced (London, Cambridge and London), and a touch of Stedman Triples.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

### THE

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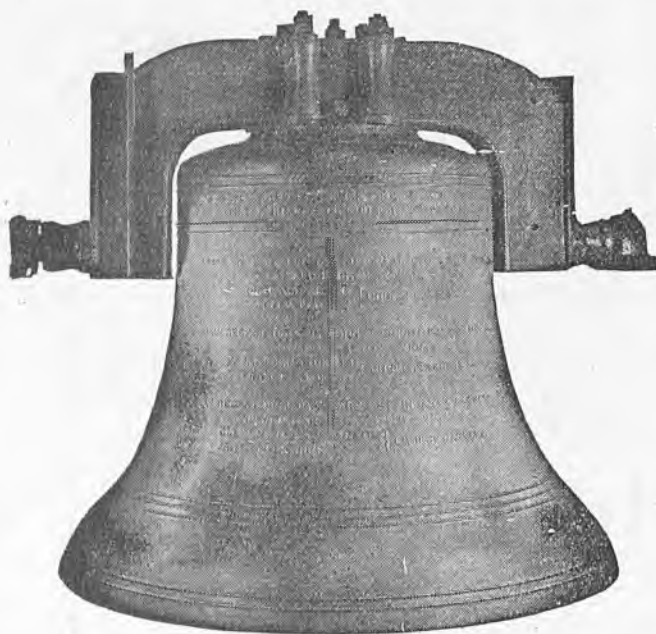
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The date of the next meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths is January 16th, not January 9th as published in our last issue.

We congratulate the Misses Richardson on what we believe is the first peal of Minor rung by ladies in hand. The three sisters are the daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson and nieces of Mr. E. H. Lewis, the President of the Central Council. Dorothy is 13 years old, Monica 15 and Brenda 17.

On January 8th, 1769, 6,160 changes of Bob Major were rung at St. Mary's, Twickenham. John Cole, who conducted, was a member of a family of ringers whose name appears on many peal boards and also in the peal books of the College Youths. Three of the ringers were called Redknap, a name which you will see to-day in Twickenham. The board which recorded this peal is not now in the belfry.

Samuel Thurston died on January 9th, 1841. He had been for several years the leading man among the Norwich Scholars. His most notable performance was to call the first peal of London Surprise Major ever rung.

On January 10th, 1837, the Junior Society of College Youths rang 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the first peal in the method on the bells. It was composed and conducted by John Cox.

On January 11th, 1717, the London Scholars rang at St. Bride's the first ten-bell peal ever achieved. It was 5,040 changes of Grandsire Caters, but as the peal board was destroyed in 1796, further particulars are lacking.

Mr. George Popnell tells us that the augmented ring at St. Woolos' Cathedral, Newport, is a great success. The founders, Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, have made a good job, and the bells are one of the handiest rings of twelve in the country. The tower also has a full service band able to ring the twelve every Sunday. It is hoped to hold a practice on one Saturday in every month.

A famous heavy bell feat was performed at St. Mary-le-Bow on January 3rd, 1803, when James Mariton turned in the old tenor to 5,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob. Mariton had already rung the bell single-handed to Grandsire Caters, but the first man to do so was Philip Pilgrim.

On January 4th, 1794, the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang 8,000 Grandsire Major at St. John's, Deritend. Grandsire on even numbers is not now considered proper, but it had a considerable amount of popularity in Birmingham, and earlier still several peals were rung in London.

## ALDERMAN J. S. PRITCHETT.

Many of our readers will join us in congratulating Alderman J. S. Pritchett on his 85th birthday, which occurred on Monday last.

Alderman Pritchett was one of the early members of the Oxford University Society. He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1873 and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, living member of that society. He is still the Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, and Recorder of Lincoln.

## ACCIDENT TO MR. ALBERT W. COLES.

We regret to learn that Mr. A. W. Coles, late Ringing Master of the Middlesex Association, met with an accident last Saturday when cycling. It is understood that his front wheel skidded on a slippery road and in falling he broke a thigh. He is now in Oster House Hospital, St. Albans.

## A PUBLIC SCHOOL RINGING SOCIETY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In the December issue of the 'Doningtonian,' the magazine of Donington Grammar School, Spalding, occurs the following:—  
'The Campanological Society.—We welcome a large number of fresh talent to our society this term and we hope they will not only take a keen interest in tune ringing, but that they will also take a still greater interest in change ringing. The older members, after three and a half terms of hard work and not a few disappointments, have achieved their first victory. We congratulate them on bringing several plain courses of Bob Minor into "rounds." We next want a 720 of this method and then a peal of 5,040 changes.'

All ringers will hope that this ambition is satisfied. In these times, when new ringers are sure to be hard to find, an organisation such as this, however limited its scope, is worthy of every encouragement, and it would be interesting to learn a little more of the origin and activities of the society, as I do not recall any previous news of its existence.

E. A. BARNETT.

## PEAL DELETED FROM RECORD.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wish to state that the peal of Minor rung at Bucknall on Friday, July 14th, 1939, has been deleted from the records of the North Staffordshire Association, owing to their secession, through their views on the annual dinners.

ANDREW THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.



## A CHESTER RING.

### THE BELLS OF ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL.

#### Beginning of Another Phase in their Long History.

The bells of the Church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester, have just undergone restoration, and have begun another phase in their long and interesting history, successfully told in the following article by Mr. J. W. Clarke, who has also supplied the sketch of the church.

The Church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester, was probably built in the 12th century, but little is known of its early history except that it was in the possession of the rich abbey of St. Werburgh until the dissolution of 1540. The advowson was then granted to the newly-created Dean and Chapter, but by 1554 it was in the hands of the Brereton family. The churchwardens' accounts, beginning in 1536, enable much of the later history of this church, architecturally the best of its type in the city, to be clearly deduced.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL.

[From a sketch by Mr. J. W. Clarke.]

In 1553, Chester was visited by the commissioners appointed by the Privy Council for the purpose of making an inventory of church goods. St. Mary's list, of which a copy is preserved, includes

'Five great bells in the steeple and an anthem bell and a clock.' The term 'anthem bell' is uncommon. It doubtless refers to the sanctus bell, which, after the Reformation, was put to other uses. In some places it became known as the 'St. Anthony bell'—the bell being one of the emblems of the Saint—which was contracted to 'Tantony,' 'Tanton' and even Anton, and 'anthem' appears to be the local contraction at the time.

Of the five great bells little is known. Certainly some of them were recast and the frame either renewed or repaired in 1597, but the founder's name does not appear. The old timber and iron was sold and the proceeds put towards the cost of the new work. The anthem bell—now referred to as the 'tanton'—was recast by Hutton, of Congleton, in 1617.

'Spent vpon our selues goeing to Congerton with the Tanton bell and coming whome (home) and being there ... .. iij s. vj d.

There was a flourishing foundry at Congleton in Cheshire at that time, in the hands of Paul Hutton, who took over the foundry from George Lee, its first owner in 1616. Lee had made something of a reputation locally by recasting Wilmslow tenor in 1602 and Nantwich in 1608, both of them bells of no little weight. It would appear, however, that St. Mary's wardens were not greatly impressed by Hutton's work, for, later in the same year, when the tenor was

rehung in new bearings, Scott, of Wigan, was called in to do the work. In 1623 it was decided to recast the tenors. Two founders were consulted, Hutton and William Clibbery (or Clivery), of Holt, a small town on the Welsh border, a few miles from the city. The wardens failed to reach an agreement with the former, but seem to have treated the people well and 'bestoed vpon the Congleton Bellfounders ijs.' as a parting gift. The work was, therefore, done at Holt, and no doubt the bells would be carried there by barge up the Dee and returned the same way.

Pd to William Clifree bellfounder for castinge the bells all newe ... .. xij li (£12)

Pd at the hovlte (Holt) in castinge the towe biggest great belles ... .. xvj s.

There are many references to this founder to be found in the middle west. His trade mark is a plain shield bearing his initials separated by an arrow pointing downwards. Allowing for the variety in spelling of the times, a possible connection with William Clibury (1605-1642), of Wellington, Shropshire, is suggested. Clibury used the same trade mark minus the arrow.

The tenor at St. Mary's was again recast in 1632 by the same founder. The wardens appear to have themselves had the bell taken down, borrowing a windlass from the Cathedral for the purpose. She returned with 'a hundred & odd waight of mettall that was added to the bell more than the waight was before.'

St. Mary's Church suffered greatly during the Civil War. The tower was badly damaged and the bells smashed to pieces. In 1657 the wardens set about a complete restoration of the tower and bells, money being raised both by subscription and levy. Geoffrey Scott, of Wigan, who had that same year succeeded John at the foundry, was consulted and agreed to cast the broken metal into a ring of four.

Payd for carrying of the broken bell mettall to Wigan, staying there till the bells were new cast and bringing them to the church againe 3 li

To be present at the casting, the wardens made the journey to Wigan on horseback, being away four days. Meanwhile a new roof was put on the tower, the bell frame repaired, and the damaged clappers made good in readiness for the bells. Scott and his son returned with the bells and superintended the hanging, completing the job by tuning. The following item in the accounts throws an interesting light on the tuning methods of the day—a method which, in this country, changed little until comparatively recent times:—

Spent on the Bell-founder & his Sone in Chester they being here six days to see the bells hanged and to chipp them to make them tunable ix s. iij d.

These four bells bore the following inscriptions, together with the wardens' initials and founder's mark on each:—

Treble.—Jesvs be ovr spede.

2nd.—Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

3rd.—Dylcedine vocis Cantabo tvo Nomine.

4th.—Jvcvnditate soni Sonabo tibi Domine.

The following year the tenor was recast. The reason for this is not apparent, but the bell was used daily by the sexton and was possibly cracked by clocking. At any rate, no blame seems to have been attached to the founder, for he received £12 for carrying out the work. The original date appeared on the bell after recasting, and of this ring of four three are still in use in the present ring of eight.

In 1659 a meeting of parishioners was held to draw up regulations about the use of the bells. Evidently there were complaints about ringing even in those days! The meeting decided that the ropes should be kept locked up except that of the tenor which the sexton used for 'tollinge of a passinge bell' and for ringing daily at 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. The wardens were to arrange for ringing on November 5th and other notable occasions. The daily ringing, morning and evening, was a long established custom at St. Mary's, for in 1551 the following item appears in the accounts:—

It payd to mest (Mr.) Dauport for kyepyng of the cloke (clock) & the deybell ... .. iij s. viij d.

The Cheshire Rising, a prelude to the Restoration, broke out in August, 1659. The Governor of Chester Castle, which was overlooked (Continued on next page.)

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

(Continued from page 8.)

The first peal in St. Giles' tower was one of Grand-sire Caters rung on Thursday, March 17th, 1726, by the College Youths, with Benjamin Annable as conductor. Two men were needed for the tenor, one of whom was John Cundell, and this was the first time a bell was rung to a five-thousand double handed.

Six years later, on November 23rd, 1732, the City Scholars accomplished what was then the longest peal of Caters (6,012) and they had three men to the tenor. We know very little of this society, which evidently had a very short, though active, life. They rang one other peal, 10,080 changes of Bob Major on the light eight at Bermondsey.

Three peals only are known to have been scored on the old ring of ten at St. Giles', the third being 5,040 changes of Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in 1752. To that the tenor was rung single handed, but George Meakins, who conducted, had to have assistance at the ninth, the reason being (so the peal book says) 'on account of her going so very hard and the company being desirous to complete the peal at that time.'

On November 3rd, 1772, the College Youths rang the first peal (5,057 changes of Grand-sire Caters) on Pack and Chapman's new bells. Very likely it was the opening peal, and the bells had not 'settled to their bearings,' as the phrase was, for two good men were required for the ninth and three for the tenor. A month later the Cumberlands rang 5,111 changes in the same method with only eleven men.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Treble Bob Royal, again with the tenor double handed; and in 1777 the London Youths rang 5,021 Grand-sire Caters, conducted by William Jones, the chief author of the 'Clavis,' and John Reeves' extent of Treble Bob Royal in nine courses, conducted by Christopher Wells.

This was the time of the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands, and St. Giles' was the scene of one phase of the struggle. The Cumberlands scored the first peal (Oxford Ten-in) ever rung on the bells with ten men only, but their rivals beat it two months later by ringing 6,000 changes in the same method. The younger Samuel Muggeridge was then at the tenor.

The first peal on the twelve was one of Grand-sire Cinques by the College Youths, rung on February 2nd, 1799. John Povey conducted and two first-class heavy bell men, Pilgrim and Mariton, were needed for the tenor.

After that there was a break of 45 years before the next peal. In 1844 the Cumberlands rang 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques and followed it up by two peals of Treble Twelve in 1847 and 1848 and another of Stedman Cinques in 1850.

In the year 1848 the Birmingham men regained the record for Stedman Cinques, which they had temporarily lost to the Norwich Scholars. They held it for a couple of years, and then the College Youths, by ringing 7,528 changes at St. Giles', brought it back to London. The peal was rung on Monday, January 6th, 1851, and took five hours and twenty-four minutes. John Cox was the composer and conductor and in the band were several men who are still remembered by older ringers, such as William Cooter, William Banister, Matthew Wood, Robert Haworth and James Dwight.

The Cumberlands made a couple of attempts at St. Michael's, Cornhill, to score a longer length, but found the task too great for them. In the first attempt they failed after having rung just under 6,000 changes; in the second they reached the 7,746th change. Heavy bells were not hung in those days as they are now.

In 'The Era' of January 19th, 1851, there appeared the following letter:—

Mr. Editor.—In your journal of Saturday last, under the head of Change Ringing, I there perceived a report of a performance of a peal on the bells of St. Giles', Cripplegate, attributed to the Society of College Youths. I readily admit that such a performance did take place, but deny the existence of any such society in London as the one alluded to. The company to which Mr. F. Steadman belonged has long since been extinct. It is, therefore, nothing more or less than a fiction for the purpose of ringing the money out of the pockets of the provincial ringers who visit London at various periods of the year, and are induced to join them under the idea that it is a regularly organised national society, as such pay what is termed the entrance money without ever receiving a copy of rules (for the very obvious reason that there is no such thing) and return home with a credulousness craftily palmed upon them by individuals who, upon investigation,

turn out to be the parochial ringers of St. Saviour's, Southwark. I might also mention the names of Bradford and Lambert inserted in the report is a wilful misstatement, there being no such persons in any way connected with the science in London. I might also mention for the information of the ringers of England that there is but one regular organised society in London, viz., the London Cumberland Change Ringing Society, under the sanction and patronage of several of the clergy and influential laymen of the metropolis.

GEORGE WOOLF, Bow.  
12th Jan., 1851.

The editor added a cautious note that 'We insert this, but have our doubts of the London Cumberland being the only regularly organised society of London.'

Woolf was one of the leading Cumberlands, his letter shows a bitter partisan spirit, and it, of course, is entirely valueless as proof of any breach of continuity in the Society of College Youths.

Its interest for us lies solely in the evidence it affords of the relationship between the two leading societies. It was about this time, when the London Exercise was at its lowest level, that the rules were formally adopted by the two companies forbidding the members of one to be members of the other. The exclusive spirit had been common to all ringing societies from the earliest times, but these rules are definitely directed against another society by name.

Present-day members are usually inclined to look on these rules as having been framed to cultivate 'friendly rivalry,' and they think that they are a part of the traditions and heritage of the past which it would be a pity to part with. Actually they are survivals of the very worst side of the old London companies, and the first one of the two societies which has the courage to rescind the rule will be doing something for its own good and for the good of London ringing generally.

In modern times a number of peals have been rung at St. Giles' by various societies. On November 12th, 1912, a 'John' peal of Stedman Cinques was rung for the Waterloo Society. The society at that time was dead though not buried, and the corpse was dragged out to serve the occasion. The second peal of Cambridge Maximus in London was rung on these bells by the Middlesex County Association, on April 5th, 1913, conducted by William Pye.

## OLD CHESTER PEAL RESTORED.

(Continued from previous page.)

by St. Mary's tower, ordered part of the tower to be pulled down in case it should be used as a stronghold against the castle. Soldiers demolished a considerable portion, leaving the tower squat and insignificant, and in this state it remained until 1861, when it was raised to its present height.

A treble was added to Scott's ring of four in 1783, but no details of this are available. Other than the date, the bell has neither inscription nor ornament. The possibility of its being cast by Rudhall cannot be overlooked, but it is unusual to find such a bell having no mark of identification. It seems evident that the ring was in the minor key, for Rudhall added a tenor in 1786. Except for the usual repairs and upkeep of ropes, nothing further was done until late last century.

In 1887 St. Mary's was constituted the parish church of the united parishes of St. Bridget and St. Martin. St. Bridget's Church was pulled down and two of its four bells (dated 1629) were eventually used to complete the octave at St. Mary's. A restoration scheme was carried out by Warner in 1895. The fifth was recast, as also were the two St. Bridget's bells, and the eight hung in a new iron frame. It is perhaps unfortunate that little attention seems to have been paid to the tonal qualities of the bells, although the hanging was well done.

In the present restoration, which has been effectively carried out by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, the tenor has been recast with a considerable amount of new metal added, and the whole ring tuned and rehung on ball bearings.

A large congregation witnessed the rededication on Christmas Eve. The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. D. H. Crick, and the customary rounds were rung as he proceeded from the west end to the chancel. His Lordship took his text from I. Cor. ix. 16—'Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel,' and in the course of a delightful address said that he had chosen these words because they appear in their Latin from 'Vae mihi si non evangelisavero,' as the inscription on the famous English bell, 'Great Paul,' which hangs in the south-west tower of St. Paul's Cathedral. This great bell had come from the same foundry to which St. Mary's bells had been taken for restoration. He felt that of all inanimate things which played a part in helping to preach the Gospel, bells were surely the chief. A recent order from the county authorities forbidding the use of church bells had brought him many letters asking him to protest strongly against it. Fortunately that order had almost immediately been rescinded, but the incident had shown very clearly the place that our church bells occupy in the lives of so many people.

After the service touches were rung by members of the Chester Diocesan Guild, and the parishioners had an opportunity of listening to their bells again after some months of silence. They were the same bells—and yet not the same. The tuning machine, skilfully used, had made them more completely a ring, and the recast tenor possesses that resonance so noticeably absent before. The blocking up of the louvre openings, too, has had a mellowing effect. In the ringing chamber the opening and re-glazing of a window long covered has given additional light, and the room has been cleaned and decorated. Thus St. Mary's bells, on which so many peals have been rung, begin another phase in their long history.

**PRESENTATION TO MR. JAMES HUNT.****LONG SERVICE TO TAUNTON DEANERY.**

At the annual meeting of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, a presentation was made to Mr. James Hunt to mark his retirement from the position of Ringing Master of the branch, an office he had ably filled for some 21 years. The gift—a silver inkstand in the shape of a bell—was handed to Mr. Hunt by the new president of the branch, the Rev. J. W. Storey, Rector of Staple-grove.

Mr. R. W. Hayward (hon. secretary) said the presentation was made possible through the practical co-operation of the various towers in the Deanery.

Mr. Storey observed that the gift would always be a reminder to Mr. Hunt of his work as a ringer.

Expressing his appreciation, Mr. Hunt said he had been 21 years in their service. He did not pretend that he had been a perfect Ringing Master, but he had stood for the cause of change ringing. No one could ever say he had 'jibbed' at ringing Grandsire Doubles. He had always tried to teach youngsters the art of change ringing, which started from Grandsire Doubles. Giving advice which he himself had endeavoured to follow, Mr. Hunt urged his fellow-ringers to ring whatever the conductor asked them, to ring it to the best of their ability, and to be punctual and regular in their attendance at the tower. Remarking that he had rung in many parts of the country, Mr. Hunt said not many towns could stand where Taunton stood to-day. 'I could pick a band in Taunton who would ring with any band I have ever come across, and in some high-class methods at that,' he declared. 'I can assure you that no town in the South-West of England will touch Taunton.'

**MR. JAMES HUNT.**

Mr. Hunt mentioned that he had been connected with St. James', Taunton, since 1919, during which time 37 peals had been rung there by Deanery men. Ten had conducted peals on these bells, and, curiously, each conductor had called some method he had never called before. Seventy-three had rung something they had never rung before. He had been into towers where men perfectly capable of conducting a touch had never been asked to do so, but that was not his principle. In conclusion, he thanked them sincerely for the kindness they had always shown him.

**THE NEW RINGING MASTER.**

The Rev. W. H. Heaton-Renshaw, of St. Mary's, Taunton, presided at the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary stated that since his last report 12 peals had been rung, 11 of them in the first half of the year. The declaration of war at the beginning of September put an end to further activities in that direction. Peals were rung in the following methods: Eight of Grandsire Doubles, one of Stedman Doubles, one of Plain Bob Minor, one of Treble Bob Minor, and one of Grandsire Triples. Meetings during the year were held at Pitminster, North Curry and Staplegrave. He thanked the incumbents for placing towers at their disposal. Mr. Hayward concluded his report by expressing the hope that towers would make every effort to maintain activity during the difficult conditions at present existing, and to endeavour to obtain new members.

The balance sheet showed that receipts amounted to £4 17s., and expenditure to 15s. 10d., leaving a balance of £4 1s. 2d.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.—Mr. Hayward was thanked for his services, and unanimously re-elected.

Mr. A. J. Wyntt (Wilton) was appointed to succeed Mr. Hunt as Branch Ringing Master and was appointed branch representative on the Association Committee.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings at Creech St. Michael (in March), Wellington (June), and Fitzhead (September).

The members heard with regret of the illness of Mr. Jim Reed (Staplegrave), a ringer for more than 50 years, and asked the president to convey a message of good wishes to him.

The service at St. Mary's Church, which preceded the meeting, was conducted by the Vicar. Touches in various standard methods were rung on the bells during the afternoon and evening.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Lincoln District will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at Washington. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 to 4.30 p.m., short service to follow. Tea at moderate charge.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 31, Vine Street, Lincoln.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing during the afternoon and evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available from 2.30. A good attendance is requested.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Frome and Midsomer Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bispham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.; business meeting 5 p.m.—C. S. Sharples, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A practice will be held at Sible Hedingham on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daven-try Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Daven-try (8) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daven-try, Northants.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSO- CIATION.**—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2 p.m. till black-out. Short business meeting at 3.30 in the ringing chamber.—Walter Yeend, Hon. Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Emberton on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting of Southampton District at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells 1.30 to 4.30.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. only. Business meeting for the election of officers will be held in the belfry. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Local Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.



**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea if possible to arrange. All ringers welcome. Please come. A good company is requested. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at St. James' Church, Poolstock. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. — S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET.**—The recast 5th and 7th bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells on Sunday, Jan. 14th, at 11 a.m. All the eight bells are now on ball-bearings. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, Jan. 16th, at 7 p.m. Practice at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Saturday, Jan. 13th, and at St. Lawrence Jewry on Saturday, Jan. 20th; both at 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.** —The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 20th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea, at 1/- each, in the Co-operative Hall. Important: Don't forget to let me know you are coming. — A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Annual meeting Jan. 20th. Business meeting in St. Chad's belfry at 3 p.m. prompt. Service, St. Aiden's Chapel, 5.30 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. St. Chad's bells (12) available 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 5.30 p.m., subject to war restrictions. Handbells otherwise and after tea. Names for tea to W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 18th.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Chesterfield District.—Annual district meeting, Eckington, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service prior to business meeting. Election of officers for ensuing year. Will all intending to be present please acquaint Mr. G. C. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, by Thursday, 17th, so that all possible arrangements may be made?—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Broughton-in-Furness, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The first quarterly meeting of the year is to be held at Allesley, near Coventry, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 to 8 p.m. Tea will be provided at the Rainbow Inn at 5 p.m. to all who notify Mr. J. W. Taylor, Paybody Cottage, Allesley. Business meeting to follow tea. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. There is to be a practice meeting at Chilvers Coton on Saturday, Jan. 13th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors welcomed.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Childwall on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped to arrange for tea at a small charge for all who send in their names to Mr. G. Sergeant, 7, Tower Cottages, Childwall, Liverpool 16, not later than Wednesday, Jan. 17th. There will be a business meeting after tea, 5.30, which will be followed by further ringing.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch. — Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service in St. Paul's Church 3.45 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. P. Carr, M.A. Tea in St. Paul's Parish Room 4.30, charge to be announced at the tea. Business meeting 5.15. Those requiring tea must notify by Jan. 15th. Ringing at both churches from 2 p.m. till service time.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 20th. St. Margaret's bells (12) will be available from 2 p.m. till 5.45 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., followed by the meeting, will be at the George Hotel, Clock Tower. Please notify me by the 18th inst. Please note that it will be moonlight from about 5 p.m. onwards.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Northern District.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, E.C. Bells available 2.45 p.m. till 'black-out.'—James G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Usual arrangements. Names to me, please, by Jan. 17th. — J. Dean, Hon. Sec., 4, Court Road, Northampton.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Rutland Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Uppingham on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Please notify for tea early to S. H. Towell, Hon. Sec., 27, West Road, Oakham.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.** — Southern District. — Annual meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 3d. each) at 6.15 p.m., and meeting at the Parish Hall (1st floor), Lesbourne Road. Please notify me by Wednesday, the 17th, as to numbers for tea.—A. T. Shelton, Act. Hon. Sec., The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate. Tel. Redhill 371.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.** — The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until dark. Other arrangements indefinite. Business meeting, Park Hotel. — H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.



**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Crewe (10 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar and wardens) will be provided only for those who send notice to me by Jan. 16th, as catering is difficult. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. — Rich. D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at Birkenhead St. Mary's (6 bells). Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock. Meeting afterwards. — H. S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Wordsley, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, meeting and ringing afterwards. Plenty of moonlight, so please book date, and advise me re tea by Wednesday, Jan. 17th. Thank you. — Bernard C. Ashford, Hon. Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Southern District. — Annual meeting to-morrow week, Jan. 20th. St. Mary's, Putney, 2 to 4 p.m. Tea and business in Church Hall. Ringing at All Saints', Fulham, afterwards, if possible.—P. A. Corby, Dis. Master.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—The annual meeting will be held at Portsmouth on Saturday, January 20th. Cathedral bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. and after the meeting. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., High Street, followed by business meeting. All those requiring tea MUST notify me by the 18th. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Dis. Sec. pro tem., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held on Saturday, January 20th, in St. Mary's belfry, Nottingham. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers at 5.30 p.m.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Stockport Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Norbury on Saturday, January 20th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! It is necessary, if tea is required, to notify the hon. secretary by Jan. 24th. Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—The annual meeting will be held at Alton on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will those requiring tea please be certain to let me know numbers by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—On account of clashing with the annual district meeting at Guildford, the combined practice arranged for Cranleigh on Jan. 20th will be postponed until Jan. 27th.—R. Whittington.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Full details later.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Banbury and District Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Adderbury on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea cannot be provided. Meeting follows service. Ringing after dark. All welcome.—E. Pearson, Branch Hon. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea, and all requiring same MUST notify Mr. C. W. Beaumont, Hunslet Parish Church, Leeds, not later than the first post on Thursday, Jan. 25th. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, it is hoped for a large and representative attendance. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. It is essential that I should receive names for tea by first post on Wednesday, 24th. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head, can only be served to those who apply not later than Jan. 25th to Mr. G. A. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester. Those failing to notify must cater for themselves. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.** — Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Tea by kind invitation. Make a note of the date and come and hear all about the Guild.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

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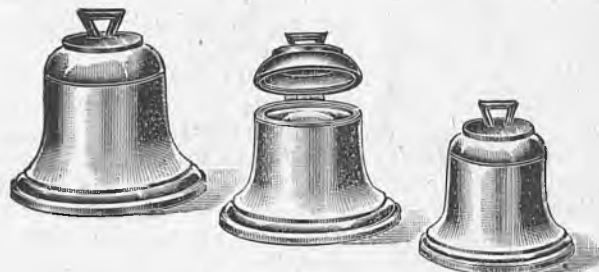
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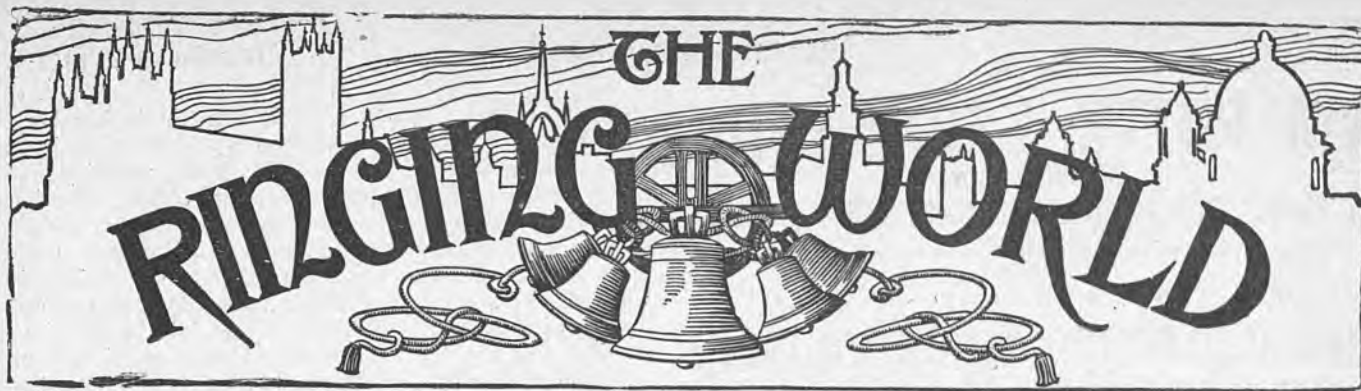
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th, 1940.

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## SOCIAL EVENTS.

It has been decided to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham this year as usual. The news will be welcomed by those who feel that, as far as possible, the wheels of the Exercise shall be kept turning, and following, as it will, upon the dinner at Bristol to-morrow, and other similar events elsewhere, it is encouraging to think that ringers are able to relax for a few hours from the strain which inevitably must be constantly borne in these anxious days. Festivities must, obviously, be more restrained, but there is no reason why old friends should not seize an opportunity to meet once more, and to honour a memory so great as that which preserves the name of Henry Johnson. Indeed, at a time like this, the celebration has, we think, a special significance. In events such as this, and the Bristol United Ringing Guilds' gathering to-morrow, it is not the festivities themselves that matter; it is the feeling of friendship which prompts these functions, and the atmosphere of comradeship and goodwill that pervades the gatherings that really makes them valuable. They are occasions which reflect the spirit of the Exercise and, as such, serve a most useful purpose. In these disturbed days, however, they also mark a determination to carry on in the face of adversity; they show a confidence which is an encouragement to the waverers and should be a tonic to the pessimists. If there should be any lack of numbers it will not be through want of enthusiasm, but rather due to the conditions of the times, which have imposed a black-out and curtailed transport. It may happen that the course of the war may make it impossible to hold these gatherings for a period in the future, but for our part we welcome the intention of those responsible for the dinners this year. We, in this country, have not yet felt the brunt of the conflict, and it will be time enough to suspend activities when that course is forced upon us. In the meantime everything that reason and prudence suggest should be done to maintain the life of the Exercise and keep the way open for a full resumption of activities as quickly as circumstances permit.

The Johnson dinner holds a place of special importance. It is a national event, as well as being always one of the most enjoyable of all the social functions of this kind organised by ringers for ringers. The dinner originated from a celebration arranged by the late Sir Arthur Heywood to honour Johnson in his lifetime. This was on the occasion of Johnson's eightieth birthday, and the old man did not live to see another anniversary. Earlier than this his personal friends had more than once celebrated his

(Continued on page 26.)

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birthday with peal and feast, but it was Sir Arthur Heywood whose influence raised the event to one of national interest, and ever since the year 1889 the occasion has drawn together in Birmingham a representative gathering of ringers. Few there are now who can remember Henry Johnson in the flesh, but his memory remains, and while in these days, perhaps, the sceptical may say it is only an excuse for holding the dinner, yet the fact remains that the spirit of Henry Johnson is not lost in Birmingham. He left his impress on St. Martin's Society, and the influence of high endeavour which he exerted has animated the men that have followed him. The same spirit is more necessary now than ever, and for this reason the holding of the commemoration dinner in this first year of the war should be a reminder to all who need such prompting, that the future of ringing depends upon the service they give to-day.

### ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.

WAR INTERRUPTS SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, was held on Sunday, January 7th, there being now no practice on Tuesday evenings.

Before commencing the business the company stood in silence for a few moments, on the recommendation of the chairman, to the memory of the late Mr. Ernest F. Poppy, a highly esteemed member of the society.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Master, Charles J. Sedgley; Deputy Master, William Tillett. All the other officers were re-elected en bloc.

The Secretary, in his report, stated that during the eight months to the end of August seven peals were rung on St. Mary-le-Tower bells, viz., three of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, two of York Surprise Maximus, one of Superlative Surprise Maximus and one of Stedman Cinques. They totalled 36,687 changes. In addition there were rung courses of Surprise Maximus, Cambridge (20), Superlative (12), York (15), Bedford (4) and New Cambridge (3), and touches of Duffield and Forward Maximus, making 28,800 changes of Maximus. There were also 4,213 changes of Stedman and Grandsire Cinques, 24 courses of York Surprise Royal, 15 of Cambridge, five of Bedford and 2,520 changes in other Royal methods (a total of 18,360 changes of Royal), 4,304 changes of Surprise and other Major methods, and 2,758 changes of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. The aggregate number of changes rung during this period was thus 95,122, not including failures in peals and touches.

Commenting on York Surprise Maximus, the Hon. Secretary said the fact that the first course was rung on January 10th and the first peal on February 11th showed what an easy method it was to ring. It had the advantage of being more musical than other Surprise methods, excepting those with extending leads at bobs. On July 30th the first course of Bedford Surprise Maximus was rung, and on August 5th the second peal of York Surprise Maximus was accomplished. In addition to the peals at St. Mary-le-Tower, a peal of London Surprise Major was rung at Ufford, Suffolk, conducted by F. W. Rogers, 5,088 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Hollesley, Suffolk, conducted by C. J. Sedgley (the first in the method on the bells), and a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Great Yarmouth on August Bank Holiday conducted by C. J. Sedgley.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF THE DERBY DISTRICT.

The annual general meeting of the Derby District was held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday last. The bells were available for ringing from 2 to 4 p.m. only, owing to police restrictions, and this fact probably affected the attendance, which was below the average. The methods rung were Cambridge Minor, Stedman Triples, Kent Royal, Double Norwich, Cambridge Major, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Caters.

At the business meeting which followed, Mr. Jack Bailey was re-elected chairman, Mr. William Lancaster re-elected secretary and Mr. James Pagett and Mr. Wilfred Buxton elected to serve on the committee.

It was decided to hold the next monthly meeting at Duffield on February 10th. Votes of thanks to the officials for their services during the past year were moved by Mr. S. Walklate, seconded by Mr. Ben Barker and carried unanimously. The officials replied, saying they would continue to give of their best. The secretary moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to Mr. Charlie Hart, a veteran of St. Andrew's band, for having all in readiness. Short touches on handbells brought the meeting to a close.



**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. Treble	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER... .. 2	IVAN KAY ... .. 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 3	HARRY BYROM ... .. 7
FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY... .. Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by HARRY BYROM.

\* First peal in the method. First peal of Major as conductor. Arranged and rung as a farewell peal to the conductor, who was leaving to join His Majesty's Navy.

HERSHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(CHERTSEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, January 13, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 8 cwt.

ERNEST MOREY ... .. Treble	†GEORGE CURTIS .. .. 5
*EDWARD ARMSTRONG... .. 2	†EDWARD COLCOMBE ... .. 6
JOHN B. HESSEY ... .. 3	WILLIAM SIMMONDS ... .. 7
*HERBERT COLCOMBE... .. 4	HERBERT BATTY... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM SIMMONDS.

\* First peal of Triples on a working bell. † First peal. † First peal of Triples. First peal of Grandsire as conductor. This is the first peal in the district by resident Chertsey District members.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT 19, HOWARD ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL... .. 3-4	ALBERT WIFFEN ... .. 7-8

Composed by W. AYRE.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT TRENTWOOD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

MRS. J. BRAY ... .. 1-2	JACK BRAY ... .. 5-6
ROBERT RICHARDSON ... .. 3-4	MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by R. RICHARDSON.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven extents called differently.

Tenor size 14 in D.

JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 3-4
IVAN B. GARDINER ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 14, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOHN ANTHONY BEAUMONT 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 5-6
JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 3-4	IVAN B. GARDINER ... .. 7-8

Composed and Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

\* First peal of Major. First peal of Major 'in hand' by all the band. First peal in the method as conductor. This composition is now rung for the first time. Rung for the wedding of Mr. H. B. Adsheed, of Dulwich, to Miss M. H. Gordon, which took place on the 8th inst.

**THE N.U.T.S. OUT AGAIN.**

VISIT TO OXFORDSHIRE AND BERKSHIRE TOWERS.

After a long enforced idleness, the opportunity occurred on Boxing Day for a limited return to activity by some of the members of the National Union of Tower Snatchers who had taken part in the long summer tours by cycle. The mode of transport this time was, however, different. Mobile units were employed, as the cycling range from London had by now been 'wiped off the map.'

It had been planned to start at Aston Rowant, Oxon, but news that these bells were unringable led the party of five, in a four-seater car from Uxbridge, to proceed to the neighbouring village of Chinnor. The Rector readily granted permission to ring, but the ringing was limited to the back five, as the sixth member of the party, Bill Stote, of Coventry, had not heard of the change of programme. However, it must have made the villagers sit up and take notice, for it was learnt that the bells had not been rung up for a year.

Lewknor was the next port of call, and while the ambassador, the Rev. K. C. Davis, of Bristol, visited a large house that looked like the Vicarage, the rest had a look round the church. The visits were, however, unsuccessful as far as ringing was concerned, for it transpired that the Vicar actually lived in the next village, while, of the five bells in the tower, two were found to be without ropes. All that had been gained by the visit was a glass of 'something warm' for the ambassador!

Other towers on the programme had been successfully booked, and the first of these, Ifley, was reached at the scheduled time of noon. The visit to this out-of-the-way village would have been well worth while without the ringing, for the church is a real gem, being almost wholly of unspoilt Norman work with a fine central tower. After a thorough inspection of the building, the tourists climbed the tower and rang Cambridge and Plain Bob on the medium-weight peal of six, while Bill concluded with a hymn tune on the chiming apparatus.

It was decided to go on to the next calling place before stopping for lunch, and after a long detour of Oxford under the misguidance of those who should have known better, the village of Marston was eventually reached. Here a suitable place 'within the meaning of the act' was found without difficulty, and 'light refreshments' were soon disposed of. By 1.30 p.m. the party were at the little Parish Church, and soon the pleasant light peal of five were sending out their Christmas peal, as the Vicar described it when he came in to see the visitors. Apparently the bells had not been rung since one of the other branches of the N.U.T.S. had made an excursion to the church on cycles some months previously. In fact, the Vicar thought it was the same hand paying a second visit, but he evidently didn't know the rules!

Wolverton was the next stopping place, and here there was again a welcome by the Vicar. Cambridge and Kent were rung on this light six (tenor 6½ cwt.) before heading for the city, to visit St. Cross', Holywell, to ring Oxford and Plain Bob on the pleasant peal of six. Ringing at this ancient church takes place under rather unusual conditions, the ropes coming down immediately inside the main west door, while the circle is open to the church on three sides.

The fine heavy six at Cumnor, Berks, was the last peal booked for the day and the party were augmented on arrival by the Rev. M. Melville, who had come on after a peal at Sutton Courtenay. The downstairs ringing chamber was found to be pitch dark and the hanging oil lamp was brought into use. The weird shadows thrown by this, and the fact that only the lower parts of the ringers opposite were visible, due to the huge home-made hood on the light, must have put the ringers off their stroke, for it took three attempts to knock off a course of Cambridge. It was well past four o'clock when ringing finished and the visitors began to consider their next move.

The close proximity of the ten-bell tower of Appleton decided the issue, but they were unlucky, for though they claimed to have sufficient influence among the company to do most things, there proved a limit to the abilities of the party. Not only was it by now past black-out time, but the bells of this famous tower had hardly been rung since war started, so the hour seemed hardly opportune to break the silence of the peaceful village.

Thus there was nothing for it but to close down at an hour when normally things would just be getting warmed up, and hope for better times in the New Year, when cycles are likely to come into their own again as the method of transport. Unfortunately, though, much is likely to depend on Mr. Hitler.

R. D.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON ASTON BROADCAST.**

To the Editor.

DEAR Sir,—Congratulations to the Sunday service band at Aston Parish Church, who broadcast excellent twelve-bell ringing previous to the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday morning, December 24th. It was a very pleasant surprise, as there had been no announcement in 'The Radio Times' or public Press, and I find the Aston band were informed they could ring for this service almost at the last moment. The touch, a bob course of Grandsire Cinques, was rung by F. Price 1, A. Short 2, G. Swann 3, R. Shepherd 4, G. Mitchieson 5, R. Ingram 6, W. Pettigrew 7, W. Best 8, F. Rishworth 9, A. Rainey 10, W. Davies 11, A. Pettigrew 12.

ALBERT WALKER.

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

### JOHNSON DINNER TO BE HELD.

The annual meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, on Saturday, January 6th. The tower of St. Martin's having been effectively blacked out, ringing was permitted from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., during which time several good touches were brought round, including three courses of Stedman Cinques.

In the absence of the Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, the vice-president, Mr. Albert Walker, occupied the chair at the business meeting. Apologies for absence were announced from the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith, Messrs. E. T. Allaway and J. Preston.

The Chairman announced the death of Mr. W. H. Hall, of Sutton Coldfield, which occurred during Christmas week. He had been a ringer for many years and his passing was a loss to the Guild and particularly to the Parish Church at Sutton Coldfield. All present stood for a moment as a last mark of respect.

The following new members were elected: Mr. Walter G. Chaplin, of Hall Green, as a full ringing member, and Mr. John Ashton, of Streetly, and Mr. J. Eric Pickering, of Four Oaks, as country members.

Mr. W. Davies gave a hearty welcome to the Guild to hold the next quarterly meeting at Aston. In spite of rationing and other restrictions, he promised, on behalf of the Aston Parish Church ringers, to do all possible to make the visit enjoyable. The proposition was seconded by Mr. F. Price and agreed to with acclamation.

It was decided to postpone consideration of holding bi-quarterly meetings until the next quarterly meeting. The hon. treasurer, in presenting the annual balance sheet, pointed out that although subscriptions received were rather less than in the previous year, expenses had also been reduced somewhat. Owing to the present difficult times, the peal book had not been written up for the previous year and so there was no item for peal booking in the accounts. This matter would have attention at an early date. He had pleasure in presenting the accounts, which showed an increased balance in hand of £8.—The auditors gave their report and the accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. G. F. Swann, seconded by Mr. D. T. Matkin.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected. The hon. secretary, in proposing the re-election of Alderman J. S. Pritchett as Master, said that although the Alderman was not now able to come amongst them as he used to do, he felt sure it was the desire of every member that he should continue as Master of the Guild, and although absent from them, yet he was still as keenly interested as ever in its welfare.—This was seconded by Mr. W. C. Dowding and was carried unanimously.—The secretary was instructed to write the Alderman expressing their good wishes and congratulations on having reached his 85th birthday.

### THE RINGING MASTERSHIP.

The next item was the election of Ringing Master. The secretary pointed out that Mr. F. E. Haynes had been evacuated with his school at the outbreak of the war. At the last quarterly meeting Mr. Haynes wrote a letter tendering his resignation, which the members decided not to accept, but to defer consideration until the annual meeting. Mr. Haynes, who was present, said that as he was likely to be away for an indefinite period, he thought he ought to hand in his resignation. At the moment he had no idea when he would be back in Birmingham, certainly not before the end of September. His personal wish was to remain in office, and should the members decide to re-elect him, in spite of his disability, he would, of course, attend whenever possible.

Mr. G. F. Swann said that in view of the fact that ringing would have to be considerably curtailed, and that Mr. Haynes had promised to attend when possible, he had pleasure in proposing his re-election.—This was seconded by Mr. Fred Price and carried unanimously.

The trustees, Councillor A. Paddon Smith and Mr. E. T. Allaway; the auditors, Messrs. Jonathan Preston and Fred Price; and the librarian, Mr. G. F. Swann, were unanimously re-elected.

The Chairman (Mr. Albert Walker), in proposing the re-election of Mr. T. H. Reeves as secretary and treasurer, said that Mr. Reeves always carried out his duties efficiently and with dignity and honour to the Guild.—Mr. S. O'C. Holloway seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Reeves expressed thanks to the members for their continued confidence and support.

Some discussion took place as to whether the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner should be held as usual or just an informal lunch at midday. The secretary reported that he had provisionally reserved the Connaught Room at the Imperial Hotel as usual, but had notified the manager that possibly the usual function would not take place.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed and Mr. W. C. Dowding seconded that the dinner take place as usual on Saturday, March 2nd, commencing at 5 p.m., and, on being put to the meeting, was carried. After further discussion it was decided to have the usual entertainment after dinner and invite guests as previously, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and to invite the vice-president, Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith, to occupy the chair.

Under the item 'Any other business,' Mr. Walker called attention to the various attempts that had been made in various parts of the country to stop the ringing of bells even for Sunday services. In Birmingham the Chief Constable had stopped ringing at the Cathedral on one Sunday and at Aston the recent broadcast had nearly been prevented. It was only by taking the articles which had appeared in

(Continued in next column.)

## WINCHESTER DISTRICT RINGING.

### MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

The annual meeting of the Winchester District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at St. Maurice's Hall, Winchester, on January 6th, and was presided over by the Rev. N. C. Woods, M.A., Mus.Bac., Vicar of St. John's, Notting Hill, London (chairman of the district). He was supported by the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. W. G. Goodchild), while among those present were the Master of the Guild (Mr. George Williams), the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), Mr. Wilfred Andrews (captain of the Cathedral ringers), Canon and Miss Andrewes, etc. Several apologies for absence were received.

Before commencement of business the Chairman paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Elkins, formerly Dean's verger, who, over a long period, had done so much for the Guild, and whose many sterling qualities had endeared him to all with whom he came in touch. At the request of the chairman, members stood for a few moments in silence.

Arising out of the minutes of the last annual district meeting, a report of the proceedings of the sub-committee, formed for the purpose of appointing an honorary secretary and treasurer, was read. The secretary also reported that, in accordance with a resolution upon the subject, an estimate of the cost of laying cocoa-fibre matting in the Cathedral belfry was duly obtained; that the work had been carried out, and that there was now a small balance of 14s. remaining on this particular account. In connection with that balance it was proposed by Mr. Newnham and seconded by Mr. Williams that it should be left in the hands of the secretary and Mr. Andrews to spend in the Cathedral belfry as they thought fit.

The secretary's annual report was read and adopted.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In the course of his report, the Hon. Secretary said an immediate result of the outbreak of war in September last was an almost complete cessation of ringing activities throughout the country; meetings everywhere were cancelled, practices ceased, and even Sunday service ringing was forbidden in certain areas. It looked, in those early days of the war, as if ringers were going to have a difficult time, but the atmosphere of tension and expectation gradually gave way to one of quieter confidence, with the result that recently there has been a revival of activity, and endeavours are being made to revert as nearly as possible, where circumstances permitted, to normal procedure. The most important contribution towards this revival was the exception of the use of church and chapel bells from any restriction by virtue of the Control of Noise Order, 1939. It had been made clear that bells might continue to be used in the customary manner, namely, for Sunday service ringing, festivals, practices, meetings and peals of normal length, subject always, of course, to compliance with 'black-out' restrictions and to the exigency of the particular time or district. In Winchester they had been fortunate to ring, not only as usual on Sundays, on the royal anniversaries and on Christmas Eve and morning, but also to ring the old year out and the new in. The chief aim now must be the maintenance of Sunday service ringing, and in so doing ringers should feel that they were playing their part in the call of the Church to service and prayer.

After giving details of the quarterly meetings, the report went on to refer to the passing, in July last, of their old friend and life member, Mr. J. W. Elkins. His keenness upon all matters relating to the Guild and to ringers was still fresh in the minds of all of them, and they remembered with grateful thanks all that he did to promote interest in ringing. They would miss his sound advice and good company.

In conclusion, the secretary expressed warmest thanks to all the honorary and ringing members for their interest and support and to all incumbents who had so willingly and kindly granted the Guild the use of their bells.

The balance sheet was read and its adoption proposed by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Melville. The secretary drew attention to the balance now in hand, namely, £25 7s. 6d., and suggested the investment of part of this sum in National Savings Certificates. It was thereupon proposed by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Andrews

(Continued on next page.)

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

'The Ringing World' and Mr. Fletcher's correspondence with the Home Office to the Chief Constable that convinced him he had no authority to stop the bells, provided the ringing chamber was effectively blacked out. He considered the best thanks of the Exercise were due to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and to Mr. Fletcher, hon. secretary of the Central Council, for their efforts in this connection. Mr. Fred Price confirmed Mr. Walker's remarks with regard to the broadcast; in fact, it was not until 8.30 on the Sunday morning of the broadcast that it was finally decided to allow it. Mr. Walker, referring to the broadcast, congratulated the Aston ringers on the progress they had made in such a short time and the excellent ringing they put over: it was a delight to listen to.

Mr. F. W. Rishworth called attention to members serving with the Forces, and proposed that they should be relieved from paying subscriptions whilst serving. This was seconded by Mr. F. Price and carried unanimously.

**WINCHESTER DISTRICT RINGING.**

(Continued from previous page.)

that a proportion of such balance be dealt with in that way, the amount to be left to the discretion of the secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Melville raised the question of remission of subscriptions due from ringing members who were serving their country in H.M. Forces, and after some discussion it was formally proposed by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Bullen, and carried unanimously, 'That for the duration of war subscriptions due to the Guild by ringing members of the Winchester District who are serving in H.M. Forces shall be remitted.'

The Secretary asked that tower captains should notify him as soon as possible of the names, and particulars of units, etc., of any members of their bands to whom the foregoing resolution would apply.

The following honorary members were elected: Lt.-Col. E. A. Dickinson and Miss Dickinson, Winchester; Mr. J. H. Gray, Wonston, and the Rev. M. Wilkinson, Rector of Stockbridge.

It was decided to make endeavours to hold quarterly meetings as usual this year, and the following towers and dates were agreed to: Hursley, April 6th; King's Somborne, June 8th; and Wonston and Barton Stacey, September 7th.

When the election of officers for 1940 was reached, the Chairman said he felt that he must reluctantly tender his resignation, because, much as he had enjoyed being chairman, and was still enjoying it, he was afraid that the district would find him of little use now that he was living in London. He could not promise to get down to all the meetings, and he thought it would be in the interests of the district to elect another chairman.

Mr. Andrews spoke enthusiastically of the work done by the chairman on behalf of the district, and of the great interest which he had always taken in their affairs. As a successor had not yet been found, he proposed that the chairman be asked to carry on for the time being.—This was seconded by Mr. Tremeer and carried unanimously.

In reply, the Chairman said that he was quite willing to continue to serve for the time being, but would be quite ready to retire gracefully as soon as a successor had been found.

Other district officers were re-elected as follows: Hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. G. Goodchild; hon. auditor, Mr. G. Smith; representatives, Mr. W. Andrews and Mr. H. Newnham.

The usual vote of thanks concluded the business meeting, and members adjourned for tea.

Prior to the meeting the Guild service had been held in the Cathedral (by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter), at which the Rev. N. C. Woods (chairman) gave the address. His subject was 'The Epiphany,' with which he dealt in a most interesting way by question and answer.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.****SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the Southampton District was held at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, when there was an attendance of 24 from seven towers, which, in view of the black-out and other difficulties, was satisfactory. Ringing in various methods, from Grand-sire Doubles to London Major and Stedman Caters, took place during the afternoon on the fine ring of ten bells.

Mr. G. Williams presided at the business meeting. The secretary reported an average year's work, the financial position being good and membership maintained.

All the district officers were re-elected, and meetings were provisionally arranged as follows: Upham, March 16th; Dibden, May 18th; Lockerley, July 20th; Netley Abbey, September 21st; annual at Southampton, January 11th, 1941. It was left to the secretary to make the best arrangement possible for teas at the meetings.

A resolution was passed that it be a recommendation to the annual general meeting: 'That for the duration of war subscriptions due from members serving with H.M. Forces be remitted.'

**DEATH OF MR. A. WALKER, OF PONTEFRACHT.****FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE AT THE PARISH CHURCH.**

The Pontefract Parish Church belfry has suffered a big loss by the death of Mr. A. Walker, who was buried in Pontefract Cemetery on Boxing Day. Prior to a service in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Greathorpe), the bells were fully muffled, and at the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by four of his old colleagues. A number of ringers were present, and ringers acted as bearers.

Mr. Walker, who was 70 years of age, leaves a widow, four sons and two daughters in bereavement. Two of his sons are ringers at the Parish Church.

Mr. Walker commenced his ringing career on Boxing Day 50 years ago at All Saints' Church, and Sunday by Sunday during those long years, until a month ago, when he had a slight seizure, he most faithfully carried out his duties, being always punctual and setting a fine example to young ringers.

Mr. Walker was a member of the General Committee of the Yorkshire Association. He had rung 109 peals, conducting 12. The president (the Rev. Canon Marshall) and the general secretary (Mr. Leslie W. G. Morris) sent apologies that owing to engagements they were unable to be present at the funeral and paid worthy tribute to Mr. Walker's services to the association and his native town. J. H. L.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

On January 13th, 1772, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 6,048 changes of Imperial the Third Major. The first Imperial was the composition of Fabian Stedman and appears in his 'Campanalogia.' It is the same as Norfolk Surprise, but with seconds and sevenths when the treble is leading and lying. The amount of dodging and stagnation is excessive, so attempts were made to improve it. Imperial the Second has disappeared. Imperial the Third is the same as first Imperial, except that no places are made at cross sections.

The method, which is not now considered a 'regular' one, is rather difficult, and though it was printed in the 'Clavis' and in Shipway's book, only one peal has ever been rung away from Norwich.

On the same date in 1903 the first peal of Forward Maximus was rung at Birmingham. Forward, which was an imitation of Duffield, was introduced by John Carter. It was supposed to have all the good musical qualities of Treble Bob with none of its defects. Actually it is very monotonous both to ring and to listen to.

On January 14th, 1899, the Brighton band rang at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, the first peal of London Surprise in the City of London. The Burton-on-Trent men had already rung at Fulham the first peal in the Metropolitan area.

James Barham died on January 14th, 1818, at the age of 93.

A peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 6,720 changes, was rung at St. Michael's, Norwich, on January 15th, 1771, and on January 18th, 1844, the Norwich Scholars rang their long peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,126 changes.

Both the College Youths and the London County Association had arranged a meeting at St. Lawrence Jewry for next Saturday. We are now informed that both are postponed.

## LONDON CHURCHES.

Owing to pressure on our space, the next of Mr. J. A. Trollope's articles on London churches is held over.

## TOWER SAFETY IN AIR RAIDS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Chamberlain again reminds us to keep ready and steady, and that the storm may burst at any time.

May I take the opportunity of pointing out to ringers that ordinary spiral stone stairs have a remarkable natural strength, and that the lower portion affords excellent air raid shelter. I observed evidence of this on visiting France immediately after the last war.

As one of the district surveyors for London, I also noticed, in surveying many bombed buildings, how safe a place was the cupboard under the kitchen stairs (or its equivalent). This part of a domestic building remained intact, though the rest was in ruins.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retired).

## THE FIRST PEAL OF KENT MAXIMUS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The method rung by the Cumberlands at Southwark in 1795 was definitely not Cumberland Exercise, the one referred to by Mr. Walker. It was a method which could be rung on eight, ten and twelve bells, one to which the compositions of Oxford Treble Bob would apply, and one which Shipway is pretty certain to have included in his book. If it was not Kent, what could it have been?

J. A. TROLLOPE.

## OLD TIMBERS AND BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I noticed the letter about the Bagley frame of 1681 still sound after 250 years. Here at Martley, Worcestershire, we have a peal of six by Richard Keene, tenor 14 cwt., all dated 1673, and the date is also cut on the frame, which is still sound after 266 years of use. It is just as it was when made, except that it was strengthened by some vertical bolts and angle plates in the pits of the two tenors, when the bells were quarter turned and given new wheels by Greenleaf in 1895.

J. F. HASTINGS.

Martley Rectory.

## THE FIRST 720 OF STEDMAN MINOR.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in the letter from Mr. E. H. Lewis and the reference to the 720 of Stedman Minor rung on the back six at St. Michael's, Garston, Liverpool, in 1905. The exact date was December 18th. Mr. Lewis called the bobs and I took a rope in it, but I cannot recall who were the rest of the band. It was published in the 'Bell News,' and was claimed to be 'the first 720 in the method in Lancashire.' Except for its interesting connection, it has nothing to commend it, as each of the smaller bells is kept behind for quite a number of sixes in succession. I hope ere this Mr. Lewis is out and about again and that he will forgive me for butting in.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.



## THE LONDON SOCIETIES.

### THE 'BARRIER' DEFENDED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am daring to make an attack on your leading article of January 12th. There are a few points I am going to contest.

For a long time now there have appeared articles by yourself all on the same subject, namely, the above. The rule existing between College Youths and Cumberlands is always mentioned and attacked, as 'it does nothing to develop friendly rivalry, or even remotely encourage the art, etc.' This is not true. Let us suppose this rule were quashed. I am inclined to think that the usual attendance at College Youths' meetings of about 30 would be considerably increased. This would definitely not foster the art. Twelve-bell ringing is not easy and the only way to build future bands is to give young men weekly touches under very strict masters, and, believe me, they are strict, and kind, and masters, in the Ancient Society. A sudden influx of new members to the London meetings would not improve the ringing. The Ancient Society, I believe, prefers to train its junior members the way they should go, which would immediately come to an end when ringers with their own ideas of ringing and striking twelve bells suddenly put in an appearance.

The next thing attacked is tradition, put by you as 'a hollow myth and what was good enough for grandad, etc.' Well, if the standard of striking at College Youths' meetings is a result of tradition and came down from grandad, as I believe it did, I'm going in for all the 'tradition' I can find.

You are quite right about the new generation of ringers in London, but I'm not so sure of this 'new structure' you often talk about or the 'immense field of expansion.' I am not sure of the figures, but I think it is about 23 peals in the city and 80 peals in three square miles of the city. This, I take it, is your field of expansion. Just imagine all those being rung on a Sunday. The few housemen and caretakers would wonder why they had been so blessed! What a waste of man power on nothing, because after all we do ring for a purpose, that is to call people to church. In other words, we are performing a service to God, and so it should certainly be of the best, especially in regularity and striking. Would it not be a greater service to the Church to encourage the building of towers to contain bells to the many new churches being built, instead of continually appealing to ringers to ring in a city that is almost empty of people.

It has occurred to me that, perhaps, some cause of discontent about the society's rules is caused by elder members encouraging young boys to join this society or that before they have the knowledge or discretion to think for themselves as to which is more advantageous to their skill.

Please remember that I am only an ordinary member of the Ancient Society, and in no way am expressing official views; on the other hand, although your views are expressed as your own, they are at the same time through the eyes of a Cumberland.

A. HAROLD WORBOYS.

Barking, Essex.

We are very glad to publish Mr. Worboys' letter, representing a view opposed to our leading article. We are always pleased to print other people's opinions on ringing matters, if reasonably expressed, even though we disagree with them. All we want to say at this point, however, is that the article in our last issue was written with no bias for one or other of the two old London societies. It would not have been different had the Editor been a member of the College Youths instead of the Cumberlands.

### RULE THAT DID CREDIT TO NO ONE.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest your leading article and recent references to London ringing and to the rule regarding membership of the College Youths and Cumberlands.

I must agree that the rule seems to serve no useful purpose now, but I do not think rescinding it will result in the startling improvement in London ringing which we are led to expect.

My own experience has been that, so far as Sunday ringing is concerned, some members of both societies ring together in perfect harmony quite often, and it will require more than an alteration of rule to increase the number that do this.

Older ringers, who have been members of a society for a number of years, will stick to the society of their choice, and, speaking as one of the younger school, I can say my experience is that the younger ringers are not at all concerned about old rules and get along together very well.

The only sphere in which the removal of the ban might have some effect is in peal ringing, although this is doubtful, as most of London's peal ringers ring peals together for other societies.

No, I don't think rescinding a couple of rules is going to make much difference to London ringing, although I hope this view of mine will not lead anyone to believe I am defending a rule which apparently did credit to no one when it was made.

There are many things connected with ringing in the Metropolis which require careful consideration, and although this controversial rule is one of them, it is by no means the primary one, to my idea.

The Utopian ringing city which Brown dreamed of is certainly something to be hoped for, and I would suggest that Brown has another dream and tells us how to achieve it. Best wishes for 1940.

J. E. BAILEY.

## THE LATE MR. ALFRED PYE.

### MEMBER OF A FAMOUS RINGING FAMILY.

#### Distinguished Army Service.

The late Mr. Alfred Pye, whose death was recently recorded, was born on January 13th, 1861, at Chadwell Heath, Essex, and was the eldest of the four famous ringing brothers, the others being William, Ernest and George Robert, the last named being now the sole survivor of the quartette.

Mr. Alfred Pye first learned to handle a bell at St. James' Church, Little Heath (now demolished), and rang his first peal, Grandsire

Triples, at All Saints', Writtle, Essex, on May 29th, 1882. Several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob followed until November 11th, 1885, when he enlisted in the R.F.A. and in 1887 embarked for India. He did not return to England until 1896. In 1899 his battery embarked for South Africa, where Staff Sergeant Pye, after being present at the relief of Ladysmith and many other engagements, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry. In this connection he had the privilege of shaking hands with General Buller and Lord Kitchener.

Having completed 25 years 62 days (including 10 years abroad), he terminated his service in 1911 with the rank of first class warrant officer, being discharged with an exemplary character. His awards were: Queen's Medal (South Africa) with six clasps; King's Medal (South Africa) with two clasps; Distinguished Conduct Medal (South African



THE LATE MR. ALFRED PYE.

War); Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Mentioned in Despatches, 1901.

He volunteered for further service in 1914 and he ended his service with a final total of 29 years in the Army.

During the period between 1911 and 1914 Mr. Pye devoted himself to ringing, returning to his old band at Romford. His peals totalled 205, made up as follows:—

	Tower bells	Handbells	Total Conducted
Grandsire Triples ... ..	19		19
Grandsire Caters ... ..	1		1
Stedman Triples ... ..	29	1	30
Stedman Caters ... ..	18		18
Stedman Cinques ... ..	7		7
Bob Major ... ..	2		2
Treble Bob Major ... ..	17	1	18
Treble Bob Royal ... ..	4		4
Treble Bob Maximus ... ..	1		1
Double Norwich Major ... ..	15	1	16
Superlative Surprise ... ..	22	1	23
Bristol Surprise ... ..	12		12
London Surprise ... ..	28		28
Cambridge Major ... ..	16		16
Cambridge Royal ... ..	3		3
Cambridge Maximus ... ..	2		2
New Cambridge Major ... ..	3		3
Spliced London, Bristol, Superlative and Cambridge ... ..	1		1

Total 205

His last peal was one of Double Norwich, rung at Romford on December 1st, 1936. Among his peals were the first peals 'in hand' by four brothers of Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise. He was a regular attendant for service ringing at Romford, and, in fact, was ringing for morning service on the Sunday previous to his death on the Tuesday.

He was for over 50 years a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths and Essex Associations. He was also a member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, the Kent County Association, the Middlesex County Association and the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. His ringing career had extended over a period of nearly 60 years.

Since leaving the Army Mr. Pye had for the past 28 years resided at Seven Kings. His cheery smile and invaluable willingness to help will be sorely missed, and by none more than his brother ringers at St. Edward's, Romford.

## NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

### THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES. A Peal Deleted from the Records.

The annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stoke-on-Trent. Tea was served in the Church Institute, where 47 sat down. Ringers came from Brown Edge, Burslem, Cheadle, Draycott, Tenton, Leek, Kingsley, Stone, Uttoxeter, Hanley, Wolstanton, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle.

The Ven. Archdeacon P. Harill (Rector of Stoke) extended a hearty welcome to the members and said he hoped they would be able to meet under better conditions next year.

Mr. J. E. Wheeldon proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of Stoke for the use of the bells and the very fine tea he had given them.—Mr. A. W. Hall supported the motion.

The business meeting followed, with the president (Archdeacon Harill) in the chair, supported by Mr. Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary).

The committee presented the report of the hon. secretary, which stated that during the year 13 meetings were held, two at ten-bell towers, six at eight, and five at six-bell towers. The average attendance was 36, a decrease of two per meeting on last year. Only three members had attended all the meetings, viz., Messrs. Arthur W. Hall, Edward Steele and William Perkins, while Messrs. Thomas Hurd and Charles H. Page and Mrs. B. V. Miles attended twelve of the meetings.

Nineteen peals were rung, which was a decrease of one on the previous year. The number of conductors was 14 and several members rang their first peal. Among the peals was one of Minor in seven methods at Bucknall to celebrate the 50 years as a bellringer of Mr. W. Wheeldon. A disappointing discussion would undoubtedly take place in connection with this peal, as it was this tower that threatened the association with secession in connection with the annual dinners, and although the peal was rung under the auspices of the association, the members had carefully considered the paying of their annual subscription, and decided to leave the matter in abeyance until after the war is over. Biddulph tower would not even correspond with the secretary over their membership.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. W. Carnwell, supported by Mr. A. D. Steel.

The statement of accounts was presented and accepted. The total balance was £37 7s. 8½d., a gain on the year's working of £2 8s. 8d. The finances of the association had increased in the past four years to the extent of £21 17s. 2½d.

The Eight-Bell Ringing Master, in his report, said it seemed a great pity that what promised to be a good year in the ringing activities of the association came to a sudden end by the outbreak of war. They did not stand alone in this halt, so by continuance of their duties to the Church they would be a much prouder body when peace came. Throughout the year the ringing at meetings had been of a good standard, the number of methods rung being never less than seven. The only thing he asked was a consideration for better striking. Plans for new fields in the association's peal bands were brought to an abrupt end, but it was gratifying to find more first pealers, new conductors and ringers breaking into more methods. So long as the authorities sanctioned meetings plenty of good work could be done, as more time could be devoted to the learners and younger members.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. W. Carnwell, supported by Mr. E. Steele.

The Rev. S. F. Linsley was elected clerical secretary, Mr. Andrew Thompson hon. secretary, Mr. Kenneth Thacker and Mr. Edward Steele assistant hon. secretaries, Mr. Arthur W. Hall chairman of committee, Mr. Alan D. Steel Ringing Master for eight-bell towers, Mr. John E. Wheeldon Ringing Master for six-bell towers, and Mr. John G. Cartledge as auditor.

The following list of meetings was proposed for 1940: January, Newcastle; February, Longton; March, Stone; April, Norton; May, Leek; June, Cheddleton; July, Cheadle R.C.; August, Draycott; September, Uttoxeter; October, Tunstall; November, Hanley; and December, Stoke-on-Trent.

The hon. secretary was empowered to purchase both a large and a smaller peal book, and it was decided that the renewing of the membership cards be shelved for the present.

On the proposition of Mr. W. Carnwell, seconded by Mr. W. P. Deane, the peal of Minor rung at Bucknall on Friday, July 14th, 1939, was deleted from the association's records on account of the ringers' secession from the association.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to the officers for their services during the past year.

After the minutes of the committee had been passed, Mr. C. H. Page proposed a vote of thanks to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for the meeting reports he had published during the year.

Mr. W. P. Deane proposed and Mr. Andrew Thompson seconded that members, on joining the Forces, shall retain their membership for the duration of the war without subscribing.

It was also proposed by Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. D. R. Whalley, that a ringer having done 50 years' service as a ringer or attained the age of 70, shall have the pleasure of becoming a life honorary member.

A vote of thanks to the hon. secretary was moved by Mr. R. S. Anderson, and Mr. J. E. Wheeldon supported him.

## NOTICES.

### SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Chesterfield District.—Annual district meeting, Eckington, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service prior to business meeting. Election of officers for ensuing year.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Broughton-in-Furness, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The first quarterly meeting of the year is to be held at Allesley, near Coventry, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 to 8 p.m. Business meeting to follow tea. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. There is to be a practice meeting at Chilvers Coton on Saturday, Jan. 13th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors welcomed.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service in St. Paul's Church 3.45 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. P. Carr, M.A. Tea in St. Paul's Parish Room 4.30, charge to be announced at the tea. Business meeting 5.15. Ringing at both churches from 2 p.m. till service time.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 20th. St. Margaret's bells (12) will be available from 2 p.m. till 5.45 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., followed by the meeting, will be at the George Hotel, Clock Tower. Please note that it will be moonlight from about 5 p.m. onwards.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—The annual meeting will be held at Portsmouth on Saturday, January 20th. Cathedral bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. and after the meeting. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., High Street, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Dis. Sec. pro tem., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—Annual meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 3d. each) at 6.15 p.m., and meeting at the Parish Hall (1st floor), Lesbourne Road.—A. T. Shelton, Act. Hon. Sec., The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate. Tel. Redhill 371.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Crewe (10 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar and wardens) will be provided only for those who have sent notice to me, as catering is difficult. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. — Rich. D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Wordsley, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, meeting and ringing afterwards. — Bernard C. Ashford, Hon. Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at Birkenhead St. Mary's (6 bells). Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock. Meeting afterwards. — H. S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District. — The annual meeting of the district will be held on Saturday, January 20th, in St. Mary's belfry, Nottingham. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers at 5.30 p.m.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Stockport Branch. — The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Norbury on Saturday, January 20th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Other arrangements as usual.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds, 12.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch. — A series of practice meetings will be held at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton, first and third Saturdays in the month. Bells available afternoon and evening. Next meeting January 20th.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District. — Annual meeting to-morrow, January 20th, St. Mary's, Putney, 2-4. Tea and business in Church Hall. Fulham not available.—P. A. Corby, Dis. Master, temporary address, 10, Ruabon Road, Wrexham, Denbighshire.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District. — The annual meeting will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, January 20th. Foundry bells available afternoon and evening. Own arrangements for tea (good cafes in town). Meeting in belfry at 5.45, to elect officers and make arrangements for 1940. All ringers and friends welcome.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Banbury and District Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Adderbury on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea *cannot* be provided. Meeting follows service. Ringing after dark. All welcome.—E. Pearson, Branch Hon. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District. — The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! It is necessary, if tea is required, to notify the hon. secretary by Jan. 24th. Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District. — The annual meeting will be held at Alton on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will those requiring tea please be certain to let me know numbers by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea, and all requiring same **MUST** notify Mr. C. W. Beaumont, Hunslet Parish Church, Leeds, not later than the first post on Thursday, Jan. 25th. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, it is hoped for a large and representative attendance. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District. — Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. It is essential that I should receive names for tea by first post on Wednesday, 24th. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.45. Tea in the Village Hall at 5.30, followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea to be sent to Mrs. C. H. Kippin, 31, The Waldrons, Croydon, by Wednesday, January 24th. All ringers welcome.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting of the Western Division will be held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Mr. Settabee's, 1s. per head. Business meeting to follow to discuss future arrangements. Half rail fare (maximum 1s. 6d.) to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head, can only be served to those who apply not later than Jan. 25th to Mr. G. A. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester. Those failing to notify must cater for themselves. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Basingstoke on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Michael's Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in Church Cottage. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by January 24th to Mr. C. W. Munday, 21, Southend Road, Basingstoke.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bridgwater Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at Bridgwater on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome. Come early.—C. Evans, 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northwich Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Hartford on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing till 5.30. Service 5.30. Tea 6.15 to those who notify Mr. T. Wilmot, 43, Flower Street Castle, Northwich, by Thursday, January 25th. Meeting after tea. All ringers are welcome.—H. Parker, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at High Wycombe at 3.30 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Yeovil on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (10) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the meeting. Usual arrangements. Tea can only be supplied to those giving notice.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Tilsworth on Saturday, January 27th. The six bells (a delightful peal) will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All ringers are invited. Buses pass the church.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Thrapston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Islip (6 bells) on Saturday, January 27th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for all who send names by January 25th. Business meeting to follow. I am trying to arrange ringing at Thrapston (8 bells), 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Islip 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock, near Kettering.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough (6 bells) on January 27th. Service at 3.15 p.m. Please let me have names for tea by Tuesday, January 23rd.—H. H. Shives, Hon. Branch Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cirencester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cirencester, on Saturday, January 27th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30, and service at 5.30. Please advise for tea by January 23rd.—W. H. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Annual general meeting of Northern District at St. Mary's, Hitchin, Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Annual meeting 5 p.m. in tower. Tea interval until 6.30 p.m. Further ringing till 9 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Black out the blues and enjoy some good ringing. Don't forget, members of this district. Election of officers for 1940.—R. T. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock.

**PETERBOROUGH GUILD.**—Towcester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Towcester on Saturday, January 27th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting following. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, the 24th, to Rev. E. V. Fenn, Lois Weedon, Towcester.

**HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hertford on Saturday, January 27th. All Saints' (10 bells) from 2.30 to 4.45 p.m. Bengoe (8) from 5 to 7 p.m. Service at All Saints' at 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting at the May Flower on the way to Bengoe. Will all committee members make a special effort to attend to elect a district secretary on my retirement owing to circumstances.—A. Laurence, Dis. Sec., Hatfield.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3.5 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea will be provided for those applying to Mr. R. A. Jenkins, Cosette, 76, Brent Lane, Dartford, not later than Tuesday, January 23rd, at a charge of 10d. per head. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ross District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ross on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea afterwards at Central Cafe.—W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire.

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**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at Olney on Saturday, January 27th.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, January 27th, this tower being blacked out. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at Imperial Cafe. Tea will be provided for those who notify by Wednesday previous, Mr. H. M. Day, Market Deeping, Peterborough. Come and make this our final meeting a success.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkeingham, Lincs.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cary Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ditchat on Saturday, January 27th. Bells 2.30 to 8.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting following.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8, tenor 19½ cwt.) available during afternoon and evening. Short service. Arrangements for tea, but those who fail to send their names to me by Wednesday previous must accept the consequences.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The meeting arranged for January 20th at Childwall has been postponed until February 3rd.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—The annual meeting arranged for January 20th has been postponed until February 3rd. The meeting will be either at St. Lawrence Jewry or St. Dunstan-in-the-East. Further details next week.—James G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The third annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 3rd, at 6 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from Andrew Thompson (hon. secretary), 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs. Ringing at Hanley from 3 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. Those accepting the invitation to tea must advise the undersigned not later than January 30th. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood

Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. Owing to the prevailing conditions, it is essential that notice should be sent to the undersigned not later than February 1st, as the caterer will not guarantee for any who have not sent in names. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please let me know definitely by Wednesday, January 31st?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

**WITHINGTON, NEAR HEREFORD.**—The restored ring of six will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford at the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 4th. The two trebles recast and the peal re-hung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Advance notice. Annual general meeting to be held on February 10th at St. Clement Danes, Strand. Particulars later.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.

#### DEATH OF MR. T. SCHOFIELD, OF WORPLESDON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. T. Schofield, of Worplesdon, which took place on January 7th at the age of 72. Until ill-health prevented him, he had been a regular Sunday service ringer. The funeral was on January 11th, after which touches of Grandsire Doubles and the whole pull and stand were rung with the bells half-muffled.

#### A DATE TOUCH.

At St. John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl, the local ringers rang out the old and welcomed the New Year with a touch of 1,940 changes of Grandsire Doubles, which came round at 12.35 a.m.: William Surman (longest touch) 1, David Thomas 2, Alfred Hannington 3, Trevor M. Roderick (conductor) 4, Alfred E. Williams 5, Albert Bacon 6.

**WICKEN.**—On Sunday, January 14th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): F. Green 1, R. Howson 2, H. Ridgway 3, A. J. Green 4, H. Edwards 5, E. Lambert 6, T. Roberts (conductor) 7, G. Foddy 8.

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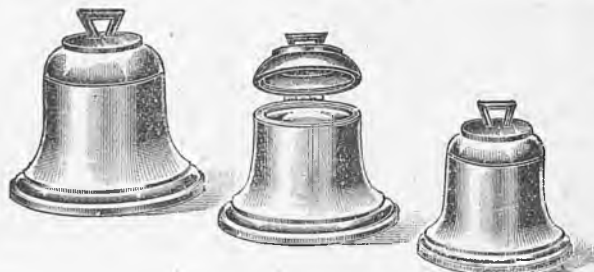
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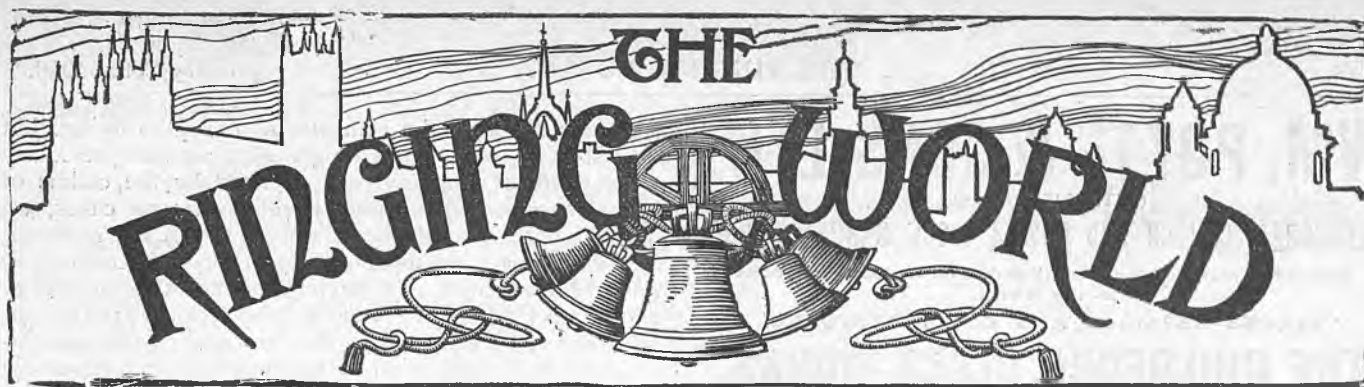
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## REBUILDING OF DEPLETED BANDS.

The success of the annual dinner of Bristol United Ringing Guilds should encourage others, who are in the habit of holding a similar event, to continue to do so as long as conditions make it possible. An attendance of about two hundred, when wintry weather was coupled to the difficulties of black-out and curtailed transport difficulties, was a result beyond what the most optimistic could have expected. There may be more difficult and even more desperate times ahead, but, while circumstances allow it, there is justification for keeping up the social side of ringing as well as the practice of it in the towers. It needs only courage and energy to make a success of such reunions as that at Bristol, and the officers of the B.U.R.G. had their reward on Saturday.

It was not inopportune that occasion should be taken at this gathering to emphasise, as one speaker did, the increased, indeed the imperative, importance of immediate recruiting for the belfry. In addition to the natural losses which take place, there is now an abnormal drain upon the man-power of the towers. The call to arms is taking away from the belfries some of the best material, and as time goes on these losses will be accentuated as class after class of men is drafted to the colours. Towers where there are men liable to military service should not wait until the call comes, but should lose no time in seeking suitable recruits, who can be trained in readiness to take the vacant places when they occur. In the meantime they will give an added strength to the band, but if the steps to replace them are left until the men depart, it may be too late. The bottom may have dropped out of the ringing before new material can be moulded into shape, whereas if the losses are anticipated now, and training begun without delay, there may at least be sufficient numbers to keep the bells going, even though the standard of ringing suffers a setback.

The speaker who took up the theme on Saturday put forward, in connection with it, a point which we commend to the renewed attention of associations. It was that the associations should spend their funds in assisting instruction. This is a matter which, from time to time, has come under discussion. Certain associations, of course, already provide instructors to help local bands, and now, more than ever, they and every other ringing organisation ought to turn their attention to increasing the facilities. It is not merely the raw band, just on the verge of change ringing, that can benefit from the help of a competent instructor. There will probably be many hands in the future that would profit by such help, not to

(Continued on page 38.)

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drag them through the elements of change ringing, but to assist in restoring the strength of what was previously an independent company now depleted by the claims of national service. Associations will find many cases, we believe, where it would be of advantage in the maintenance of the art, to supplement local effort by arranging voluntary assistance and paying merely the necessary out-of-pocket expenses. Indeed, where funds are limited, this would be even more in the interests of the associations than the publication of an elaborate and expensive annual report. Few ringers want a fee for the assistance they can give in training others, but it is only fair that, if they need it, they should be reimbursed their travelling expenses. In these days, money spent in this way might prove to be a good investment. Wherever the remnant of a band can provide new material, an association should be ready to supplement the local effort by outside help, and in every district there are ringers who would willingly give it, if they were assured of their bare expenses. Not every man can afford to pay out a weekly sum for the purpose, but there are few, if they could be sure of reimbursement in respect of travelling expenses, who would not readily assist, even at some inconvenience, in rebuilding a band depleted by the call upon the manhood of the nation.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. Treble	SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER ... .. 2	IVAN KAY ... .. 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... 3	HARRY BYROM ... .. 7
FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY ... .. Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by HARRY BYROM.

First peal in the method as conductor. Rung as a farewell to the conductor, prior to his joining H.M. Navy.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

ALBERT E. LOCK ... .. Treble	ALFRED H. WEBB ... .. 5
MARIE R. CROSS ... .. 2	WILLIAM LAMBELL ... .. 6
MRS. A. E. LOCK ... .. 3	*HARRY WHITE ... .. 7
ROBERT H. BLOND ... .. 4	ALAN R. PINK ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

\* First peal and rung at the first attempt.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Rev. E. B. JAMES' TEN-PART. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

ARTHUR A. HADLEY ... .. Treble	JOHN HOYLE ... .. 5
JOHN BEAMS ... .. 2	ALBERT J. ADAMS ... .. 6
HARRY E. GOOD ... .. 3	WILLIAM G. NEWBERRY ... 7
JOHN E. BEAMS ... .. 4	HARRY SCOTCHER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. BEAMS.

Rung on the 50th anniversary of the conductor's entry into the above association.

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**SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.**

WEST DEEPING LINCOLNSHIRE.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent, Oxford, Double Court and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

HARRY GIBBARD ... ..	... Treble	WILLIAM OLDMAN ... ..	4
CHARLES WOODS ... ..	2	FRED BRIGHTMAN ... ..	5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... ..	3	HORACE M. DAY ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

This peal was specially arranged to enable Mr. Brightman to score his first peal in five methods inside.

STOKESAY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 12 cwt.

THOMAS W. NASH ... ..	... Treble	HUBERT JONES ... ..	4
JAMES HUGHES ... ..	2	ARTHUR C. NASON ... ..	5
LESLIE EVANS ... ..	3	E. RICHARD BALDWIN ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

Rung on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. L. E. A. Davies (member of the Ludlow Guild of Bellringers) and Miss K. M. Corbett, of Craven Arms. The conductor's 50th peal for the Hereford Guild.

LLANBEDR, BRECONSHIRE.

THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 21 differently called 240's. Tenor 9½ cwt.

DAVID E. GRIFFITHS ... ..	... Treble	ALBERT E. JONES ... ..	3
JAMES P. HYETT ... ..	2	BERNARD H. DAVIES ... ..	4

DAVID H. BENNETT ... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

First peal on the bells.

KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents. Tenor 15 cwt.

*HAROLD WILLIAMS ... ..	... Treble	DOUGLAS F. ELLENDER ... ..	4
†ROY D. HAYNE ... ..	2	WILLIAM T. COX ... ..	5
GEORGE F. CANTRILL ... ..	3	FRANK E. PERVIN ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

\* First attempt for a peal. † First peal 'inside.'

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Five Minutes;

At 20, ABERDEEN CRESCENT,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES ... ..	1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY ... ..	5-6
HAROLD JACKSON ... ..	3-4	PETER LAFLIN ... ..	7-8

Composed by S. THOMAS.

Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. A. F. Bailey, who witnessed the peal

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, January 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*CECIL C. MAYNE ... ..	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... ..	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... ..	3-4	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... ..	7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal in the method on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 20, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

\*J. A. BULLOCK (aged 15½) ... 1-2—J. BULLOCK ... .. 3-4

\*T. H. BULLOCK (aged 13) ... 5-6

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—Jeane Bullock.

\* First peal. A birthday compliment to Mrs. J. Bullock, Miss Jeane Bullock and Leonard W. Bullock, aged 10.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 21, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... ..	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... ..	5-6
*DEREK M. SHARP ... ..	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ... ..	7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

\* First peal in the method on handbells.

**DEATH OF AN EXETER RINGER.**

AN EARLY MEMBER OF DEVON GUILD.

The death occurred on January 6th after a short illness of Mr. Elias Truman at Kenn, near Exeter, where he had lived all his life. He was 78 years of age and was one of the oldest surviving members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, having joined that society in 1885.

Mr. Truman learnt his ringing at Kenn and St. Sidwell's, Exeter. He was not keen on taking part in peal ringing, but stopped and listened throughout many a peal. He was a good ringer and would always insist on good striking.

At the funeral, which took place at Kenn on January 10th, the bells were rung half-muffled. Those taking part in the ringing were six members of the Exeter (St. Thomas') band, of which deceased was a member, and other members of the Guild. Among the many wreaths was one from the Exeter (St. Thomas') band. His passing will be keenly regretted by all who knew him, for, quiet and unassuming in character, he was much respected by his belfry colleagues.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING AT MORRISTON.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild was held recently at Morriston, where about 14 members attended.

The bells were raised at half-past two and kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor until about 4.30, when they were lowered in peal. No service could be held, as the church had not been blacked out. Mrs. Williams, the mother of the brothers Williams, of Morriston, kindly provided tea at her house and invited the ringers there. Full justice was done with all the good things provided, and Mrs. Williams was heartily thanked for her kindness. The Rev. O. J. Rees took the chair at the meeting, at which Mr. E. Stith was re-elected district secretary and Mr. D. G. Williams auditor.

Aberavon was chosen for the next meeting. All members were urged to keep the bells going for Sunday service, and it is hoped to renew the monthly practices this year, but to have them on Saturday afternoons.

**TUNSTALL TOWER REOPENS.**

THE LOCAL BAND CARRIES ON.

Although at the outbreak of war the band at Tunstall were barred by the Rector and Chief Constable from ringing, even for Sunday services, after persistent and tactful pleading with those gentlemen, they were successful and are now carrying on normally.

On Christmas Eve, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by Miss Hollands 1, G. H. Spice 2, Miss B. Spice 3, W. E. Spice 4, J. Webb 5, John E. Spice 6, W. Spice, sen. (conductor) 7, G. Webb 8. On Christmas Day, touches in various methods were brought round, and on Boxing Day an attempt for a peal of Stedman, conducted by John E. Spice, failed after two hours' ringing owing to a shift course.

On handbells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, ten different callings: Miss Betty Spice 1-2, John E. Spice (conductor) 3-4, 'Grandfather' 5-6. Also 168 of Triples, courses of Plain Bob and Kent Minor, with Mr and Mrs. G. H. Spice taking part.

CHELSEA.—At St. Luke's Church on Sunday, January 7th, for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): H. G. Andrews 1, C. W. Ottley 2, F. Howson 3, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 4, E. A. Reeve 5, F. Udall 6, W. Essery 7, C. Bartlett 8.

## DEATH OF MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY. AN OUTSTANDING FIGURE IN LONDON RINGING.

### Some Great Records Recalled.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Challis F. Winney, one of the outstanding figures in the Exercise, who passed away on Tuesday of last week at the advanced age of 81 years. Mr. Winney had been in failing health for some little time, but his passing leaves London ringing circles in general and the Ancient Society of College Youths in particular a great deal poorer for the loss of a highly esteemed member and one whose efforts through two generations added lustre to the annals of the society.

Challis Winney was an extraordinary character. He was a gifted ringer and conductor, reticent of his own great capabilities, often blunt in his criticisms, and yet a man who not only won esteem, but even the love of those who knew him best. He became one of the finest exponents of the art of ringing in London, took part in many famous performances, and, as one of the leading conductors of the College Youths, held a position among ringers far beyond that to which the majority can aspire. He was a stern master in the belfry when he was in charge of the ringing; he brooked no slovenliness or carelessness in ringing; would stop a peal because he was dissatisfied with the striking when most other men would have allowed the ringing to proceed. Many men have learned a few home truths from Challis Winney's lips as to their ability at the end of a rope, but praise from him was praise indeed. Yet behind it all he was the gentlest and most kindly of men, a devout churchman and one whose friendship was something to be cherished.

Mr. Winney was born at Nayland, Suffolk, on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), 1858—the year of the great comet, he would remind you, and believers in astrology might be tempted to associate with it his genius as a ringer. Both his father and grandfather were well-known ringers in the village. His father was also organist and choir-master.

The family came to London when Challis was about 14 years old, and he began his ringing at an early age at St. John's Church, Wilton Road, when a new peal of bells was put in. His tutors were those austere masters of the old school of College Youths, and among them were such men as John Murray Hayes, Ted Horrex and Dick French, but, with ringing in his veins, Challis Winney took to it as a duck to water, and his outstanding ability soon brought him into prominence. J. M. Hayes conducted his first peal, which was Grandsire Triples rung at St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, on October 2nd, 1880. He rang his first peal of Stedman Cinques only a fortnight later. This was conducted by James Pettit at Southwark Cathedral. In 1883 he took part in the then record length of Stedman Caters, 11,111, rung at Fulham, and of this famous band Mr. F. E. Dawe is now the only survivor.

### MEMORABLE PERFORMANCES.

Mr. Winney's exceptional gifts led him to take up handbell ringing, and the first peal he called was Holt's Original 'in hand' on March 21st, 1884. It was rung by Edwin Gibbs, F. T. Gover, C. F. Winney and G. T. McLaughlin, and, it is interesting to note, was umpired by John Cox. In the same year Mr. Winney took part in the same composition rung non-conducted at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. Mr. Winney was a truly great ringer and conductor on handbells, and his skill and enthusiasm led to a memorable performance—no less than the ringing of Holt's Original on handbells non-conducted for the first time.

The bright idea that this should be attempted came from Mr. Winney himself, when he was practising handbell ringing with George McLaughlin, who also lived in London, and John C. Mitchell and William Buckingham, who both lived at the time at St. Albans, but were in business in London. They used to meet at all hours of the day—and night—often at Mr. Winney's home. On one occasion, when Mr. Mitchell was detained at his office until 10 p.m., they started for a peal at nine minutes past eleven and finished at twenty minutes past one in the morning. This peal was rung without bobs being called, but trips were corrected. This was on February 25th, 1887, and enthusiasm by this time had reached fever heat. On February 28th over half a peal was rung in strict silence; on March 2nd two-thirds of the peal was accomplished under similar conditions before it came to grief, and on March 8th, 4,600 changes were rung. Next evening nearly half a peal was rung, and then on March 11th triumph was achieved and the peal brought round in 2 hours 39 minutes. It was rung at the old headquarters of the College Youths, the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard. It was listened to by many ringers gathered in an adjoining room, who testified to the perfection of the performance, which stands out as one of the memorable handbell achievements of all time.

Among the other great performances in which Mr. Winney shared were 12,096 of Double Norwich Major at Maidenhead on December 31st, 1892, the first peal of Maximus at Bow, Cheapside, on January 19th, 1907; the then record of 12,160 Bristol Surprise Major at Knebworth, Herts, on April 8th, 1912; the first non-conducted peal of Stedman Cinques on tower bells, rung at Cornhill on February 22nd, 1913; the still unbeaten record of 21,363 Stedman Caters at Appleton, Berks, which occupied 12 hours 25 minutes, on April 22nd, 1922, when, let it not be forgotten, Mr. Winney was 64 years of age. In the

following year Mr. Winney also took part in the great performance at Southwark Cathedral, when 12,675 Stedman Cinques occupied 9 hours 47 minutes, and a few years later was found to be false.

Two other notable performances in which Mr. Winney took part may be mentioned here. In 1917 he rang 5-6 to Carter's Odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples on handbells non-conducted, the first and, if memory serves, the only time the composition has been thus rung. The other ringers were Herbert Langdon, Harry Pasmore and William T. Cockerill. At St. Olave's, Hart Street, on October 21st, 1933, Mr. Winney called the peal of Stedman Triples rung by the oldest band



THE LATE MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY  
(seated), photographed with Messrs. J. C. Mitchell (left) and W. H. L. Buckingham, on the fiftieth anniversary, in 1937, of the silent Original on handbells.

that ever took part in a 5,040. The ages of the eight College Youths aggregated 612 years, or an average of 76½. Messrs. James George (Birmingham), F. E. Dawe (Woking) and W. Smith (Reading) are left of the company of veterans.

Throughout his ringing life Mr. Winney devoted himself to London ringing. Although purely through his own retiring nature he had never passed through the chair of the Ancient Society of College Youths, he was an honoured member and was for many years one of the trustees. He had been Master of the London County Association, but his main interest was his service to St. Paul's Cathedral, where he was long a member of the 'scroof.' Mr. Winney took part in the opening of the bells at the Imperial Institute on May 10th, 1893, and conducted the first peal on the bells there on August 9th, 1902, in honour of the Coronation of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra.

Mr. Winney, we believe, did not keep a record of the peals he rang, but they were somewhere in the region of seven hundred. His great forte was calling Stedman Triples and the 'Original.' When he rang handbells he seemed to be oblivious of everything and often appeared to be asleep—until a hesitation on the part of one of the other ringers occurred. Then, instantly, he sprang to life and it was clear that despite appearance he knew all that had been going on.

In his personality he seemed to reflect a period that was already aged and passing while he was yet young. There was an old-world

(Continued on next page.)

**DEATH OF MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY.**

(Continued from previous page.)

touch in his simple and fearless piety, too. He was courageous in his opinions, but not combative, and in his youthful days he joined the volunteers, serving in the Queen's Westminsters.

In the family ringing history there was a unique connection with a celebrated murder case—the murder of Maria Martin, at the Red Barn, Palstead, in 1827. When William Winney, Challis' grandfather, was married at Neyland, William Corder, son of a former churchwarden at Palstead, was one of the ringers at the wedding. The murder had already been committed, and soon afterwards William Corder was arrested, found guilty and paid the penalty of his crime. It is probably the only instance of a murderer ringing for a wedding. John, William and George Winney were all good double-handed ringers and often rang 720's together. It was not surprising, therefore, that Challis should follow in their footsteps, or that he should outshine his progenitors through three generations.

Mr. Winney's services to the College Youths were recognised in 1924, when he was presented with a cheque and an illuminated address in appreciation of his valuable work for the society and ringing in general, also of the high standard he had always set throughout his ringing career. In the closing years of his life, also, Mr. Winney received from an intimate group in the society a tangible expression of their esteem and regard.

The funeral of Mr. Winney took place at Brompton Cemetery on Friday. After the committal a course of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells over the grave by H. Langdon, T. H. Taffender, W. E. Judd and H. G. Miles. In addition to the family mourners, the following ringers were also present: Dr. Flaxman, Messrs. A. A. Hughes, E. A. Young, A. R. Macdonald, G. N. Price and H. Hoskins.

**'RING OUT THE OLD.'**

CUSTOM REVIVED AT IBSTOCK.

In at least one place the black-out may be thanked for being able to ring out the old year, for at Ibstock, Leicestershire, the custom of ringing out the old year was discontinued some time ago owing to the Rector holding a watch-night service.

This year, however, as the church is not blacked out, service could not be held, and the ringers at once seized the opportunity once again to do their bit.

After the usual proceedings the bells were lowered in peal at 12.45 and the ringers were kindly entertained by Mr. D. Mee, the secretary of the Church Council, and Mrs. Mee. They wish to express their kind appreciation of this thoughtfulness and generosity.

**DONINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAMPANOLOGICAL SOCIETY.****HOW IT STARTED.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read Mr. E. A. Barnett's encouraging remarks about our society in 'The Ringing World' of January 12th, and thank him very much for his very kind wishes. However did a 'Doningtonian Magazine' reach Mr. Barnett?

In 1938 our newly-appointed headmaster, Mr. S. E. Taylor, of Godalming, asked me if I knew anything about handbells and whether I would be willing to start a bellringing society in the school. I told him that, though my experience on handbells was very limited, I knew a little about change ringing and that I should be only too delighted to start such a society. Mr. Taylor then told me the history of our bells. His grandfather, Mr. Samuel Fowler, was in a church choir in Canterbury, where Canon Helmore started a band of handbell ringers, which Mr. Fowler joined. The band of ringers broke up and the bells were stored for over 50 years. Mr. Taylor had tried without success to find handbell ringers in all the schools in which he had taught.

The Handbell Ringing Society is held, like other school societies, after school each Thursday afternoon, and these practices last about an hour and a half. Most of the members would like a practice every evening! Several of the boys were able to handle a bell in their local church, but, with the exception of one boy, John Firth, none of them knew anything about changes. Thus, having rung many courses of Bob Minor, much credit is due to the boys for their keenness and perseverance.

I am delighted to add that boys belonging to our society are attached to the following local churches: Wigtoft and Donington, Swineshead, Bicker, Billingborough and Gosberton.

JOHN E. ALLEN.

**FOUR-PART PEALS OF BOB MAJOR.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—In Mr. C. Fenn's letter of December 29th, 1939, he gives the figures of a peal of 5,056 Bob Major under the name of Mr. A. C. Hardy. This was composed in the year 1886 by Mr. J. J. Brierley, and the figures may be found in the Central Council's Collection of Peals, where they appear as the reverse variation of peal No. 107, together with several other four-part peals on the plan by the same composer.

The calling of Mr. Hardy's peal is identical with that of Mr. Brierley's, except that the former peal is started from the sixth course-end of the latter one, thus giving 32546 as the first part-end, instead of 54326.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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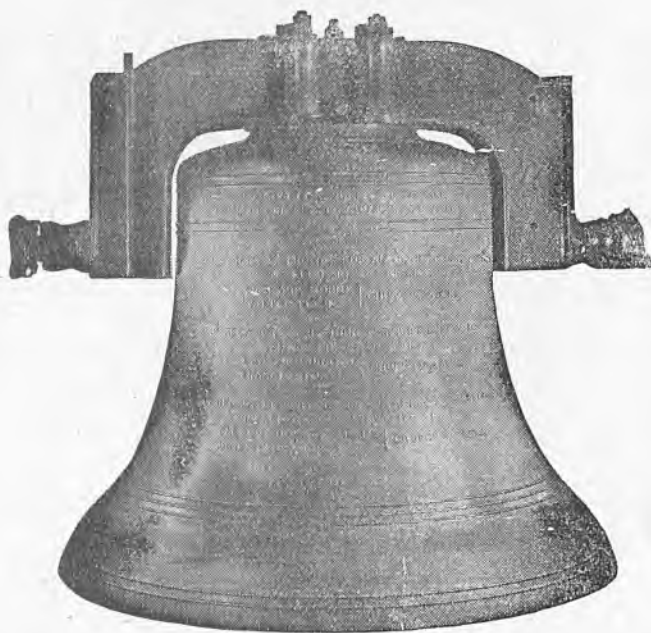
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**HANDBELLS**

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**BELL ROPES MUFFLES: &c.**

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Some of the ringers who travelled to Bristol for the B.U.R.G. dinner on Saturday had long train journeys. One Sheffieldite was about seven hours on the rail; the visitors from Manchester took nearly as long, but the tedium of the travelling did not rob the ultimate reunion of any of its pleasures.

The dinner itself was timed to begin an hour earlier, presumably because black-out conditions made it difficult to get home, but some of the brighter spirits kept it up just as late as ever.

A few of the regular visitors were missing—notably one of the Birmingham contingent. They could not be there in the flesh, but they were probably present in the spirit.

Several of the N.U.T.S. were present at the dinner and took the opportunity to 'snatch' a few more towers both on Saturday and Sunday.

A pair of spectacles and a pipe were found after the dinner. The owners can have them on application to the hon. secretary (Mr. E. Guise).

A handbell peal by Mr. James Bullock and two of his boys was rung at Dagenham on Saturday. One of the boys is 15½ and the other 13, and they both scored their first peal. The peal was a birthday compliment to Mrs. Bullock, Miss Jeanie Bullock and Leonard Bullock. The last named is 10 years of age and rang 5-6 to a quarter-peal of Doubles on the following day.

Mr. J. E. Davis informs us that owing to the numerous meetings arranged in London, the next practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, will be on February 10th.

On January 19th, 1725, the College Youths rang their first peal, one of Grandsire Cinques, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. It was the first on twelve bells and was conducted by Matthew East. Benjamin Amable rang the second.

On January 21st, 1788, the Cambridge Youths rang at Great St. Mary's 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus, which still remains the record length in the method. On the same date in 1898 the St. Michael's Juniors Society of Gloucester rang 5,040 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Cheltenham. At the time it was claimed as the first peal in the method, but actually as far back as October 26th, 1822, the Wakefield men had rung one.

James Motts died on January 21st, 1923. For many years he was one of the leading ringers and bob callers at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and the leading position that band now holds in the Exercise is in no small degree due to him. He took part in many famous peals, including 16,608 of Treble Bob, 14,112 of London Surprise and the first peal of Cambridge Maximus.

## PENTRE RINGER'S DEPARTURE.

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. J. HAMLIN.

The Llandaff and Monmouth Association has suffered a real loss by the departure from Pentre of Mr. T. J. Hamlin, whose connection with the St. Peter's Society covers a period of 45 years. Coming to the Rhondda Valley nearly 50 years ago, he was employed at the Pentre Colliery until it closed down in 1935.

His church activities extended far beyond ringing. He was for many years a member of the C.E.M.S., a sidesman for over 40 years, Sunday School teacher, verger and secretary of the local C.E.T.S. He had charge of the tower clock for 38 years, and the inhabitants of Pentre remember with gratitude these many years of voluntary service.

On Sunday, January 14th, before evensong, the local band rang a farewell quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. The band included one ringer with whom Mr. Hamlin had been associated for 45 years, most of the rest having been regular Sunday service ringers for over 25 years.

Amongst the notable accomplishments which Mr. Hamlin helped the band to perform was the ringing of the first peals of Erin Triples and Oxford Bob Triples in Wales by a local band; also the first peals of Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association by a local band. Altogether Mr. Hamlin has rung nearly 40 peals, the last being for the Coronation of King George VI.

On Wednesday, January 17th, a suitably inscribed framed photo of the St. Peter's Society was presented to Mr. Hamlin by the Rev. D. Spencer Jones, Vicar of Ystradyfodwg, on behalf of his fellow-ringers.

Fitting tributes were paid to Mr. Hamlin's unique record and his sterling qualities by the Vicar and members of the society.

A native of Congresbury, Somerset, Mr. Hamlin will reside at Yatton, Bristol, with the best wishes of his fellow-ringers in his retirement.

## THE N.U.T.S.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am afraid that the worthy inhabitants of Chinnor were indulging in a gentle leg-pull when they told the N.U.T.S. that the bells had not been rung up for a year, since on July 29th, 1939, certain local bumpkins looked in at that tower and rang a course of London Surprise Minor. I am almost sure that the bells were rung up beforehand.

All power to the N.U.T.S., and may their wheels turn on merrily still in 1940, in spite of these unmannerly interruptions from the mainland.

Chearsley Vicarage.

ELLIOT WIGG.



## BRISTOL UNITED GUILDS' DINNER. GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE WAR-TIME CONDITIONS.

The nineteenth annual dinner of Bristol United Ringing Guilds, held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on Saturday, was, despite the handicap of war-time conditions, a great success. Although the numbers were not quite so great as last year — which was to be expected—there was, nevertheless, an attendance of some two hundred and among the visitors were those who came from as far afield as London, Sheffield, Manchester and Birmingham.

Ringing took place during the afternoon at various Bristol churches and the hour of the dinner was advanced to five o'clock. This year's chairman was Mr. William Abraham, of St. Thomas' Guild, and the vice-chairman Mr. Brian Huddleston, of Westbury. Among those present were Mrs. Abraham, the Rev. Canon A. R. Millbourne, the Rev. M. Paterson (St. Thomas'), the Rev. Dr. Stock, the Rev. F. S. Lee (St. Ambrose's), the Rev. C. K. Davis, Messrs. S. F. Palmer, C. Hewitt, J. W. Jones, G. Popnell, Wilfred Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. Read, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stinch, Mr. and Mrs. Shuker, Mr. and Mrs. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood.

During dinner light instrumental music was played by 'The Ringers' Sextet,' and afterwards the Chairman proposed 'The King.' He then submitted the toast of 'The Church.' After having first expressed his appreciation of the honour of being elected chairman of the United Ringing Guilds for 1940, Mr. Abraham went on to say that the toast had been proposed at many functions in past years because people realised that the Church was a great power for good in England.

At a time when the country was at war they had special reason for remembering the Church. Those who served in the last war would not easily forget the splendid services rendered by the chaplains and the Church Army. He could speak from personal experience and had many pleasant recollections. They took it for granted that the Church would not forget its duty to those serving with the Forces during this present struggle. They welcomed as their guest that evening Canon Millbourne, who until recently enjoyed the distinction of being head of the famous Colston Boys' School, and they felt sure he would continue to be prominent in the city and in the service of the Church (applause). In past years that dinner had been honoured at different times by three Bishops, two Archdeacons and other eminent clergymen and they were grateful to Canon Millbourne for his presence that night. Ringers served the Church in its towers and were pleased that the clergy recognised them. Mr. Abraham added a personal appreciation of their friend, the Vicar of St. Thomas', for his kindness and consideration at all times. Continuing, he said that, whatever the future activities of the Church, ringers would support the Church in giving a clear lead towards removing many of the causes of war. No one could fail to respond to such a call, and the probable result would be a much better understanding between the nations of the world.

### MAKING A GREAT NOISE.

Canon Millbourne, who responded to the toast, brought a message from the Dean of Bristol, who, he said, was very sorry not to be able to attend. They, on their part, were also sorry he was not present, but were glad to know that the Dean was taking two or three days of the summer holiday he lost last year. He (Canon Millbourne) confessed he felt one up on the Dean, for he was very glad and grateful for the privilege of coming to the dinner. The Dean had the better claim to be there, because he knew something about bellringing, whereas the subject was a closed book to him (the speaker). He hoped, however, that some day he might be allowed the privilege of seeing the ringers at their job. They were people who created a great volume of sound. When he was young he wanted to make a great volume of sound, but he took the wrong turning and learned to play the trombone (laughter). If, when playing that instrument, one made a mistake, one could not pass it off with a cough (laughter). But ringers either did not make mistakes or else they knew perfectly well that the average layman would not know that they had made a mistake (laughter).



MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM.

Continuing, Canon Millbourne said he thought he might sum up everything that might be said in response to the toast by quoting some words he once saw:—

'As long as bells do ringe  
Shall alle menne singe  
Praise to our Heavenly Kinge.'

The voice of the bells was, he said, the voice of the Church and the ringers were an essential part of the Church. The Church could afford to be grateful to the ringers whenever bells were being rung. He trusted that they would soon hear the voice of the bells in such volume as they had never heard before, ringing for peace, and that in those bells they would hear the voice of the Church. But come it soon or come it late, the bells would be the voice of the Church, and the Church was grateful for the toast which the ringers had honoured that night (applause).

### A WELCOME RETURN.

The Rev. M. Paterson, who proposed 'The Ringing World,' said when he spoke on the same toast at that dinner last year he told them he was making his farewell speech. He told them he had been present at sixteen of those dinners, that he had made a number of speeches, that he had given them a great amount of good advice; he had told the ringers how they ought to behave to raw recruits; how they ought to behave to the clergy; he had told the clergy how they ought to behave to the ringers—alas, there were so few clergy present—and he had also told ringers how they ought to behave towards themselves. Having said farewell to them last year, he ought to apologise for being present that night, but he was there for three reasons. The first was that he was Vicar of St. Thomas' Church and one of St. Thomas' ringers was their chairman (applause). It would have been singularly ungrateful if he had not been present when he was in the chair. The senior churchwarden of St. Thomas', who had been present at many of those dinners, would also have been with them but for the illness of his wife. The second reason why he (Mr. Paterson) was present, despite his speech last year, was that the Editor of 'The Ringing World' expressed his regret at the farewell and he felt that that was a very good reason for making another speech (laughter and applause). The third reason was a purely selfish one; and that was that he would not have to go home in a Bristol bus. Mr. Paterson offered some amusing but pungent criticism of the Bristol buses and said he would rather have had the old trams, but he praised the skill of the bus drivers and the courtesy of the conductors.

Proceeding, Mr. Paterson said he owed a debt of gratitude to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' because on the last two occasions he had flattered his vanity, not only by reporting his speeches in full, but by writing on each occasion a leading article about what he had said. The Editor was present with them on that occasion for many reasons: one was to remind ringers that there existed a paper devoted entirely to their interests. He (the speaker), as a citizen, read a daily newspaper, and as long as Sir John Simon left him a few pennies (laughter), he hoped to continue to read a daily paper. As a churchman he also read a Church paper; if he were a ringer he should most certainly also feel it his duty to take in one more paper, and that paper would be 'The Ringing World' (applause). He thanked the Editor for the great courtesy he had shown to him personally on many occasions, and in the name of the ringers he thanked him also for the great work he had done, was doing and would do for all those who found their pleasure in the towers of the churches throughout the land (applause).

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, in thanking the Rev. M. Paterson for his kindly speech, expressed the pleasure all the company present must feel that they had the Vicar of St. Thomas' once more with them and that his name was again on the toast list. He drew attention to the fact that Mr. Paterson had not, on this occasion, mentioned that it was his farewell speech, and they would all hope he would long be spared to come among them on the occasion of the Bristol Guilds' dinner (applause). Continuing, Mr. Goldsmith said when the war started it looked as if ringing would collapse, and there was, in the early weeks, the definite possibility that 'The Ringing World' would have to pull down the blinds. Happily they had tidied over those particularly difficult days, and, partly at any rate, through the lead given by 'The Ringing World,' ringing activity had been resumed and was increasing. He congratulated the Bristol United Guilds upon their courage in holding that dinner in the face of many obstacles, and congratulated them also upon the success of the gathering.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

Mr. J. F. Smallwood proposed the toast of 'The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Bristol United Guilds.' The name of the association, he said, conjured up the names of many famous ringers connected with it, among them those of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, the brothers James, Jim Hinton, Jack Wilkins and many others. He thought it was a great thing that at those gatherings they should remember the stalwarts who had contributed so largely to the building up of that society. He could claim to have a definite link with the association, because, about 30 years ago, one of its members, Adolphus Roberts, called his first peals of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich. In return he taught Adolphus Roberts to ride a bicycle (laughter), and those who knew Adolphus Roberts could imagine what a task that was, for he stood about 6ft. 4in. in height and weighed about 16 stones (laughter). The Gloucester and Bristol Association had played a considerable part in the building up (Continued on next page.)

**BRISTOL UNITED GUILDS' DINNER.**

(Continued from previous page.)

of the Exercise as they knew it to-day, and he was astonished recently to find that in the last war, out of a resident membership of 600, the association yielded 350 members to His Majesty's Forces, 60 of whom did not return. He thought that was a wonderful record. It was, he continued, fairly safe to assume that in the difficult days that lie ahead a somewhat similar position would arise. The younger members would once more be called upon to serve the country. Last year he put in a strong appeal for recruitment to make up the losses which naturally occurred. Now, it seemed to him, with the greater loss which would have to be faced, it would need a greater effort than ever. It was really up to the clergy to provide them with the suitable material to fill their ranks, and then it was up to the ringers to make the best use of that material. There was always a good deal of wastage. Young men took up ringing, found there was a job of work in it and gave it up when they were on the point of becoming a success. He thought the associations should give more careful study to the questions of proper training and the prevention of wastage in the future. In Bath they had been very successful in holding combined practices on Saturday afternoons. He commended this to his Bristol friends and other towns. It was better for a few towers to combine and have one good practice than for all the towers to give up practice because they could not get enough ringers. He thought it was up to the associations and guilds to take a more definite interest in the training of ringers. Associations occasionally devoted guild funds to grants for bell restorations, which seemed to indicate that there was money about, but he personally would sooner see money devoted to training ringers than to bell restorations. It was up to the Church authorities and the parishioners to keep their bells in order; they, as ringers, should use their money for the proper training of ringers. He was very much opposed to building up large surpluses in association funds. He did not think they should regard a ringing society as a sort of savings association, but devote their funds to the art they all loved. He would even say that if money was short, they might voluntarily pay an increased subscription to their societies. With regard to the Bristol United Guilds, ringers had come to expect the unexpected. He had in his pocket the menu card of the first dinner held 18 years ago. He attended that dinner and had not missed many since, and he was glad to see that his friends in Bristol had stuck to the event. Looking at that gathering, he thought all would agree that it was fully justified, and he congratulated the committee upon their courage in going on with the organisation of the dinner. What Bristol did to-day Birmingham thought to-morrow. Birmingham had taken courage from Bristol's action and was going to keep its Johnson dinner going. He congratulated Mr. Guise and the committee on the success of the gathering (applause). In the absence of the Master of the association, he coupled with the toast the name of Mr. J. Gould, who had been a member for over fifty years.

Mr. Gould, in a brief but fitting reply, also recalled the names of many past members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association who had helped to build up the fortunes of the organisation, and hoped all the members would do their best to keep ringing going in these difficult times. He said he had been a member for 56 or 57 years and had always met good company (applause).

**A WELCOME TO THE VISITORS.**

The Vice-Chairman submitted 'Kindred Guilds and Associations,' and warmly welcomed the visitors and the representatives of other associations. Such gatherings as that, he said, marked the great bond of friendship that existed among ringers. Some men, however, were content to climb the same old belfry steps week after week, pull the same old rope, ring the same old bell to the same old method. That was not the spirit of the true bellringer, who should be glad to visit neighbouring towers and lend a hand wherever help was needed.

Mr. E. Stutch (Swansea and Brecon Guild) responded and thanked the Bristol United Guilds for arranging that most enjoyable gathering. The gathering helped to make for sociability and friendliness among ringers and without these things it was not worth having. He had been coming to Bristol for twelve years, and whenever he came there, or, indeed, wherever he went in any part of the country, he met with the greatest friendliness from ringers. He congratulated the Bristol Guilds upon holding the dinner and said the visitors greatly appreciated what had been done for them (applause).

Mr. Emery, the pro-vice-chairman, proposed thanks to the artistes. It was a toast, he said, to which he responded 19 years ago, and on the 21st birthday of that gathering he was looking forward to occupying the chair. The great feature of that dinner was the musical programme. The standard was very high and they deeply appreciated the kindness of the artistes.

Mr. Vaughan Colman acknowledged the vote and said it was always a pleasure to reciprocate the kindness shown by Mr. Read and Mr. Guise as well as to perform before an appreciative audience.

The musical programme which had been arranged fully upheld the reputation established in past years and included items of great variety. The music during dinner was greatly enjoyed, and among the items which followed was the singing of Master Butler, a chorister at St. Thomas' Church, who gave beautiful renderings of such songs as 'Pipes of Pan,' 'Where'er you walk,' 'Smilin' through' and 'Bird songs at Eventide.' He was accompanied at the piano by Mr. Clifford Hensley, the organist and choirmaster. Music and song were

(Continued in next column.)

**ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.****BROADCASTING TO BE RENEWED AT ST. MARTIN'S.**

The annual general meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths was held on Saturday, January 20th, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The bells were available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 o'clock, and many members and friends took the opportunity to have a pull. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Deal, Mr. J. Armiger Trollope, Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, Mr. Stafford H. Green, Mr. Horace Belcher and Mr. William Hewett.

Considering the severe weather and war conditions prevailing, the attendance was very gratifying, well over 50 people putting in an appearance in the course of the day.

At the business meeting, held in the Vestry Hall, the Vicar (the Rev. Pat McCormick) welcomed the gathering and congratulated the society on having such a good meeting. He said he expected the Sunday evening broadcast services to be resumed at St. Martin's on April 7th, but instead of being monthly the service would only be held quarterly. He hoped the ringers would be able to continue their part of the programme as before the war. He also stated there was to be a service broadcast monthly to the Empire on the third Sunday, commencing with February 18th. The time fixed for the service, however, was so early—namely, 8.30 a.m.—that he feared he would have the greatest difficulty in getting a congregation to support him. He asked the ringers to bring the service to the notice of anyone who might be interested and who could attend. So far nothing had been heard that the bells would be required at these broadcasts.

The balance sheet was circulated to the members and showed a slightly decreased balance on the year's working.

It was pointed out by the secretary (Mr. G. W. Steere) that in some cases the collection of steeples had been overlooked, and asked the members to keep the matter in mind for the future.

The secretary announced apologies for absence from Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, Mr. James Parker, Mr. A. H. Pulling and Mr. W. J. Robinson.

The company was then asked to stand in silence for a few moments to the memory of those who had passed away since the last meeting. These included Mrs. William E. Taylor, Mr. Harold N. Davis, Mr. Alfred Pye and Mr. John H. Cheesman.

The hon. secretary reported that ten peals were rung by the society during 1939, including Stedman Cinques 4, Stedman Caters 1, Superlative 1, Bob Major 1, Spliced Minor in 30 methods 1, Minor in seven methods 2. The Master, Mr. G. H. Cross, had conducted six of these, Mrs. Fletcher one, Mr. G. Gilbert one and Mr. R. Bird one. By far the most interesting peal, the secretary stated, was the Bob Major, rung entirely by a band of ladies. Very few societies outside the ranks of the Ladies' Guild could boast such a performance, and the society owed a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. J. E. Davis and Mrs. E. K. Fletcher for arranging and conducting the peal respectively.

Mention was made of the great disappointment felt by the members in the cancellation of the proposed joint meeting with the Ancient Society of College Youths, arrangements for which were almost complete when hostilities commenced. It is hoped that this meeting will be held when the war is over. Another joint meeting which had to be dropped was that which was scheduled to take place in October at Waltham Abbey with the Essex and Middlesex Associations.

The following officers were all re-elected: Master, Mr. G. H. Cross; hon. treasurer and secretary, Mr. G. W. Steere; senior steward, Mr. T. Bevan; junior steward, Mr. R. C. Heazell; trustees, Mr. A. Hardy and Mr. C. J. Matthews; auditors, Mr. A. W. J. Hughes and Mr. F. G. Symonds.

Mr. J. A. Trollope and Mr. A. Everett were proposed for the post of junior steward, but both withdrew. Mr. A. J. W. Hughes' name was also put forward, a ballot resulting in Mr. Heazell's re-election by one vote.

Twelve new members were elected, viz.: Mrs. K. B. Jones, of Bexley; Mr. R. C. H. Connelly, Watford; Mr. J. M. Gayford, Little Waltham; Mr. N. F. Grinham, Boreham; Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, Thames Ditton; and Mr. Frank Mitchell, Mr. Alan Hall, Mr. Alan Ball, Mr. Alfred Williams, Mr. Kenneth Medhurst, Mr. Robert Holden, all of Bexley; and Mr. A. J. Carter, of Hampstead.

It was decided to arrange a meeting at Bexley in June, at the invitation of Mr. Herbert Holden, and to explore the possibility of a combined practice at Shoreditch in March, in conjunction with St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.

On the motion of the Master, it was decided to hold the dinner in abeyance until peace is restored.

The election of the following members at Christchurch on August 12th was confirmed: Mrs. F. T. Marshall, Mr. William E. Cheater and Mr. Harry J. Gillard.

Mr. C. J. Matthews proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and the Vestry Hall.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the secretary, moved by Mr. A. Hardy.

(Continued from previous column.)

provided by the Dallin Brothers; there was a 'Cabaret Fraction' under the direction of Miss Edie Ryan; comedy was sustained by Mr. George Cooper, while Mr. E. Vaughan Colman mystified the audience with some very clever conjuring tricks. Last but not least Mr. Charles Thomas entertained the audience with some good stories.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.****MACCLESFIELD BRANCH AND EFFECTS OF WAR.**

Despite the fog and severe frost, more than 20 stalwarts from Macclesfield and the outlying districts met at Christ Church on January 13th for the general meeting of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild. The first comers arrived about 3 p.m., among whom were the Rev. Benson and Mr. W. Dean, both welcome visitors, who are connected with the North Staffs Association. The bells of Christ Church, a melodious peal of eight, are notorious for their strange antics, especially to the uninitiated in their pranks, and, apart from some of the local company, many of the visitors were in 'trouble' quite early. Notwithstanding this, courses in several standard methods were successfully brought round.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. S. J. F. Sharples (Vicar), who gave a very interesting address touching on the different ways in which the sound of the bells is interpreted by various people.

At the business meeting which followed the secretary's report on the activities of the branch during 1939 and the balance sheet were unanimously adopted.

The Rev. S. J. F. Sharples was elected chairman of the branch and Mr. T. Taylor vice-chairman.

The following retiring officers were re-elected for a further term of office: Ringing Master, Mr. J. Worth; secretary, Mr. J. Tipper; treasurer, Mr. J. Norbury; representative on the Guild Committee, Mr. T. Taylor; instructors to the branch, Messrs. W. Gayes, T. Taylor and J. Worth; whilst Mr. J. Worth was also nominated as change ringing member on the Guild Committee.

Ringing meetings were provisionally arranged to take place during 1940 at Bosley, Gawsworth, Chelford and Bollington, subject to the consent of the incumbents concerned.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding at the meeting, for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to the Rev. L. Copestake for officiating at the organ during the service, and last, but by no means least, to the ladies who had made all arrangements for the very enjoyable tea.

The Vicar responded with a happy little speech, after which further use was made of the bells until 7.30 p.m.

**YOUTH SHOULD BE ENLISTED.**

The secretary's report stated that cessation of practice nights during the winter months due to the national emergency had presented a real difficulty, and this feature had to a very large degree caused lack of interest. In consequence poor attendance on Sundays for service ringing had resulted in some instances. He sincerely hoped that practice nights would be resumed during the summer months, also that full advantage would be taken of them to bring interest back again. It was pleasing to note that practice nights had recently been resumed at Christ Church and the Parish Church, thanks to the valued co-operation of the Vicar of Christ Church. Seventeen members had taken part in 23 peals during the year, of which five were rung at towers connected with the Macclesfield Branch. A decrease of 21 was revealed in the number of peals rung during 1939 compared with 1938, whilst further decreases of four are shown in the number of members taking part and eight in the number of peals rung in the Macclesfield Branch. It should be borne in mind, however, that owing to the outbreak of war very few peals had been rung since September 3rd, whereas peal ringing activity was at its height during this period in 1938. There were now seven honorary members, 58 ringing members and three junior members, making a total of 68, a decrease of one compared with 1938. Of this total, five had already been called to the colours, and in this respect the membership may be further reduced by the calls of military service. They must, therefore, attempt to persuade youths to take up the art of change ringing to ensure the full number of bells being rung every Sunday for service. It had been suggested in 'The Ringing World' that suitable recruits would be found in the youth leaving the choir owing to change of voice, as it had been found that youths of this age often tended to leave the church thinking there was not a job for them. Here then was the opportunity to retain them in further useful service. The Vicar of Bosley had drawn attention to the fact that the bells at that place had been rung only once since the outbreak of war. Two of the Gawsworth band had been called to the colours and chiming of the bells had been resorted to for service in this case. It was, of course, only to be expected that their activities would be subject to a certain amount of dislocation under present-day conditions, but it was felt that every effort should be made, entailing the co-operation of each member of the branch, to carry on as well as possible, as only by so doing could the spirit of the Guild be kept alive.

**PENSHURST RINGERS ARE CHOIRMEN.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At Penshurst Church in the quiet weald of Kent on Christmas morning the ringers met under the direction of the Rector at 6.30 a.m. (without black-out) and rang for early service at 7 a.m. Following that they rang for morning service at 10.30 a.m., ceasing the full octave in peal. Then the whole eight of the band went to robe up in the vestry to take their places in the procession and in the choir stalls. This, I think, has been achieved through roping in the choirboys at the time their voices break and before they drift away. I have never been successful in persuading a ringer to join the choir or vice versa. In my early days, while living in the adjoining parish of Chiddingstone, there were six of us interested in both.

GEORGE EDWARDS.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, a large and representative attendance is hoped for. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.45. Tea in the Village Hall at 5.30, followed by business meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting of the Western Division will be held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea at Mr. Settabee's, 1s. per head. Business meeting to follow to discuss future arrangements. Half rail fare (maximum 1s. 6d.) to members.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northwich Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Hartford on Saturday, January 27th. Ringing till 5.30. Service 5.30. Tea 6.15. Meeting after tea. All ringers are welcome.—H. Parker, Branch Sec.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Yeovil on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (10) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the meeting. Usual arrangements.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.



**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Basingstoke on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service in St. Michael's Church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in Church Cottage. Business meeting follows.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Tilsworth on Saturday, January 27th. The six bells (a delightful peal) will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All ringers are invited. Buses pass the church.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cirencester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cirencester, on Saturday, January 27th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30, and service at 5.30.—W. H. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester, Glos.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Annual general meeting of Northern District at St. Mary's, Hitchin, Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Annual meeting 5 p.m. in tower. Tea interval until 6.30 p.m. Further ringing till 9 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Black out the blues and enjoy some good ringing. Don't forget, members of this district. Election of officers for 1940.—R. T. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock.

**HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hertford on Saturday, January 27th. All Saints' (10 bells) from 2.30 to 4.45 p.m. Bengoe (8) from 5 to 7 p.m. Service at All Saints' at 4.45 p.m. Tea and business meeting at the May Flower on the way to Bengoe. Will all committee members make a special effort to attend to elect a district secretary on my retirement owing to circumstances.—A. Laurence, Dis. Sec., Hatfield.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday, January 27th. Bells available 3-5 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, January 27th. Bells (8, tenor 19½ cwt.) available during afternoon and evening. Short service.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, January 27th, this tower being blacked out. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at Imperial Cafe. Come and make this our final meeting a success.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkeingham, Lincs.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cary Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ditchheat on Saturday, January 27th. Bells 2.30 to 8.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting following.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at All Saints', High Wycombe, at 3.30 p.m. Bells (12) available 4 to 7 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. Those accepting the invitation to tea must advise the undersigned not later than January 30th. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. Owing to the prevailing conditions, it is essential that notice should be sent to the undersigned not later than February 1st, as the caterer will not guarantee tea for any who have not sent in names. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Coalpit Heath on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (6) open from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec.

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**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please let me know definitely by Wednesday, January 31st?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall on February 3rd. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Oundle Branch.—The 41st annual meeting will be held at Elton on Saturday, February 3rd at 2.30. Service 4.15. Meat Tea, 2s., at 5 p.m. Will those needing tea write to the Rev. A. P. Symes, Warrington, Peterborough, by Jan. 30th?

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—The annual district meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd. Ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, from 3 p.m. until 'black-out' time. A good attendance is requested, as several of the present officers will not seek re-election.—J. G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All those intending to be present must let me know by January 30th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bedford District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Bromham on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Owing to catering difficulties, tea can only be provided for those who notify me by February 2nd. All very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

**BRIGHTON.**—The next practice meetings will be held on Saturdays, at 3 p.m., as follows: February 3rd, St. Peter's; February 17th, Good Shepherd; March 2nd, St. Nicholas'; March 16th, St. Peter's—S. E. Armstrong, 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

**WITHINGTON, NEAR HEREFORD.**—The restored ring of six will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford at the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 4th. The two trebles recast and the peal re-hung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. It is hoped to have some more ringing after meeting. To ensure tea, a postcard by Tuesday, February 6th, please. All ringers are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting February 10th. Ringing: St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 3 to 4.30 p.m.; St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Perdy's Restaurant, Essex Street, Strand, followed here by business meeting 6 p.m. Names for tea to me, please, by February 7th.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.20.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Apsley on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Business: Committee, and arrangements for 1940. Usual arrangements, but tea only provided for those who let me know by Tuesday, January 30th.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

### TO LET.

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### ANOTHER KENT RINGER'S DEATH.

The Kent County Association has lost by death another ringer, Mr. Charles R. Goodburn, of Milton-next-Gravesend, who passed away at the early age of 43 years. He was a native of Newington, Folkestone, where his father was verger and sexton for over 30 years.

Mr. Goodburn served in the Royal Garrison Artillery from 1916-1919, and there is no doubt that an illness contracted during that period hastened his end.

He was most regular in his attendance at ringing when his duties permitted and will be missed in Milton tower, where he had been a member for 10 years. He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The funeral took place on Thursday, January 11th, the service being held in Milton Church and conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. J. Powell, an hon. member of the association. He afterwards performed the committal rites at Gravesend Cemetery. Mr. F. M. Mitchell (leader of the tower and hon. secretary of the County Association) and Mr. J. Burles (deputy leader) represented the ringers. A widow, three sons and four daughters are bereaved.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**GREAT YARMOUTH.**—At St. Nicholas' Church on Sunday, December 31st, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): George Paston 1, P. Newstead 2, R. Davey (conductor) 3, J. G. W. Harwood 4, Bdr. C. Milton, R.A. (Exeter) 5, A. Wigmore 6, A. Moy 7, H. Jermy 8.

**ASHFORD, KENT.**—At the Parish Church on Tuesday, December 26th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: T. Tabrett 1, H. G. Castle 2, W. Ring 3, P. Page 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, W. Prior 6, O. W. Everett (conductor) 7, Dan Godden 8. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Nora Swaffer, daughter of Mr. George Swaffer, late ringer of Ashford, now of Canterbury.

**CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.**—On Sunday, December 17th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): J. H. B. Hesse 1, E. J. Ayliffe 2, F. Bowden 3, A. E. Brown (first in method) 4, M. Smither 5, H. Wootton (first in method) 6, A. J. Bartlett (conductor) 7, H. Mullard 8.

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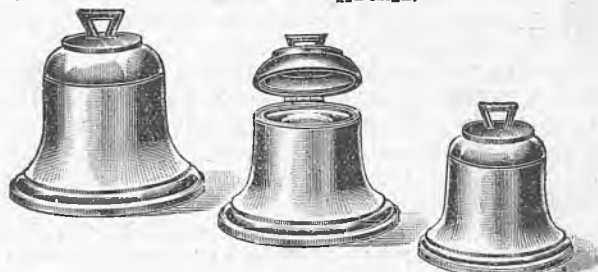
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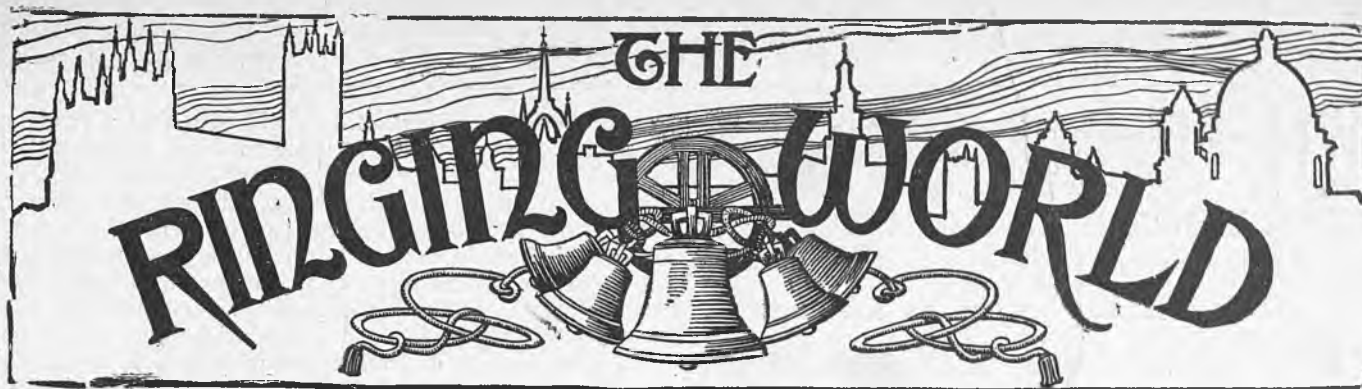
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## UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The story of unpaid subscriptions and lapsed membership is not new to ringing organisations, and it was renewed on Saturday at the annual meeting of the North-Western Division of the Surrey Association. The same tale has been told in various parts of the country frequently of late, just as it has been told through the years. There have always been the backsliders who, with one excuse or another, or none at all, have failed to pay up. The small annual subscription which is involved should be a first charge on the loyalty of a member, not only because membership implies recognition of the liability, but because no association could survive if the majority of the members adopted an attitude of indifference in regard to their financial responsibility. The Surrey Association is by no means alone in the justice of its complaint, and defaulters, wherever they are, are equally to be condemned. We do not, of course, include among them those ringers who are unable to pay their subscriptions through falling upon adverse times—unemployment, illness and other causes may impose a strain upon them which makes even the small contribution to a ringing society an impossible burden. The defaulters of whom secretaries complain are not of this category. The people who give the secretaries trouble are those who do not pay through sheer laxity. They not only handicap the work of the associations, but multiply the task of the secretaries, whose voluntary labours and sacrifice of time count with them for nothing. The retiring Surrey district secretary ventured the opinion that any association would be better off without these slack and lukewarm members, and many other association officials will, we feel, agree with him. They are a clog in the wheels, and if only the energy which has to be devoted to stirring them into action could be diverted to more productive channels much greater good might often be accomplished.

There is special reason why, at this time, the payment of subscriptions should be promptly made. Many associations have already relieved members serving with the forces of paying their contributions until their return to civil life, and others intend to take this course. As the call-up of men proceeds, this will make a growing demand upon funds, which, in many cases, are not too strong even now, and every member who is left behind should make it a point of honour to pay, and pay promptly. This decision to release serving members from their subscriptions, which was first suggested in this column, is being very generally followed, and we hope the other proposal, that was made at the same time, that those who are left in the belfries should voluntarily make

(Continued on page 50.)

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good these lost contributions, will also find a ready re-  
sponse. It may not be possible to adopt a general levy  
to raise funds to pay these absent members' dues, but  
there ought to be enough gratitude among those who are  
left, either in individual towers, or in associations gener-  
ally, to make this, as we described it, a gesture of honour.  
It is easy to vote a resolution to relieve a member of his  
subscription if it costs those who vote it nothing. The  
real test comes when such a resolution involves a sacri-  
fice, however small, from those who pass it. We hope  
that the associations, when they contemplate offering free  
membership to their serving fellows, will also consider  
whether it would not add to the value of their gesture and  
the dignity of their proposal if they arrange that those  
who are escaping the greater risks of national service  
should themselves reimburse the associations for the  
financial loss which would otherwise be involved. Another  
sixpence or so a year would be a small sacrifice for those  
who are left at home to make. But whether or no this is  
done, there is no excuse for the slacker, either in the  
tower or the association, who leaves it to others to carry  
the financial responsibility. Very often these are the men  
who, in their own tower, also leave the enthusiasts to do  
the ringing and come along to share in it only when it  
suits their own inclination.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

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AT THE PARISH CHURCH, PRITTLEWELL,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18½ cwt.

GORDON A. BACON ... .. Treble	WALTER D. TAYLOR ... .. 5
*CYRIL E. SMITH... .. 2	STANLEY W. BAYBUT ... .. 6
WILLIAM PERRY... .. 3	†REGINALD W. DARVILL ... .. 7
ALBERT E. NORTH ... .. 4	FRANK B. LUFKIN ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.  
\* First peal away from treble. † 25th peal. Rung half-muffled in  
memory of Sidney Walter Cordon, a local ringer for several years.  
Kenneth Blighton and John Atkingson kept watch as A.R.P.

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JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... Treble	DAVID VINCENT ... .. 5
STEPHEN L. PARRY ... .. 2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 6
DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. 3	IVAN KAY ... .. 7
ALLAN J. BROWN ... .. 4	HAROLD HAMER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by IVAN KAY.

The 25th peal together for Messrs. Ivan Kay and J. Meadowcroft.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes

AT 170, HEADSTONE LANE,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 13 in E.

CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. 1-2	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness—Mrs. C. C. Mayne.



## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF DORCHESTER BRANCH.

#### Call to Maintain Bells in Full Use.

There was an attendance of over sixty at the annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild at Dorchester, and it proved a really successful war-time gathering. The bells at the Parish Church were available during the afternoon and after the meeting.

A service was first held in St. Peter's Church, where the Rector and chairman of the branch (the Rev. A. Wilkinson Markby) preached from the text, 'Whatsoever He saith unto you do it' (St. John xi., 5). He enlarged on the points: Do it yourself, do it promptly, do it cheerfully. do it for eternity.

Tea was afterwards served at the Moule Institute, and the meeting was presided over by the Rev. A. W. Markby, supported by Canon D. F. Slemek, Mr. C. H. Jennings (branch secretary) and Mr. J. W. Smith (assistant secretary). Towers represented at the meeting were Puddletown, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Dorchester St. Peter, Fordington St. George, Bradford Peverell, Sydling, Wyke Regis, Wool, Upwey and Bovington. A Bournemouth ringer was also present.

In his annual report, Mr. Jennings said when they started the year it was thought it would be a record one for the 30 years of the branch's existence, but the war altered for the Church the whole character of the year, including the special branch of the ringers' work which had promised such a bright outlook. The branch meetings were carried on up to the outbreak of war, which cut off suddenly their activities, as it disrupted the even flow of almost all phases of normal life.

#### INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

He regretted there was no restoration to report, and no doubt the war would affect this work, but he trusted that when peace was proclaimed those responsible would do their best to put the bells in order in some of the noble towers in the district. Membership showed an increase, and a warm welcome was extended to the Maiden Newton band on their return to the Guild. Progress in the art of change ringing had been made and this was particularly noted at Dorchester St. Peter's.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. William Hewlett, father of the branch, on completing 64 years as a ringer at Puddletown and 45 years as captain of the band, and also on serving for 40 years as parish clerk. The latter occasion was marked by the presentation to him of a silver bell and a cheque for £20.

'I do hope,' the report continued, 'that where possible the bells may be rung, particularly for the Sunday services. It is a call to devotion, and no doubt the sound of the bells will help to keep up the spirits of many people who may feel depressed. This year may present some difficulties where the bands of ringers have been depleted by members leaving the district to go on National Service, and bands in our branch have already felt the effect. In all such cases it is hoped those ringers who are left will devote all their energies in keeping the art going and instructing young recruits.'

'It may be of interest to some members to know that the Minister of Home Security has seen no reason for the abandonment of bell ringing. No doubt ringing adds a general cheerfulness.'

'I wish to send greetings and good wishes to our members serving with H.M. Forces, and may they have blessings from Above and a safe return home.'

Thanks were extended to all who had helped in the work of the branch.

#### WAR-TIME RINGING.

On the subject of continuing to ring church bells, a letter was received from the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, general secretary of the Guild, in which he said: 'In the many restrictions that the Government have seen fit to impose they have frankly and specifically recognised the right and privilege of ringers to continue their normal activities in the service of the Church. The recognition of that right by the State authorities calls for a corresponding recognition on the part of ringers of their sacred duty to the Church and nation. It is of the first importance that we should endeavour to the utmost of our power to maintain the bells of our churches in full use, and in this time of trouble do our part to proclaim the eternal message of joy, telling forth the glory of God and uplifting the hearts of the people.'

The letter circulated by the hon. secretary of the Central Council on the subject of ringing in war time was also read.

The financial statement showed receipts of £35 6s. 4d., including subscriptions from 133 ringing members, 15 honorary members, and 22 associate members. The balance in hand was £15 1s. 5d., against £13 8s. 2d. at the beginning of the year.

Discussion arose as to the holding of quarterly meetings, and the difficulties of transport owing to petrol restrictions, the lack of halls for meetings, and food rationing were referred to.

A quarterly meeting at Puddletown was favoured, and it was left to the secretary to see what he could arrange.

Mr. S. Essex and Mr. Justin Antell (Puddletown) were elected ringing members, and Mr. P. Gifford (Sydling) was approved as an associate member.

Acknowledging his unanimous re-election as chairman, the Rev. A. W. Markby said he was always enthused by the spirit of the  
(Continued in next column.)

## GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

### WAR-TIME RESTRICTIONS IN GUILDFORD DISTRICT.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday week. Major J. H. B. Hesse (Ringing Master of the Guild) presided, supported by Mr. G. L. Grover (Guild secretary), Mr. J. Corbett (Guild treasurer) and Mr. W. F. J. Cope (hon. district secretary). Apologies were received from Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith and Mr. C. E. Smith (District Ringing Master).

Referring to the war in his annual report, Mr. Cope said the outbreak of war last September resulted in ringing being either stopped altogether or curtailed in a number of towers in the district. They were glad to say, however, that service ringing now took place again in every tower where it was suspended, and that, in a good many cases, practices were getting back to something approaching normal. It was difficult to understand why such severe restrictions should have been imposed in some places, especially when they considered that at Aldershot, service and practice ringing continued without a break. 'We can only surmise that the "powers that be" in what are considered safe areas view things in a much more cautious light than those in vulnerable areas.'

The restrictions on practising in some towers led to the setting up of regular Saturday afternoon practices at others. These, arranged by Mr. Whittington and Mr. Martin, were of great value, and the report expressed the thanks of the Guild to them. The report concluded with an appeal to all members to try and keep things going whatever the future might hold so that when times were again normal they would be ready to forge ahead instead of having first to make up lost ground.

#### A RECORD MEMBERSHIP.

The report gave the strength of the district as 174 ringing members, a record. The strength of honorary members at 26 was the second highest total on record. There had been increases in ringing membership at Albury, Bramley, Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, Godalming, Guildford (Holy Trinity), West Clandon, Witley and Womersley. In addition five new members were welcomed from Shere, one from Merrow and one from Puttenham. These three towers had been outside the Guild for some time. Assistance had been given at Shere during the year by Mr. Grover, the general secretary. The big increase in the number of honorary members was largely due to the efforts of Mr. C. M. Martin, the Bramley tower secretary, who secured 14 honorary members during 1939.

The accounts showed a balance in hand of £24 2s. 1d., compared with £25 8s. 3d. at the beginning of the year. The slight decrease was due to a grant of £5 towards the New Cathedral Bells Fund. The report and accounts were adopted on the proposition of Mr. A. C. Hazelden.

The following officers were elected for 1940: Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. W. F. J. Cope; hon. auditor, Mr. A. C. Hazelden; member of Executive Committee, Mr. E. J. Ayliffe.

The following recommendation to the Guild annual meeting from Holy Trinity, Guildford, was approved: 'That for the duration of hostilities, ringing members serving in His Majesty's Forces be exempt from capitation fees to the Guild.'

The following new members were elected: G. Allen, W. Wells and G. Hammond (Womersley), H. Wheeler (Cranleigh), A. Durrant, J. G. Jackman and R. Swan (Bramley) and Miss Chandler (Witley). Miss G. K. Ellis, Mrs. M. Ellis, Lt.-Col. A. Ridley-Martin and Mrs. F. Hawkesworth were elected honorary members on the proposition of Mr. C. M. Martin (Bramley).

Thanks were expressed by Mr. Whittington (Cranleigh) to Mr. W. F. J. Cope for his services as secretary of the district and also to the Rev. W. A. Hepher, and the organist, choir and verger of S. Nicolas' Church in connection with the Guild service which preceded the meeting.

Ringings took place at Holy Trinity and S. Nicolas' Churches during the afternoon and at the latter church after the meeting.

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

annual and quarterly meetings. It was a spirit of enthusiasm that did a tremendous amount of good.

Canon Slemek was elected vice-chairman, and the following officers were reappointed: Ringing Master, Mr. E. Smart (Upwey); deputy, Mr. Toccock (Bovington); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the incumbents of St. Peter's and St. George's for granting the use of the bells, and to Mr. F. J. Waite for his services as organist at the service.

Mr. Smith called attention to the fact that although a memorial to the ringers who fell in the Great War had been in St. Peter's Church for about 20 years, no wreath had ever been placed on it on Armistice Sunday, and the hon. secretary was authorised to have one placed there at this year's Armistice commemoration.

Absent friends now serving their country were remembered by every-one standing in silent tribute.

## SURREY ASSOCIATION. THE UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

### Retiring District Secretary Chides Backsliders.

In spite of the prevailing wintry conditions, about 40 members attended the annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association, held at Beddington on Saturday. There were visitors from London and elsewhere.

Ringing during the afternoon was followed by a short service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. E. V. Bond. In his address of welcome he referred to the important part which bells played in war, and to their message of joy and consolation in times of crisis. They all looked forward to the day when the bells would ring for victory. Most people liked to hear the old church bells, and for that reason he was glad that very few restrictions had been placed upon their ringing by the authorities. He wished his hearers God-speed and good luck in the work they were doing.

After a good tea in the Village Hall, kindly arranged by Mrs. Kippin, the business meeting was held, presided over by Mr. D. Cooper (District Master). Six new ringing members were elected and the ratification of four elections made in the tower prior to a peal was made.

The committee's report on the working of the district for 1939 was read and adopted.

In this the committee said 1939 would probably be regarded by future generations as marking the end of an epoch in the history of change ringing in the district. The revival, which was started in 1919 at the end of the last war, would be deemed to have ended with the start of this one; not through any desire or slackness on the part of members of associations, but simply as a result of restrictions imposed by the authorities and the consequent lack of opportunities for ringing experienced almost everywhere by everybody, and ringers becoming engaged in various forms of national service.

Up to the end of August ringing at most towers in the district was well maintained both at practices and for Sunday services, but at one tower ringing had been entirely suspended. This position had been brought about as a direct result of the general slackness and lack of interest amongst local members. The general secretary had, however, got the matter well in hand at this particular tower in the hope of securing a resumption of ringing, at any rate for Sunday services, in the very near future.

Ten meetings were held by the district during the year, i.e., four district meetings, two combined meetings with two or more neighbouring associations, and four joint meetings (three with the Ladies' Guild and one with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild). The average attendances were: District meetings 43, combined meetings 41, joint meetings 35.

### THE MEMBERSHIP.

Fourteen peals were rung during the year, as against 18 recorded in 1938. Five members rang their first peal during the year: Miss Mary Rawlings, Mrs. Massey, Mr. John S. Pink, Mr. H. Scotcher and Mr. John R. Davison (age 13), whilst 14 other members rang their first in the method. The year 1939 commenced with a district membership of 201. During the year 13 ringing members were elected; two members were lost by death; ten members allowed their subscriptions to lapse; three had asked to be transferred to the compounding list, and four other members were so transferred by the committee, leaving a total district membership of 195, made up as follows: Honorary members 8, ringing members (representing 21 towers) 161, ringing members (unattached) 26, which was a net decrease of six members on the figures for 1938.

The District Committee thanked the members, and particularly the tower representatives, for their support and co-operation during the past year, and asked for the continuance of their goodwill in the difficult months ahead. As soon as the war is over it would be the business of the rising generation to create yet another revival of the art in the county of Surrey.

The district balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £12 16s. 8d. (an increase of 10s. 4d.) was also adopted.

It was decided, in view of war conditions, not now to choose places for the holding of meetings for the whole of the current year, as in former years, but, when a meeting is held, to decide on a place for the next rendezvous, according to the availability of towers and the prevailing local conditions. The meeting, therefore, adopted a resolution to the effect that they should hold their next meeting at Ewell and Epsom on Easter Monday, March 25th, and that every endeavour should be made to hold joint meetings with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild at Rammore on July 27th, and with the Middlesex Association at Kingston-on-Thames on October 26th.

The following officers were elected for the district: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. R. A. Simmons; representatives on committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Mr. Charles Potheary and Mr. F. G. Woodiss.

The Chairman (Mr. Cooper) and the Master (Mr. D. K. C. Birt) spoke in eulogistic terms of the work which the retiring secretary (Mr. F. G. Woodiss) had done for the association, and Mr. C. H. Kippin, speaking in the same strain, drew attention to a number of unpaid subscriptions.

Mr. Woodiss, in acknowledging these tributes, said that he had enjoyed, in part, doing the work. The only part he had found dis-

(Continued in next column.)

## CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT NORBURY.

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch was held at Norbury (Hazel Grove) on Saturday, January 20th, when despite the wintry conditions some 30 members and friends were present.

The bells were set going early in the afternoon and touches in various methods were rung before the service, which was conducted by the curate, the Rev. S. Gummer. The lesson was read by the branch chairman, the Rev. F. Bonner.

The Vicar, preaching from the text, 'There is neither speech nor language, but their sound is gone out into the whole world,' said that while we can learn a great deal from the silent things in nature, happily all nature is not silent. We have the larks and other birds, and music in its different forms, all of them means to bring us to understand something of the Heavenly One. But to reach this understanding our minds must be attuned to silent voices as well as to audible ones. He dwelt on the fact that not only those inside the church heard the sound of the bells, but those outside as well. The message goes forth to all who wish to hear, and there must be many whose consciences have been pricked by the sound of the church bells calling the people to worship. In this connection, he said, the work of bellringers is of great significance. God can use bells to convey his message and may that message be received!

Tea was served in the schools under the supervision of the local ringers' wives, and an excellent meal was quickly disposed of. From the appearance of things it seemed that no such thing as rationing had been heard of! As the Vicar was unable to stay to the business meeting which followed, he was heartily thanked for his services and for his excellent address. The Rev. F. Bonner, as chairman, expressed the members' pleasure at being present at Norbury once again for the annual meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Hough, Mr. E. Garside and Mr. J. P. Fidler and from the 'plumbing' section. The statement of accounts and annual report for 1939 showed a very healthy position, both financially and in general, there being an increase in the bank balance and 25 peals had been rung. The Beeston Library report was presented and read by the chairman, and both he and Mr. Laffin, the librarian, suggested that more use might be made of it. The election of officers resulted in the previous year's officers being re-elected, and votes of thanks were accorded them for their services. Seven new members were elected—Miss E. Humphreys, of Norbury; Mr. S. Davies, St. Mary's, Stockport; Mr. Richard C. Beaumont, Disley; and Messrs. W. Booth, E. Bowden, A. Crabtree and S. Lofthouse, of Hyde. Mr. H. Ashton was transferred to the non-resident members list, under Rule 18. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Bowden on April 6th. The meeting was unanimous in sending its sincere thanks to the Bishop of Chester for his speedy and energetic action early in December in removing the ban imposed in error by local authorities on the ringing of church bells. The death of three old and respected members of the branch were reported, Messrs. J. Pollitt, of Denton; J. Mothershead, of Stockport St. George, and S. Fernley, of Norbury, and it was decided that the secretary send expressions of sympathy to their relatives. The secretary appealed for all towers to let him know of members serving in the forces or in the A.R.P. organisation so that a complete list could be compiled.

Further ringing then took place both on handbells and tower bells.

## SURREY ASSOCIATION DEFAULTERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

tasteful was the necessity of continually having to beg for subscriptions in certain quarters. He had formed the opinion that, in association work, the good members carried the bad, and that any association would be better off without the slack or lukewarm element, even if it meant losing a tower occasionally. At the moment 25 subscriptions for last year had not been paid. Ten of these were due from members attached to one particular church, and he expressed the hope that members would honour their obligations better with his successor.

Mr. George W. Massey, the new district secretary, said he would always do his best for the association in his new post, and thought that if he only did half as well as his predecessor during his first year of office he would not have done too badly (applause).

The following nominations for general officers of the association were made: Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; treasurer, Mr. Charles H. Kippin; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

The following resolution was passed for submission to the annual meeting of the association: 'That members serving with H.M. Forces may be excused payment of further subscriptions until such time as they return to civil life.'

Mrs. Kippin called the attention of the meeting to a peal of Grand-sire Triples at Ewell on January 20th, published in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World,' and rung on the 50th anniversary of the conductor's (Mr. J. Beams) entry into the Surrey Association. Mrs. Kippin proposed that the secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Beams conveying congratulations from the meeting, and that the matter be duly recorded in the minutes.—This proposition was seconded and carried with acclamation.

The meeting concluded with the passing of votes of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and conducting the service, to Mr. H. N. Pitstow for playing the organ, to Mr. C. H. Kippin for having everything in readiness in the tower, and to Mrs. Kippin and Mrs. Jennings for the tea and catering.

**RINGERS ON WAR SERVICE.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Though far away from England and ringing, I still read 'The Ringing World,' and it does one's heart good to see the ringing meeting columns these days. Seventeen meetings for one Saturday afternoon sounds more like pre-war days. Oh! to be in England. . . . I congratulate you on the way you have kept the other columns full of interesting matter.

I wonder how other Service ringers are faring. I seem to be unlucky, but perhaps some others have been more fortunate in ringing since 'joining up.' Perhaps a few would care to compare notes in your columns. We have yet to hear of a 'soldiers' peal' as we did in the last war.

May I conclude with a belated wish for a happy New Year to all my acquaintances in the Hawkhurst and Romney Marsh Guilds and the Eastern Branch of the Sussex Association.

A. H. KEMP.

R.E., Masonic Hall, Elgin, Morayshire.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT.**

Approximately 50 people attended the annual general meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association, which was held at St. Giles-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday last. The tower bells were rung in a variety of methods for two hours before a short service at 4.30 p.m., the address being given by the curate, the Rev. Dixon, who, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector, extended a warm welcome to the association.

Tea followed at the Express Dairy Company's local branch, after which the business meeting was held.

Three new members were elected, and the retiring officers were re-elected. The statement of accounts was presented by Mr. G. W. Fletcher, auditor, and was accepted. It was agreed to hold the next annual district meeting at Kilburn. After some discussion it was decided, on account of the prevailing war conditions, to discontinue the special methods arranged to be rung at district meetings. It was decided to forward to the Central Committee for consideration a proposal that the subscriptions of members serving in His Majesty's Forces should be remitted.

The Hon. Secretary announced that the next district meeting will be held at St. Dunsian's, Stepney, on Saturday, March 2nd.

At the conclusion of the business the majority returned to the outer vestry of the church to spend a couple of hours in social intercourse, putting handbells, brought by Mr. C. W. Taylor, honorary member, to good use.

**THE LATE CHALLIS F. WINNEY.****MEMORIAL RINGING.**

On Saturday, January 27th, at the Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, after the usual 'office,' the 'whole pull and stand' was rung in memory of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney by H. Langdon, H. Hoskins, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, R. F. Deal, T. H. Taffender, T. Langdon, C. W. Roberts and A. B. Peck. Afterwards a 557 of Grandsire Caters was rung half-muffled, Miss G. Church, E. A. Young and T. A. Lewis-Cockey taking part. Mr. T. Winney (brother) and nephews of the deceased were also present.

The late Mr. Winney had been actively connected with St. Clement's for over 60 years.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It was with deep regret I read in 'The Ringing World' of the passing of Mr. Challis F. Winney, a most lovable and kindly Christian gentleman.

To the older members of the College Youths I believe I am still known as Young Bill (and worse), but I would have wished that younger of the London ringers, who have done bigger things than I shall ever do, could have known Mr. Winney as I knew him over a period of 25 years.

I spent many happy hours with him, and rang some very fine peals with him, and always left his company feeling better.

From a purely ringing point of view, years ago when I was working and 'playing' in London, I felt most honoured when on numerous occasions he asked me to ring for him at St. Paul's for either or both morning and afternoon ringing.

What more can I say of his memory than I am grateful and proud of being asked to substitute so truly a great ringer.

His passing leaves me and others I know bereft of a noble friend.

WILLIAM HIBBERT.

**DEATH OF MR. HARRY BARTON.****FORMER LONDON RINGER.**

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Harry Barton, which took place suddenly last Saturday at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. The deceased gentleman had not taken part in peal ringing for several years, but during the closing years of the last century he was a well-known member of the Society of Cumberland Youths and the Waterloo Society, and had rung and conducted a great number of peals with them. He afterwards removed to the Isle of Wight.

During the years 1900 to 1902 he represented the Cumberlands on the Central Council, and from 1924 the Winchester Diocesan and later the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guilds. He was also treasurer of the latter body.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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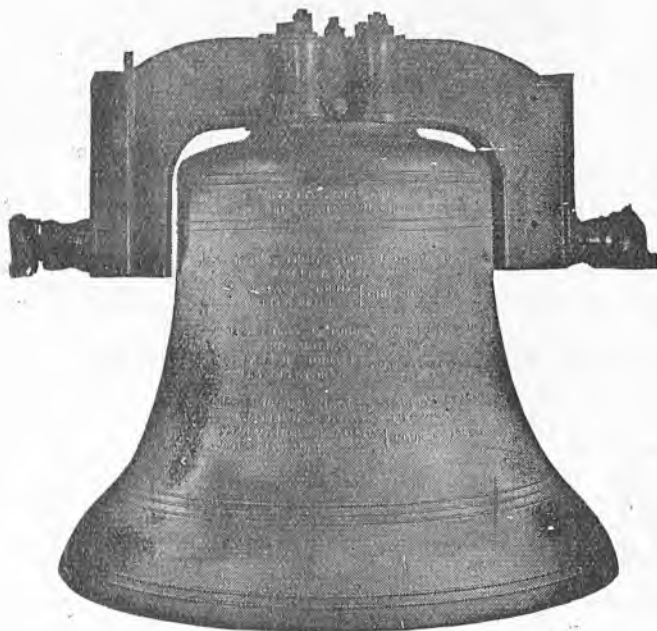
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The attention of readers is called to the fact that the Hertford County Association meeting at Apsley is to be held to-morrow, February 3rd, and not February 10th as advertised in our last issue.

On January 28th, 1911, the Ancient Society of College Youths rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus in London.

Henry Haley died on January 29th, 1886, in his 67th year. He had for long been one of the most prominent London ringers, and had rung peals with the Cumberlands, the College Youths and the St. James' Society. Among them were 5,600 Superlative Surprise and 15,840 Kent Treble Bob at Bethnal Green, 8,580 Stedman Cinques at Cornhill, and the first silent performance of the Original at St. Giles-in-the-Fields. He also took part in peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques on handbells.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756, in his 53rd year.

The Oxford University Society was founded on February 2nd, 1872, and the Cambridge University Guild on February 4th, 1879.

C. D. P. Davies died on February 5th, 1931. He was the author of 'Stedman' in the Jasper Snowden Series and had completed the book on 'Grandsire.' He was an authority on the composition of peals in Triples methods.

The next few days see the anniversaries of three noteworthy peals rung by London bands of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A 5,555 Stedman Caters was rung at St. Giles', Camberwell, on February 3rd, 1883; the first peal in the same method at Lichfield Cathedral (a 5,005) on February 4th, 1888; and the first 'bachelors' peal' of Stedman Cinques (5,019) on February 7th, 1891. The last named was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and the ages of the ringers ranged from 20 to 40 years, the average being 27. This was also the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever accomplished in which the conductor was also the tenor-man. All the peals were conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe, who also composed the peals rung at Lichfield and St. Bride's. That at Camberwell was composed by Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, specially for the occasion.

The bells of Doncaster Parish Church, after being recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., are now being hung by their workmen. The opening date will be announced later.

## THE GREAT BELL OF TALLEY ABBEY.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In your issue of October 13th, 1939, Mr. Edward J. Thomas raised a question regarding a bell of Talley Abbey 'being conveyed to Carmarthen . . . and then shipped to Exeter.'

A copy of 'The Story of Exeter Cathedral,' by Archdeacon Thompson, of Exeter, has come into my hands, and in the notes on the bells of the Cathedral I find this reference: 'In the north tower is only one bell, Great Peter, weighing 125 cwt. On this bell the clock strikes the hours, and it is tolled daily at eight o'clock in the evening for the curfew, when it rings the number of the days in the current month and eight strokes afterward. It was given to the Cathedral by Peter Courtenay, afterwards Bishop and at the time Archdeacon of Exeter, in 1484. It is said to have been acquired from Llandaff in exchange for five Exeter bells, and to have been brought here over the Bristol Channel to Ilfracombe, and thence by road.' Is this the bell really referred to by Mr. Thomas?

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

Great Peter, of Exeter, has a Latin inscription, which states that it was the gift of Peter Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter, in the year 1484, and that it was recast at the expense of the Dean and Chapter by Thomas Perdue in the year 1676.—EDITOR, 'The Ringing World.'

## MINOR FIVES?

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Most ringers know what we mean when we speak of 'a minor five'—a ring of five bells tuned to the same notes as the first five of a ring of six instead of the last five, with no proper finishing note. There are many such fives up and down the country, examples in this neighbourhood being found at Weston Favell, at Ashton, Everdon and North Kilworth. On no other number but five do we find a peal tuned on this principle, which leads me to ask, what was the idea, in the first place, of ever hanging such rings? Personally, I cannot believe that it was with the thought in mind of adding a tenor at some future date, for many of the cases I have come across the five bells have been hung in frames for five only, which goes to show that there was no intention at the time of providing for another bell. Furthermore, why do we never find a higher number tuned on this scale? On higher numbers, founders always kept to the principle of adding trebles, not tenors. It may be argued that on a higher number, to have no proper finishing note, would sound odd or that you couldn't ring Triples, Caters or Cinques on seven, nine or eleven bells only. But this seems to me hardly to supply the answer, for while we must agree that seven, nine or eleven bells rung without a proper tenor sound odd, five bells tuned on this principle, to my mind, sound just as odd. Yet there must have been a reason for founders hanging such fives, particularly as there are so many to be found. Perhaps one of your readers better informed than myself can supply the answer?

Northampton.

P. AMOS.

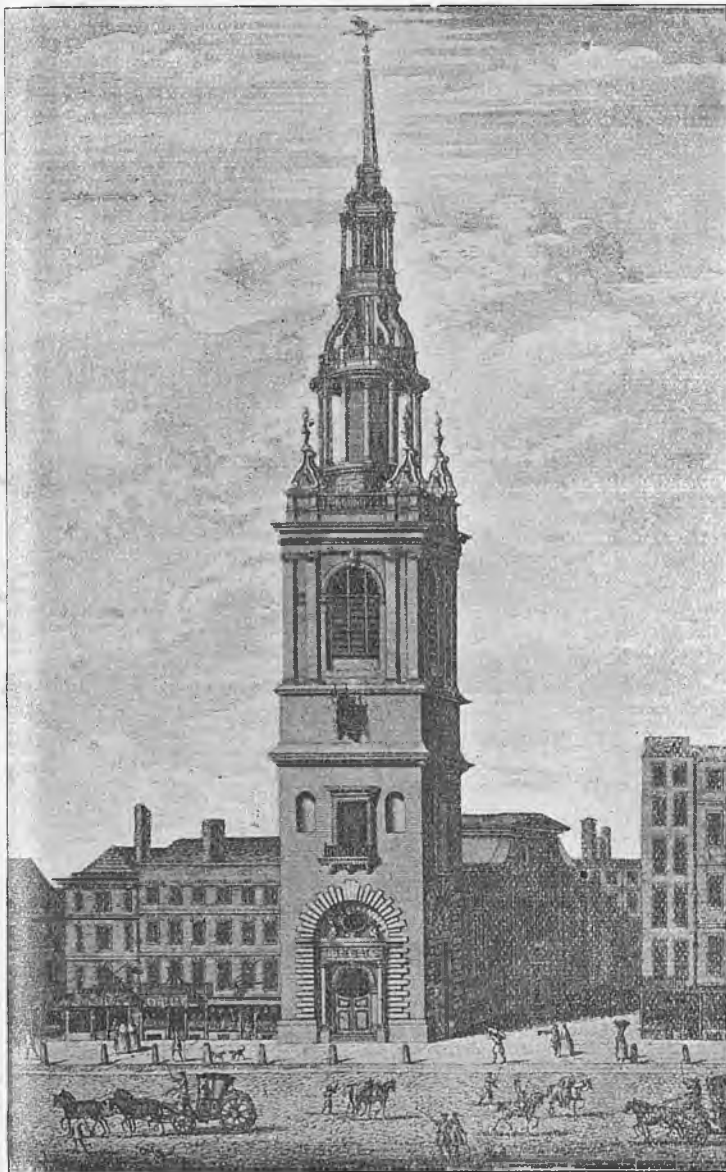


## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Throughout the whole world, certainly throughout the whole of England, there are no bells which are better known to the general public than Bow Bells. In the history of change ringing they hold a prominent place, but they are not so famous as those of St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Bride's, or St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.



BOW STEEPLE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Bow Church, with its splendid steeple, is perhaps the most prominent parish church in the city, and the present building is the successor of another equally well known, for, says Stow, 'for divers accidents happening there it hath been made more famous than any other church of the whole city or suburbs.'

'In the year 1100, in the reign of William II., the roof was blown off in a mighty tempest, in which several people were killed. Six years later William Fitz Osbert, a seditious tailor, took the steeple and fortified it with munitions and vituals. He stood a siege, and

after a desperate fight the building was set on fire and he and his men were forced into the open and taken, and afterwards hanged at Smithfield.

'In the year 1271 a great part of the steeple fell down and slew many people, men and women. In 1284 Lawrence Ducker, a goldsmith, having grievously wounded one Ralph Crepin in West Cheap, fled into Bow Church, into which, in the night time, entered certain evil persons, friends of the said Ralph, and slew the said Lawrence, lying in the steeple, and there hanged him up, placing him so by the window as if he had hanged himself, and so it was found by inquisition; for which fact Lawrence Duckett, being drawn by the feet, was buried in a ditch without the city; but shortly after by relation of a boy, who lay with the said Lawrence at the time of his death, and had hid him there for fear, the truth of the matter was disclosed, for which cause Jordan Goodcheap, Ralph Crepin, Gilbert Clarke and Geoffrey Clarke were attainted, a certain woman named Alice that was the chief causer of the said mischief was burnt, and to the number of sixteen, men were drawn and hanged. The church was interdicted, the doors and windows were stopped up with thorns, but the said Lawrence was taken up and honestly buried in the churchyard.'

The damaged steeple was rebuilt little by little, and by that time the great bell of Bow was one of four appointed to set the time for ringing of curfew throughout the city.

It is usually said that William the Conqueror introduced the curfew into England. He certainly did strictly enforce it, much in the same way and for the same reason that the British authorities recently enforced its modern equivalent in Jerusalem. But long before his time the beginning and ending of the working day were marked by the ringing of bells, and long after his law was repealed the custom continued.

In the year 1282, in the reign of Edward I., a regulation was made that 'at each parish church curfew shall be tolled the same hour as at St. Martin's, beginning and ending at the same time, and then all gates, as well as taverns, whether of wine or ale, shall be closed, and no one shall walk the streets or places.'

St. Martin's was the great conventual church of St. Martin-le-Grand, which stood to the north of St. Paul's, and which possessed a big bell that could be heard at a great distance.

During the following years the regulation was several times renewed in varying terms. The reason given for it was that 'whereas murders, robberies, and homicides have in time past been committed in the City by night, it is forbidden that anyone walk the streets after curfew with sword, buckler or other arm, unless he be a great lord or other respectable person of note.'

Anyone who has tried to find his way among the narrow side streets of the city on a moonless night in these war days can realise what a terror and a danger lawless armed men could be.

In 1362 and 1369 the bell of Our Lady of the Arches (Bow Church) is mentioned in place of that at St. Martin's, and in 1370 and 1376 four churches in four parts of the city were appointed to set the time. They were St. Mary atte Bowe, Berkyngchurch, in Tower Ward, St. Bride, and St. Giles without Crepelgate.

All the other parish churches took their time from these, and instructions were given to the Quest of Wardmote that, if any clerk rang curfew later than these four, he was to be reported.

The curfew served other purposes than the prevention of lawlessness and crime. It was a general signal that the day's work was done.

Stow tells us that the apprentices of Cheapside held that the clerk was usually late with his ringing, so they set up a rhyme against him—

Clarke of the Bow bell with the yellow lockes,  
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knocks.

(Continued on next page.)

## BOW BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The clerk entered into the spirit of the thing and replied with another couplet—

Children of Cheape hold you all still,  
For you shall have the Bow bell rung at your will.

The steeple was finished in 1512 and afterwards the open arches or 'bows' which supported the central lantern were added. They were built of stone brought from Caen in Normandy and delivered at the customs quay at a cost of 4s. 8d. the ton.

From this feature the church is said to have derived its name, but, if so, it must have been reproduced from the old steeple, for the church was called 'Our Lady of the Arches' at least as early as the fourteenth century, and probably much earlier.

William Copland, a tailor and king's merchant, who was churchwarden in 1515, gave the great bell, making the fifth in the ring, and provided that it should be used as the curfew. It was first rung as a knell at his funeral.

Bow tenor became so well known as a curfew bell that the tenor bells in many of the large provincial towns, which were also rung for curfew, were often called 'bow-bells.'

At the time of Edward VI. Bow Church possessed 'fyfve greate belles and two Sanctus bells.'

These were added to from time to time until in the seventeenth century there were twelve in the steeple, of which ten were in a ringing peal and two the sanctus bells or their successors.

In the great fire of 1666 the church, steeple and bells were destroyed. The new building was begun in 1671 and finished in 1680. The church cost £8,071 18s. 1d., and the steeple £7,388 8s. 7½d., the total being greater than that of any other of the city churches.

Wren designed the tower for a heavy ring of twelve, and 'on the seventh of September, 1677, John Hodson, Citizen and Carpenter of London, and Christopher Hodson, of the Parish of St. Mary Cray in the County of Kent, Bellfounder,' had orders to make and cast eight bells.

The new bells were about the same weights as the present back eight, 'and,' said John Strype, 'surely for the number and melody of the bells Bow since the Fire surpassed former times.' The tenor, however, either got broken or was not considered good enough for the others, so in 1738 it was recast by Richard Phelps, assisted by Thomas Lester. The new bell, her founders' masterpiece, the famous old tenor of Bow, weighed 53½ cwt.

In 1758 the parish, being of the opinion that they had one of the best bells in existence, and that the others were not nearly so good, determined to have them recast and two trebles added to make a ring of ten. This was done by Lester and Pack, and the new bells were rung for the first time on King George's birthday, June 4th, 1762. Towards the cost Samuel Blackwell gave fifty pounds. He was Member of Parliament for Cirencester, a member of the Society of College Youths, and a great patron of ringing.

The two trebles to make a ring of twelve were added by Mears and Stainbank in 1881, and in 1933 the bells were restored and rehung by Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, when eight of them were recast, including the tenor, Phelps' masterpiece, an exceedingly fine example of eighteenth-century bell founding. Unfortunately, when it was examined at Croydon it was found to be cracked in the crown.

## PEALS OF DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the proposer of the 'Doubles' motion at Canterbury in 1937, perhaps you will allow me to reply to your article on 'The Present Illogical Position' in 'The Ringing World' of December 29th.

I agree that the present position is illogical, but submit that it is far less so than it was before the 1937 Council meeting. And, although many of the basic principles of change ringing are logical, are not many of the details of it quite illogical? A few examples will show my meaning. Duffield is the even-bell counterpart of Stedman on odd numbers, but it is never practised. Few 'Major' ringers confine themselves to two methods, but how often are Triples methods, other than Grandsire and Stedman, rung? Yet there are several other excellent Triples methods—one of them proved too difficult for some well-known ringers in a peal attempt at Ealing some years ago. You have yourself often drawn attention to the quite illogical preference of ringers for Surprise Major and Royal methods, although there are many plain methods which are equal or superior. Again, while 5,040 changes is the obvious and logical length for a peal of Triples, is there any logic in the custom which allows compositions up to 40 changes less to be called peals if they are rung on more than seven bells?

An art which has grown and is growing haphazardly, as ours, is bound to have details which are illogical. The alternative would be for a dictator to define exactly what is or is not allowed—and omnipotence does not mean omniscience—and not to allow departures therefrom. But I am sure, Mr. Editor, that you would be the last person to wish for this check to the growth of the Exercise.

If, sir, I had added to the motion agreed in 1937 a clause stating that the definition must never in the future be altered, and if the Council had agreed such a clause (which, of course, it would not have done), then your article might have some justification. But the 1937 definition was to replace an older definition which experience had proved to be too narrow. Twelve-scores and spliced 120's had been accepted by the Council in its annual peals analysis for several years, and they had stood the test of actual practice and of opposition by the diaphanous. The Council took the only sensible course when it amended its definition to bring it into line with present-day practice and with its own actions in the analysis reports and in its publications. As Mr. P. J. Johnson remarked at the time, 'The Council must be consistent in its inconsistency.' It should be noted that the definition did not say that the twelve-scores known as Morris' and Pitman's were true, or that all other twelve-scores were not true and would never be allowed.

The definition certainly seems to have given satisfaction to the Exercise generally. It had been preceded by ten years of argument (over Doubles and the similar case of Minor), and your article is the first public criticism of it I have seen since. In spite of very able, if misguided, opposition in the Council meeting, the two-thirds majority obtained was larger than any majority on similar questions in the preceding years.

Mr. Wood pointed out at the meeting that it would allow a peal of Doubles without a single 120 in it. And why not? It had already been done on handbells, and, judging by the number of attempts for it, it was one of the hardest peals I've taken part in. The opponents of the definition were afraid, as you are still afraid, that people would ring peals which were travesties of peals—as long as each change appears 42 times in a recognised method. You say that now 'there is no logical argument against any form of composition, good or bad.' But there is no need for logical argument. The good taste of the Exercise has always been sufficient to ensure that bad compositions will not be rung. And if that were not sufficient safeguard, the Council has the opportunity each year of refusing to include any peal in the Peals Analysis. And if it considers a composition which has been rung is suitable, it can, and does, approve the Analysis report in spite of the fact that the composition may not conform to the existing definition.

If, sir, through the power of the Press (rather limited in so conservative a body as the Exercise), you are able to make compositions such as the touches of Stedman you print popular with the Exercise, the Council would no doubt in due time amend its definition to include them. Some of them may prove excellent, but they must first of all be tested by practical experience.

To deal with the farthest point to which your logic has led you. If you are able to ring or to persuade others to ring sufficient peals of Grandsire or Stedman Doubles with only two singles in each and made up otherwise entirely of plain courses, to prove that the Exercise really wants such travesties, and if the Council, year by year, allowed such peals to remain in the Peals Analysis, then I would vote for an amendment of the definition to include them. To do otherwise would only be to turn a blind eye on them and make the Council look ridiculous. But I know, and you know in spite of logic, that this will never happen.

One more point. The Council at Canterbury did not decide the 'future of a peal of Doubles.' It faced the facts as they then existed and it laid down a guide for the future. It could not do less than the former and it could do no more than the latter. If experience proves that the guide needs amending, then that will no doubt be done, but the practical proof must come first.

WILFRED G. WILSON.

**WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING OF PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Portsmouth Cathedral on Saturday week, when members were present from various towers despite the intense cold and other adversities. Ringing took place during the afternoon and was followed by the Guild service in the Cathedral, conducted by the Rev. A. Van der Byl, of St. Mary's.

The tea and business meeting were held in the Y.M.C.A. Institute, presided over by the Rev. A. Van der Byl, supported by the district chairman (Mr. W. Linter) and the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers), who was also acting as the district secretary pro tem. Apologies for absence were received from the Provost (the Very Rev. B. N. Porter Goff), Canon H. C. Robins (St. Mary's) and the Rev. J. Rutherford and Mr. G. Williams (Master), due to indisposition.

The annual report of the district, which was presented by Mr. F. W. Rogers and adopted, first referred with regret to the enforced resignation of the district secretary, Mr. A. T. Greenwood. His removal from the district, on account of Admiralty duties, at the end of the year was a severe loss. During the eight years that he was secretary he rendered yeoman service to the district, and it was due to him that the district was in such a sound condition.

The affairs of the district had been kept in a steady condition despite the difficulties encountered during the early days of the war. Depletion of bands through the transfer of men to H.M. Forces, the exigencies of work, and the restraint placed on towers by local authorities presented a temporary setback, but, thanks to the co-operation of neighbouring towers and the raising of the ban on ringing by the Home Office, a partial, if not complete, return to normal activities was looked forward to. The district should be most grateful to Mr. W. Linter and his mid-week band for arranging combined practices during those early days and so keeping things going in the best possible way. As regards Portsmouth, they were indebted to the Cathedral authorities, who most generously placed their bells at members' disposal and offered facilities for practices, and to Canon Robins, of St. Mary's, who was always willing to allow the use of the tower and encourage them in their work. Meetings had been well attended and some useful practice obtained in a variety of methods. In addition to the annual meeting at Portsea, meetings were held at Curdridge and Buriton. Owing to war conditions it was not convenient to visit Alverstoke in October, but through the kindness of Canon Robins it was possible to hold the meeting at St. Mary's.

**DROP IN SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

There was a slight decrease in the number of subscriptions received during the past year. This must not be taken as meaning a drop in membership, but rather lack in forwarding contributions. It was hoped that those who were privileged to stay in their respective towers and carry on the good work would not lack in their support of the Guild either practically or financially. Members both honorary and ringing were thanked for their support during the past year and a hope expressed for their continued interest.

The balance sheet was read and adopted. After all expenses had been met there remained a balance in hand of £13 18s. 1d., and £5 14s. was remitted to the treasurer of the Guild. The following officers were elected for 1940: Chairman, Mr. W. Linter; hon. secretary, Mr. F. W. Burnett; hon. auditor, Mr. T. R. Taylor; representatives on Central Committee, Messrs. F. S. Bayley and W. Linter.

The Rev. A. Van der Byl was elected as an honorary member. He said how much he valued this and hoped that at the next annual meeting he might be in a position to be transferred to the list of ringing members.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on January 18th, 1941.

On the question of the subscriptions of members serving in H.M. Forces, it was proposed by the general secretary, seconded by Mr. F. W. Burnett, that 'A proposition be placed before the annual general meeting of the Guild that subscriptions of members serving in H.M. Forces be remitted until such time as they return to civilian life.'

Thanking Mr. W. Linter for his successful efforts in arranging mid-week practices for those members who cannot get to meetings on Saturdays, it was unanimously agreed that the expenses incurred in arranging these practices should in future be a charge on district funds.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. A. T. Greenwood for his past and valued services to the district as hon. secretary, and Mr. F. W. Rogers was also thanked for carrying out the duties of district secretary during the interim.

Before the close of the meeting votes of thanks were accorded the Provost for the use of the Cathedral bells, and to the Rev. A. Van der Byl for conducting the service and presiding at the meeting. Further ringing took place in the evening in all methods up to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major.

**BRADFELD, NORTHANTS.**—On Sunday, January 21st, a quarter-peal of Doubles for evensong, being 360 April Day, 420 Grandsire and 480 Plain Bob: Cecil White 1, George Care 2, Cyril Barrick 3, Ronald Noo 4, Leslie Battison 5. Conducted by Philip Jones. First quarter-peal by all, whose ages are: Treble, 13; second 12; third, 14; fourth, 14, tenor, 15.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Wokingham on January 20th, when ringing took place on the bells of both All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches.

Service was held at St. Paul's Church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. P. J. H. Scott), the preacher being the Rev. A. P. Carr, Vicar of St. Sebastian's Church, Wokingham, whose address was based on the text, 'Do all to the glory of God' (I. Cor. x. 31). The collection for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 14s. 7d.

Tea, in St. Paul's Room, followed, and the Chairman expressed thanks to those at St. Paul's who had arranged the tea.—The Rev. P. J. H. Scott, replying, said he was always glad to welcome the ringers to the church and the town. He prayed that the days of peace would soon return.

Canon G. F. Coleridge (Master of the Guild and chairman of the branch) presided at the meeting, supported by the Rev. P. J. H. Scott, Messrs. R. T. Hibbert (secretary of the Guild) and Mr. W. J. Paice (hon. secretary and treasurer). War conditions and severe weather made the attendance smaller than usual.

Mr. Paice thanked the Rectors of All Saints' and St. Paul's for their kindness to the ringers, also the Rev. A. P. Carr for his sermon. He had, in spite of illness, kept the appointment, but to their regret, was not able to stay to the tea and meeting.

Mr. F. A. Burgess was thanked for his services at the organ.

The balance sheet for 1939 showed a credit of £6 5s. 9d., only 15s. less than for the previous year. Receipts were £23 0s. 8d. (exclusive of the balance from 1938) and expenditure £23 15s. 8d.

The collection amounted to 14s. 7d., compared with £1 11s. last year. The Branch Restoration Fund now stood at £15 16s.

The balance sheet was passed with applause.

The hon. secretary, in his report, referred to the curtailed programme of 1939, due to the outbreak of the war. However, good work had been done, and ringing, especially on Sundays, had been maintained. The membership was now 26 honorary and 156 ringing members, a total of 182.—The report was adopted.

Canon G. F. Coleridge was unanimously re-elected chairman of the branch, and, in expressing thanks, said that if he came down the tower steps on Saturday he could not manage to be in the pulpit on Sunday. He had been in the Guild since 1881. The hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. J. Paice, was unanimously re-elected. There was no change in the Branch Committee, which consists of the foremen of the towers, while the branch representatives to the Guild Committee were Messrs. F. Dentry, J. Moth, J. Rance and Castle.

The Secretary said the combined practices had been very well attended. It was decided that the February meeting be held at Binfield and the March meeting at St. Paul's, Wokingham.

The Secretary further stated that at the Guild meeting he had the honour to propose, in the name of their branch, his resolution that old members of the Guild be exempt from paying subscriptions and retain their membership. This was carried at the Guild meeting (applause).

Mr. R. T. Hibbert expressed great satisfaction that this had been done. Continuing, he stressed the vital importance of Sunday ringing to call people to worship, adding 'That is what we are here for, and that is what the bells are for' (applause).

The Secretary mentioned that nine members of the branch were serving in H.M. Forces, and said he would be glad to be supplied with the names of others.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

The annual meeting of Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 13th, when 22 members were present from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Kirkburton, Pontefract, Sandal, Wath, Wentworth and the local company. The bells were made good use of from 2.30 until 5 p.m., when tea was served in the Rectory Rooms.

The business meeting followed, the Rector (Canon W. E. Wilkinson) presiding, supported by the vice-president (Mr. W. Moxon).

The balance sheet was presented and showed, after an expensive year, a small increase in the funds.

Mr. E. Brookes, of Hoylandswaine, was elected president of the society, and the secretary and treasurer were re-elected.

Mr. J. T. White (Felkirk) and Mr. C. Robinson (Cawthorne) were appointed as auditors.

The number of members on the society's books being sufficient to have two representatives on the Central Council, it was decided to elect the extra representative, in addition to filling the vacancy caused by the death of the late president of the society, Mr. C. D. Potter.

The treasurer and secretary were elected as representatives.

After the usual vote of thanks, the ringers adjourned to the Royal Hotel for handbell ringing and a social evening, in the course of which the society's jug was brought into action through the kind hospitality of Mr. H. Potter, son of the late president. The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, February 10th.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Ringers' service 4.15, followed by tea, kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, in the Church Hall. A good muster is expected. Subscriptions are now due, except from members serving with H.M. Forces.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, February 3rd. Church of St. Leonard (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) available 2.30 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. and later in the evening. It is also hoped to arrange ringing at St. Paul's, Hounslow, and at St. Mary's, Norwood Green, if numbers warrant this. Tea, followed by annual business meeting at the Westbrook Memorial Club, at 5 p.m., 1s. each. It is hoped that members and friends will make a special effort to attend in good numbers, and make the meeting a success.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Telephone, Perivale 5320.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Broomfield on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., Arbour Lodge, 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. (Please note change of address.)

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Apsley on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Business: Committee, and arrangements for 1940. Usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Pinchbeck on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, to-morrow, February 3rd. Ringing from 3 p.m. till black-out time, followed by business meeting.—J. G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bedford District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Bromham on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. All very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Childwall on February 3rd. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Woodford on Saturday, February 3rd. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WITHINGTON, NEAR HEREFORD.**—The restored ring of six will be re-dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford at the 11 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 4th. The two trebles recast and the peal re-hung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. It is hoped to have some more ringing after meeting. To ensure tea, a postcard by Tuesday, February 6th, please. All ringers are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting Feb. 10th. Ringing: St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 2.45 to 4.15; St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Perdy's Restaurant, Essex Street, Strand, followed here by business meeting 6 p.m. Names for tea to me, please, by February 7th.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.20.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at North Crawley (6 bells) on Saturday, February 10th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting and tea at 5 p.m.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A practice will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 10th, at 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—Preliminary Notice. A meeting will be held at Southill or Northill on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Watch for next week's advertisement.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

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**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The general committee are meeting at St. Albans on Saturday, February 10th, when the bells of St. Peter's (10) will be open from 2.45 p.m. and after tea if required. The usual practice at the Cathedral (12) will be held at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome at both towers. St. Peter's bells are also available for practice on Mondays.—H. Frost, Dis. Sec.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 until 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, February 7th. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea by kind invitation of the president of the Guild (the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird). Business meeting to follow. All are welcome, but those who intend to be present for tea must notify before February 7th.—B. Saunders, 18, New Road, Ridgwood, Uckfield, Sussex.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Make own arrangements for tea.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at Duffield on Saturday, February 10th. For tea please notify Mr. Fred Stone, Derby Road, Duffield, not later than Thursday, February 8th. Remember, no card, no tea. Tower blackened. All welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Thomas' on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Bells available after meeting.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 13th.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Names for tea, please, to Mr. F. C. Farnsworth, 16, King's Road, Faversham, not later than Tuesday, February 13th. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—Will members please note that, with the approval of the general secretary, it has been decided to renew activities in the spring, if circumstances then permit.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

#### BIRTH.

**BAGWORTH.**—On January 15th, at 44, Cliveden Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, to Elsie Mary, wife of Norman S. Bagworth, a son, Alan.

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**BURNHAM.**—On Jan. 28th, for Confirmation service by the Bishop of Buckingham, a quarter-peal of Minor (720 Spliced Oxford and Kent, 360 St. Clement's and 180 Plain Bob): C. A. Burgess 1, P. A. Blamey 2, J. D. Taylor 3, G. W. Limmer 4, B. O'Neill 5, J. E. Taylor 6.

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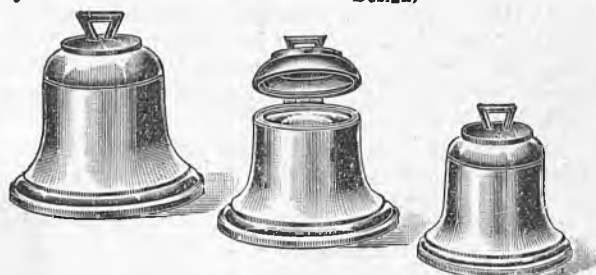
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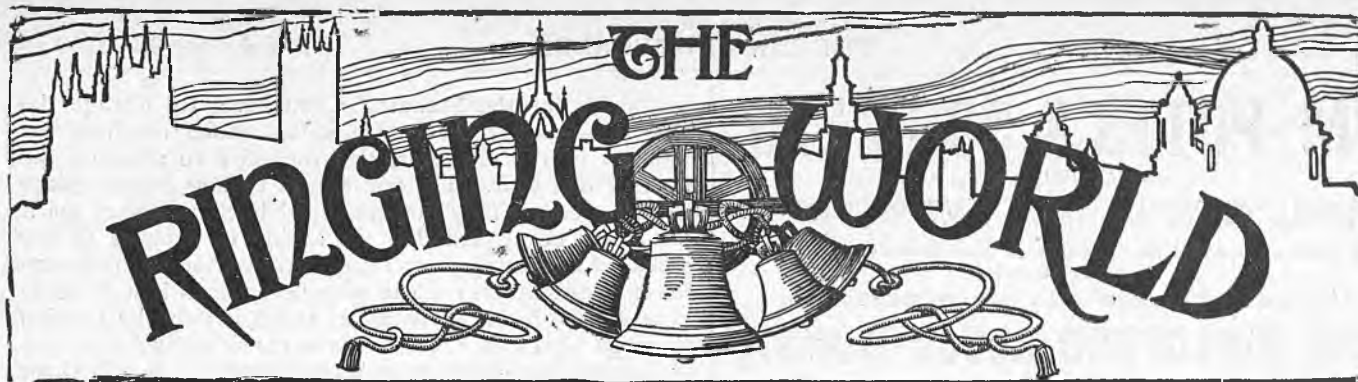


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## WILL THE COUNCIL MEET THIS YEAR?

A question which will have soon to be settled is whether the Central Council is to meet this year. It is not a matter that ought to be airily dismissed, either one way or the other; the Standing Committee should give it careful consideration, for on both sides there are arguments which ought not to be ignored. As far as is possible, the aim should be to carry on the activities of ringing with as little interference as possible, and the drawing together of representatives of the associations and guilds from all over the country, as happens when the Council meets, is in itself a valuable means of keeping the Exercise welded into an organised unit. It is not always the work that the Council does on the one day in the year that is its chief value. The personal touch which is effected by the meetings gives the Exercise a life and co-ordination of outlook that cannot otherwise exist, and it may well be argued that in these times of stress it is all the more important to maintain this spirit of mutual helpfulness.

On the other hand, one cannot shut one's eyes to the present circumstances. The prospects of making a successful meeting must be duly weighed, and it is not uninteresting to recall what was done in the last war. In 1915, the first Whitsun after the war began, the meeting fell to be held in London, and it took place with an attendance of 72 members out of a total of 116, compared with an attendance of 61 out of 109 at Winchester in the previous year. At the London meeting, Plymouth was chosen for 1916, but the meetings in that and the following year were abandoned. In 1918, when it was again the turn of London, the Council renewed its gatherings, and there were 63 out of 114 members present—as many as went to Gloucester in the following year, and three more than went to Northampton in 1920. This in itself may, of course, be little guide to what might happen at Cardiff in 1940. Like Plymouth, Cardiff is only on the 'fringe' of possible centres for meetings, and this fact might conceivably militate against a satisfactory attendance. More important factors, however, are the time and expense involved to individuals, as well as the cost to affiliated associations. In face of the demands upon the time and energies of many of the members, it is safe to say that the number who would be able to travel to the far west would be considerably limited, yet numbers should not be the sole consideration. A small meeting need not necessarily be unproductive.

There are three courses from which to choose. One is to go ahead and hold the meeting at Cardiff as planned;

(Continued on page 62.)

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another is for the Standing Committee to change the venue to some other centre within easier reach of the majority of the members, and the third to abandon the meeting this year. The question of finding another place for the meeting may not commend itself to some, for it can easily be argued that the saving of expense to one group of associations or representatives adds to the expense of the others; it can only be justified if it is likely to produce a better attendance, and it is only the London meetings that can claim to have consistently higher attendances than other areas in the country. But in these days London has always to be considered a risky place. Another point not to be lost sight of is the uncertainty of how the war may develop between now and Whitsun. However carefully planned, the meeting might, by force of events, have to be abandoned at the last minute, and the question consequently arises whether it is worth while going on with the arrangements. The issue is one for the Standing Committee to settle, and it should be settled only after serious consideration, but it is time that a decision should be taken.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. .... Treble	DAVID VINCENT ... .. 5
STEPHEN LL. PARRY ... .. 2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... .. 6
DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. 3	IVAN KAY ... .. 7
ALAN J. BROWN ... .. 4	HAROLD HAMER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by IVAN KAY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Annie Brown, of Bowdon, Cheshire, sister of the fourth ringer. Mr. Harold Hamer has now rung each bell in the tower to a peal.

CHORLEY, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 8088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

HARRY HARDACRE ... .. Treble	CYRIL CROSTHWAITE ... .. 5
FRED RIGBY ... .. 2	FRANCES MCCARTHY ... .. 6
JOHN JACKSON ... .. 3	LAWRENCE WALMSLEY ... .. 7
E. ROGER MARTIN ... .. 4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... .. Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.  
The peal was arranged as a welcome to the new Rector, the Rev. Father Cartmell, M.A., O.S.B., who, after the ringing, entertained the band to light refreshment.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness—Mrs. Jennings.

LONDON.—At Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day after morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 49 minutes: H. R. Newton 1, C. H. Horton 2, W. H. Pasmore 3, F. Shorter 4, S. E. Andrews 5, R. F. Deal 6, H. Langdon (conductor) 7, A. B. Peck 8.



# DAGENHAM, ESSEX. THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 3, 1940, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with 10 callings.

J. A. BULLOCK ... .. 1-2 | J. BULLOCK ... .. 3-4  
T. H. BULLOCK ... .. 5-6

Conducted by J. A. BULLOCK.

Umpire—T. L. Sparrow.

First peal as conductor and first attempt.

## DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

### BRANCH MEETING AT TORQUAY.

The annual meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild of Ringers was held at St. Mary Magdalene, Upton, Torquay, on Saturday, January 27th, and was moderately attended, ringers being present from Kenn, Dawlish, Buckfastleigh, Newton Abbot, Torquay, Paignton and Collaton.

The back six bells were raised in peal after three o'clock, and some good touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Minor were rung. A short service was held in church, conducted by the Rector of Upton (the Rev. G. E. Arrowsmith), and this was followed by tea in the Gloria Cafe, Castle Circus.

The Rev. W. R. D. Mills presided at the business meeting. The secretary's report for 1939 showed that two very successful meetings had been held at Totnes and Dartmouth. One peal of Bob Major had been rung in the District by the Clerical Guild of Change Ringers, and some of the members took part in a ringing week-end in North Devon last Easter, organised by Mr. E. J. Taylor. A number of practices had also been held at Paignton.

The treasurer's report for 1939 showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £1 12s. and finished with a balance in hand of £2 3s. 9d. Apologies for absence were received from the president and general secretary of the Guild.

It was resolved to continue the branch, and all the officers were re-elected en bloc, namely: Chairman, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills; secretary, treasurer and Ringing Master, Mr. A. L. Bennett; auditor, Mr. C. R. Walker; and three members to serve on the General Committee, Messrs. C. R. Walker, H. C. Collyer and R. Whiting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. James', West Teignmouth, on Saturday, June 8th, subject to the necessary permission being obtained. Messrs. W. C. Wakley, of Paignton, and A. Newman, of Torquay, were elected members of the branch, and Mr. E. J. Taylor, who was formerly a member of the branch, was transferred to the list of non-resident life members.

## RINGERS AS CHOIRMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in Mr. George Edwards' letter in 'The Ringing World' of January 26th. I should like to point out to him that there are more choirmen ringers than perhaps he thinks.

Messrs. A. J. Bull and J. Martin were at one time tenor and baritone at Horley Church as well as ringers. The late Mr. Baker sang in St. John's Church, Redhill, as well as rang; Mr. David Wright's renowned bass voice was heard in St. Peter's, Croydon, as well as in that belfry; before his removal from Croydon, Mr. Wallis used to sing tenor in Buckland Church as well as ring; Mr. John Coe in Reigate Church; the Master of the Surrey Association used at one time to sing in Mersham Church choir, as did the writer when he lived there.

All these are instances within my own personal ken, and doubtless there are many others. I now have the pleasure of singing alto in the Parish Church of Crawley. As a choirman of 24 years' experience (on and off), I must own, however, that generally there is not too friendly a feeling existing between ringers and singers. For some reason I have never discovered most singers consider themselves a 'cut' above the ringers and often do not deign to speak to them, and perhaps this is the reason why Mr. Edwards cannot persuade one to join the other.

I have had the same experience. Here in Crawley the position seems to be reversed. In the past ten months which I have resided here I have noticed that when any of the ringers have occasion to pass the choirmen, they do so with their nose stuck up in the air.

This unfriendly action is not helping to replenish our already decimated towers. I know one perfectly good ringer who has been so sickened and disgusted by this unfriendly ill-will that has been shown to him that he has quit the Exercise altogether.

BERNARD H. WELLS.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.—At the Parish Church on Sunday, December 31st, for matins, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 46 minutes: E. J. Ayliffe 1, B. D. Elliott 2, A. Brown 3, J. P. McDermott, R.N. 4, H. Smithers 5, D. R. Hayes 6, F. Bowden (conductor) 7, J. H. B. Hesse 8. First quarter-peal of Bob Major by the ringing of the third.

## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

### GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT NOT YET 'SUNK.'

An excellent number of ringers from as far afield as Lincoln attended the annual meeting of the Gainsborough District at Gainsborough on Saturday week. The very great difficulties of travelling made it seem almost impossible that any but those within the immediate vicinity would be present. Such, however, is the enthusiasm of ringers that even the combined efforts of Hitler and Mother Nature cannot damp it.

The bells were rung during the afternoon and evening, but the afternoon's ringing proved rather disappointing, due, perhaps, to lack of practice lately. The arrival of more talent after tea remedied this, some excellent touches being rung and good work done among the beginners.

Service, conducted by the curate (the Rev. Lake) owing to the indisposition of the Vicar, was appreciated and enjoyed. No tea was officially arranged, but members had their appetites satisfied at the Tudor Cafe.

The business meeting was held in the belfry under the chairmanship of Mr. Robinson (warden and hon. member), and no time was wasted. Referring to a remark in the minutes of the last annual meeting—that the district was a sinking ship—the secretary said that he was pleased to see that the ship had not yet sunk, although at times it had been in very great danger.

The officers were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. C. H. Baker as assistant secretary, the secretary stating that his work prevented him in certain months from carrying out his duties.

Mrs. E. Batters was elected an honorary member. The places and dates of the meetings for the year were left to the secretary and his assistant to arrange as circumstances permitted.

'Should the Guild carry on during the present state of war' was discussed in all its aspects. The meeting was asked to bear in mind the greater difficulties of the Lincoln and Grimsby Districts, whose members are widely separated. It was also explained that a probable big increase in the price of paper might mean that the report for next year would not be published and similarly the free tea at the annual meeting of the Northern Branch would not be possible. If this were so, seeing that these items formed the main expenditure, it might be desirable to reduce the subscription.

It was obvious, however, that the members were very definitely in favour of carrying on, several speakers replying most emphatically.

It was proposed and seconded that the names of members serving in H.M. Forces be retained in the books for 'the duration' without subscriptions being necessary, as a mark of appreciation for all that they are doing. This will be subject to the approval of the whole Guild.

A report of the Belfry Repair Fund was given and a collection taken, the sum of 10s. being realised. It was decided, as at Upton in November, to devote it to the Red Cross Fund, but this time to earmark it for the Finnish branch.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens, sexton and all concerned in the arrangements concluded a most enjoyable meeting.

## CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### NEW CHAIRMAN WELCOMES CREWE BRANCH.

The annual meeting of Crewe Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, January 20th. In spite of the dreadful weather conditions there was a good attendance, 36 members being present from the following towers: Acton, Nantwich, Westaston, Wrenbury, Marbury, Lawton, Wrexham, Northwich and Crewe.

Ringing on the ten bells commenced about 3 o'clock, and later a service was held in Christ Church, conducted by the new Vicar, the Rev. H. P. Young, who preached a most inspiring sermon.

Tea, in the Parish Hall, was kindly given by the Church Council. At the business meeting the following officers were elected for 1940: Chairman, the Rev. H. P. Young (Vicar, Christ Church); vice-chairmen, the honorary members: hon. secretary, Mr. Richard D. Langford; hon. treasurer, Mr. William T. Holding; Hon. Ringing Master, Mr. J. Brough (Nantwich); representative on Guild Committee, Mr. G. H. Crawley.

The accounts were adopted, and the new chairman welcomed the ringers. He said it was the first occasion on which he had had the pleasure of speaking to a gathering of ringers, as he had only just returned to this country after 20 years of missionary work abroad. He looked forward to associating himself with them, and hoped to attend some of the meetings during the year.

A provisional list of meetings was arranged for 1940, and it was left to the secretary to make the necessary arrangements as circumstances permitted.

Much interest was taken by the older ringers in a letter which the secretary had received from Mr. W. Evetts, hon. secretary of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He sent all good wishes for the Crewe Branch annual meeting and said it was 49 years ago since he commenced to ring in the Crewe tower. He intended, if it was at all possible, to attend the Crewe annual meeting in January, 1941, to commemorate his jubilee.

After the meeting ringing took place up to 9 p.m. and consisted of touches of Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters, Stedman and Double Norwich.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. False Compositions.

The following are extracts from the report of the committee of the Yorkshire Association presented to the members at the annual meeting:—

Forty-four new ringing members and one honorary member have been elected during the year, 36 members have lapsed, and 11 have passed away, leaving the present membership of the association, including out-county members, at 1,285, compared with 1,287 of the previous year. Once more your committee asks for the help of all our members in keeping them informed with regard to those who live outside the county, as it is obviously very difficult to know whether we have the right addresses, or even whether such members are still living. They would also urge upon all the desirability of increasing the number of our honorary members, who now may become life members on payment of 10s. 6d.

Among those who have passed away, we would especially mention the loss which we have sustained through the death of Mr. C. D. Potter, of Barnsley, in his 80th year. He was a most enthusiastic ringer, and was largely responsible for the founding of the Barnsley and District Association, and was its president up to the time of his death. At the same time, he was a most loyal supporter of the County Association and a very regular attendee at its meetings.

Among out-county members, the name of Arthur Knights, of Chesterfield, must stand out prominently. He was a great composer, and composed peals in nearly all the known methods of his day, and had rung 318 peals for the association, 111 of which he conducted. More than 400 of his compositions have been rung under the auspices of the association.

The reports from the districts show that the work of the association is being successfully carried on throughout its large area, and we again wish to express our very grateful thanks to the district secretaries and committees for all that they are doing. There is one point which your committee wishes especially to bring to the careful notice of members, namely, the need for the early payment of subscriptions. A great deal of unnecessary work, in addition to the expense of postage, is placed upon the officers of the association by the failure to do this, and members are asked to lighten these labours by attending to this request. Your committee also urges that, as far as possible, every effort be made to hold the district meetings during the war period, as the value of such meetings in keeping alive the interest in change ringing cannot be over-estimated.

### THE PEALS.

In appending the peal secretary's report, the committee would once more thank Mr. Barton most sincerely for all the exacting work entailed in compiling this. There are few people qualified for such work, and the debt of the association remains very great to those who can and will do it. The total number of peals was 97, rung at 52 churches and two handbell centres, and 13 members have rung their first peal. Bramham and Grinton appear in the peal list for the first time, in both cases the peal rung being the first on the bells. Four towers return to the list after long periods of absence, as follows: Whitby, after 29 years; Addingham and Snaith, after 27 years; and Hunslet, after 17 years; the peal at Addingham was the first after the rebanding of the bells. Bolsterstone, which has been at the head of the annual peal list for the past nine years, has drawn a blank for the first time since 1917-18 and so gives way to Eckington; this is the first time in the history of the association that an out-county tower has occupied that exalted position. The peals which we have to record, 97 in number, represent a short year's work of eleven months, the outbreak of war putting a sudden stop to our peal ringing activities. Had we been able to carry on in a normal way there is no doubt that we should have passed the century, and quite possibly have had a record year. A general survey of the peal list shows that Kent Treble Bob Major has been, as usual, the favourite method on tower bells, although Bob Major claims most on tower and hand collectively. We have no peal of Surprise Royal, but 15 Surprise Major peals have been rung in six different methods; four peals of Spliced Treble Bob Minor are recorded, ranging from 14 to 25 methods. For the first time since 1915-16 there is no peal of Stedman Triples in our annual report. We are pleased to record in this report the first peal of Airedale Surprise Major ever rung, also the first peal of Painswick Surprise by the association. A record length of Superlative for the association was rung at Batley on January 7th; this, a 6,144 containing the 30 course-ends, is the first peal of Surprise Major by the association containing more than 6,000 changes. The peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Pontefract is worthy of mention, as it is the first in the method on ten bells by all the band. The handbell section is rather brighter than last year, and although all the peals have been rung in the same method, it is pleasing to see the increase in numbers. Now that tower-bell ringing will necessarily be restricted on account of the war, we look forward not only to an increase in the number of handbell peals, but also to a variation in the methods that are rung.

It is with regret that we have to report that certain of our peal compositions which have hitherto been considered true have recently been found to be false. In order to minimise the danger of these compositions being used again we have decided to give a tabulated list of them, together with all other known false compositions which

(Continued in next column.)

## THE LATE MR. CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

### A CHERISHED RECORD.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the very interesting account of the ringing career of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney in your issue of January 26th, no mention is made of the fact that among his many other accomplishments he had called both Holt's Original and Thurstans' One-Part from each pair of handbells and from every bell in the tower, as well as having taken part in each of these compositions under silent and non-conducted conditions, both on handbells and tower bells.

No other person has called Holt's Original or Thurstans' One-Part from all positions, to say nothing of having rung them four times non-conducted.

I draw attention to this, as I know it was a much cherished record of his, and many ringers that I have spoken to since his death were quite unaware of the fact. He used to say also that he had rung Holt's Original from each pair of handbells with another person calling.

G. N. PRICE.

## WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ALTON.

The seventh annual meeting of the Alton and Petersfield District was held at Alton on Saturday, January 27th, and, in spite of few travelling facilities and the black-out, 22 ringers enjoyed a most successful gathering.

Those present included the Rev. E. C. A. Kent, L.Th., Vicar and Rural Dean of Petersfield (district chairman), the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin (district auditor), Mr. F. W. Rogers (general secretary), and ringing members from Alton, Alresford, Blackmoor, Bramshott, Petersfield, Privett and Portsea.

The bells were rung in the afternoon to the standard methods and several beginners made good use of the opportunity.

The Guild's service was held at 4 o'clock, at which the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin (Vicar of Alton) officiated. Tea was served in the Vicarage Room, followed by the business meeting, which was presided over by the district chairman.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. H. Newnham and Mr. A. Hardiman. The hon. secretary presented his report for 1939, which showed a satisfactory year of progress and a total membership of 90. The accounts showed a balance in hand of £13 3s. 11d. The report and balance sheet were adopted. Miss P. Smee, Miss B. Newman, Miss D. Wright, Miss M. Oner (Petersfield) and Messrs. T. Tumber, R. Lacey, P. Lacey and L. Rattenbury (Blackmoor) were elected ringing members, and Mr. C. S. West, of Midhurst, was transferred from ringing to compounding membership.

The district officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: District chairman, the Rev. E. A. Berrisford; district vice-chairman, the Rev. F. J. Best; hon. secretary, Mr. C. E. Bassett; hon. auditor, the Rev. T. N. R. Griffin; representatives on Central Committee, Mr. W. Read and Mr. A. Hardiman.

Thanks were accorded to the Rev. E. C. A. Kent, the retiring chairman, for his term of office, and regrets expressed that he could not continue owing to pressure of other work.

The next annual meeting was fixed for January 25th, 1941. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for April 27th, 1940, and to be held at Liss. Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar of Alton, the organist and caterers.

### DEATH OF A LICHFIELD RINGER.

We regret to record the death of James Henry Gallimore, of Lichfield, who was for many years attached to the Cathedral band and was also a member of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

The funeral took place at Lichfield on January 13th, the service, which was choral, being held at St. Mary's Church, conducted by the Rev. H. Cresswell, Vicar, and the remains laid to rest in St. Michael's Churchyard. A touch of Grandire Triples was rung half-muffled on the bells of St. Mary's by his old comrades during the interment.

The deceased had been in failing health for several years, which necessitated his giving up ringing as well as following his employment, that of a blacksmith. He had rung about 24 peals.

### A BIG TASK.

(Continued from previous column.)

have appeared in past reports. This list it is intended to publish in all future reports.

We wish to stress the point that it does not necessarily follow that any composition not on this list must be true. The proving of all our peals is rather a big job, and will not be completed for some time yet; there may, unfortunately, be additions to this list, but in the meantime, if any of our conductors are in doubt about a composition which they wish to use, we advise them to communicate with the peal secretary.

The committee are recommending to the annual general meeting that the names of members serving with His Majesty's Forces should be retained on the books without payment of subscriptions, but that in such cases a charge of 1s. should be made for copies of the annual report if they are required.

With reference to the balance sheet, it is satisfactory to report that there has been a gain on the year's working of £11 15s. 6d., and that the total worth of the association now stands at £336 14s. 9d. Our grateful thanks are due to the honorary treasurer for all the care and labour which he so willingly expends upon this work.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.****WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH FUNDS FOR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.**

The annual meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irthlingborough. Despite the weather and black-out conditions, ringers were present from Wellingborough, Finedon, Irchester, Wollaston, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Ecton, Mears Ashby, Stanwick, Earls Barton, Raunds, Burton Latimer, Barton Seagrave, Geddington and Harrold, together with the local men. The Rector was unable to be present owing to illness.

The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, of Finedon, who also gave the address. The organist was Mr. E. J. Holloway (Wollaston). Other clergy present were the Rev. L. Crowther Green (Irchester) and the Rev. J. H. Marlow (Bozeat).

An excellent tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall by the Co-operative Society, and 45 were present.

The business proceedings commenced with a reference to the death of Mr. F. Jones, late of Earls Barton, and a moment was spent in silence.

The chair was occupied by the branch president, the Rev. J. H. Marlow, who was supported by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, Mr. R. G. Black, general secretary (Geddington) and Mr. A. Bigley, branch secretary.

The annual report and balance sheet were presented by the branch secretary, who was thanked for what was considered a very satisfactory account of the year's work. Despite extra expenses, a credit balance of 18s. 2d. was shown. All the officers were re-elected, and the auditor, Mr. E. W. Johnson (Earls Barton), was thanked for his many years' voluntary work.

It was decided, as far as possible, to hold quarterly meetings as follows: Ecton (April), Easton Maudit (July) and Stanwick (October). New ringers elected were the Rev. E. G. Elcock, Messrs. R. Horn and G. Liddington, all of Finedon, and Mr. F. Edwards, Earls Barton. Mr. E. J. Holloway was elected to the office of branch organist with great satisfaction to the members.

Mr. H. Chambers proposed that some of the branch funds should be transferred to Savings Certificates, and after discussion it was decided to invest £30 in that way.

Mr. J. R. Main (Branch Ringing Master) proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had assisted. Permission had been obtained to ring until 7.30, and much use was therefore made of the fine peal of eight bells. The social side of the meeting was also enjoyed by a good company, for, by the kindness of Mr. Beeby, a private room and a set of ten handbells provided a musical evening.

**THE BELLS OF ERDINGTON ABBEY.****AND A PEAL THAT WAS LOST.**

The Abbey Church, Erdington, was the venue of eight members of the St. Martin's Guild on Saturday week to attempt a peal of Grand-sire Triples. The Abbey is the abode of a Community of Redemptorist Fathers and is situated in several acres of beautiful grounds a short distance from Erdington 'village' (a populous Birmingham suburb). The church, built in 1850, is of red sandstone in the Decorated style and is a most beautiful piece of architecture, the interior being enriched with mural paintings, stained glass, etc.

The bells, a musical little peal, tenor 14 cwt., were cast in 1877 by William Blews, of Birmingham, and are the oldest and only surviving peal of eight cast at this foundry. They hang in a two-tiered oak frame in the north-west tower, whose slender spire is a local landmark, and although somewhat 'odd struck,' go very well. At one time this tower had a good band of ringers and was connected with such Birmingham stalwarts as Bernard Witchell, George Swann, the Stringer family, etc.; but now the glory seems to have departed and the bells have only been rung up once or twice in the last ten years, being chimed for Sunday service with Ellacombe's apparatus. They are inscribed with the Eight Beatitudes, together with invocations of various saints.

The bells seemed to know the Grandsire method well and the peal went merrily for about 1½ hours when a change course put a summary end to all hopes of success. However, this disappointment was soon got over and the bells were set going again, this time to Bob Major, a good touch being rung before lowering them in peal. The band, at the kind invitation of the Fr. Rector, then adjourned to the Abbey, where an excellent tea had been provided by the Brethren of the Community, to whom the band would like to express their very grateful thanks.

It is hoped that not many weeks will pass before the Fr. Rector's kind invitation to 'come again any time' is accepted. The last peal at the Abbey was rung on May 11th, 1929, and the band intend to get a peal there as soon as 'the Fates allow.'

**AN INVITATION TO ALDERSHOT TOWER.**

Any ringer joining the Army and being posted in or near Aldershot will be welcomed at the Parish Church tower, where ringing takes place on Sundays from 9.30 to 10 a.m., 11 to 11.15 a.m. and 5.50 to 6.30 p.m.; practices on Fridays 7.40 to 9 p.m. Details of the best way to get to the church will be sent on application (accompanied by stamped addressed envelope) to Mr. Will H. Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

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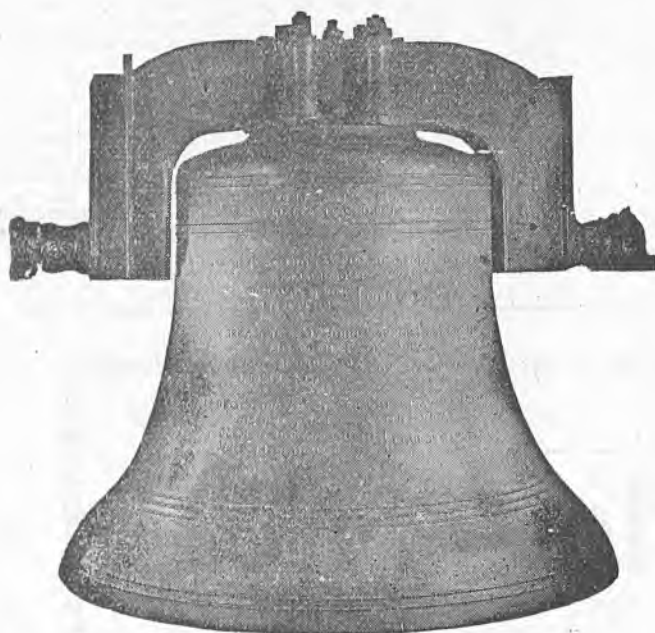
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

On February 6th, 1835, the Norwich Scholars rang 5,376 changes of Superlative Surprise Major at St. Giles' in that city. The bobs were called by Samuel Thurston and the peal was claimed as the first ever achieved in the method, but 13 years earlier the Huddersfield band had rung 5,152 changes in a performance which also included 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Triples.

On the same date in 1904 the brothers Pye with Mr. William Keeble rang the first peal of London Surprise 'in hand.'

The bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were opened on February 7th, 1783, when three separate peals were rung, the first by the Society of College Youths, the second by the Society of Cumberland Youths, and the third by the ancient Society of College Youths. The first and last were Oxford Treble Bob Major, the other was Grandsire Triples.

The names of the founders cast on the bells are Patrick and Osborn. Robert Patrick was a cheesemonger, of Whitechapel, who married Thomas Lester's granddaughter and secured the orders for casting several rings of bells, but it is probable that the actual work was done by other men. Hackney bells bear his name, but most likely they were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry.

The College Youths rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Paul's on February 7th, 1925, Mr. A. W. Peck ringing the tenor.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques 'in hand' was rung on February 10th, 1854, by a band made up from the leading men of the two Metropolitan societies. H. W. Haley conducted from 1-2 and the band included John Cox, Matthew Wood and William Cooter.

Squire Proctor's village band at Benington rang the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on February 11th, 1873. It was the full extent of Middleton's composition, but was advertised as an original composition by T. Miller.

On February 12th, 1821, the Oldham men rang 14,016 Kent Treble Bob Major, at the time the longest length composed or rung in the method.

Capt. J. H. Freeborn's many friends will learn with regret that he has just suffered a serious misfortune, his house, The Dell, at Little Chalfont, Amersham, having been destroyed by fire. The loss, fortunately, is covered by insurance, and no one was hurt, but all his ringing books and records are lost. For a time Capt. Freeborn will be moving about, but letters addressed to The Dell will be forwarded to him.

We are informed by Mr. F. Kendall, the secretary of the local band at Bacup, that a meeting of the Rossendale Branch of the Lancashire Association, which had been arranged for to-morrow, February 10th, has been postponed until February 24th.

## RINGS OF FIVE IN MINOR SCALE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The reason why there are many rings of five tuned to the minor scale is that the musical effect is so very fine. When Mr. Amos talks about there being 'no finishing note,' he shows that his ear is musically defective. On higher numbers the minor scale is not so good for bells, probably because the ascending and descending minor scales are not the same, but the minor Stafford eight at Exeter, and the similar octaves at York, Norwich and elsewhere, are exceedingly effective, especially when rung half-muffled, as was pointed out recently by a correspondent in your columns.

Although sufficient definite evidence is lacking, I am of the opinion that when rings of five were first put in parish churches in the fifteenth century they were usually tuned to the minor scale, which, I believe, was the scale in which many of the early folk melodies were composed.

Norwich has two rings of five, which are practically pre-Reformation, although in each case one bell was recast in the seventeenth century. Both these rings are minor. The first five at St. Michael's, Cheshire, were evidently a minor ring, for a tenor was afterwards added, and much the same sort of thing happened at St. Mary-le-Bow. On the other hand, the mediæval ring at St. Lawrence's, Ipswich, are, if I remember aright, a major ring. I do not recollect how that at St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, is tuned. Rings of three in the minor scale were also common.

If anyone doubts the musical quality of a minor ring of five, let him go and listen to the clock chimes at Norwich Cathedral. They are as follows, the notes being C sharp, E, A, G sharp and F sharp: First quarter, 12345; half-hour, 54123, 25345; three-quarters, 54315, 31243, 54235; hour, 14325, 43241, 51234, 23451, 5.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

## THE DEDICATION OF WITHINGTON BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We should like to apologise to any ringers who may have been put to any inconvenience or who travelled to Withington last Sunday in consequence of the notice inserted by us in 'The Ringing World.' Arrangements had been made as published, but, owing to illness, the Bishop of Hereford had to cancel his visit and the ceremony was accordingly postponed. Unfortunately we did not hear of this until your last week's issue had already been printed.

A further notice will appear as soon as the fresh arrangements for the dedication are completed. GILLETT AND JOHNSTON, LTD.  
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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### PEALS AT ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The first peal in Bow steeple was one of Bob Triples, rung by the College Youths on January 12th, 1731. Eleven men were needed, three to the tenor and two to the seventh. A month earlier the same society, and largely the same band, had rung what was thought to be the first peal in the method on the heavy old octave at St. Saviour's, Southwark. Annable called that, and John Cundell rang the seventh. There was a good deal of rivalry between these two. Cundell probably thought himself as good a man as the other, and did not see why he should not have his share of the calling, but Annable thought differently, and so, when the attempt was arranged at Bow with Cundell as conductor, he stood out of the band.

Actually, these two were not the first peals rung of Bob Triples, for the Norwich Scholars, as far back as May, 1715, had rung Garthon's peal of Grandsire Bob Triples. The figures of that peal are lost, but we can, I think, make a pretty accurate guess as to what they were like and be reasonably sure that the composition was true.

The peal at Bow was on Hodson's original octave, and so was the next peal, one of Bob Major in 1734, also by the College Youths. It was the heaviest peal of Major that had been rung, and indeed it has never been beaten, but eleven men were required—three to the tenor and two to the seventh. Annable called from the sixth, Laughton rang the third, Cundell rang the seventh with help, and John Trenell was one of the tenor men.

It was not until nearly thirty years later, in 1761, after the tenor had been recast, that the next peal was scored in the steeple. This also was by the College Youths, the method was Oxford Treble Bob Major, and both the seventh and tenor were rung double-handed. A little over three years later the same society and very much the same band rang the first peal on the ten. The method was Grandsire Caters, William Underwood conducted, and three men were needed at the tenor and two at the ninth.

The Cumberlands rang their first peal in the tower on February 21st, 1775. It was 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters, and they claimed it as 'the greatest performance ever done on those bells.' Again three men were required for the tenor, but Charles Purser rang the ninth by himself. Besides Purser, the band contained John Povey and the younger Samuel Muggeridge. All three, in a year or two's time, had gone over to the College Youths and made it possible for that society to compete with the others in long-length and heavy-bell feats. George Gross called the bobs, and the elder Samuel Muggeridge was in the band.

The next peal, also Grandsire Caters, was by the London Youths in 1777. It was conducted by Christopher Wells, and the ringers included John Reeves, William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis,' and George Scarsbrook, who, by copying an old Oxford manuscript, helped to preserve some particulars of the early history of the College Youths. The College Youths rang the first peal of Royal in 1782. John Povey conducted, Samuel Muggeridge and William Lyford rang the tenor, and the band was made up of the very skilful ringers that the society then possessed.

The first man to ring the tenor single-handed to a peal was Philip Pilgrim, who, on February 19th, 1787, covered 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 52 minutes. Pilgrim was beginning to take Muggeridge's place as the College Youths' leading tenor man. He had a good band in front of him, including Winstanley Richardson, Joseph Holdsworth, George Scarsbrook, James Worster, and John Lyford, with John Povey as the conductor. Samuel Muggeridge did not ring.

To ring Bow tenor single-handed to a peal seems to have been the ambition of the greatest of the heavy bell men, but few were able to do it. The second man was James Marlton. 'On January 2nd, 1794, the Society of Junior Cumberlands rang a complete peal consisting of 5,432 changes of Grandsire Caters, being the greatest number of changes ever rung on those heavy bells and the noblest performance ever achieved at that place by 10 men only.'

Nine peals were rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century, one of Triples, two of Major, five of Caters and one of Royal. James Marlton was the first man to turn the tenor in to a peal. On January 3rd, 1803, he rang it to John Reeves' nine-course peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, which contains 5,200 changes. A year earlier, on March 22nd, 1802, he had rung Southwark tenor to the same composition on twelve bells, which runs to 7,104 changes, and a year later he repeated the performance at Christ Church, Spitalfields.

These peals were rung by the Cumberlands, and so was the first peal of Stedman Caters at Bow, which they accomplished on March 8th, 1808. Philip Pilgrim rang the tenor, the younger George Gross conducted, and Shipway was in the band.

Nearly thirty years passed by before the next five-thousand on Bow bells. A man named Augustus George Frost had appeared among the Cumberlands, and claimed to be the leading tenor man of his generation. He repeated Marlton's feat, and after the peal of Treble Bob was finished the band rang a course of Stedman Caters without setting the bells.

Frost afterwards went over to the College Youths, and, while he was with them, Samuel Gordier, a Yorkshire man, issued a challenge to anyone to ring a tenor for a stake of anything from £10 to £25. Frost accepted the challenge, offering to ring at St. Saviour's, or, if that did not suit, at some other place, suggesting Norwich. Before the match could be arranged, the College Youths advertised that, owing to the severe illness of their celebrated tenor ringer, the challenge must be suspended.

In 1853 Matthew Wood rang the tenor single-handed to Stedman Caters.

The first peal on the twelve was 5,004 Stedman Cinques by the College Youths on April 7th, 1890, and the first peal of Maximus was by the same society on January 19th, 1907. W. T. Cockerill rang the tenor, and afterwards he rang it single-handed to a 6,048. William Pye rang it to 7,392 Cambridge Maximus in 1925.

This was an outstanding heavy-bell feat, and so was Mr. H. R. Newton's performance when, in 1911, he rang the bell to a peal of London Surprise Major. Mr. Charles Kippin also turned the tenor in to a peal of Major, but afterwards found the composition was false. This ranks as one of the outstanding peal-ringing disappointments of all time.

## BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.

### A LAW OF METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

In the keenly contested and long drawn out controversy of thirty or forty years ago over the rules and standards which should be applied to a 'legitimate' method, two points especially were hotly debated. One was the necessity for symmetry which we referred to in these notes in our issue of December 8th. The other was the necessity for having what are called Bob Major Lead Ends.

The Exercise has settled both questions by bringing all the arguments which were then advanced to the test of experience, and though dozens of new methods were being practised up to the outbreak of war, no one to-day thinks of ringing any which have not Bob Major Lead Ends.

The hand and back rows at the lead ends of the plain course of every eight bell method are the same as the hand and back rows of the lead ends of the plain course of Bob Major, though they need not necessarily come in the same order. In a similar way the lead ends of the plain course of every six bell method are the same as the lead ends of the plain course of Bob Minor; the lead ends of every seven bell method are the same as those of Grandsire Triples; and of every nine bell method the same as those of Grandsire Caters.

This rule was strongly opposed by several men whose abilities and knowledge justly entitled them to be considered as authorities. The most prominent of them were Sir Arthur Heywood and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies.

As we have mentioned, Heywood had carefully studied method construction and did not form his opinions lightly; but what seems to have mainly influenced him in this matter was his method Duffield, which he hoped and expected would have taken the same place in even bell ringing as Stedman held in odd bell ringing. And Duffield has not got Bob Major Lead Ends.

Davies' opinions on ringing matters were formed chiefly by his investigations into the composition of Grandsire Triples and kindred methods. He had very little experience of even bell methods either as a composer or as a practical ringer. To him Union Triples was a more valuable method than London Surprise, which 'in the matter of structure is hopeless'; and when he was told that Union was not a method at all, but only Grandsire with quite unnecessary sixth-place bobs stuck into it, all his cherished opinions were outraged, and he threw himself into the fray, determined that the new and pernicious doctrines should not corrupt the Exercise if he could help it.

We have travelled a long way since those days, and it is perhaps a little difficult for us to do justice to the opinions of these men and the many others who thought as they did, and to the grounds on which they formed them. They were genuinely convinced that if the rules enforcing symmetry and Bob Major Lead Ends were adopted, the Exercise would be deprived of a great many methods of value, and for no reason except the gratification of the fancies of one or two faddists. 'Ordinary persons, like myself,' wrote Heywood, 'who venture to hold the view that the prime object of change-ringing, to which everything must defer, is to produce the best possible music, are patiently amused at these earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionable axiomatic rules.'

In his opinion the Bob Major Lead Ends were only one set among many. They might be the proper set for methods like Double Norwich or Superlative, but that did not prove that every good method must have them. Duffield was a case in point. 'Of course there are scores of lead-ends that will produce a major septic cycle,' and he failed to see why they should be barred from use.

Davies fought the matter out in the Central Council, where he made on the subject what is, and probably will remain, the record speech. It lasted nearly an hour and three quarters. He also used his pen, and went to the trouble and expense of publishing a pamphlet of twenty-four closely printed pages.

The arguments used on the other side were not very convincing. The one which perhaps was the most effective was that Bob Major Lead Ends are necessary for the production of good music, but that really is not a sound argument. It is probably true that, on the whole, methods with Bob Major Lead Ends are far more musical than those with other lead ends. Nevertheless, there are methods with irregular lead ends which will produce better music than the great majority of those with regular lead ends; and there are methods with regular lead ends which musically are quite hopeless.

The argument from music proves no more than that the Bob Major Lead Ends are probably the best set of lead ends. It does not prove that they are the only ones which may be used. Heywood was quite correct on this point.

Law James' argument was that Bob Major Lead Ends are the lead ends of 'plain' leads, but that the others are the lead ends of 'bobbed' or 'singled' lead ends. He called this argument a statement of fact; but that did not really carry the matter very far, since he never explained why we should consider the Bob Major Lead Ends to be 'plain' more than any others.

To-day these controversies have died down and the clever young man of the present generation who may happen to come across some of the letters and articles in the pages of 'The Bell News' probably wonders what all the bother was about. He accepts the Bob Major Lead End rule and the Symmetry rule as a matter of course, and is mildly surprised that they should ever have been questioned.

Nevertheless, these controversies did a lot of good and helped in a large degree the development of our art. The men who took a part in them, though they differed so very much, and though they were so often wrong, were honestly trying to find out the truth; and so long as that spirit remains in the Exercise we need not fear that change ringing will decay.

To-day we can look at the matter with a wider vision, and though it is just as difficult as it ever was to see why the Bob Major Lead Ends should be the only ones which are allowed, we can understand what they really are and what service they perform.

The Bob Major Lead End rule was not, as so many people imagined, a new invention by the Methods Committee. It has been recognised in the Exercise implicitly, if not explicitly, from the very beginning. Henry Hubbard, in the earlier editions of his *Campanalogia*, compared Imperial the Third Major with Cambridge Surprise Major, and pointed out that the latter was the

(Continued on next page.)

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### A SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING.

Notwithstanding the severest snowstorm Leicestershire had experienced within living memory, and the consequent difficulty in travelling, a most successful meeting was held at Earl Shilton on Saturday, January 27th. The fine ring of eight of the Parish Church was kept going during the afternoon and evening to various methods to suit all comers.

The committee met in the Schools at 3.30 p.m. and carried out routine matters, including the acceptance of estimate for printing 1939 annual report.

Mr. H. O. Over voiced the opinion of members in suggesting that the Editor of 'The Ringing World' be congratulated on the way he has carried on during the difficult weeks following the outbreak of war, and stressed the point that every possible means should be made to assist him in the circulation of this—the only ringing journal.

Tea was served at 4.30 and a company of 40 members and friends sat down. Among towers represented were Barwell, Burbage, Croft, Derby, Hinckley, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kirkby Mallory, Leicester (St. Margaret's and St. John's), Loughborough, Peckleton, Thurlaston and the local company.

Before the business began, the Vicar (the Rev. E. Pillifant) gave everyone a hearty welcome and congratulated those who had come long distances in such inclement weather. It spoke well for their enthusiasm and was a great inspiration. The bells brought cheer and comfort in these days of tribulation, and especially in the black-out when all seemed dead and dreary. The bells were not dead, but active and alive through the efforts of the ringers. They gave the message to all within their sound, that the church and its services were still carrying on. Hitlerism had done many things, but, thank God, it had not stopped our church bells, and he, personally, was proud of his local ringers for nobly doing their duty so regularly and well.

In the unavoidable absence of the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert), the vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) conducted the business meeting. He first read the president's apology and message of goodwill, and also one from the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. B. White), who was very ill and not able to travel. Mr. Harrison said he could add but little to the words of the Vicar, except to say how agreeably surprised he was to see such a good number present, especially under such terrible weather conditions and difficult transport. He paid tribute to Mr. George Newton and the local company, not forgetting the ladies, for so splendidly entertaining them, no easy matter under the present rationing scheme.—Mr. Newton suitably replied.

Mr. George S. Morris and Mr. W. White (Barwell) were chosen as auditors of the accounts.

The secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) reported that the new members proposed since that meeting, viz., 9 ringing, 1 rejoin, 2 honorary, were duly elected.

The secretary explained that the annual report would be printed and circulated as soon as the accounts were audited. It was pointed out that a list of members serving in H.M. Forces was being made, and to ensure this being as complete as possible, everyone knowing of such members was asked to advise the general hon. secretary at once.

Members were also asked to purchase their M.C.A. badge (silver 3s., bronze 1s. 6d.) as soon as possible, and so reduce the stock and help to clear the large initial cost.

This concluded the business, after which the company were entertained to some excellent handbell selections by the Earl Shilton Quartette, who have broadcast on the wireless several times. Courses of Stedman Triples and Caters and Grandsire Caters were also rung in hand, and further ringing on the tower bells enjoyed. A room was placed at the ringers' disposal at the Roe Buck Inn, and a pleasant convivial time was spent by those who were able to stay late.

**STOKE-ON-TRENT.**—At St. Peter's Church on Sunday, January 14th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): R. Pounds 1, A. Forster 2, Mrs. V. B. Miles 3, W. Perkins 4, E. Steele 5, N. R. Holland 6, A. D. Steel (conductor) 7, F. Ackerly 8. Longest touch for tenor and treble ringers. Rung as a farewell compliment to the treble-man upon being called to the forces.

### BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.

(Continued from previous page.)

superior, because it has the correct lead ends which the other has not.

We may take it as generally true that anything in the nature of a rule which is really vital to change ringing has always existed, even though it has not always been fully recognised. In these things what is true is not new; and what is new is not true.

We must next see what Bob Major Lead Ends really are, but that we must leave till later.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at Heston on February 3rd and was attended by about 35 members. The bells were rung to a variety of methods from about 2.30 until 4.50.

After an excellent tea at the Westbrook Memorial Club, the business meeting was held. Apologies for absence were received from the president (the Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane) and the hon. secretary, who was ill with bronchial 'flu.

The secretary's report was read by the assistant secretary. In this it was stated that the past year started well and gave promise of an improvement over 1938 until the war came and brought ringing to a complete stop for a time.

Five meetings had been held, since the last annual meeting, at Feltham, Sunbury, Acton, Staines and Kingston, the last two being joint meetings with neighbouring associations.

Three members were lost by death during 1939, these being W. F. Ellingham, of Heston, C. A. Nicholls, of St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, and Mrs. W. E. Taylor, of Maidenhead.

Eleven peals were rung in the district during 1939 and included the first peal ever rung of Double Coslany Court Major at Twickenham. Other peals were rung at St. Mary's, Staines (two); St. Andrew's, Hillingdon; Bedford; Isleworth; Acton; St. Mary's, Ealing, and St. Stephen's Ealing. Two peals were rung on handbells at Kensington.

The accounts, which were adopted, showed subscriptions from members £7 17s. 6d. and an amount of £6 0s. 4d. transferred to the Central Fund.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Secretary, J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, W. G. Wilson; Master, G. M. Kilby; Deputy Master, F. G. Baldwin; auditors, E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Tulwell; committee, C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler and T. Collins. Three new members were elected, T. D. Collins, of Hounslow, Miss I. Hastie, of St. Mary's, Ealing, and G. Bunce, of Ruislip.

It was recommended by the secretary in his report that bi-monthly meetings be held in the future. It was thought that other meetings might be arranged in the summer months when more towers would be available, and the suggestion of a Bank Holiday meeting was supported by many members. It was decided to hold the next annual district meeting at Acton. The next district meeting would probably be at Brentford on March 9th with the possibility of Christ Church, Ealing, bells being available in the evening.

Most of the questionnaires sent to tower secretaries shortly after the outbreak of war had been returned and revealed that Sunday service ringing has been resumed in all towers from which replies have been received. Seven members have joined His Majesty's Forces.

It was decided to support the recommendation to the annual general meeting that members serving in His Majesty's Forces be not asked to pay their subscriptions. A suggestion that other members adopt those serving and pay their subscriptions was supported by several present.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Heston (the Rev. G. Craggs) for the use of the bells, to Mr. C. Bird and the ladies who provided the tea.

Further ringing took place after the meeting at Heston and Hounslow.

## THE LATE MR. HARRY BARTON.

### AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with regret the passing of Mr. Harry Barton in last week's 'Ringing World,' and the details of his ringing career were all too brief for one who for so many years did much for ringing.

Strangely enough, I never met him until 1931, but from a boy, for some reason or other, I was always interested in his doings. I am writing entirely from memory, but I am positive that he was one of a band to ring Holt's Original non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road, before he left London.

Removing to East Kent, he did much, in conjunction with Canon Helmore, for about 10 years in the Canterbury district. One peal in particular which he conducted at Quex Park in 1906 stands out in my memory. It was a short course peal of Stedman Caters by Henry Johnson. They had forgotten to light the candles, and it was found that the daylight was beating them, so the tenor-man set his bell and lit them while the rest carried on, the tenor coming in again when he had finished. There was some comment in the 'Bell News' at the time, and the Editor remarked, 'We ourselves have been placed in a similar position.'

About 1912 he went to Southwold for a year or so. I do not remember much about him while he was there, but when at Beccles some six years ago I noticed records of peals which he rang and conducted while resident in that district.

After he went to Ventnor he was still on the active list, but I have also noticed that since the death of his wife, while on a voyage to Australia for her health, he did little peal ringing.

He took part in the first Masonic peal of Treble Bob Maximus at Shoreditch in 1931, and the first Masonic peal of Bob Major at Crayford in 1936. This was also a Cumberland peal and, I imagine, his last. There is no doubt about it, Harry Barton was a gentleman.

E. BARNETT.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.****SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ALLESLEY.**

In spite of the intensely cold weather on Saturday, January 20th, about 20 members attended the quarterly meeting at Allesley; Bilton, Birmingham Cathedral, Castle Bromwich, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Stoke, Rugby and Wolvey being represented, together with the local band. Good use was made of the bells, which were available during the afternoon and evening. A splendid tea was provided at The Rainbow Inn and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. F. W. Perrens was voted to the chair in the unavoidable absence of the Master. Apologies were received from the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White), Mr. T. W. Chapman and Mr. A. H. Beamish.

Although it was decided at the previous meeting not to hold any monthly meetings during the winter months, this resolution was rescinded and meeting places arranged for the next two months. Kenilworth was decided upon for February and Stoke for March, both places having 'blackened out' ringing chambers.

It was announced that the annual meeting is due to be held at Nuneaton in April.

Two new members were admitted, viz., Alan Carter and Peter Burks, of Stoke.

Mr. J. Beale, of Wolvey, brought to the notice of the meeting the case of an old Wolvey ringer who had been a regular attendant in the belfry for 45 years, but who had been recently stricken with blindness.—The members were unanimous in expressing their desire to admit Mr. W. Thorpe to life membership of the Guild, and the hon. secretary was asked to write a letter of condolence.

The question of members of the Forces being relieved of payment of their subscriptions was brought up by Mr. W. C. Rhodes, of Castle Bromwich.—It was decided to leave the matter for the annual meeting to decide.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector for the use of the bells, to Mrs. Tatlow for arranging the tea, and to Mr. J. Taylor for making the necessary arrangements enabling the meeting to be held.

A few stalwarts afterwards returned to the belfry for further ringing, whilst others remained in the tea room for change ringing and tune ringing on handbells. The party broke up about 9 o'clock, the meeting having been a great success. D. E. B.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT WORDSLEY.**

The quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Wordsley on Saturday, January 20th, and the bells of Holy Trinity Church were rung during the afternoon prior to the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. H. Fowler.

Welcoming the members to Wordsley, the Rector touched upon the difficulties under which ringing had to be carried on at present and expressed his appreciation of what he knew had been done and was being done in the Northern District. He had no doubt similar efforts were being made all over the country, and hoped it would be possible for sufficient learners to come along and fill the gaps which must inevitably occur as the older ringers joined the Forces or were moved away from their districts by reason of their work and other causes.

Tea was provided in the Church Hall followed by the business meeting, 34 members being present.

The chair was taken by the Branch Master, Mr. John Lloyd, supported by Mr. John Bass, Central Committee representative.

The secretary, Mr. B. C. Ashford, announced an apology from Mr. William Short, who had not properly recovered from a cold and regretted his inability to be present.

The question of bi-quarterly meetings for practice was discussed and it was decided to hold the first of these at Halesowen on the kind invitation of Messrs. J. H. Cox and T. Greenhall, the date to be announced later.

It was decided to hold the June quarterly meeting at Hagley, an invitation from the Hagley band through Mr. John Walton being unanimously accepted, and, in thanking him, the secretary reminded the members of the Saturday afternoon practices at Clent on the first and third Saturdays, and at Belbroughton on the second and fourth Saturdays in each month.

Thanks to the Rector for the service, the local captain, Mr. Herbert Quarry, and his co-warden for the tea, and the ladies who had done so much to make everything a success, brought the meeting to a close, after which some of the members returned to the tower, where the methods rung varied from Grandsire to Cambridge, and Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Others remained in the Church Hall and spent a pleasant hour with the handbells.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Hall 5 p.m. It is hoped to have some more ringing after meeting. All ringers are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. John's Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, February 10th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting and tea at 5 p.m.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division. — A practice will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 10th, at 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — The general committee are meeting at St. Albans on Saturday, February 10th, when the bells of St. Peter's (10) will be open from 2.45 p.m. and after tea if required. The usual practice at the Cathedral (12) will be held at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome at both towers. St. Peter's bells are also available for practice on Mondays.—H. Frost, Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Thomas' on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Bells available after meeting.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Tea, in St. Barnabas' Hall, by kind invitation of the president of the Guild (the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird). Business meeting to follow. A coach will be available (free) to take ringers to and from the tea room. Tea cannot be arranged near church owing to requisitioning of nearby hall.—B. Saunders, Hon. Sec., 18, New Road, Ridgwood, Uckfield, Sussex.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Northill on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Please come and have a good time. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

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**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 13th.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Names for tea, please, to Mr. F. C. Farnsworth, 16, King's Road, Faversham, not later than Tuesday, February 13th. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday afternoon, February 17th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the belfry at 5 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Burton Latimer (8 bells) on Saturday, February 17th. Usual arrangements. Everyone requiring tea is asked to notify me by February 13th. Ringing after meeting.—H. Baxter, Branch Sec., 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—North Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wroxham on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. till black-out. Meeting in belfry. Make own arrangements for tea. Bus leaves Norwich bus station at 2.15 p.m., returns from Wroxham at 5.52 and 7.27.—Henry Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Backwell, on Saturday, February 17th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk.—Percy G. Yeo, Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ludlow on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (8, recently overhauled) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Royal Oak Cafe 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Will those attending please advise me by Wednesday, February 14th?—W. J. Benjams, Hon. Dis. Sec., Ben-All, Henley Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden Parish Church on Saturday, February 17th. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been provisionally fixed for Saturday, February 17th, at Kenilworth. Further details will be announced next week.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Barwell on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing until 7.30 p.m. No tea but let Mr. C. R. Belton, Westgates, Hinckley Road, Barwell know how many want a 'hot' supper at the Queen's Head after ringing. A very short meeting after supper.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Owing to the present catering difficulties, will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as early as possible in the week?—A. H. Smith.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided in Welfare Hall at 4.30 for those who notify me by Thursday, February 22nd. Special invitation to Derby District members.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on February 24th. Names for tea by previous Monday to Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough, Leics.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6/6 each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 28th inst. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

#### DEATH.

**FREEMAN.**—On Sunday, January 28th, William Freeman passed away suddenly, aged 74, at 35, Warwick Terrace, Olney, Bucks. R.I.P.

#### SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

##### MEETING AT WASHINGTON.

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Washington on Saturday, January 27th, when 23 members attended from Arundel, Heene, Lymminster, Lower Beeding, Storrington, Wisborough Green, West Grinstead and the local band.

At the business meeting which followed the tea six new members were elected, Miss P. Streeter, Miss R. Chessman and Messrs. W. Edwards, J. Gumbrell and L. Cooper, of Wisborough Green, and A. Blackman, of Arundel. A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Washington was passed, the members wishing him a speedy return to better health.

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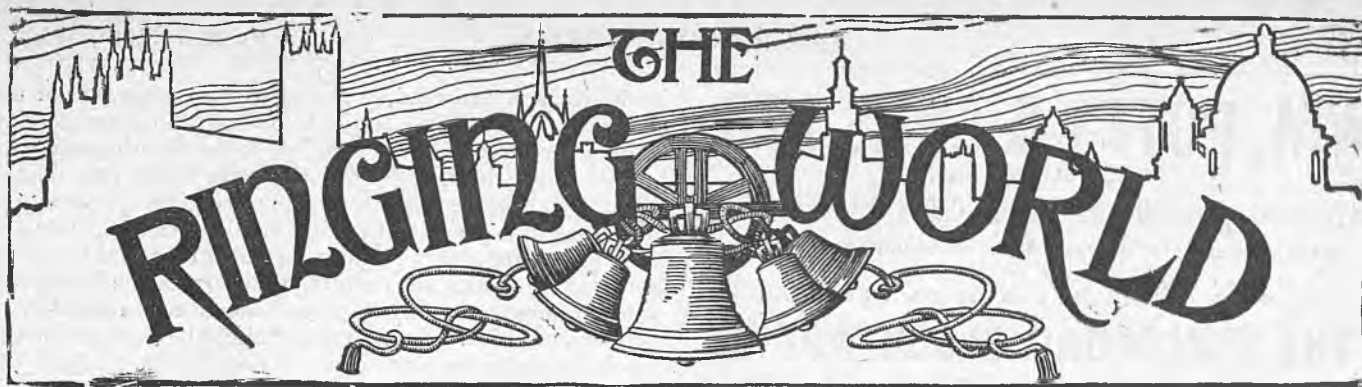
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### **RINGING AFFAIRS IN LONDON.**

The handling of the affairs of the London County Association has frequently given rise to criticism, and the annual meeting last Saturday provided another occasion for disagreement on a question of policy. This time, however, the grievance was not created outside the association, as it was, for instance, last year, but arose internally between the principal officers. What, briefly, had happened was that the Master, disagreeing with a proposal to include a certain tower in the ringing arrangements for the day, took it upon himself to cancel that part of the proceedings, after the secretary, acting on the wishes of the members, had sought and obtained permission to use the bells in question. It was rather an unedifying dispute, but there was sufficient feeling in it to result in the secretary, despite pressure, declining to continue in office. Indeed, it had gone even deeper than this, for it was revealed that the Master had himself previously informed the secretary that, if the arrangement to ring at this tower was persisted in, he should himself resign before the day of the meeting, rather than be responsible for the ringing there.

Apart from individual expressions of opinion, the meeting took no decision on the dispute, but there was a general, and not unnatural, view that personal feelings should not be allowed to stand in the way of the activities of the association. That is an important principle in the management of all societies, and, unless it is observed, success cannot be assured. Nothing is more likely to lead to the disintegration of any organisation than disagreement between the officials, whose first duty should be loyalty to the members. This latest trouble in the association is the echo of some rather distant dispute, and one can well understand the desire of some of the younger members that the hatchet should be buried. Those who know the history of the London County Association know how often personal feeling between individuals has led to friction in relations with other organisations which cover London and the area on the fringe of it, and there are still those among the older ringers who regret the change of its status from the days when it was the St. James' Society. But be that as it may, it is too late to go back; what should be the aim of this and the other ringing organisations is a spirit of greater co-operation. The first step towards that must be the sinking of old quarrels and the avoidance of new ones.

There is, as has been so often pointed out, great scope for the greater development of ringing in the vast area of London, where so many rings of bells hang neglected

(Continued on page 74.)

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in the towers. Instead, it seems to have been one of the objects of some ringers to get a foothold in towers already manned by others. That may be easier than opening up towers which, in a ringing sense, have fallen into decay, but it does not necessarily advance ringing. It may, in fact, have the opposite effect by creating friction. Greater London has too many ringing organisations and too little co-operation among the ringers, but there can be little hope of any improvement while petty jealousies are allowed to hamper activities. A great deal might be done if all the remaining hatchets were interred deep in the ground. It might be the first step towards that better understanding which is so necessary to the success of ringing in the Metropolis. If there is to be unity of purpose there are still barriers that need breaking down and jealousies that should be forgotten. Mutual helpfulness between such towers as possess bands should be fostered to a greater extent than it is, and the gradual 'rescue' of neglected bells should be made a matter of combined effort. There is a long, long furrow to plough before that stage is reached, which a recent correspondent seems to fear, when so many peals of bells in inner London will be ringing together to such an extent that all the caretakers living in the top storeys of London's business houses will find life intolerable. We need not worry over that contingency; what is more likely is that, unless in the future the societies who profess to cover the London area determine to work with a greater unity, ringing in London may fall away rather than progress.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM HENLEY ... .. Treble	*JAMES D. TAYLOR ... .. 5
*RONALD C. FOWLER ... .. 2	†WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM ... .. 6
PETER A. BLAMEY ... .. 3	CYRIL A. BURGESS ... .. 7
GEORGE H. LIMMER ... .. 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... .. Tenor

Composed by FRED DENCH.

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

\* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal in the Oxford Variation.  
Arranged for Messrs. Fowler (Marlow) and Birmingham, of Slough.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

REGINALD C. THRIFT ... Treble	LESLIE J. CLARK ... .. 5
GEORGE GREEN ... .. 2	PERCY GREEN ... .. 6
GEORGE M. RASBROOK ... 3	DAVID ELLIOTT ... .. 7
ERNEST J. RUNTER ... .. 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by PERCY GREEN.

Rung with bells half-muffled in memory of the late Charles H.  
Howard, some time Master of the Essex Association.

## SIX BELL PEAL.

BRAMLEY, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

JAMES R. MACKMAN ... Treble	ALFRED H. POLLING ... .. 4
JOHN HYDE ... .. 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. 5
PETER DAVY ... .. 3	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by W. J. ROBINSON.



**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****BADGE FOR THE PRESIDENT.****Belfry Repair Fund Established.**

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Hunslet, Leeds, on Saturday, January 27th, but on account of the very inclement weather, supplemented by the black-out, the attendance was much below the average. Ringing commenced in the early afternoon and continued until 4 p.m., when service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. M. Gresford Jones), who, in his address, welcomed the association to Hunslet, and thanked them for the services they had rendered in providing ringers for the dedication ceremony of the recently restored bells.

Afterwards a sumptuous tea was served in the Parish Room, but unfortunately, again due to the very poor weather, coupled with transport difficulties, much more was provided than necessary. As the Vicar was unable to stay until the business meeting, the president (the Rev. Canon Marshall) moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells; for inviting the association to hold their meeting at Hunslet; and to the local company for their excellent arrangements.—This was carried with applause.

The Vicar, in reply, said he regretted he was unable to stay, and, while wishing them every success, said he was sorry that the weather had prevented a larger gathering. He was grateful to the association for providing them with assistance to teach a local band of ringers, and hoped that before long the bells at Hunslet would be regularly rung.

An adjournment was then made to the Schools, where the business meeting took place, presided over by the president, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the hon. treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer) and the hon. peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton). Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, the President reported that on account of the outbreak of hostilities, the September general meeting, due to be held at Ripon, and the Snowdon Dinner, which was to have been held at York in October, had had to be postponed.

The President referred to the loss the association had sustained since its last meeting in the passing of three of its oldest and best known members: Mr. C. D. Potter, of Barnsley, who had been a member since 1893, and was largely responsible for founding the Barnsley and District Society, and was its president up to the time of his death. At the same time he was a most loyal supporter of the County Association, and very regular in attending its meetings. Mr. Arthur Walker, of Pontefract, also joined the association in 1893. He was a member of the General Committee at the time of his death. Mr. Abraham Haigh, of York, had been a member of the association since its inception in 1875.—As a tribute of respect the meeting stood in silence.

No invitations had been received for the next meeting, but it was pointed out that the Huddersfield members had invited the association to hold the annual general meeting at Huddersfield and that the committee felt it preferable to postpone acceptance until weather and transport conditions had improved. As the next meeting was due to be held in May, Mr. P. J. Johnson proposed and Mr. H. S. Morley seconded that the meeting be held at Huddersfield, if suitable arrangements could be made. This was agreed to.

**HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION.**

The President, in presenting the association's sixty-fourth annual report, drew attention to the fact that whilst the report dealt mainly with the affairs of the association before the outbreak of war, it was gratifying to know that by Order in Council the ringing of church bells is to continue uninterrupted as part of our national life, and in consequence the committee urged that, as far as possible, every effort be made to hold meetings and in particular district meetings during the war period, as the value of such meetings in keeping alive the interest in change ringing cannot be over-estimated.

Extracts from the report were published in 'The Ringing World' last week.

Mr. P. J. Johnson paid tribute to the work put in by the officers and formally moved the adoption of the report.—This was seconded by Mr. H. Lufthouse and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer, in presenting the balance sheet, said that he was pleased to show a net gain on the year's working of £11 15s. 6d. and that the worth of the association now stood at £324 19s. 3d. He wished, however, to draw attention to the need for the prompt payment of subscriptions, as lack of attention to this matter had resulted in his having to write to no less than 188 members in arrears. He was glad to say that the response had been good, but he thought that a little consideration on the part of the members concerned would at once reveal the extra amount of work involved.

The balance sheet was adopted and the hon. auditors thanked cordially.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood reported that since the last meeting the presidential badge had been obtained and he had very great pleasure on behalf of the members in presenting it to their worthy president. It had been designed and executed by the Leeds School of Art and he felt sure that both the design and appearance would meet with approval.

Canon Marshall, in reply, thanked Mr. Sherwood, the sub-committee

(Continued in next column.)

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING.**

The thirteenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at East Grinstead on Saturday, February 10th. Owing to poor transport facilities, illness and the fact that several members had been called up, only 35 members were present. The fine ring of eight were made good use of before and after the meeting, Davis silencers being used to soothe the local shopkeepers.

A coach was provided to take the company to St. Barnabas' Hall on the outskirts of the town, where an excellent tea was soon disposed of. At the meeting the chair was taken by the president of the Guild, the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird, whose witty remarks kept the company in fits of laughter throughout the proceedings.

The secretary, Mr. B. Saunders, read the committee's report for the past year. During the past year ringing had received a severe blow, but, having weathered the storm, the Guild was now as strong as ever. With the exceptions of September and October, the monthly meetings had been held as usual, the average attendance being just over 30. Thirty-one new members had been elected during the year. The balance sheet showed a very satisfactory state of affairs, expenditure was up by £1 3s. 2d., but the balance had risen from £26 5s. 9d. to £29 19s. 9d. Nine peals had been rung, and these included the first handbell peal for the Guild by the West Grinstead band. The report concluded with the hope that all members would strive hard to uphold and advance the art of change ringing in these dark days and do all they could to fill the gaps as members left for military service.

The officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. V. Wood, who, being away on military service, relinquished his seat to Mr. A. Laker, of Balcombe. This was the tower chosen for the March meeting, Uckfield being the venue for April.

Mr. A. Batten rose at the close of business to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the president for the use of the bells, for providing the excellent tea and for presiding at the meeting.

Before returning in the coach to the tower, handbell ringing was indulged in, the high spot being a well-struck course of Grandsire Doubles by Edgar Rapley 1-2-3-4 and Cecil Longhurst 5-6.

**MUFFLED RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.**

On February 9th, at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, half-muffled touches were rung in memory of Dr. Leonard Hedley Burrows, father of the Vicar of Bournemouth, and first Bishop of Sheffield, who died on the previous Tuesday at the age of 82 years.

In deference to the wishes of the local A.R.P. and police, only short touches were rung. The ringing was concluded by rounds in slow time, the bells being set in turn at three whole pull intervals.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous column.)

and members, remarking that the badge lent a dignity to the office which would be handed on to posterity.

The General Committee made a recommendation relative to members serving in H.M. Forces to the effect that the names of members serving with H.M. Forces be retained on the books without payment of subscriptions until their return to civilian life, but that in such cases a charge of one shilling be made for copies of the annual report if they are required.—Mr. W. H. Senior moved and Mr. H. N. Imeson seconded the adoption of the committee's report, which was carried.

**VOLUNTARY FUND FOR RESTORATIONS.**

The report of the sub-committee set up to go into the matter of instituting a belfry repair fund was next considered. Following a long discussion, it was moved by Mr. W. Barton and seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood that a belfry repair fund be inaugurated. This was carried with one dissident.

After a further lengthy discussion on the *modus operandi*, it was eventually moved by Mr. P. J. Johnson, seconded by Mr. W. O. Talbot, that clauses a and b of the sub-committee's recommendations be adopted. They read: That in view of the fact that this must always be looked upon as a purely voluntary effort, a collection for this fund be taken at every meeting of the association, whether district or general. (b) That this collection be taken at the tea tables by means of a specially made collecting box, labelled 'Belfry Repair Fund.'—This, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

Mr. W. Barton moved and Mr. P. J. Johnson seconded the re-election of Mr. S. F. Palmer as treasurer for a further period of three years, and he was thanked for his valuable services.

This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Palmer, in reply, thanked the members for re-electing him, and saying how pleased he always was if he was able to further the interests of the association.

The following new members were elected: The Rev. E. M. Gresford Jones, Vicar of Hunslet; Messrs. E. J. Taylor, Bradford; R. Ford, Felkirk; and J. Titmarsh, of Ilkley.

Mr. A. Staveley, of Doncaster, thanked the association for their kindness in taking a collection in connection with the restoration of Doncaster Parish Church bells. He was glad to say that the work was nearing completion, and he hoped he would shortly be able to announce through 'The Ringing World' the opening date.

This concluded the business, after which handbell ringing was indulged in, but most members left much earlier than usual on account of the uncertainty of transport facilities.

## LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### HON. SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION.

#### Dispute Over Meeting Arrangements.

Disagreement between the Hon. Secretary and Master of the London County Association and North Southwark Diocesan Guild in connection with the arrangements for the annual meeting led to a sharp discussion and the resignation of the secretary (Mr. T. W. Taffender) on Saturday. The subject came up when the secretary complained that the Master had cancelled the announcement of the ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. The discussion finally ended when a motion to pass on to the next business was carried, but afterwards the secretary refused to reconsider his decision to resign from office.

The meeting was attended by some 50 ringers and was held after tea at Perdys Restaurant, near St. Clement Danes. The Master (Mr. T. H. Taffender) presided, and was supported by the principal officers.

The ratification of six new members, elected prior to peals, was agreed to, two of the elections having been previously ratified in July at a meeting, the minutes of which, it was announced, appeared to have been lost before confirmation.

Master J. A. Bullock, of Dagenham, whose age is 15½ and who has just recently called a peal of Doubles on handbells, was elected a member, and the name of T. J. Prideaux, who had not paid his subscription and who has retired from ringing, was removed from the membership roll.

The balance sheet was presented by the hon. treasurer (Mr. E. A. Young). The year began with £56 7s. 4d. in hand and the receipts included £5 11s. from 23 new members, £2 2s. from peal booking fees, £1 8s. 4d. from interest, 4s. profit on sale of annual reports, £1 8s. 6d. balance on steepage account, £1 1s. hon. member's donation, and 7s. 1d. from the funds of the Northern District. The expenditure amounted to £16 12s. 10d., including £3 12s. for writing the peal book, £4 19s. 6d. for new certificates, and 7s. to make good the deficit on the Southern District's working for the year. The balance in hand is now £51 16s. 5d., which includes 36 National Savings Certificates, valued at £37 18s. 5d., £8 14s. 5d. in the Post Office Savings Bank, £1 13s. deposited with the Central Council for copies of the Surprise Major Methods book and £3 10s. 7d. in hands of the treasurer and secretary.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The balance sheet was adopted, as was also the annual report, which was presented by the Master.

This stated that on the outbreak of war ringing practically ceased for a few days until the Civil Defence (Noises) Order was more fully understood by the police. He wrote to the Home Office on September 10th and received a reply on the 12th that the ringing of church bells could be carried on as customary, but in several instances police and wardens had interfered with ringing. The officers of the association considered a new programme of meetings was necessary and practices were now being held at headquarters on the first Saturday in each month. District meetings were being held wherever it was possible to resume them.

During the year, continued the Master, they had lost by death Messrs. John H. Cheesman, W. T. Cotter (hon. member), Harold N. Davis, William F. Ellingham, W. Pye English, Harry Mance, Alfred Pye, Ernest F. Poppy, John C. Truss and B. E. Clark.

As a mark of respect the members stood in silence for a minute.

Proceeding, the Master said that during the year they elected 22 new members and rang 18 peals, in which 63 different members took part and two rang their first peal and one his first as conductor. There were six conductors and the methods were: Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Treble Bob Major 2, Treble Bob Royal 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Royal 1, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 6 and Cinques 2.

Headquarters practices had been well maintained up to the outbreak of war and the districts had carried on their good work. The Northern District inaugurated monthly practices at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. When war broke out the valuable property of the association was distributed among certain of the officers and members for safe custody, an inventory having been prepared. Some of the officials and members had already been called to serve in the armed forces of the Crown, others were performing national duties. It was hoped they would all be preserved and have a safe return.

#### AN APOLOGY REQUESTED.

The Hon. Secretary raised the question of the cancellation of part of the arrangements for the day. According to the minute book, he was authorised to make the arrangements and accordingly arranged for ringing at three towers and advertised them in 'The Ringing World.' After the first week's publication he received a letter from the Master and the reference to the ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was deleted from the advertisement without any notice having been sent to him (the secretary). He also had a number of postcards printed, which were given to the Master for distribution, but the Master took upon himself to rule out in red ink the item relating to St. Botolph's. He understood that the deletion from the advertisement in 'The Ringing World' was also on the instructions of the Master. The secretary alone was authorised to make arrangements for the meeting, and how, he asked, were they to get along and make progress if they got interference of this nature? Could anyone write to 'The Ringing World' and cancel a notice without first

informing the general secretary, who had to shoulder the blame if anything went wrong? If there had been any friction in the past with regard to this tower, surely there was no need to nurse old grievances. If they were continually digging up the past they would get nowhere and he contended they should let sleeping dogs lie. He requested an apology for such interference with the secretary's work.

Mr. T. W. Wyatt said he gathered that the interference came from the Master; if that was so, he (the speaker) thought the Master was within his rights in a case of emergency.

Mr. E. Holman said he was responsible at the last meeting for the proposal to go to Bishopsgate, and, if there had been anything in the past that had caused squabbling, they should let it go by. When he found from the notice there was to be no ringing at Bishopsgate he felt cold shouldered, but he went to the tower that afternoon and found some ringing going on. They did not want to claim Bishopsgate as one of their towers—no tower was the property of any association—but if they could co-operate with all sections, life would be much smoother to-day than it was.

Mr. Heazel said it was up to the secretary to do his job, and if he endeavoured to do it the association should support him, if it had been taken out of his hands.

The Master: It was not taken out of his hands.

Mr. Heazel: If it was done without his having been asked, it seems to me very much as if it was taken out of his hands. I feel he should have been notified.

#### MASTER'S THREAT TO RESIGN.

The Master said he sent two letters on the subject to the secretary, in sufficient time to withdraw the notice, pointing out the reasons why this course should be adopted. At the last meeting it was only a suggestion and not a motion that they should apply for Bishopsgate. He had explained the matter in a long letter to the secretary some time before the notice came out, and when the notice appeared he sent another letter giving him sufficient time to write to 'The Ringing World' and withdraw it. In the same issue of the paper it was stated there was to be a practice at that tower by another society. How was it possible for their association officers to take charge of the ringing when a local practice was being held there? He told the secretary that he was not prepared, as Master, to agree to a practice being held at Bishopsgate that day, and if it were he would cease to be Master at and from twelve noon last Friday week. The secretary preferred to ignore the letters and never answered him.

Mr. Heazel: As you have explained that you wrote to the secretary, I will withdraw what I said.

Replying to a member who asked if permission to ring at St. Botolph's was obtained, the Secretary said it was. He added that after the meeting, at which it was decided to apply for the tower, he (the secretary), the Master, the assistant secretary and the steward had an argument over the matter for about an hour. What he wanted to know was whether they, as an association, were to be guided in their decisions by jealousy and bad feeling created between individuals in the past.

Mr. Wyatt said if they had permission to ring at the tower the Secretary should have answered the Master's letters.

The Master said if they were going to ignore what had happened in the past he was not going to be responsible for the proceedings. Therefore he had intimated to the secretary that he tendered his resignation and would cease to carry on the office. The secretary, however, did not answer him.

Miss O. Ashbrook (assistant secretary) said if they were to keep members out of a tower because of a dispute between one of the officers and someone connected with the tower, it was perfectly silly. It was ridiculous to keep the members away from a tower because of something that happened years ago. The association would never get on in the future unless they buried the hatchet over quarrels that took place a long time ago (hear, hear).

After some further discussion the matter was closed with a motion 'that the statements of the secretary and Master be received and the meeting proceed to the next business.'

#### SECRETARY DECLINES TO CONTINUE.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and the following nominations, made at the last meeting, were adopted: Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender; hon. treasurer, Mr. E. Alex. Young; senior steward, Mr. T. W. Wyatt; junior steward, Mr. H. W. Rogers; trustees, Messrs. A. H. Keighley and H. H. Peters.

With regard to the other offices, the Master said Mr. T. W. Taffender had refused to stand again for the secretaryship; Mr. N. H. Manning, one of the assistant secretaries, they had promised to find a successor for, on account of his being also secretary of the Southern District. Miss Ashbrook, the other assistant secretary, was not re-nominated, as she was uncertain how long she would remain in London.

Mr. Young pressed Mr. T. W. Taffender to reconsider his decision. He had himself been secretary of the society and knew some of the difficulties. He assured Mr. Taffender that they appreciated all he had done for them.

Mr. T. W. Taffender said he joined the association seventeen or eighteen years ago and had continually held office almost ever since. He had held every office except that of Master, and it was not as if he did not know what was wanted or not wanted. Many people had held the office of secretary before him and some had left it in a condition that was a disgrace. They had had people who had held

(Continued on next page.)

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous page.)

the office for the purpose of collecting wedding presents (laughter). The association had given him (the secretary) no thanks whatever. All he got was interference, and he asked those who wanted him to carry on in these difficult times what they would do if they were in his position? Since he had been secretary many things had been done. He had brought into being a printed annual report that had always shown a profit, they had revised the service books and they had issued a new certificate. When he made arrangements for that meeting, they were altered without his consent. Now the meeting had turned him down, but expected him to carry on. He was afraid he could not do so.

The Master said he did not agree that the secretary had never received thanks. At every meeting they voiced their thanks and they were all very grateful to him. They had had their troubles, but had got over them.

Mr. Rogers proposed and Mr. Bish seconded a motion that the association ask Mr. Taffender to carry on and this was agreed to, but Mr. Taffender refused to alter his decision.

It was then decided to leave the selection of a successor to the next quarterly meeting.

Miss Ashbrook was elected first assistant secretary and Mr. Bryan Wayman second assistant.

The association now being entitled to four representatives on the Central Council, Miss Ashbrook was elected to serve for the next two years.

Thanks were accorded to the authorities at the various churches and to the officers for their services in the past year.

After the meeting the usual handbell contest for the Dawe Cup was held, two teams competing, both from All Saints', Isleworth. The first team rang a course of Bob Major and the second a course of Grandsire Triples. The award went to the second team, whose average age, it was announced, was 14½ years. The judges were Messrs. J. Thomas, J. S. Goldsmith and T. W. Taffender.

**5,088 TREBLE BOB MAJOR.**

BY E. TIMBRELL.

23456 M B W H

52364	—	2	2
63254		2	2
62534		1	2
63425	2	1	1
25346	1	2	2

Twice repeated. The composition contains no 8-2's, and was, it is believed, rung for the first time at Chorley on January 27th, 1940.

**THE GREAT BELL OF TALLEY ABBEY.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It was very kind of Mr. F. C. Smale to reply to my query re the Great Bell of Talley Abbey, and I wish to thank him for his kindly thought.

In my letter which appeared in your issue of October 13th, 1939, I gave the material date of the great bell leaving Carmarthen as 1772 and 1773. One thing is certain, and that is that this bell is not in Exeter Cathedral. As recent as three weeks ago the 'Western Mail' in its column, 'Wales Day by Day,' stated that the 'Great Bell of Talley Abbey is now in Exeter Cathedral.'

I expect that the five bells from Exeter mentioned by Mr. F. C. Smale in his interesting letter are the second peal of Exeter Cathedral as mentioned in the Edwardian Inventories of 1552. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe made an unsuccessful search for these documents, and I believe they were found after his death.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

The Edwardian Inventories of Church Goods and Ornaments are preserved at the Public Record Office. They are not, however, available during the present war times.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****DERBY DISTRICT MEETING AT DUFFIELD.**

Wintry conditions and illness probably prevented many members from attending the meeting of the Derby District at Duffield on Saturday last, but good use was made of the bells by the faithful few. Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Kent Treble Bob Minor, Spliced Treble Bob, Bob Minor, Stedman Triples without a covering bell and finally a course of Cambridge Minor were all brought round.

It was suggested to hold the next meeting at Belper on Saturday, March 9th, when summer time will be in vogue. Votes of thanks for the use of the bells were carried unanimously and the meeting ended about 5 p.m.

**DEATH OF AN OLD HASLEMERE RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter Eldridge, of Haslemere, who died on February 3rd at the age of 80 years after a long illness. He had been a ringer at the Parish Church for more than 30 years. The funeral took place on Wednesday, February 7th, when the local band rang after the service.

On Saturday last, after an attempt for a peal, 1,409 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung half-muffled in 65 minutes: Richard Hayes 1, James Bartlett 2, Ernest C. Smith 3, Douglas Hayes 4, Barry Elliott 5, J. H. B. Hesse 6, Ernest J. Munday 7, Ernest J. Ayliffe 8, Frederick J. Rogers (conductor) 9, H. Mullard 10.

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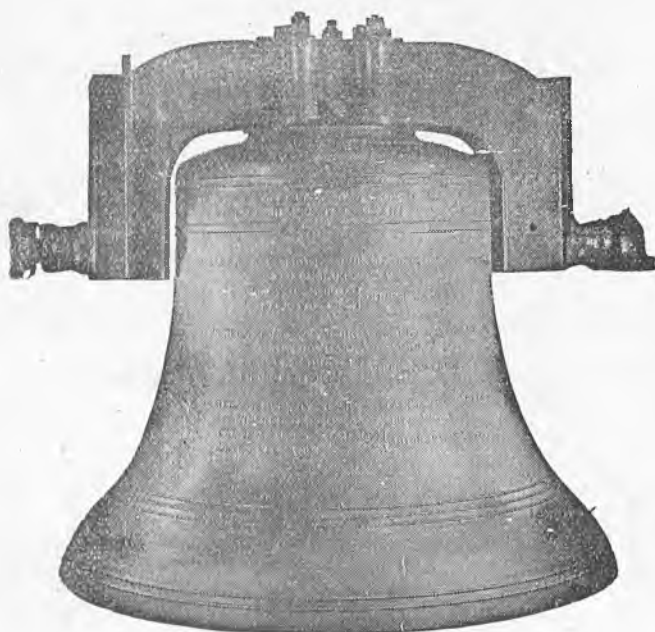
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The two Sittingbourne ringers whose belfry election to the London County Association were ratified last Saturday have surely been well and truly enrolled. They were elected in the belfry before a peal, confirmed in their membership at a quarterly meeting last July, and, because the minutes have presumably been lost, had a ratification of their election on Saturday. Thus three times their membership has been put to the vote.

A peal of Double Norwich had been arranged at Great Baddow as a compliment to Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, on his 84th birthday, and it was hoped that he would have taken part himself, but that was prevented by indisposition. Meanwhile the death of Mr. Charles H. Howard had occurred, and to show their respect and sympathy the ringers rang with the bells half-muffled. It was also a last tribute to Mrs. Thomas, a much respected parishioner and churchworker. It was the 50th anniversary of the conductor's first peal.

On February 13th, 1848, 5,004 changes of Kent Treble Bob Caters were rung at Aston. Thirty-one years earlier the same length of Oxford Treble Bob Caters had been rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham. On February 14th, 1731, the College Youths rang 7,018 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill. Three men were needed for the tenor, one being Benjamin Annable, the conductor. The other two were, Matthew East, who called the first peal of Cinques ever rung, and William Coster, who was the first man to turn a tenor in to a peal of Major.

On the same date in 1920 the record peal of Grandsire Cinques, 13,001 changes, was rung at Painswick.

Many long lengths were rung at Painswick on various dates, one being 8,448 of Stedman Cinques on February 16th, 1858. This beat the 7,524 rung at Cripplegate by the College Youths in 1851.

The ring of twelve bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire on February 17th, 1836, and on the same date in 1856 Henry Johnson conducted at Aston the first peal of Stedman Major.

Nathan J. Piistow, one of the leading composers of 40 years ago, died on February 18th, 1914, aged 67 years.

## ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER RESTORATION OF THE RING OF TEN.

A test of the rehuing and recast bells of St. Margaret's Church took place on a recent Saturday. The treble, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and tenor have been recast and all rehuing on ball bearings with new stocks, wheels, pulleys, etc. The old tenor weighed 25 cwt. 19 lb., the new tenor is a few pounds heavier and is a fine bell. The opinion of everyone was that Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have done good work. The bells go extremely well and they are now a very fine peal.

The louvres have been boarded right up to the springing of arches and on the Abbey side completely. Also some improvements have been made in the ringing room, notably a big old clock weight case has been entirely removed.

The dedication has not yet taken place, but after this has happened it is hoped to have the tower open one Saturday evening for all those who care to come and try the new peal.

## BLAME IT ON TO THE FROST.

John Shephard Walwyn, the blind son of a former Vicar of Twerton, obviously was hoping to gratify a desire to ring a peal on the bells with which he had so closely been associated in childhood, and those of us whose privilege it was to make up the band were also eagerly looking forward to the attempt which on February 3rd had been arranged at St. Michael's for Bob Major.

On the appointed day the majority of the ringers had had colds, but all were determined to maintain the high standard of striking that is absolutely necessary in such circumstances. The District Ringing Master, Mr. W. J. Prescott, was chosen to conduct the peal.

Unfortunately two of the bells were on their very worst behaviour, the ropes slipping the wheel in the first course; in spite of rearrangement at the ropes, the fifth repeatedly gave the same trouble, and the loss of time, together with the limitations of the black-out, necessitated the abandonment of the attempt.

A quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was subsequently rung and the opportunity for a practice at Double Norwich was taken. Although we were all disappointed by not scoring a peal, it was some compensation to have provided an opportunity for John's first quarter of Stedman Triples.

The following members of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association took part, standing in the order given, for the Stedman: T. F. King 1, W. J. Prescott 2, Mrs. A. Evans 3, Miss N. G. Williams 4, G. Temple 5, J. Shephard Walwyn 6, S. J. T. Shellock (conductor) 7, S. S. Woodburn 8.

We all congratulate John on his triumph over adversity, wish him the very best, both in the belfry and later we hope at the altar; maybe a second attempt can be arranged in the near future.

Thanks are extended to the Vicar, the Rev. H. A. Barnett, for granting permission for the peal attempt and also for his personal attendance before the start of the peal to say a prayer and wish the band the best of luck.

S. J. T. S.

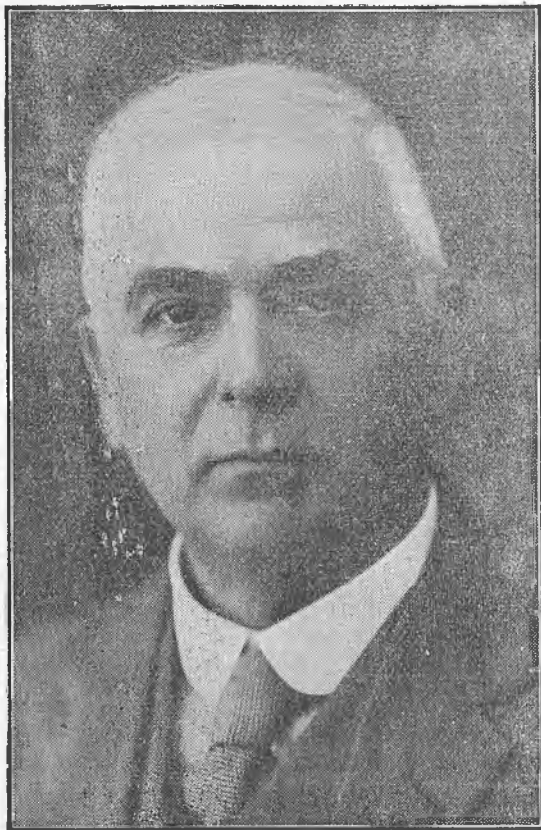


## DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. HOWARD. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS MASTER OF THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### Great Work for Ringing in his Native County.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Harry Howard, of Braintree, Essex, who passed away, after a protracted period of ill-health, on Sunday, February 4th.

For twenty-five years Mr. Howard was Master of the Essex Association and his services to the cause of ringing in that county were invaluable. He stimulated and influenced the association's activities and never spared himself in its interests. Throughout his Mastership he rarely missed a district meeting and he held the confidence and esteem of the members. A serious illness about six years ago caused his resignation from office, and he had not since been actively able to take part in ringing.



THE LATE MR. CHAS. H. HOWARD

Mr. Howard had devoted the whole of his life to church work. Born at Great Baddow in 1868, he joined the choir at the church of his native village when he was only nine years of age. A few years later he learned to pull a bell. At that time there was no change ringing at Great Baddow, but when in 1885 he went to Braintree he began the study of change ringing under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Hammond.

In 1899, when the 700th anniversary of St. Michael's Church, Braintree, was celebrated, the event was marked by adding two trebles to the existing ring of six. Mr. Howard took a prominent part in raising the necessary funds and carried his task to a successful conclusion.

He joined the Essex Association about 55 years ago, and was elected to the Mastership in 1909, on the retirement of the late Canon T. L. Papillon. During the occupancy of the office he did a vast amount of work for the association and in the promotion of the art of change ringing in Essex. To his efforts indeed the great growth of the association during that quarter of a century was largely due. He devoted his energies very extensively to the restoration of the church bells of the county in which he was intensely interested, and his activity in this direction was productive of great results.

When the association celebrated its jubilee in 1929 and Mr. Howard had completed just 20 years as Master, the members presented him with a silver tea and coffee set in recognition of his services. It was

(Continued in next column.)

## CHALLIS F. WINNEY—AN APPRECIATION.

'So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.' Such a welcome I believe our brother has received, for he was a good man, thorough in all that he did, both in his expression of the Christian principles so dear to him, in bellringing and at his trade. Many of his friends may have thought him at times an 'odd number,' but on a closer acquaintance found that he possessed a quaint, lovable, childlike simplicity, which made him numerous friends, and enabled him to enter realms which were denied to more forceful characters. He spoke courageously, and saw no danger in duties' calls. I first met him about the year 1884, when, through the energy of Mr. N. N. Hills, the Cathedral Society was formed and change ringing revived in St. Albans. Handbell ringing was seriously taken up, and Challis became a frequent visitor to our practices, and under his tuition, on April 28th, 1886, he called the 'Original' as our first handbell peal. The history of ringing the Original and the St. Albans boys needs no further comment.

His interest in the Herts Association and its annual meeting at Easter, with its service in the Cathedral, never flagged. We shall ever remember him with gratitude. Now he has gone, but the influence which emanates from a Christian life will remain with us. Good-bye, Challis, we will meet again. God grant that there may be no 'meeting short' in our band on that day.

G. W. C.

Duffield, St. Albans.

## RINGERS AND CHOIRMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read Mr. George Edwards' letter about the Penshurst ringers and their connection with the choir.

At Staunton-on-Arrow Church in a quiet corner of Herefordshire, with a small, scattered population, we have a band of nine ringers, all members of the choir, and four attending Sunday School. The usual programme on Sunday morning is Sunday School at 10 o'clock in the children's transept in the church, in the tower at 10.30, and in the choir stalls at 11. We ring for two services each Sunday and for early service at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. Six of our band are under 16, four of them girls.

I often see in your paper about the difficulty of getting recruits for the belfry and roping in the choirboys when their voices break, but why wait for that? I have for some years got boys at 10 and 11 to join. Six years ago there were five boys in the choir aged 10, 11 and 12 years; two of them joined the ringing, and soon the others wished to become members.

As they became old enough to leave school three left the village to earn their living and there were no boys to take their place. About that time my daughter, aged 10 years, wished to learn to ring, so I gave her a start. Soon three other girls, members of the choir, aged 12, wished to learn, so we practised every week till on Whit Sunday, 1938, four girls, aged 10 and 12, and two boys, aged 11, took part in the service ringing with two more aged 15 and 17. I daresay it was not very good striking at first. We practised regularly last winter, but owing to black-out regulations have had no practice this winter. I may say that we have had one or more schoolboy ringers in the band since 1911.

JABEZ PREECE.

P.S.—We have a ring of six bells, tenor 6½ cwt.

## THE LATE MR. C. H. HOWARD.

(Continued from previous column.)

remarked on that occasion that in the course of his duties he had visited every church tower in Essex, and had only missed one annual meeting of the association since he joined it. When he retired from the position in 1934 the members honoured him by electing him a vice-president.

Although Mr. Howard was an excellent ringer and a capable conductor in standard methods, he had rung only a few peals. He had, however, devoted himself to service ringing and was very seldom absent from the belfry on Sundays. Mr. Howard was for a great many years one of the representatives of the association on the Central Council.

Apart from his great work for ringing in Essex, Mr. Howard was one who, having realised his responsibilities as a churchman and a citizen, threw himself wholeheartedly into the affairs of the Church and of his town. In addition to being the head of an important business, he served first as sidesman and afterwards churchwarden; he was for a time secretary of the Euri-Decanal Conference and a member of the Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Board, upon which he ably represented the views of ringers in matters connected with bell restoration. He was a member of the Braintree Urban District Council and filled the onerous office of chairman for many years. He was also a magistrate, a director of the Braintree and Bocking Building Society and a director of the Braintree Penny Bank.

His death will be deplored, not only by the ringers of Essex, but by a large number of his fellow-townsmen, for whom he laboured so long and so assiduously.

On the Saturday following Mr. Howard's death a half-muffled peal of Double Norwich was rung at Great Baddow, his native village, and on the Sunday following a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at Sible Hedingham.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. ANDREW'S, KINGSBURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The ancient Church of St. Andrew, Kingsbury, is a small and not very interesting building, which stands in one of the new residential districts of North Middlesex. It has three small bells. One of them, the oldest in the county, was cast about 1350 by Peter of Weston; the second, by James Butler, dates from 1604; and the third, by Samuel Newton, from 1708.

Alongside the old building now stands the Church of St. Andrew, which formerly was in Wells Street, a turning out of Oxford Street in the West End of London, whence it was removed, stone by stone, and re-erected in its present position in the year 1934.

It is an excellent building, one of the best examples of nineteenth-century Gothic architecture in existence, and it has gained enormously in appearance by its removal to its present open site.

In the steeple is a very fine ring of eight bells, which have an interest all their own, and which hold a special place in the history of English bell casting and tuning.

The founder was Thomas E. Lewis, of Brixton, who was a builder of organs and a maker of pianofortes, as well as of bells. He was a man who held very definite views as to the qualities of tone and an artist who would not sacrifice æsthetic ideals to commercial or financial interests.

In bell founding he held two opinions strongly, both of which are denied or ignored by modern founders.

The first was that a bell should be cast in the form and with the note that it is intended finally to produce. After it has come from the mould it must not be tuned in any way. The second was that the system of tuning which is usually associated with the name of Canon Simpson is a wrong and mistaken one.

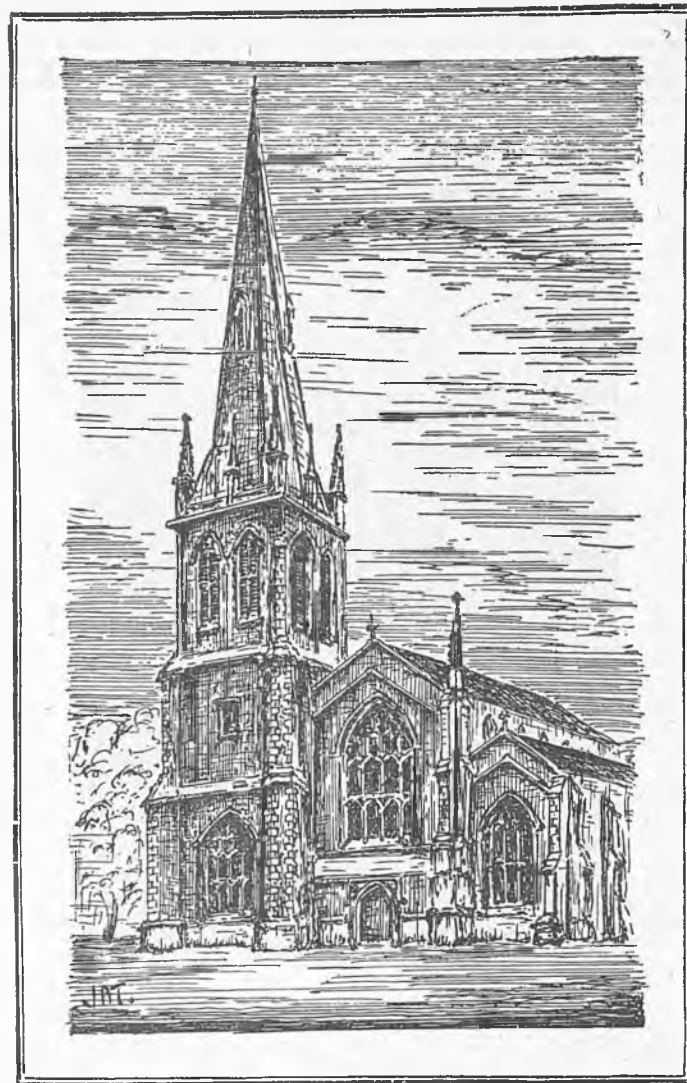
To cast a 'maiden' bell, one which from the very first was perfect and needed no tuning, was always an ideal of the old founders, and the better the craftsman the nearer he got to the ideal. But there was always the temptation to leave a bell in a defective state and slightly out of tune, so that it could be claimed as a maiden casting.

Lewis did not tolerate defects of tune. If a bell did not come out of the mould with the exact note that was required, he broke it up and cast another. It is said that he cast more than twenty bells before he produced for St. Andrew's, Wells Street, eight that satisfied his ear. Such conscientious devotion to an artistic ideal is beyond praise, but unfortunately it did not pay, and Lewis was compelled to give up bell founding after he had cast a few rings.

The reason given for not tuning a bell was that a casting, when it comes from the mould, possesses a 'skin' which is tougher than the interior of the casting, and if this skin is removed by the tuning lathe the bell suffers in tone and resonance. Modern founders design their bells so that a certain amount of metal can be removed by the lathe and the required notes exactly produced.

Every bell gives out not one note, but a combination of notes, varying in power and prominence. Following Canon Simpson, the modern founder recognises five distinct notes in a bell—the strike note, the hum note or octave below, the nominal or octave above, the third, and

the fifth. For some mechanical reason the third is usually a minor third. If all these notes are produced correctly, the bell will be true to itself, and (say the advocates of this system of tuning) it must be obvious to anyone that a bell which gives a common chord (or very nearly a common chord) will be far more musical than one which gives a number of notes out of harmony and discordant with each other.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KINGSBURY

The argument seems unanswerable, and, indeed, it is now very generally accepted as sound. It is the principle on which all bells to-day are tuned. But it was flatly contradicted by Thomas E. Lewis, and the opinions of such a man are at least worthy of consideration.

There are, he said in so many words, only two notes that you need bother about, the tap tone (or strike note) and the hum tone. 'There are many harmonies heard, but these we pass by as they are quite subordinate in strength.' The first supposition would be that the two principal tones should be in the relation of octaves, but experience does not always teach the same thing as theory and, as a matter of fact, when in a large bell the octaves are true, the note produced is a poor one and the

bell gives unsteady sounds, confused and wavering. 'In defiance of seeming harmony, a fine bell with the percussion or tap tone, say E, should have its lower or hum tone a major seventh below, but flatter to the extent of about a quarter of a semi-tone,' and 'this major seventh best steadies the bell sounds and seems in some way to absorb discordances.'

One who has listened to modern tuned bells, and especially to old bells which have had their hum tones corrected, can in many cases easily recognise what Lewis calls unsteady sounds, confused and wavering, but whether the defect is incidental to five-tone tuning, whether the seventh hum tone is the best way to avoid it, or whether it is due to other and entirely different causes, are questions for an expert to answer.

Lewis himself did not in all cases recommend a flattened seventh hum tone. He pointed out that in small bells with a note higher than E 'the hum note makes itself as powerfully noticeable as the tap tone, and it is at this point quite obvious that the smaller bells should hum their octaves and in this way content the ear.'

The tuning of bells has led to a great amount of controversy and differences of opinion, and probably always will do so, though the decisive word is obviously with the bell founder. One thing should be noticed, which is that when in a ring of older bells the hum notes, either by accident or design, are flattened sevenths, those notes are seldom in accord with each other; and the other overtones—nominal, third and fifth—usually vary enormously, some being sharp and others flat. Nevertheless they do not obtrude themselves on a musical ear which does not deliberately listen for them, and, as Lewis wrote, so far as the outside public is concerned, they may be ignored.

But when the bell is tuned true to itself, the overtones are often distinctly prominent, and the effect is that of a number of notes in a chord and not of a single note. This is a defect.

Any system of tuning must, in the long run, be a matter which concerns the bell founder only. What we want in our towers are good toned bells, each of which appears to give out one single note in tune with the notes of the other bells, and if the founders can produce bells like that they may tune them as they please.

The bells of St. Andrew's, Kingsbury, are interesting as being a deliberate challenge to modern ideas of bell founding and tuning. They are a splendid ring, quite good enough to show that their founder had some reason for the faith that was in him.

St. Andrew's bells have played but a small part in the history of the London Exercise. When they were in Wells Street, three or four peals in different methods were rung on them. Since their removal, one peal of Cambridge Surprise has been accomplished in the steeple.

#### THE LATE MR. HARRY BARTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is with deep regret that I learn of the passing of an old friend, Mr. Harry Barton. When he lived at Deal we both belonged to the Upper Deal ringers and choir, and I had the pleasure of ringing in his 100th peal at Quex Park on August 4th, 1906.

He was a safe conductor and could put a man right without shouting. I rang 18 peals with him, and on Saturday, June 21st, 1907, we rang a peal of Bob Major at Lymping, Kent, which finished five minutes after the last train had left. So we had to walk to Deal, 20 miles away, arriving home at 3 a.m. very tired.

HENRY C. CASTLE.

Ashford, Kent.

#### YORK MINSTER RINGER'S DEATH.

##### MR. T. HODGSON'S LONG SERVICE.

The death took place at York on February 4th of Mr. T. Hodgson, who for the long period of 60 years was a regular member of York Minster Society. He is the third member of the society to pass away within the last twelve months.

Mr. Hodgson, who was born in 1856, learned to ring when quite a young man, at the six-bell tower at Clifton Church, and in 1877 was admitted a member of the Minster Society. He continued his membership until 1937. He joined the Yorkshire Association in 1883, and his peals for the association number 20.

He was first and always a service ringer, and for a number of years he never missed a Sunday at York Minster. Numbered among his 20 peals were four 'last' ones.

In 1888 he rang in the last peal at St. Martin's, Coney Street, York, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, conducted by George Breed, one of York's notable ringers of his day and also a well-known York cricketer. In 1892 Mr. Hodgson took part in a peal at Clifton Church, which caused much controversy, and no peal has been rung there since, though the bells are still rung for service.

In November, 1892, Mr. Hodgson took part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at York Minster. This was the last peal rung at the Minster. The presence of the Purey-Cust Nursing Home just beneath the Minster towers puts the veto on the bells being rung for any long period.

In September, 1906, he rang a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells of Selby Abbey. This was the last peal on the ring of eight there, as the great fire took place in the following month, and the bells and tower were destroyed. When the Abbey was restored the bells were made into a peal of ten.

Mr. Hodgson's three sons were in the Minster choir, and for a short period were in the choir at the same time. All three served in the Coldstream Guards during the Great War (1914-1918). The eldest, Horace, was killed in 1915, and the other two were badly wounded. Mr. Hodgson was himself a good singer and was a member of Clifton Church Choir for 50 years. He was also a member of York Male Voice Choir.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, February 7th, a service being held at St. Paul's Church and the interment taking place at York Cemetery. Among the many wreaths was one from the Minster Company, who attended to show their regard for their esteemed colleague.

#### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

##### ROCHESTER DISTRICT'S FIRST WAR-TIME MEETING.

Notwithstanding the war and the black-out, a much enjoyed and well-attended meeting of the Rochester District of the Kent County Association was held at Rainham on Saturday, February 3rd. About fifty members from various parts of the district, and including one very keen ringer from Dover, took advantage of the opportunity of meeting familiar faces for a ring and a 'chin-wag,' and if this meeting (the first quarterly held in the district since the outbreak of war) can be taken as a criterion, the success of war meetings is assured.

Thanks to the efforts of the Rainham ringers, police sanction was obtained to ring the bells after dark, and this meant that from soon after 2.30 until 8.45, with a break for service, tea and meeting, the bells were kept going to methods suited to the taste and ability of the ringers.

The service was well attended. Hearty singing was led by the choir, and an address, by the Vicar of Rainham, was very much enjoyed. Tea was kindly provided by the Rainham ringers, an excellent meal including peace-time delicacies and sweetness in plenty.

Three sets of handbells were in evidence between tea and the business meeting, and although the experts were not available in sufficient numbers to put over the 'quality stuff,' courses of Triples were successfully brought round and a course of Caters, almost!

The business meeting, presided over by the Vicar of Rainham, consisted of usual routine matters such as reports, accounts, election of district representatives and secretary. The officers were all re-elected. —Following the meeting, ringing was resumed on the tower bells.

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**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at Ospringe on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 2d. per head, following service. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due (except from members in H.M. Forces), and should be paid at this meeting. It is hoped that as many ringers as possible will attend this meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Pendlebury, on Saturday afternoon, February 17th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the belfry at 5 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—North Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wroxham on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. till black-out. Meeting in belfry. Make own arrangements for tea. Bus leaves Norwich bus station at 2.15 p.m., returns from Wroxham at 5.52 and 7.27.—Henry Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Ludlow on Saturday, February 17th. Bells (8, recently overhauled) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Royal Oak Cafe 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—W. J. Beniams, Hon. Dis. Sec., Ben-All, Henley Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden Parish Church on Saturday, February 17th. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Barwell on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing until 7.30 p.m. A very short meeting after supper.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged for Saturday, Feb. 17th, at Kenilworth. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Tea in the Parochial Hall at 5 o'clock at a moderate charge. Visitors welcomed.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hindley on Saturday, February 17th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 p.m., for which please notify the undersigned.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head. Owing to the present catering difficulties, will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as early as possible in the week?—A. H. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe (6 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 3—8 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1/3) 5 p.m., opposite the Church. Please notify me by February 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided in Welfare Hall at 4.30 for those who notify me by Thursday, February 22nd. Special invitation to Derby District members.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on February 24th. Names for tea by previous Monday to Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough, Leics.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—A meeting is arranged for Whitwick on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 followed by tea (1s. each) and meeting. Arrangements are being made to black out the belfry to enable ringing after the meeting. In view of catering difficulties, it is essential that all those requiring tea notify me by Wednesday, February 21st, at the latest. Please come if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30. Service 4.15, followed by tea in the Refectory. It is essential that those who require tea notify me not later than the previous Thursday morning. (Sugar cannot be provided.)—J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to black-out time. Business meeting will be held in the Schoolroom (adjoining the church) at 5.30 p.m. for the issuing of new reports, etc. Owing to catering difficulties, the local company regret that tea cannot be provided, but accommodation can be found at the town cafes. Full moon will be on. All ringers and friends cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, New Sheffield.

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**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Woodbridge District.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woodbridge, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells available from 2.15 p.m. till dusk.—Charles E. Fisher, Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Werburgh's on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) open from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells available from 2.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting in the tower after ringing.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—Owing to the annual meeting being abandoned on January 27th, on account of weather conditions, a meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by business meeting and tea at Imperial Cafe for those who notify, by Wednesday previous, Mr. H. M. Day, Market Deeping, Peterborough.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Hornchurch, on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Dis. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch (Newport Pagnell Deanery).—A meeting will be held at Lathbury on Saturday, February 24th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Lawley (8 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30 until 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Reading on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.15 p.m. at St. Laurence's Church. Tea at 5 p.m. (1/- per head) at Palm Lodge, West Street, followed by meeting. Ringing at St. Mary's and St. Laurence's during afternoon. Please let me know by Wednesday, February 21st, how many for tea. A collection will be taken during the service for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Secretary, 401, London Road, Reading.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Stoke Poges on Saturday, February 24th, at 3 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Davantry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Willoughby (6 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4 p.m. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, February 21st.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 27th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting will be held at Church Kirk on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2 p.m. until black-out. Meeting to be held after. Everybody welcome. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6/6 each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 28th inst. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of the division will be held at St. Mary's, Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 2nd. Tower open 2.30. Tea and meeting at 4.45. Service at 6. Will all members intending to be present kindly let me know by Wednesday before the meeting.—A. C. Pankhurst, Div. Hon. Secretary, 11, Salehurst Road, Eastbourne.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Aberavon on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Service at 5.30 p.m., with meeting to follow. Make own arrangements for tea. Bells not available after meeting. All ringers welcome.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

**ST. CLEMENT, TRURO.**—The bells will be rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Truro on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m. A ring of four rehung and the tenor recast by John Taylor and Co.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E.1. (nearest station Stepney Green), on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea to follow, names for which I must have by the previous Wednesday. Handbells, etc., in the evening.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**WEM, SHROPSHIRE.**—On Saturday, February 10th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. V. Rodenhurst, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Parker's Twelve-Part): E. D. Poole 1, T. Price 2, W. Saunders 3, P. A. Corby (conductor) 4, W. J. Chester 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, H. Vickers 7, E. Smith and J. Grocott 8.

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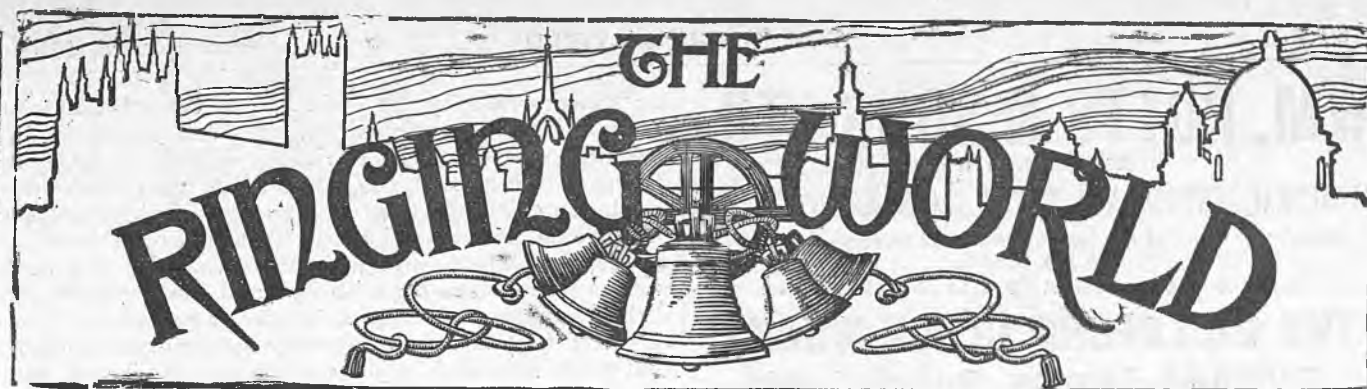


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## RESTORATION FUNDS.

The Yorkshire Association's decision to create a fund to assist in bell restorations in the county brings it among the growing group of ringing organisations which have adopted schemes of one kind or another for this purpose. In recent years Yorkshire has more than once felt the absence of such a fund, and has been unable to make special grants to various projects that have formally been brought to notice. Now, however, when the fund has had time to develop, the association will be in a position to make contributions in cases of need.

Ringers still hold divergent views as to whether it should be part of an association's work to help provide new bells and share in the restoration of old ones. There are those who think that it is the duty of the church and the parish to maintain the bells in good order; they hold the bells in trust and should care for them without expecting outside organisations to help them. This, we feel, is rather a narrow view. If it were strictly adhered to there are many restorations that would never be undertaken. It is often the enthusiasm of the ringers that eventually leads to the work being put in hand. A great deal has been done in the last half-century to develop a bond of sympathy between church authorities and ringers, and the help which associations can give, however small, is an earnest of their desire to take their share in forwarding this movement. The reconditioning or augmentation of bells is a matter which more especially appeals to ringers, and is one which they particularly want to encourage. In the absence of any association fund, ringers can only offer a very perfunctory kind of aid, but when a grant can be made from official sources, it is likely not only to be more substantial, but to bring with it the greater weight of recognition. Coming in the name of an association, it is the gift of all the members; whereas a casual collection at a meeting cannot be said to be anything like so representative a gesture.

It is interesting to note that the Yorkshire Association proposes to raise the fund by purely voluntary means—collections taken at meetings. That course is followed by several other ringing organisations and has had good results. The one drawback in principle is that the fund is in that way usually provided only by a limited number of members—the enthusiasts who turn up regularly at the meetings. A fund is more representative when it is assisted by grants from sources within the organisation, such as, for instance, in the Oxford Guild, which devotes to the restoration fund, among other items, twenty-five per cent. of the subscriptions received by the hon. treasurer from honorary members, and the interest on any

(Continued on page 88.)

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investments held by the Guild. The Oxford Guild has probably been able to give away more in grants for bell restorations than any other ringing society—in 1938, for example, it was over £45, quite apart from sums voted for the same purpose from branch funds, which have been proportionately magnanimous. To achieve this result, of course, the Oxford Guild has treated the fund as a really serious part of the organisation, and the members give it their support accordingly. That over a number of years this fund has been so successfully handled goes to prove that really substantial good may be done by it and, managed as the Oxford Guild manages it, it has become a really representative fund maintained chiefly from association incomes without the Guild in any way feeling the 'pinch' of the contributions. It needs, of course, a large organisation to run a fund on these lines. The Kent Association raises money in a very similar way, and it will be interesting, later on, to see how the fund to be established in Yorkshire on a purely voluntary contributory basis will compare with it. One of the risks under which a fund, built up purely by collections at services, labours is that after a time the novelty will wear off and the ringers, who have been regularly contributing, will be inclined to feel it is time someone else bore a share. On the other hand, when the money comes automatically to the restoration fund under the rules there is a fairly regular income, and the objects of the fund can be pursued with steady endeavour.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 17, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 16 cwt.

JOSIAH D. HARRIS ... .. 1	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... .. 5
CHARLES E. BASSETT ... .. 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. 6
Cecil L. GUY ... .. 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... .. 7
ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 4	C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

NORTHCHURCH, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 17, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

WALTER AYRE ... .. 1	FRANCIS KIRK ... .. 5
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 6
HAROLD V. FROST ... .. 3	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7
*LEONARD LUCK ... .. 4	†JAMES CURL ... .. Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First peal of Stedman. † First peal. First peal in the method on the bells.

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 17, 1940, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in F.

GUARDSMAN F. A. MUNDAY Treble	RONALD F. KINGHAM ... .. 5
*DAVID H. ANSTAY ... .. 2	CHARLES W. MUNDAY ... .. 6
HARRY E. BALAAM ... .. 3	DONALD W. NASH ... .. 7
ERNEST J. GOWER ... .. 4	WILLIAM HIBBERT ... .. Tenor

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by C. W. MUNDAY.

\* First peal of Major.



**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Sunday, February 11, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,*

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 6240 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER...	...	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	...	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY	...	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT	...	...	7-8

Arranged and Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

The longest peal in the method on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

*On Sunday, February 11, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,*

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten different callings, 42 six-scores.

J. A. BULLOCK	...	...	1-2	J. BULLOCK	...	...	3-4
L. W. BULLOCK	...	...	...	...	...	...	5-6

Conducted by J. A. BULLOCK.

Umpire—T. H. Bullock,

First peal by ringer of 5-6, age 10.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Monday, February 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes.*

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

*EDWIN BARNETT...	...	1-2	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY	...	...	5-6
THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.	...	3-4	HARRY HOVERD	...	...	7-8

Composed by J. GEORGE. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

\* First peal 'in hand' away from the tenors. Rung as a birthday compliment to Frederick G. Groombridge.

HARROW, MIDDLESEX.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Tuesday, February 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,*

At 170, HEADSTONE LANE,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 13 in E.

*GEOFFREY V. MURPHY	...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER...	...	...	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY...	...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	...	...	7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness—Cecil C. Mayne.

\* First peal in the method on handbells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, February 17, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,*

At 106, GAY GARDENS,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten different callings, 42 six-scores.

J. A. BULLOCK	...	...	1-2	J. BULLOCK	...	...	3-4
T. H. BULLOCK	...	...	...	...	...	...	5-6

Umpire—T. L. Sparrow.

This peal was rung silent and non-conducted. First silent peal by all the band.

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HANDBELL GROUP FORMED IN BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It has been suggested that I should write to you in the hope that your readers might be interested in the activities of a small group here in Bridgewater, U.S.A.

Some two years ago, my father-in-law, Mr. Harrison Smith, of Wickhambreaux, Kent, shipped to me a set of handbells, which he had had in use for over 30 years.

As a ringer formerly in the south-eastern part of England, I did very little handbell ringing, but on receipt of the bells I went to work to interest and teach a group the art of change ringing. None of this group had before even heard of this type of ringing.

From ringing on four bells, with one bell each, we now have a group that can ring a course of Triples double-handed, and we are at present working hard on bobs and singles. I have given talks on change ringing, its history and its popularity in England on a number of occasions at church or lodge socials, and at the Bridgewater Teachers' College, and the group have rung a course of Triples as a demonstration. We have had a record made of our ringing, and this record was loaned to the town of Bridgewater during the week before Christmas, and by means of an amplifying system we were able to hear Grandsire Triples floating out over the town. A quarter of a mile away the bells sounded very like the bells of old England, to which some of us have listened by the hour, and rung by the hour.

Bridgewater, Mass., was probably the only town in the U.S. where change ringing was heard over the air from a record made by a local group of ringers.

During the winter months we meet once a week for practice. I never aspired to the rank of conductor during my ringing in England, and if any reader can give us any helpful hints whereby we can ring some methods other than Grandsire, we shall be glad to hear from them.

JAMES F. LAKER.

50, Mount Prospect Street, Bridgewater, Mass.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

CARY DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cary Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Ditcheat. The bells were utilised during the afternoon and service took place in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. A. H. Burney, who officiated for the Rector and gave an interesting address.

Tea and the business meeting followed, presided over by the Rev. F. H. Lang, president of the branch. Twenty-four members and visitors were present from Castle Cary, North Cadbury, Evercreech, Dinder, Charlton Mackrell, Ditcheat, Stoke Trister, Butleigh, Frome, Bournemouth, Queen Camel, Radstock and Bruton.

The secretary's report was read and adopted and showed that there had been an increase of four ringing and five honorary members during the year. The majority of towers were active in holding weekly practices and regular in service ringing, although most of them were content to ring one method only. Young men were being continually taught change ringing, which perhaps accounted for the lack of methods rung.

On the proposition of Mr. R. Lock, the officers were re-elected en bloc—President, the Rev. F. H. Lang, Rector of North Cadbury; hon. secretary, Mr. W. A. Osborn; Ringing Master, Mr. H. Sanger.

Places of meetings for 1940 were provisionally fixed at Evercreech, Maperton, Templecombe and Queen Camel.

A number of members were already serving in H.M. Forces and it was agreed that their subscriptions should be kept up by their fellow-ringers.

It was suggested by Mr. H. Sanger that old ringers who had left towers for some reason should be approached to fill gaps caused by the service of young men for their country, and that younger men should be encouraged to learn to ring on leaving school. This was supported by Mr. W. A. Osborn.

The Rev. F. H. Lang proposed votes of thanks to the Rev. A. H. Burney for the service and address, to the organist, and to the ladies for providing such a splendid tea.

Mr. E. Elliott referred to the illness of the Rector, the Rev. H. H. Tripp, and all present wished him a speedy recovery.

Further ringing in a variety of methods took place until 8.30 p.m.

**DEATH OF A HALESOWEN RINGER.**

On Saturday, February 3rd, at 3 o'clock, the funeral took place at Halesowen Church of William Brown, who for 20 years was a ringer and who will be missed for his cheerfulness and for his efficiency in the belfry.

Messrs. W. H. Webb, J. H. Cox, A. H. Harris, T. Greenhall, A. Greenhall and W. M. Lloyd, of the local band, acted as bearers, and Messrs. L. Clissett, N. Saunders, H. Shilcock and E. Woodall were also present.

A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by J. Lloyd (Brierley Hill) 1-2, J. Bass (Wollaston) 3-4, C. Skidmore (Brierley Hill) 5-6, B. Ashford (Stourbridge) 7-8. After the funeral various touches of Stedman Triples were rung on the muffled tower bells.

On Sunday the local band attempted a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, but failed two sixes from home: A. H. Harris 1, L. Clissett 2, W. H. Webb 3, A. Greenhall 4, E. Forrest 5, J. H. Cox (conductor) 6, N. Saunders 7, T. Greenhall 8.

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

**This article, for the benefit of the student, describes how the False Course Ends (with the tenors together) of any symmetrical Treble Bob or Surprise Major Method may be worked out.**

In every Surprise or Treble Bob Major method there are sixty course ends, and from each of these course ends the method will produce a round block of 224 changes. These sixty courses, or P blocks as they are called, contain the material from which peals can be composed.

In symmetrical methods on the plain principle the P blocks are mutually exclusive, which means that no two of them can ever include the same row, and so the composer need not bother about any fear of internal falseness; all he has to do is to make sure that he does not use the same leads of the same P block twice, and he can then be certain that his peal will be true.

The same thing happens in a few Surprise Major methods which are said to have a clear proof scale; but in the majority there are rows which turn up in two or more courses produced from different course ends, and before peals can be proved it is necessary to find out which these courses are. The courses which contain rows that are also included in the plain course are said to be false against the plain course, and their course ends are the false course ends of the method.

Several different systems of working out these false course ends have been invented, and some men will prefer one and some another, but the following (which is that recommended in the new book on Major Surprise Methods) is probably the one which is easiest to explain and easiest to understand. There are other systems which in actual working are somewhat quicker, but it is seldom that anyone has any need to work out the false course ends of a method, and there is not much point in spending a long time in learning a system which would save only a few minutes in the actual working.

Ex. 1		Ex. 2		Ex. 3
12345678	+	Lead Heads		Lead Ends
21354687	—	2345678		5372846
12536478	—	5738264		8765432
21356487	+	8674523		4628375
		4263857		3254768
23154678	—	3527486		7583624
32514768	+	7856342		6847253
23157486	+	6482735		2436587
32517846	—			
		Ex. 4		
35271864	+	2345678		5238746
53728146	+	5738264	a	8574632
53271864	—	a 8674523		4863275
35728146	—	4263857		3427568
		3527486		7356824
53278416	+	7856342		6782453
35724861	+	6482735		2645387
53728416	—			
35274861	—			
32547681				
15372846				
15738264				

1. Write out half a lead of the method, divide it into sections and mark the nature of the rows (odd or even), Ex. 1.

2. Write out a table of the lead heads of the plain course in the order in which they occur, Ex. 2; and another of the lead ends, Ex. 3.

3. Take the method section by section. Compare the first row of the first section with the third row. If they

are of opposite nature (one even and the other odd), transpose the table of lead heads by the first row and the table of lead ends by the third row, and set the results down side by side. Ex. 4.

4. See if 7-8 fall twice into the same relative positions in these tables. If they do not, then the method has (so far) a clear proof scale. If they do, set the two rows down, one above another:—

8674523

8574632

The relationship of these two rows will give the false course end. In the example it is 32465. Notice that in both rows 8, 7 and 4 are in the same positions, but that 5 and 6 and 3 and 2 are transposed.

5. Transpose the table of lead heads by the third row and the table of lead ends by the first row and compare as above. If the transposition in paragraph 3 showed a clear proof scale, so will this one. If it showed a false course end, this will show a complementary one. The complementary false course end to 32465 is 43265.

6. If the first and third rows are of the same nature, then the table of lead heads must be transposed by both rows, and the results compared as above. And the table of lead ends must similarly be transposed by both rows.

7. If the section is symmetrical then the second and fourth rows need not be tested, but if it is not symmetrical test as above. In the example the first section is not symmetrical but the other three are.

8. Treat the other sections in the same manner.

9. Note which leads are false against each other.

The example method is Kensington and it has three false course ends 32465, 43265, and 24365. The last one (which is complementary to itself and appears in both positions), always occurs when two coursing bells make places together as 6-4 do in the first section and 3-5 do in the third section. The second and fourth sections give no false course ends.

## MARRIAGE OF CANTERBURY LADY RINGER.

The marriage took place quietly at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, February 17th, of Mrs. M. C. Spice and Mr. H. S. Saffery. The bride is a well-known ringer in East Kent and has for a number of years been connected with both Canterbury Cathedral and St. Stephen's belfries. She is also a member of the choir at the latter church.

A reception was held at the Beverlie Inn, the happy couple later leaving for their future home. The good wishes of all her ringing friends will go with Mrs. Saffery and her husband in their future life.

## DEATH OF MR. W. FREEMAN, OF OLNEY.

### RINGER FOR OVER 60 YEARS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Freeman, of Olney, Bucks, who passed away after a heart attack on Sunday, January 28th.

The funeral took place at the Parish Church on Wednesday, January 31st, the service being conducted by the Rev. F. J. Britnell, M.A. The following local ringers acted as bearers: Messrs. R. D. Perkins, F. Boswell, C. Boswell, S. Smith and B. Fisher, and Mr. R. Perkins, another ringer, was undertaker.

Among the floral tributes was a wreath from the ringers depicting a bell complete with rope on a cushion. During the evening touches were rung with the bells muffled.

Mr. Freeman leaves six sons and three daughters. Four of his sons and a granddaughter are ringers.

Mr. Freeman was a ringer for upwards of 60 years. He started at the age of 10 at Lavendon, and a few years after moved to Olney, where he was still ringing until a fortnight before his death when the inclement weather stopped him.

He rang over a hundred peals for the Bedfordshire Association, Oxford Diocesan Guild and the old Central Northants Association and was always a regular service ringer. He was also noted for his willingness and ability in teaching both bands and individuals the rudiments of change ringing. He will be sadly missed in the church he had served so long and faithfully.

**NEW RING OF EIGHT IN BIRMINGHAM.****ST. CHAD'S BELLS RECAST.**

The ring of eight bells at St. Chad's Cathedral, which have been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., were recently blessed by the Bishop according to the traditional rite. This includes the singing of appropriate psalms, sprinkling with holy water, and anointing, each bell being finally struck by the Bishop with a heavy hammer. The ceremony was performed before the bells were hung in the tower and no further dedication is necessary. They will, therefore, be available for ringing on the day of the annual Johnson memorial dinner, March 2nd, from 3 to 4 p.m. Should any band wish to ring them earlier in the day, Mr. Albert Walker will make the necessary arrangements if application is made to him by letter. His address is 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

**DEATH OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD RINGER.**

The death occurred on Monday, February 12th, at the age of 79, of Mr. Philip Springham, who had been vergier and steeplekeeper and a member of the St. Michael's band of bellringers at Bishop's Stortford for 34 years.

The funeral was on Friday, February 16th, at St. Michael's. In the evening, as a last tribute, touches of Stedman, Oxford Bob Triples and Grandsire Triples were rung with the bells half-muffled.

On Sunday, February 18th, before morning service, a half-muffled quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples was rung: T. Ward 1, R. Wood 2, F. Springham 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bird 5, H. Bull 6, W. T. Prior 7, W. Wilkinson 8.

**LONG SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED.****PRESENTATION TO MR. GEORGE YEO.**

In recognition of the completion of 52 years' service as a bellringer at Long Ashton, near Bristol, Mr. George Yeo has been presented by the parishioners with a suitably inscribed gold watch and a list of the subscribers.

The presentation was made at a large gathering at Long Ashton Church House on February 8th. The Vicar (the Rev. Hugh Knapman) presided over the gathering, and, in the absence of the Hon. Mrs. Esme Smyth, the gift was handed to Mr. Yeo by Mr. C. A. Harrington Fry (vice-chairman of the Parish Council). Mr. Fry said he thought Mr. Yeo's service must constitute a record, for he had been in charge of the ringing at the Parish Church for 52 years and had been absent only twice.

Mr. Yeo suitably acknowledged the gift.

**RAWMARSH BELLS' TWO-FOLD MESSAGE.**

The February meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Rawmarsh on Saturday week, the following towers being represented: Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish, Hoylandswaine, Wath and a good number of the local company. Ringing was somewhat delayed through weddings, but tea was arranged later, thus allowing full advantage to be taken of the time allotted for ringing before the black-out. Only 14 members were present at tea in the Parish Room. The Rector (the Rev. F. G. Scovell) looked in at tea time and gave a hearty welcome to all. He handed the visitors a leaflet describing the bells and the inscriptions thereon. Each bell bore two messages as an inscription, and although he was sorry he had not been able to give the address, which he always looked forward to doing at ringers' gatherings, the bells had nevertheless been sending forth 16 messages in all.

The business meeting followed, with Mr. E. Brookes (president) in the chair. Six new members were elected, viz., Mr. F. C. Wilson, Mr. F. S. Wilson, Mr. F. Pickering, Mr. A. Mitchell, Mr. H. Mortimore and Miss Ena Trezise, all of Rawmarsh.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the Rector and the local company for all the arrangements made.

The methods rung on the tower bells included Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Little Bob and Treble Bob Major, and Major and Minor on the handbells after the business meeting.

The March meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield.

**DEATH OF A KILDWICK RINGER.**

We regret to report the death of Mr. John Hill, of Kildwick, Yorkshire, which took place on Friday, January 26th. Mr. Hill, who was 64 years of age, was for many years attached to Kildwick company and was also a life member of the Yorkshire Association.

The funeral took place at the Old Lang Kirk on Tuesday, January 30th, and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. T. C. Walkden). The deceased was borne to his last resting place by his brother ringers from Kildwick and Silsden.

Deceased had been in failing health for many years, which necessitated his giving up ringing as well as preventing him from following his employment. Though not able to take part in ringing he never failed to listen to the bells when they were rung and often commented on the striking, as he loved to hear them rung well. When the new bells were put in in 1914, he took a very great interest in the work and served on the committee, acting as secretary for the Bell Fund. This was no small undertaking for a country village, but over £400 was raised. Mr. Hill will be greatly missed.

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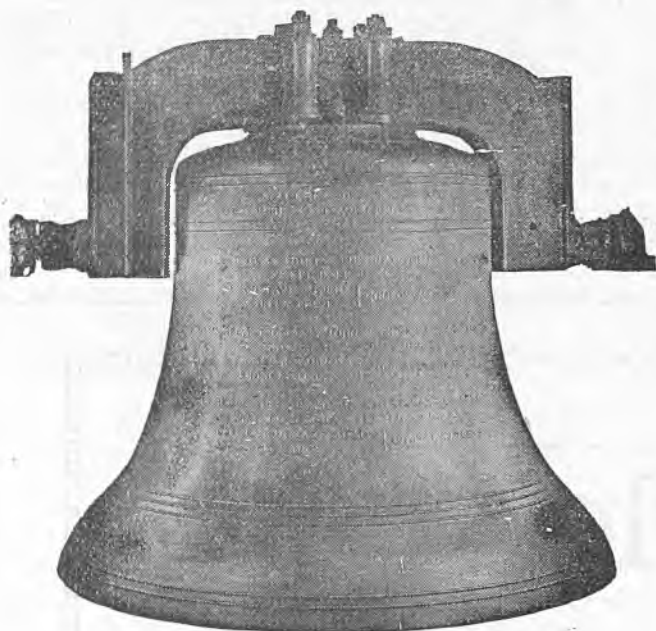
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. C. H. Roberts informs us that the peal of 5,088 Treble Bob, the figures of which were given in our last issue, was rung at St. Mary's, Willesden, on April 16th, 1929, as the composition of Mr. T. B. Worsley. Mr. Frank Warrington also says that he called it several times as long as ten years ago as Mr. Worsley's peal, and so did Mr. Alan R. Pink at Heston in 1932.

Mr. Harold G. Cashmore's many friends will be sorry to hear that he has had to go into Watford Peace Memorial Hospital for an operation.

The Trinity Youths, a society which was established in the late 18th century at St. Nicholas', Deptford, rang their first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on February 18th, 1782.

On February 22nd, 1876, Holt's Original was rung at All Saints', West Bromwich. This was John Carter's first peal as conductor.

The Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields on February 23rd, 1783. The composition was false.

## CROYDON BROADCAST.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I, through your columns, congratulate the Croydon band on their excellent broadcast of Sunday morning last?

It was a real pleasure to listen to, especially to some of us in this corner of Kent who are, in these difficult times, trying to keep the art of change ringing alive.

ERNEST J. LADD.

St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells.

## MINOR RINGS OF FIVE.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I have sometimes wondered whether the 'minor' rings of five may be a relic of the ancient Ecclesiastical Modes. They are, in the view of ringers, rings of six lacking the usual tenors. Supposing, for the sake of simplicity, that one of these is in the key of C, the notes will be A G F E D: now these are the five lower notes of the scale of the first mode, which is D E F G A B C D. To an ear accustomed to the modern major scale, in which bells are now always cast, this has an unfinished effect; but it is not so to an ear familiar with the ancient modes.

I should like to cry a very hearty 'hear, hear' to Mr. Trollope's commendation of the Norwich chimers. When I first heard them, many years ago, I was much impressed by their beauty, and always remember them with pleasure.

W. C. B.

## DEATH OF NORWICH RINGER.

**MEMBER OF ST. PETER MANCROFT COMPANY.**

A well-known Norwich ringer, Mr. Albert George Warnes, died on February 4th at his home at Eaton, near Norwich, after a short illness. He was 70 years of age.

He became a member of the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1887 as a member of the St. Peter Mancroft Company and had been connected with that church for over 30 years. Mr. Warnes had helped in the teaching of recruits and several well-known ringers owed him no small debt.

Mr. Warnes had taken part in 222 peals—13 of which had been on handbells—on all numbers from Doubles to Maximus. Two peals of exceptional merit were the peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major on the back eight of St. Peter Mancroft in 1889, and an 11,264 of Double Norwich Major at Saxlingham Nethergate, in 1931. He had conducted a large number of his peals and was familiarly referred to by the older generation as 'Foreman.'

The funeral took place at Eaton on Thursday, February 8th, and on Saturday afternoon, February 10th, members of the St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles' companies, together with association representatives from Reedham and Wymondham, took part in ringing half-muffled touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Bob Royal on the bells of St. Peter Mancroft, as a token of respect to his memory. To the widow deep sympathy is extended in her bereavement.

## MUFFLED RINGING AT COLCHESTER.

At St. Peter's Church on Saturday evening, and again on Sunday for morning service, February 11th, the bells of the Parish Church were rung half-muffled as a token of deep respect to the late churchwarden, Mr. A. H. W. Frost, and to the memory of Mr. Charles Howard, for many years Master of the Essex Association.

Touches of Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Stedman Triples and Superlative Surprise were rung by Messrs. G. Burch, F. L. Bumpstead, R. Cadamy, W. Chalk, E. P. Duffield (conductor), V. Kerridge, H. T. Pye, G. Rashbrook, local members; Miss E. Caton and Messrs. E. E. Johnson, W. Rouse, R. W. Pye, N. Foakes and V. Morley.

The late Mr. Frost was a generous benefactor of the church and a true friend of the ringers.

When the bells were recast in 1913 he bore the cost of recasting the 5th, which now bears his name, and in 1938 he raised a sum of £275 for the renovation of the bells.



## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The story of St. Saviour's, Southwark, goes back for more than a thousand years, into the region of legend. 'The Church, or some other in place thereof, was of old time, long before the Conquest, a house of sisters founded by a maiden named Mary, unto which house and sisters she left, as was left to her by her parents, the oversight and profits of a cross ferry over the Thames there kept, before that any bridge was built.' So writes Stow, but reliable history does not begin until 1106, when Bishop Gifford built a priory church for Augustinian Canons, the foundation of two knights, William Pont de la Arche and William Dauncy.

to time until 1614, when the parishioners purchased the church and rectory outright for the sum of £800.

There were six churchwardens, who were granted a charter of incorporation, and who took over all the rights and duties of the rectory. They appointed two chaplains to conduct the services. The nave became ruined, and was rebuilt several times, the present structure, which is a careful copy of the mediæval building, being erected in 1890-7, when the whole church was restored and fitted up to be the cathedral of the new diocese of Southwark.

St. Saviour's has always been famous for its bells, and one of the six wardens was the 'warden of the bells,' whose duties were to look after them and their uses.

In the early days of the fifteenth century there were seven bells in the tower, which are said to have been re-



THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK, IN THE 18th CENTURY.

The low building on the right of the picture was the former Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalen. It disappeared in the reconstruction of St. Saviour's Church in the early part of the nineteenth century.

This church was destroyed by fire and replaced by another built in 1207-13, of which the choir and Lady Chapel still remain. In succeeding years many alterations and additions were made. The lower part of the tower dates from 1310, and the upper part from the early days of the fifteenth century. The two transepts were built in 1400.

The priory was dissolved in 1649, and through the influence of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, in whose diocese Southwark then was, the parishioners of the two parishes of St. Margaret's and St. Mary Magdalen were enabled to lease from the Crown the church at a rental of £50 a year, and to turn it into a church for the united parishes under the name of St. Saviour's. Previously it had been called St. Mary, Overy, a name which was used alternatively down to recent years.

The lease, first granted in 1540, was renewed from time

cast with additional metal and made into a heavy ring of eight. Henry Werkeworth was then prior, and one of the bells with his name on it was still in the steeple in the early days of the eighteenth century. This would be the first octave ever hung in a London church, and probably the first in all England.

An 'old leiger book,' which existed in the eighteenth century, gave the weights of the first ring and of Prior Werkeworth's ring, and they were copied by Concanen and Morgan in their history of the church, which was published in 1895. They certainly do seem to indicate a ringing peal of eight, but when the inventory of the goods and ornaments of the church was made in the reign of Edward VI. there were then 'vj belles hanging in the steeple with a litell bell'; and a later inventory gives, 'Item, vj bells of accorde and one small bell, which belles

(Continued on next page.)

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S BELLS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Continued from previous page.)

the parrysshe bought of the late kinge of ffamouse memory King Henry the eight at the purchasesinge of the hole churche.'

From this it would seem that only six of Prior Werke-worth's bells were in a ring. The other two were saunce bells, of which the parish bought only one.

During the seventeenth century the octave was completed, and at various times most of the bells were recast. John Aubrey, who began his History of Surrey in the year 1673, writes that in his time there were 'in the tower eight tunable bells, on them several modern inscriptions of the times of their being new cast; but on the fifth is this old one put on a bell placed here by Prior Wentworth. Consonat ecce pia campana vacata Maria Quam Prior Henricus Wentworth libi fecit amicam. About the fourth is Anno Domini MCCCCXCIV.' The tenor of this ring weighed 48 cwt.

In the year 1735 one of the churchwardens was a man named Thomas Gardner, who one would like to think was the same as Thomas Gardiner who joined the Society of College Youths in 1713. Thomas Gardner and his family evidently were interested in the bells and, whether started by him or not, a scheme was set on foot to recast them and hang a heavy ring of twelve in the tower. The work was entrusted to Samuel Knight, who set up his foundry in Winchester Yard, hard by the church. The parish itself bought the new metal required, probably because Knight had not the necessary capital. Here is the balance sheet for the total cost:—

	£	s.	d.
To cash collected of subscribers ... ..	496	13	6
To 8 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. new metal sold to Messrs. Knight and Co. at £5 per cwt. ... ..	43	9	8
To 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 26 lbs. of copper to John King at 11d. lb. ... ..	8	17	10
Balance due to the Wardens ... ..	80	0	7
	£629	1	7
	£	s.	d.
By William Skelton for charge of a faculty ... ..	8	17	0
Sundry charges at taking security at contracting ... ..	5	9	10
By Thomas Briggs for copper to make new metal ... ..	125	12	0
By Mr. William Clarke for 8 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. fine tin at £4 per cwt. ... ..	33	8	0
By cartage to weighing ... ..	4	6	
Labour, etc. ... ..	5	0	
For one chauldron coals to heat the new metal ... ..	1	11	0
By Copper Company for 4 cwt. of metal low ... ..	16	1	7
By ditto fine new metal ... ..	202	12	8
By Knight and Co. for contract for casting and hanging the bells ... ..	235	0	0
	£629	1	7

Thomas Gardner's name is cast on the ninth and James and Elizabeth Gardner's on the eighth. William Skelton, who was paid a fee for the faculty, was registrar to the Bishop of London. He was a ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths. He lived at Fulham and gave two of the bells in that tower.

Knight's bells, though excellent in tone, are said to be very rough castings. It is likely he was not very successful with his larger bells, for although he cast several heavy rings, in all cases the tenors have been replaced. St. Saviour's was the last that survived. It was recast in the early days of the present century by Mears and Stainbank, and is now a fine bell. The tenth and eleventh are also from Whitechapel.

## THE LATE MR. CHARLES H. HOWARD.

### MANY RINGERS ATTEND FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Mr. C. H. Howard took place on Thursday, February 8th, at Baintree, service at the Parish Church conducted by the Rev. H. S. Brook (Vicar) preceding the interment at the cemetery. The large congregation included ringers from many of the Essex parishes. Mr. H. Lines was at the organ, and the hymns were 'Jesus lives' and 'How bright those glorious spirits shine.' Psalm xxiii. was chanted, and at the close the Nunc Dimittis.

The Vicar, in a short address, said: As Christians we say farewell to a brother in Christ, and a co-worker in this church. His unfailing kindness and brotherliness was noted at all times, and he was always the courteous Christian gentleman.

Half-muffled touches of Double Norwich and a course of Superlative Surprise Major were rung after the service.

The ringers at the funeral included the following officers of the Essex Association: Mr. L. J. Clark, general secretary and treasurer; Mr. H. W. Smith, Master, Northern District; Miss H. G. Snowden, secretary, Northern District, and Mr. L. W. Wiffen, peal secretary, as well as Mr. F. Ridgwell (Earls Colne), Mr. R. Suckling (Bocking), Mr. B. W. Pettitt and Miss E. Pettitt (Sible Hedingham), Messrs. E. E. Hammond, H. W. Hammond, B. Redgwell, S. Warne, A. Wiffen and others (Baintree).

The floral tributes included wreaths from the Essex Association of Change Ringers; St. Michael's ringers, Baintree; St. Mary's ringers, Bocking; St. Peter's ringers, Sible Hedingham; and from the Great Bardfield and Dunmow ringers.

Mr. Howard leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter in bereavement.

## WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the I.W. District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild took place at Carisbrooke on February 3rd and attracted ringers from Portsmouth, Ryde, Newport, Godshill, Ventnor and the local tower. The bells of the Parish Church were placed at their disposal by the Vicar (the Rev. H. Ewbank), and were muffled as a token of respect for the late Master of the district, Mr. Harry Barton, of Ventnor. The ringing closed with 'whole pull and stand' rung 21 times.

The business meeting followed tea at the Castle Hatch, and Dr. J. B. Williamson (president), who was in the chair, opened with a feeling tribute to Mr. Barton, and members showed their sympathy in silent remembrance.

The report of the auditor (Mr. H. Phillips) gave the receipts as £11 13s. 7d., including £5 10s. 7d. from the previous year, an expenditure of £4 12s., and £2 9s. 2d. remitted to the general treasurer, which left a balance of £4 12s. 4d.

The district secretary (Mr. H. P. James) reported an uneventful year, a fair financial position, and an average membership. The practices had been well attended, and the annual tour was very successful. Most of the West Wight churches were visited, and the eight-bell towers at Ryde and Brading were included. A peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Carisbrooke during May, and the band included Miss May Moody, aged 14, who rang her first peal. The report made fitting reference to Mr. Barton's passing, and there were many expressions of thanks for help received, including that from the president.

Mr. W. Upton, of Newport, was appointed the new District Master, and all the retiring officers were re-elected and thanked.

Subject to permission, Newport was chosen as the venue for the next annual meeting. Godshill was selected for a quarterly meeting in May, and Whitwell and Niton for a by-practice in March.

The general secretary was thanked for his work, the visiting ringers for their attendance, and the Vicar for the use of the bells.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### CANTERBURY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

A meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Ospringe on Saturday, February 17th, when in spite of very wintry weather and consequent bad travelling, some 20 members attended from Teynham, Throwley, Canterbury, Boughton, Queenborough, East Malling, Rainham, Sittingbourne, Dover and the local band of ringers. Ringing was somewhat delayed at the start owing first to a wedding and then to a funeral which followed. Half an hour's ringing was, however, obtained before service, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. F. Hodges), an honorary member of the association, the organ being played by another member, Mr. S. P. Masters.

Tea followed at the Ship Inn, and at the subsequent business meeting Canterbury was chosen as the place of the next meeting, it being thought that it was ideally central to the district and would attract more members.

The Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells, and the district secretary (Mr. B. J. Luck) was asked to convey to Mrs. Spice the congratulations of the meeting on the occasion of her marriage, which took place at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, that same afternoon.

A return was made to the tower and further ringing took place until 8 o'clock, when members departed after another enjoyable, if small, meeting.

## GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

### FARNHAM DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

#### Ladies Invited to Take Up Ringing.

Despite the inclemency of the weather, difficulties in travelling and the black-out perplexities, the annual meeting of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held at Farnham on Saturday week, was well attended and proved very successful. Over fifty ringers from various parts of the Guild and from neighbouring associations were present, among the latter being Mr. F. W. Rogers (Portsmouth), general secretary, Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and Mr. F. Mundy (Petersfield).

Other towers represented included St. Michael's, Aldershot; S. Nicolas', Guildford; Bagshot; Seale; Bentley; Farnham; Yorktown; Frensham; Clendon and Haslemere.

A short service at half-past two was preceded by a touch of Grand-sire Triples on the bells. Canon Girling conducted the service, and, in his address, said it was difficult always to find a subject on which to speak to bellringers. However, he had found one that day, and it was to be on bells in war time. Fortunately, the bells had not been stopped since the war began, and he was glad the bells were rung for the meeting that afternoon. They—the bells—rang out, as it were, a message of encouragement in difficult times. He thought the bells of more importance in war time than in peace. It was, of course, extremely difficult to keep the ringers together, especially now that some were serving the Colours and others were doing air raid warden and similar work. But by adapting themselves to the circumstances it would be possible to overcome those difficulties. He (the Rector) suggested that more ladies should be invited to become ringers. There were, he knew, many lady ringers already, and he understood that they had proved almost as efficient as the male ringers. He hoped they would be able to keep the bells going, and he looked forward to a peal after the war was over to celebrate peace.

#### REASONS FOR KEEPING BELLS RINGING.

The Rector went on to give three reasons why the bells should be kept ringing. Firstly, it was a challenge to the forces of anti-Christ in existence to-day. In the old days goblins and fiends were supposed to vanish and evil things depart when they heard the bells ringing. In history we read of a holy alliance—to-day an unholy alliance exists—Nazi and Communist in Germany and Russia. We Christians in England issued a challenge against these two evils. Secondly, continued Canon Girling, the bells should be kept going as an earnest invitation to all people to come and pray for our country and for all who were serving it and to pray for ourselves also. It was so easy to forget—to get into bad habits—the habits of not attending the services. Thirdly, the bells should be kept going as an expression of our war aims. It showed a struggle for the suppression of evil and of trying to make a better and more peaceful world. This must be kept in the forefront and the bells helped to keep these objects in the forefront, and we would look forward after the war to a reign of truth and justice.

An excellent tea was served in Messrs. Darracott's Restaurant, West Street, a company of forty sitting down. This was followed by the business meeting, over which the Rector presided. Canon Girling is an honorary member of the Guild, and other honorary members who attended were Lt.-Col. F. G. Poole, D.S.O., and Mr. A. J. Stedman (churchwarden of Farnham), Mr. A. E. Smith (who is also a capable ringer), Mrs. D. Meadows and Mrs. C. Edwards (Farnham).

Others present included Mr. G. L. Grover (Guild general secretary), Mr. J. Corbett, Bagshot (Guild treasurer), Mr. R. Hasted (Farnham District Ringing Master), Mr. C. W. Denyer (Farnham district hon. secretary and treasurer), Mr. W. F. J. Cope (Guildford district hon. secretary), and Mr. W. G. Gillians (churchwarden and ringer at Seale).

Mr. Upshall (Farnham), who has been in hospital since before Christmas, and Mr. Nye (Bagshot), who is a district executive committee representative, sent their best wishes to the meeting, and it was resolved to reciprocate the compliment, expressing the wish for their speedy recovery to health.

#### DISTRICT OFFICERS ELECTED.

The district officers nominated previous to the annual meeting were declared elected by the chairman, viz.: Mr. R. Hasted, Ringing Master; Mr. C. W. Denyer, hon. secretary and treasurer; Mr. P. Eldridge, hon. auditor; Mr. W. Gillians, executive committee representative for three years. It was announced that Mr. Nye was due to retire, but Mr. Gillians having been nominated in place of Mr. T. Upshall, it was felt that Mr. Nye be asked to carry on for another year.

The balance sheet showed receipts amounting to £29 1s. 8d., including balance brought forward £13 7s. 8d., and members' subscriptions £15 14s. The payments amounted to £15 15s. 2d., and included £3 16s. 6d. expenses of meetings, £2 10s. 11d. for printing and postages, etc., £1 1s. donation to Cathedral Bells Fund, and £8 2s. 3d. handed over to Guild treasurer. The credit balance in hand was £13 6s. 6d. The accounts were adopted, and the district secretary presented his report, the following being extracts:—

A quiet year of steady work without any special event in the district. Six meetings were held, with an average attendance of 34. It would not be at all easy to convene meetings during the year, but with the help and support which all members could give, there was every reason to hope for a successful season. The membership had de-

creased from 159 to 146. They now had 116 ringing and 30 honorary members, as compared with 127 ringing and 32 honorary members in 1938. Honorary membership must be maintained, for without this assistance it would be difficult to keep their finances flourishing. They had several honorary members who took no part in their affairs apart from payment of the annual 2s. 6d., and while they appreciated these contributions, they would assure all honorary members of a very warm welcome to their gatherings. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Ted Clapshaw, of Farnham, on attaining his 95th birthday, and the wish was expressed that he would now carry on and complete his century.

Many ringers had joined H.M. Forces—several from their own district—and they sent them their best wishes and prayed for their safety, with the hope that all may be reunited under peaceful conditions before the next annual meeting. When hostilities began, in September, ringing in several towers was suspended—fortunately not for long. There was no reason whatever now why regular service and practice ringing could not be restarted. Blacking out arrangements could and should be made to allow evening practices to be held, but should this be impossible, a Saturday afternoon practice would solve the problem.

#### GET RECRUITS NOW.

With regard to ringers, they must not wait for members to be called to the Colours from the belfries before thinking about recruiting others. Get them now! Ladies helped with ringing in the Great War—why not in this one? It was known that some members objected to ladies in the tower. Were their bells to be silent because of these objections? It had been proved many times that ladies helped to keep a company together and also to preserve by their presence a certain reverence and discipline among the male ringers.

The report continued that the peal list was not a long one. Only three attempts were made, but all were successful. Badges awarded for first quarter-peals were presented to Mrs. Viggers (Aldershot), Miss K. Gillians (Seale), Mr. J. Denyer (Aldershot) and Miss B. Scrace (Frensham).

The report continued: 'In past years our district has held a reputation for good membership, well-attended meetings, and progressive ringing ability. All our keen ringers want this to be upheld. Perhaps the past year has not been our best. We can and must do better, particularly in our attendance and striking. We can all help the other ringer more than we are doing at present. Captains and secretaries alike can show a little more enthusiasm and interest in their respective towers and district affairs. But chiefly must we all—captains, secretaries and ringers alike—give loyal devotion to our sacred art for God and His Church. Let us do our small job of work by ringing our bells willingly, joyously and reverently, and then—as we so often have been instructed at Guild services—let us ourselves go into Church and join in worship with those we have called. Finally, thanks are due to all our honorary members, guild officers, clergy, tower captains and secretaries for the parts they have played to help forward the Guildford Guild and its work, and in this respect I would like especially to mention the captain of Seale tower, Mr. E. Gardner, who has many times placed his services and his car at our disposal. We are not despondent, but look forward with hope and courage to greater happenings in the future, and particularly to many successful and happy gatherings in 1940.'

Canon Girling referred to the note of healthy constructive criticism running through the report. It is in the right spirit, he said, and ought to make the Guild go well. He expressed grateful thanks to Mr. Denyer for his work on behalf of the Guild.

The report was approved.

For meetings to be held in 1940, it was agreed to visit Hawley (8 bells), Aldershot (8), Bagshot (8), Farnborough (6) and Croydon (6). The annual general meeting is to be held at Farnham early in 1941.

The Guild officers were renominated to serve for 1940. Two new ringing members were elected, viz., Miss P. M. Joscelyne, of Aldershot, and Miss B. Scrace, of Frensham.

#### MEMBERS SERVING IN H.M. FORCES.

It was unanimously agreed to support a motion, put forward by the Guildford District to the Guild annual meeting, that members serving in H.M. Forces be relieved of the obligation of paying subscriptions until after hostilities have ceased.

The district secretary recalled that on the occasion of the last annual district meeting the address was given by the Rev. Philip Wheeldon, who was also a Guild honorary member. Mr. Wheeldon was now serving as a chaplain to the Forces, and was 'somewhere in France,' and Mr. Denyer suggested that the best wishes of that gathering be sent to him, with the hope that he would be able to be present at the annual meeting in 1941.

Canon Girling said that he would be writing to Mr. Wheeldon and would convey the message to him.

Votes of thanks were accorded Canon Girling for permitting the meeting, for conducting the service and for presiding over the business; to Mr. Macklin for his kindness in attending the service and presiding at the organ; the verger (Mr. A. E. Smith) for blacking out the ringing chamber, as Mr. S. Meadows (steeplekeeper) was indisposed; and to Mr. Hasted and the local ringers for their welcome.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening was under the leadership of the District Ringing Master (Mr. Hasted), and consisted of courses and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe (6 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 3—8 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1/3) 5 p.m., opposite the Church. Please notify me.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Special invitation to Derby District members.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on February 24th.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—A meeting is arranged for Whitwick on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.45 followed by tea (1s. each) and meeting. Arrangements are being made to black out the belfry to enable ringing after the meeting. Please come if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30. Service 4.15, followed by tea in the Refectory.—J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to black-out time. Business meeting will be held in the Schoolroom (adjoining the church) at 5.30 p.m. for the issuing of new reports, etc. Owing to catering difficulties, the local company regret that tea cannot be provided, but accommodation can be found at the town cafes. Full moon will be on. All ringers and friends cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, New Sheffield.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Woodbridge District.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Marv's, Woodbridge, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells available from 2.15 p.m. till dusk.—Charles E. Fisher, Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—Owing to the annual meeting being abandoned on January 27th, on account of weather conditions, a meeting will be held at Market Deeping on Saturday, February 24th. Bells (6) available from 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by business meeting and tea at Imperial Cafe.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A practice meeting will be held at Hornchurch, on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Sawley (8 bells) on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2.30 until 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Reading on Saturday, February 24th. Service at 4.15 p.m. at St. Laurence's Church. Tea at 5 p.m. (1/- per head) at Palm Lodge, West Street, followed by meeting. Ringing at St. Mary's and St. Laurence's during afternoon. A collection will be taken during the service for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Secretary, 401, London Road, Reading.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Stoke Poges on Saturday, February 24th, at 3 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, February 27th, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—A special meeting will be held at Guilsborough (6 bells) on Saturday, March 2nd. Names for tea by February 27th, please.—H. H. Shrives, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**ST. CLEMENT, TRURO.**—The bells will be rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Truro on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m. A ring of four rehung and the tenor recast by John Taylor and Co.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Pulham Market on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. at the Rectory. Meeting to follow. The Rector (Rev. R. H. Stacey) is kindly giving the tea, so do please let me know by the 27th if you are coming. All ringers welcome.—Albert G. Harrison, Branch Sec., 90, Denmark Street, Diss, Norfolk.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting will be held at Church Kirk on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2 p.m. until black-out. Meeting to be held after. Everybody welcome. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

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**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6/6 each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 28th inst. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.; St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, 3 to 4.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION**.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of the division will be held at St. Mary's, Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 2nd. Tower open 2.30. Tea and meeting at 4.45. Service at 6. Will all members intending to be present kindly let me know by Wednesday before the meeting.—A. C. Pankhurst, Div. Hon. Secretary, 11, Salehurst Road, Eastbourne.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Aberavon on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Service at 5.30 p.m., with meeting to follow. Make own arrangements for tea. Bells not available after meeting. All ringers welcome.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD**.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E.4. (nearest station Stepney Green), on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea to follow, names for which I must have by the previous Wednesday. Handbells, etc., in the evening.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weston Underwood on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea will be provided if possible. A good attendance desired.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**.—South-Eastern District.—There will be a practice at Springfield on Saturday, March 2nd, and at Great Baddow on March 9th at 3 p.m. All ringers are invited.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. A committee meeting will be held on the same day.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Practice at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London, W.C.1, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Ringing also at the above church on Sunday, March 3rd, at 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, Hon. Assist. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION**.—The annual meeting of the Western Division will be held at Steyning on Saturday, March 2nd. Ringing 2 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. at Green's Bakery, 1s. per head. Notifications for tea must be received by me by Wednesday before meeting.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Good bus and train service. All ringers welcome. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Wednesday?

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Earls Colne on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at the Vicarage 5.30 p.m. It is hoped the members will make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LEICESTER & DISTRICT RINGING SOCIETIES**.—The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel (near Clock Tower) at 6.30 p.m. prompt, on March 9th. There will be ringing during the afternoon. Further particulars next week. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, must be obtained on or before March 6th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD**.—South and West District.—Next meeting March 9th at Brentford (St. Lawrence). Bells available from 2.30. Service at 5, followed by tea at Druce and Smith's. Christ Church, Ealing, bells available in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, W.13.

**LADIES' GUILD**.—Western District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wrexall on Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at Battle Axes Hotel. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me by March 6th?—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

**ST. BOTOLPH'S, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.**—On account of other meetings in London, the Saturday practices are suspended until March 9th.—James E. Davis, Towerkeeper, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12.

**DONCASTER PARISH CHURCH**.—The ring of eight bells, which has been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be dedicated on March 10th at 3 p.m. by Archdeacon T. Sandford.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**.—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, March 16th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**.—The annual general meeting will be held at Chippenham on Easter Monday, March 25th. Full details later. Alteration to rules or even temporary suspension, if part thereof, must be notified on or before Feb. 26th.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 46a, Tankards Close, Bristol, 2.

### DEATH.

**BECKWITH**.—On February 13th, at Coggeshall, Essex, Caroline, beloved wife of Ernest W. Beckwith. Passed peacefully away.

### COMPLIMENT TO LOCAL LEADER.

At Aughton, Lincs, on Sunday, February 11th, for evensong at Christ Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 46 minutes: J. N. Brown 1, J. Lunham 2, J. Taylor 3, J. C. Wilson 4, T. S. Horridge 5, W. H. Deacon 6, S. H. Dearden (first as conductor) 7, W. H. Gibbons 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman for the ringers of the fifth and sixth. Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. Marsh, leader of the local company.

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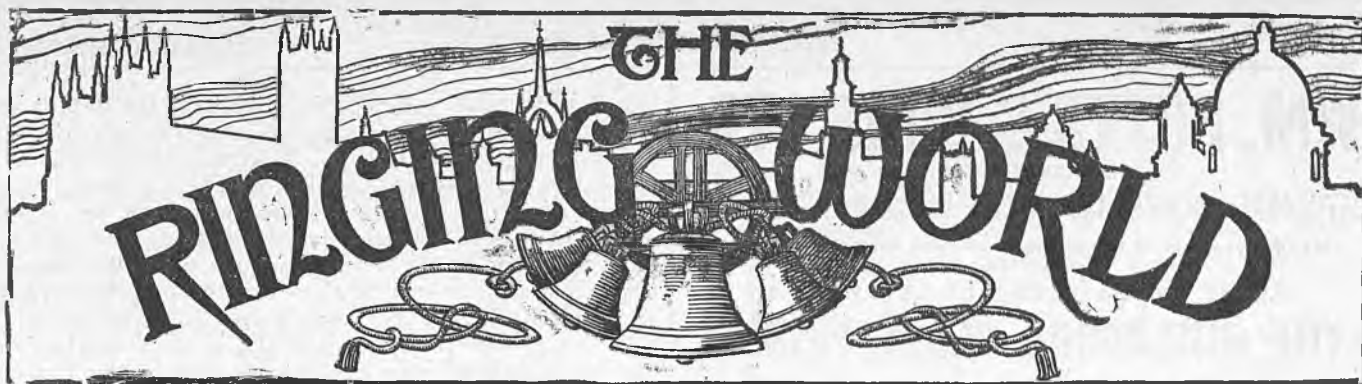
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FRIDAY, MARCH 1st, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## AN INSPIRATION.

The Exercise has suffered heavy losses by death during recent weeks, and the toll that has been taken has included men who have had a prominent standing in the ringing world. Men like Charles Howard, Challis Winney, John Cheesman, Harry Barton, Albert Warnes, among others, have each in their way played a notable part in ringing in their day, and have left it the better for their association with it. They have gone, as other outstanding figures before them have gone, but it is well to pause for a moment at their passing and remember that they have made a contribution to the art, each in his own particular way, which imperceptibly, perhaps, but nevertheless surely has had an influence for good, and has helped at least to raise the standard of ringing or the status of ringers in the circles in which they have moved.

This is no occasion for invidious comparisons, but it may be well to think for a moment of what ringing in Essex owes to Charles Howard. His interest, his enthusiasm and his work set many a ring of bells going again or saved them from ultimate decay and silence. His efforts in large measure raised the Essex Association to the level it reached in the later years of his Mastership; his example was a pattern by which others could measure their motives as church bellringers, for he was prompted always by the highest conceptions of duty. Or think for a moment of Challis Winney, a master ringer, whose skill was directed in a different channel, but whose influence among those who rang with him was to make them better strikers and more careful ringers. He, too, had a high notion of his duty to the Church, of which he was a devout and humble son. It would be possible, in like manner, to go through all the list of those we have mentioned and extol their virtues, but these two must suffice.

While we mourn their death, we should also keep before us the example which they set. Those who are left to do the work which these men did, in their several ways, must be filled with the same enthusiasm and spirit of endeavour if the art is to maintain its standard. Too many ringers in these days are prone to sit down and let others do the work; to leave the running of associations to willing horses; but retain the right to grumble when things do not go to their satisfaction. They expect to take part in peals but leave others to make the arrangements; they complain if they go to meetings and do not get all the ringing they want. Above all, they do nothing to help in keeping up the supply of ringers, which is all-essential if the art is to be preserved in the future. Their aim is to get all they can out of ringing, and put as little

(Continued on page 98.)

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into it as possible. Men such as we have referred to are, on the contrary, ready to put all they can into ringing, either in work or in talents. It is only in this way that the fullest satisfaction can be obtained from it. The friends of all the well-known men who have so recently passed on will retain happy memories; but their example will, we hope, be an inspiration to a far wider circle, a circle that should enclose those on the outermost fringe of the Exercise. These men strove to leave ringing a little better than they found it. If, in the end, the same can be said of us who remain, our part in the Exercise will not have been played in vain.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*In Saturday, February 24, 1940, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5022 CHANGES;**

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

*LEO EVANS ... .. 2	† WILLIAM J. CHESTER ... 6
WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... .. 2	WALTER LAGO ... .. 7
*THOMAS PRICE ... .. 3	G. LEONARD HEWITT ... 8
E. DENNIS POOLE ... .. 4	EDWARD V. RODENBURST... 9
ROBERT EVANS ... .. 5	† ALASTAIR C. MACLEAN ... 9

Composed by G. HAYWARD. Conducted by E. V. RODENBURST.

\* First peal on ten. † First peal of Grandsire Caters. † First peal (age 15). Arranged and rung as a wedding compliment to the Vicar, the Rev. T. Eland, and Mrs. Eland.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, February 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

WASHBROOK'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

STEPHEN L. PARRY ... .. 2	IVAN KAY ... .. 5
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. 2	JOHN H. C. MASSEY ... 6
SILWYN H. DEARDEN ... 3	HAROLD HAMER ... .. 7
*THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... 4	DENNIS HOLLIS ... .. 7

Conducted by H. HAMER.

\* First peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Audrey Hamer, daughter of the conductor, and also to Mr. S. H. Dearden.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, February 24, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

**A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

CHARLES H. MOORE ... .. 2	F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... .. 5
*CEDRIC CURSON ... .. 2	*GEORGE SAYER ... .. 6
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW... 3	HENRY TOOKE ... .. 7
GEORGE MAYERS ... .. 4	WILLIAM CLOVER ... .. 7

Composed and Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

\* First peal of Surprise. The first peal on the bells since recasting and rehanging almost a year ago.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

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**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.  
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

*On Saturday, February 24, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH, PRITTLEWELL,  
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;  
Tenor 1½ cwt.*

REGINALD W. DARVILL ... Treble	*WALTER HUNT ... .. 5
ARTHUR HUBBLE ... .. 2	ERIC B. HARTLEY ... .. 6
WILLIAM PERRY ... .. 3	FRANK B. LUFKIN ... .. 7
HORACE J. MANSFIELD ... 4	ALBERT E. NORTH ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.  
\* First peal of Kent Treble Bob.

**SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.**

**CLUTTON, SOMERSET.**

**THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**  
*On Saturday, January 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-ne Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,*

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 six-scores, with 10 callings. Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*JAMES RIGGS ... .. Treble	*JOHN HILLMAN ... .. 4
KENNETH FORD ... .. 2	HAROLD E. BLACKER ... 5
HERBERT J. BABER ... 3	HENRY PARSONS ... Tenor

Conducted by H. E. BLACKER.

\* First peal. Rung to mark the completion of 21 years' membership of the association by the conductor.

**KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE.**

**THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, February 17, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two extents each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and one extent of Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOCELYN B. GARDINER ... Treble	ALAN J. BROWN ... .. 4
*JOHN ANTHONY BEAUMONT 2	FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 5
†JOHN HASSELL ... .. 3	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... Tenor

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

\* First peal in four methods. † 25th peal. Rung for the wedding of Mr. N. Hough, a member of the local band, to Miss M. Shaw.

**WHITNEY-ON-WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE.**

**THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, February 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,**

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being six 240's of Morris' and 30 six-scores (10 callings). Tenor 9 cwt.

*FREDERICK H. BENNETT ... Treble	ALBERT E. JONES ... .. 3
LESLIE EVANS ... .. 2	TREVOR JONES ... .. 4
DAVID H. BENNETT ... .. Tenor	

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

\* First peal, aged 13 years.

**A RESULT OF UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The Guildford Diocesan Guild cannot claim the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Hersham on January 13th last, as one member of the band has never been a member of the Guild and three others failed to renew their membership in 1939.

G. L. GROVER, Hon. Sec.

**MR. W. A. CAVE'S BEREAVEMENT.**

The sympathy of his many friends in the Exercise will go out to Mr. W. A. Cave, of Bristol, in the bereavement he has sustained by the death of his wife, Mrs. Kate Cave, who passed away unexpectedly on February 21st at the age of 65 years.

Although Mrs. Cave had not been really well for a long time, her death was unexpected. Only on the preceding Saturday she journeyed to Christchurch, Hants, to attend the funeral of Mr. Cave's foreman.

Through Mr. Cave's long and active association with ringing—he has been both hon. secretary and Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, as well as a member of the Central Council for many years—Mrs. Cave was well known to ringers all over England.

In Bristol, with her husband, she took a prominent part in the formation of the Society of St. Thomas' Associates, which is responsible for many of the social activities in connection with St. Thomas' Church (City).

The funeral took place on Monday at the Church of the Holy Nativity, Knowle.

In addition to the widower, a son (Mr. P. W. Cave, of Liverpool) and daughter are left in bereavement.

**LEICESTER RINGER'S DEATH.**

**PASSING OF W. WILLSON, JUN.**

It is with the deepest regret we record the passing of Mr. William Willson, jun. (nephew of Mr. William Willson, sen.), of St. John-the-Divine, Leicester, which occurred on Thursday, February 15th, at the comparatively early age of 54. He was not so well known to younger ringers, as for many years he had been unable, through physical disability, to take any active part in the Exercise, but he retained the liveliest interest in the art. It is only a few months ago that, hearing St. John's bells ringing a peal, he came and listened for over an hour to it, although suffering greatly from chronic asthma. Later he congratulated the writer on a well-struck peal.

Mr. Willson joined the Midland Counties Association in 1902, and was what might aptly be described as a 'natural born' ringer. He not only rang his bell well, but was most keen on good striking. Never did he attempt a new method without first being absolutely certain he knew it properly. No slipshod 'getting through it' would do for him; he would rather stand aside than make bad ringing. Whatever he essayed, it could be certain, would be of the very best. He took part altogether in 49 peals for the M.C.A.

Some 25 years ago he broke a blood vessel and ever since that time had been a great sufferer. He had been in various sanatoriums and hospitals for long periods, but was always a most cheerful and lovable companion, rejoicing in a good joke and hearty laugh. Nevertheless, his end came suddenly. He had only taken to bed for three days before his death. He leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn their loss.

The funeral service was held in St. John's Church, conducted by the Vicar, and the interment took place at Welford Road Cemetery. As a last token of respect, a slow course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells at the graveside by A. Cattell 1-2, E. Morris 3-4, S. Harrison 5-6, J. Morris 7-8. A floral tribute was sent by his fellow-ringers of St. John-the-Divine, and in the evening the bells were rung half-muffled to Stedman and Grandsire Caters in his memory. E. M.

The bells in cadence sweet  
Pour muffled music down,  
A Ringer's Requiem they beat,  
Their dirge a message oft repeat,  
'After the cross, the crown.'

Good-bye, life's tale is told,  
We loved thee well, and sigh,  
Heart of a thousand, heart of gold,  
Tender as a woman's, true yet bold,  
And now—a last good-bye.

W. W.

**A MEMORIAL TOUCH.**

At Waltham St. Lawrence on February 18th, 720 Norwich Surprise Minor in memory of the Rev. F. D. Browne, an honorary member of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and an old Vicar of the parish, who died on Saturday, February 10th: S. Darvill 1, R. Darvill 2, J. Cooper, sen. 3, V. Darvill 4, J. Darvill 5, T. Tilley (conductor) 6.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

**MEETING AT HEADINGLEY.**

The February meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on February 24th. The start of the ringing was delayed by a wedding until 3 p.m., but after that the bells were kept going in a variety of methods till 6 p.m., when the business meeting was held.

Mr. W. H. Senior presided and members were present from Armley, Batley, Birstall, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Elland, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Rothwell, Sherburn, Shipley, Tadcaster and the local company.

On the suggestion of the chairman, it was decided that the secretary should send the best wishes of the society to the president, who is now serving as a chaplain with His Majesty's Navy.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells and to the local company for making arrangements to allow full use of the bells up to the time of the black-out was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. H. L. Jones. Mr. P. J. Johnson acknowledged the thanks, but regretted the Summer Time Act had not come into force to allow them an extra hour of ringing.

The next meeting is due to be held at Armley on March 30th.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT PENWORTHAM.**

Last Saturday at Penwortham an attempt was made for a peal of Treble Bob to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. J. R. Taylor, a member of the local band since 1883, but in the ninth course the treble rope broke. Another attempt will be made in the near future.

Mr. Taylor afterwards entertained the ringers to tea along with his children and grandchildren. Replying to the toast of his health, the old gentleman was in reminiscent mood and mentioned the fact that he rang his first 720 in 1877. He has set an example in attendance and punctuality for service ringing, and served on the committee of the Lancashire Association for many years. The ringers of the Preston Branch take this opportunity of offering their congratulations.

**PROOF.****COMPOSING IN PLAIN METHODS.**

No method on seven bells and upwards is of any particular value unless it has at least one true peal of not less than 5,000 changes. A possible exception might be a method which, although of no value by itself, can be used in conjunction with others in spliced compositions; but even in spliced peals people will prefer to ring methods which can be rung separately to peals.

Whether a method can produce a true peal or not depends mainly on two things. One is the nature of the rows; that is, the order in which the odd and even changes come. The other is the form and symmetry of the leads.

From these two we know the following:—

1. Any symmetrical method on the Plain Principle, on any number of bells, with one hunt, is not liable to internal falseness which does not show at the lead end, and such methods will produce the full extent of the rows. Further, if the course ends are true, then all the rows produced from those course ends by the method without bobs or singles, will be true also.

2. Any symmetrical method on the Treble Bob Principle on 6, 10, 14 or any other number of bells in the same progression, provided that in every section the two rows in which the treble occupies the same position are of opposite nature, is not liable to internal falseness which does not show at the lead end; and such methods will produce the full extent of the rows. Further, if the course ends are true, then all the rows produced from them by the method without bobs will be true also.

3. Symmetrical methods on the Treble Bob Principle on 8, 12, 16, or any other number of bells in the same progression, are very liable to internal falseness; only a fraction of them will give true peals; and none will produce the full extent of the rows.

4. Any symmetrical method on the Plain Principle with two hunts, on 7, 11, 15 or any other number of bells in the same progression, is not liable to internal falseness, so long as the succession of the nature of the rows is not altered; and all such methods will produce the extent of the rows provided in-course singles are used.

5. Symmetrical methods on the Plain Principle on 9, 13, 17, or any other number in the same progression, are very liable to internal falseness.

All this depends on the axiom, that if you add equals to unequals the wholes are unequal; or, in other words, that if you take two things which are unlike and treat them in the same manner the results can never be the same. But if you take two things which are unlike and treat them, one in one manner and one in another, you may easily get the same result.

(a) 12345678	(b) 14362748
21436587	41637284
24135678	46132748
42316587	64317284
24361578	46371248

Suppose (a) and (b) are any two different rows, and from each of them you write out a lead of Double Norwich. In each case you get the second row by transposing all four pairs of bells, and it is obvious that, since (a) and (b) are different, the two second rows must be different also. Similarly the third row of one must be different from the third row of the other. And so on.

Now, the treble never occupies the same position twice in the first half lead of any method on the Plain Principle, and it follows, therefore, that if the lead heads are different all the rows in the first half leads must be different also. But in the second half lead the treble, hunting down, does occupy the same positions as it does in the first half lead, hunting up; and, therefore, in many methods repetition can occur between rows in the first half of one lead and the second half of another. This is where symmetry acts as a safeguard.

For in a symmetrical method the rows in the second half leads, counting backwards, are produced in the same manner as are the rows in the first half leads, counting forwards.

(a) 12345678	65271348
(c) 21436587	56217384
24135678	65123748
42316587	(e) 61527384
24361578	(d) 16253748

As (c) is produced from (a), so is (e) from (d), and the rest of the rows similarly in due order. Therefore, by the argument we have just used, if the lead heads and ends of any touch or peal of Double Norwich or any other symmetrical plain method are different, there can be no internal falseness.

A similar argument will easily show that if two course-ends (that is, two rows with both the treble and the tenor at home) are different, then all the lead ends in the two courses produced from them will be different.

One proviso must be mentioned, which is that any lead head can also be a lead end. So far you could have repetition, but it would mean that the two courses false against each other were actually the same course, one being written out forwards and the other backwards.

So long as the tenors are kept together in any composition this cannot occur, but when the tenors are parted it is necessary to prove hand strokes as well as back strokes.

There are 720 rows in a Major method with the treble and tenor at home. Half of these are the possible course ends of the method. The other half come as hand stroke rows. With the tenors together there are 120 possible course ends.

If we write out the 360 possible course ends, we know that from each of them the method will produce 112 changes, and that no row which occurs in one of these courses can possibly occur in another. The courses are 'mutually exclusive.' That means that when we are composing in a symmetrical Major method we need not bother about any individual rows or even any individual lead ends. All we need concern ourselves about is what courses we use; and so long as we do not use the same part of any course twice our composition will be true.

Here a little explanation is needed to avoid confusion. The word 'course' is sometimes used, as we used it just now, for the block of rows which a method will naturally produce without bobs and singles from any particular course end. In actual ringing the only course of that sort we ever come across is the plain course, and in the belfry by a 'course' we mean the changes which occur between one course end and another, and almost always that will include bobs or singles.

To make a distinction, we usually speak of the first sort of course as a 'natural' course, or as a P. Block.

It gets its latter name from the fact that it is a block produced by all plain leads, in contradistinction to a B. Block which is produced by all bobbed leads.

The course end of a natural course is called the natural course end, and this is used as the signature of the whole course.

For instance, suppose we ring a touch of Bob Major in which the first course is called W.M.R. We start in the plain course, and therefore we say that, up to the Wrong, we ring the course 23456. From the Wrong to the Middle we ring the course 52436, and 15243678 is the row which actually would come up if we ran on to the course end without making any bobs or singles. From the Middle to the Home we ring the course 42635. The bob R. brings up the actual course end 64235, which is the natural course end, not of the leads we have been ringing, but of the leads of the course which is yet to come.

In some ways it would have been better if the course ends had been treated as course beginnings and had been put in front of the calling instead of after it. But there are usually good reasons for the traditional way of doing this sort of thing, and in any case it is too late to try and alter it now.

Here is an example of the way a touch of Bob Major can be composed and proved by means of natural course ends:—

Wrong.	Middle.	Home	W.	M.	R.
52436	42635	64235	—	—	—
64235	24536	52436	—	—	—
35426	35426	35426	—		
23456	23456	23456	—		

(Continued in next column.)

### A DIAMOND JUBILEE.

#### RINGER AT KING'S NORTON FOR 60 YEARS.

His many friends will heartily congratulate Mr. J. Betterton, of King's Norton, Birmingham, on attaining his diamond jubilee of ringing at the Parish Church.

Mr. Betterton started ringing as a boy on March 2nd, 1880, and has served in King's Norton tower under five vicars. At one time he rang the curfew and helped to chime for the Sunday services. For many years he has tolled the 'Passing Bell.'

In 1902 Mr. Betterton became a member of the King's Norton Guild, formed by the late Mr. W. S. Pritchett and his brothers. Since then he has assisted in ringing many peals in various methods, those of which he has kept a record being Stedman Caters 2, Grandsire Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Grandsire Triples 1, on handbells 1. His quarter-peals include Grandsire Triples 31, Grandsire Caters 1, Stedman Caters 1, Stedman Triples 20, Treble Bob Major 14, Plain Bob Major 22, and one touch of half a peal of Bob Major.

This is rather a remarkable achievement, as Mr. Betterton is very deaf. It is hoped that he may enjoy many more years of ringing.

### GOLDHANGER RINGERS CELEBRATE LONG SERVICE.

At St. Peter's Church, Goldhanger, Essex, on February 19th, a date touch of 1,940 changes, consisting of 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, 360 College Exercise, 120 Plain Bob and 20 Grandsire Doubles, was rung by W. A. Appleton (longest touch) 1, B. C. Mann 2, J. D. Buckingham (conductor) 3, W. J. White 4, H. R. Appleton 5, A. Appleton 6. It was rung to commemorate 40 years as service ringers at this church by A. Appleton, C. J. Mann and the conductor. Unfortunately, owing to indisposition, C. J. Mann was unable to ring, but his place was taken by his son-in-law, W. J. White. The ringers of the treble and fifth are the sons of Arthur Appleton, and B. C. Mann the son of C. J. Mann.

(Continued from previous column.)

In pricking this, all we want to know is the course ends which are respectively produced by bobs at W., M. and R. Whenever we make a call we transpose the previous natural course end by the course end produced by a bob at Wrong, Middle or Home (whichever it happens to be) and enter the result in the appropriate column. If the same natural course end does not appear twice in the same column the composition is true.

# John Taylor & Co.

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.....

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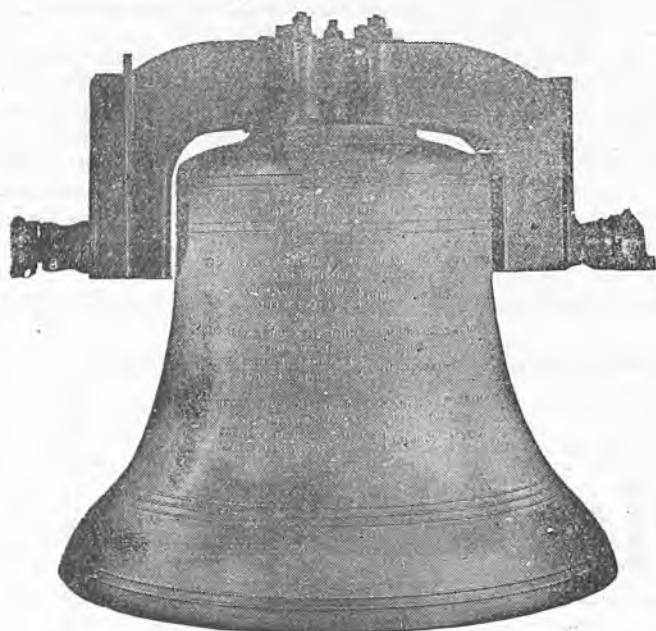
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Summer time came in on Sunday morning. One of the Ealing ringers was careful to put his watch on an hour overnight, but he was still an hour late for ringing in the morning. Then he remembered that, just before going to bed, after a pleasant Saturday night out, he had had a feeling that he had made a mistake and had put his watch forward twice, so, before going to sleep, he put it back an hour. It was the night out that did it.

It is anticipated that the forthcoming rationing of meat will hit at least one Lincolnshire ringer (who is also a special constable) very badly near the place where his waist line should be. We understand he is petitioning the Ministry of Food to amend the scheme so that meat is rationed by weight instead of value—the weight, that is, of the ration book holder.

With reference to the silent peal on handbells at Dagenham, the umpire writes: The band started 'whole pull and go' and rang three whole pulls at finish. The ringing was excellent and not a word was spoken throughout the peal. I was very pleased to be umpire for such a performance. Afterwards several courses of Plain Bob were rung. This, I believe, is the next method to be attempted by the band.

As it was not possible to arrange a peal to celebrate the birthdays of Messrs. H. R. Newton, R. T. Hibbert, S. E. Andrews and A. B. Peck, which all fall within four days of each other, a two-course touch of Cambridge Royal was rung at St. Clement Danes on Saturday by W. H. Pasmore, Mrs. R. F. Deal, H. Hoskins, H. Langdon, G. N. Price, H. G. Miles, C. W. Roberts (conductor), T. Langdon, R. F. Deal and A. B. Peck.

Maurice F. R. Hibbert had one of his rare birthdays yesterday. We hope he made the most of it. He was born on February 29th, 1888.

An early and rather interesting peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the front eight bells at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on February 24th, 1736. It was 'prickt and call'd' by John Denmead. The figures have not survived, but many things point to it being the old bob and single peal which is printed in the 'Clavis,' the composer of which is usually said to be unknown.

The year 1777 was a very memorable one in the history of the art and many notable peals were rung. Among them was one of 10,080 changes of Grandsire Caters on February 25th at St. Margaret's, Leicester. This was rung in competition with the Nottingham ringers, who on March 3rd in the next year scored 10,260 changes in the same method.

On February 27th, 1829, died John Briant, of Hertford, bellringer and bellfounder and, by all accounts, a very worthy citizen.

Edwin Horrex, a leading College Youth of a bygone generation, whom many still remember as a lovable old man, was born on Feb. 28th, 1838.

## THE LATE MR. ALBERT G. WARNES.

### AN APPRECIATION.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It was with extreme regret that I recently received the sad news of the passing of my old friend Albert G. Warnes, and I am grateful to the correspondent who contributed the article regarding his funeral, etc.

I note that mention is made of the Oxford Eight In on the back eight at Mancroft, rung on November 20th, 1890, but Albert Warnes did not take part in it. His first peal was Grandsire Triples on those bells on September 17th, 1889, in which he rang the third. It was the first peal of Grandsire Triples in Norwich for 67 years, the previous one having been at St. Andrew's in 1822.

Foreman, as he was generally known to the Norwich Scholars, was a very good conductor, and had he been given the necessary encouragement as a youngster would have been even better. He had conducted peals on all numbers from five to twelve, with the exception of Cinques.

He was a fine striker at whichever end he rang and for his weight, I should say he never weighed more than ten stone. He was a good man at the back end.

Besides the long peal of Double Norwich at Saxlingham, he also took part in a 7,040 Kent Treble Bob at St. Andrew's, Hingham, on January 21st, 1897.

An unassuming man, he was ever ready to assist youngsters, and amongst those who passed through his hands were my friends, Edward P., William C. and James F. Duffield.

For many years he held a band together at Intwood and he rang regularly on this peal of five for both the morning and afternoon services.

He took part in many of my first peals in various methods and also conducted my first peals of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major. He conducted my first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, which was the first on 12 by four of the Bailey brothers, and I am indebted to him for calling some of my earlier compositions of Double Norwich.

Albert Warnes was a member of the Norwich Scholars, the Norwich Diocesan Association and the Lancashire Association. For the latter association he called at least one peal of Stedman Triples. May he rest in peace.

GEORGE H. CROSS.



## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

The first change ringing at St. Saviour's of which we have any account was on November 18th, 1684, when the College Youths are said to have rung on the largest six bells, three 720's, one each of Oxford Treble Bob, College Single and Oxford Bob. At the time it was the longest length which had been rung anywhere.

Changes on seven bells had only recently been introduced, and Major ringing was still a thing of the future. When Richard Duckworth wrote the 'Tintinnalogia' in 1667, he said that the longest length which, up to then, had been performed on eight bells was 1,680. He does not tell us exactly what the method was, though he does tell us the composition. It may have been Plain Changes, in which one pair of bells changed at a time, or it may have been a form of what we now call Bob Triples. It was more usual to ring five or six bell methods, with two or three bells as covers.

As the tenor at St. Saviour's then weighed 49 cwt., it must have taken a large number of men to ring the three 720's—three or four to the tenor, two or three to the seventh, and probably most of the other bells were rung double handed. It is not unlikely, too, that the ringing was in whole pulls.

The record of this ringing and of the peal of Triples said to have been rung at St. Sepulchre's, in January, 1690, is preserved in a manuscript, which forms the front page of one of the peal books belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths. It has been quoted many times and forms the basis of the historical account given in the society's handbook, but as it stands it is very inaccurate and has little authority.

In its present form it is the work of some unknown man who, shortly before the middle of the last century, attempted to write a history of the College Youths, and in doing so copied material from various sources, occasionally adding comments of his own. In doing it, he incorporated almost verbally an account which, in 1796, George Scarsbrook had transcribed from the 'Oxford Ringers' Register.'

The original of this seems to have disappeared long ago, but it is possible to recover the extract and to be certain that it was written in the year 1738.

That, of course, is a long time after the events it records took place, and so it cannot be accepted as a contemporary authority, but it evidently was compiled by someone who had taken a good deal of care to trace the traditions of the College Youths. As is usual in such cases where he treats with the earlier events, he is vaguer and more inaccurate, but when he comes to events not much earlier than his own time he can be relied upon. For this reason I am strongly inclined to accept as genuine not only the account of the three 720's at St. Saviour's, but also the peal of Bob Triples at St. Sepulchre's in 1690.

It is interesting to notice that this Oxford manuscript said that the College Youths first rang Stedman's Principle at St. Benet's, Cambridge, on March 30th, 1671. This is a much more likely date than that which, following Shipway, writers have usually given. If it is correct, then the College Youths could not have rung the method at any church on College Hill, for all the bells at St.

Michael's, Paternoster Royal and St. Martin's, Vintry, had by that time perished in the Great Fire.

The reader may perhaps wonder why the account of the early College Youths should have come through Oxford, and why the society did not preserve its own traditions. The explanation is, I think, that about 1720 there was a distinct change in the character of the society, and, from being a body composed of well-to-do men of good social standing, it became a company of young and enthusiastic ringers, mostly of the lower middle class. There was no break in continuity, but there easily may have been a break in tradition.

The only peal rung on the old octave at St. Saviour's was one of Bob Triples by the College Youths, on December 19th, 1730. Annable called from the sixth, John Cundell rang the seventh, and John Trenell had two men to help him at the tenor.

The composition, Annable's Six-part, is one of the most important and characteristic compositions in change ringing. It has been rung many times, but since Bob Triples is not practised nowadays, it has fallen into disuse. There are, however, some seven-bell methods, free from the defects of Bob Triples, which one day may be rung, and then the value of Annable's peal will again be recognised. The changes on the six working bells at the lead ends form a regular 720 of Single Court Bob Minor, and it was actually from this 720 that Annable got his composition.

Between Annable and Cundell there evidently was a good deal of jealousy and rivalry. Cundell had ambitions as a conductor, but Annable always expected to call when he was peal ringing. So, when a month after the peal at Southwark, practically the same company went to St. Mary-le-Bow and repeated the performance with Cundell as conductor, Annable was left out of the band, Trenell took his place at the sixth, the others stood as they had done at St. Saviour's, and four others were brought in to help ring the two big bells.

The new ring of twelve at Southwark was opened on August 2nd, 1735. No doubt, the College Youths hoped to ring the first peal on them, but actually it was scored by the Eastern Scholars, who, on November 28th, rang 6,012 changes of Grandsire Caters.

Philemon Mainwaring, who was always ready for a big heavy-bell peal, rang the eleventh and called the bobs. For the tenor, three men were needed.

One of them was Theodore Eccleston, a wealthy young man twenty years of age, who was passionately fond of change ringing, and gave more than one ring of bells to different churches.

He came of a Quaker family. His grandfather (also named Theodore) was a city merchant, who had large interests and acquaintances in the American colonies, a man of weight and substance, and greatly honoured and trusted. His son John had five children, four of them daughters and one son, the younger Theodore. When he died, his property was equally divided between his widow and children. The widow had a brother, Henry Harwood, another wealthy city merchant, who purchased an estate in Suffolk, received a grant of arms from the Herald's College, and became a country gentleman. From him Theodore Eccleston inherited a life interest in Crowfield Hall and several estates in Suffolk and Norfolk.

(Continued on next page.)

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from previous page.)

Crowfield Parish Church has no tower, but, at Coddendam, Eccleston installed a ring of eight with a tenor 16½ cwt., cast at Whitechapel by Thomas Lester; and at Stonham Aspal a ring of ten by the same founder. To ring these bells he got together a good band and induced several prominent ringers from Norwich and London to settle in the district.

Eccleston had a house at Mortlake, where he lived for a good part of his time. He gave two trebles to the parish church, apparently to replace two which had recently been supplied by Robert Catlin and were not satisfactory. Those two Eccleston gave to Fulham to make up the ring of ten there. They did not agree with Rudhall's fine octave, and the vestry, after having obtained Eccleston's consent, had them recast. The hanging was paid for by William Skelton, who, as the Bishop's registrar, had issued the faculty for the erection of Southwark bells.

Theodore Eccleston also gave two bells to Winchester Cathedral, but what connection he had with that city does not appear.

The man who rang the seventh to the Caters at Southwark was Francis Popham. In the name book he is described as an esquire, which in those days was a real rank, only given to those who were entitled to it. That enables us to identify him as a member of an old Somerset family, of whom the most famous was Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and from whom Francis was the fifth in descent. The latter, who married the daughter of Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, died in 1780.

The Eastern Scholars intended to ring a peal of Cinques at Southwark, and on January 25th, 1736, they scored a half-peal, 2,560 changes; but before they had accomplished the full performance, one of the quarrels which were so frequent in these old companies split the band into two parties, neither strong enough by itself to ring a peal of Cinques.

Meanwhile, the College Youths had rung the first peal on the twelve. The method was Grandsire Cinques; it was rung on December 15th, 1735, and the number of changes, 8,008, was not only the greatest which had been rung at the time on twelve bells, but it remained the record length in the method until recent years.

Annable conducted from the ninth, Cundell rang the tenth and Matthew East the eleventh. East had called the first peal of Cinques ever rung, and this was his last peal. He had been Master of the Society of College Youths in the previous year.

## SUFFOLK GUILD.

### WOODBIDGE DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Woodbridge District of the Suffolk Guild was held at Woodbridge on Saturday, February 24th, when over 20 ringers were present from parishes including Ipswich (St. Mary-le-Tower and St. Matthew's), Baldock (Herts), Lowestoft, Newmarket, Helmingham, Earl Stonham, Framlingham, Ufford, Marlesford, Grundisburgh and the local company. The bells were kept going throughout the afternoon and ringing reached a high standard, the methods ranging from rounds to an exceptionally well-struck course of London Surprise Major. During the afternoon a new member was elected to the Guild and a very successful meeting terminated at about 5.30.

As this was the first district meeting arranged since 'activities' recommenced, it is hoped it will be followed by others in order to maintain the interest in these difficult times.

## A COUNTRY MEETING.

### THE VILLAGE POLICEMAN INTERFERES.

We are always glad to give space to interesting reports of ringers' meetings. Sometimes, of course, they have to be sub-edited and condensed. But the report given below is too entertaining to be submitted to either process.

Dear Sur,—Us had a meetin' down in our village the other week and as I ain't seen nothin' about it in our Ringin' World I thought I'd best send yer a few lines. 'Twas sometime afore us could get permission for to ring. Parson was willin', but, he ses, 'you arsk Wilkins about it.' Wilkins is our village p'liceman. And Wilkins ain't at all friendly to me—I think I know why, but that's nothin' to do with this. I told Wilkins us wanted to have a meeting and ring the bells in the afternoon and evenin'.

'No fear,' says Wilkins, 'no fear yer can't ring bells in this village these days. If yer do, I shall stop yer if I want to.'

When I told parson he saw Wilkins hisself and told Wilkins to arsk his sarjent. So Wilkins arsked his sarjent and he sed he'd find out. I dunno who he arsked. It may have been Mr. Chamberlen, but anyhow Wilkins comes one day and tells parson us could ring. He sed he'd mixed up his orders a bit. He was certain about the black out, but he want so sure about the noises. He knew us couldn't ring bells in the streets, or play whistlepipes, but anyhow churchbells was alright so long as it was all dun afore dark or any'ow so long as we didn't show no lights an' was ready to stop if there was a air raid. So parson says us could go ahead and have our meetin'.

Well, us advertized it in the Ringin' World an' us got a good turn up when the time come. Bill Trimmings, our district secretary, an' Bob Hawkins come over on their bikes from Little Squashinham, Tom and Jim Harris come along from Nether Dishton, there was three young chaps from Bashem and some others from round about as well as most of our fellers—I should think about twenty of us all told.

Well, us raised the bells in peel an' a good rise it was to, 'cept one of the Bashem chaps as thought he could rise the tencer was of'ner at lead than he was behind. But, of course, us didn't take no notice of he, 'cept to shout at him. T'other five made a real pretty rise.

Then us rung changes, includin' the plane 10 an' the long 20 and then when 'em rang six scores I rung tencer, an' yer ought to ha' herd how fine 'em sounded. Makes all the difference how tencer is rang.

Parson he conducted service for us; and lor' 'ow us sung, and parson he give us a good sermon. Strait from the shoulder I called it. O' course, it made sum of us think that us don't go to church as of'en like as us ort, but then us expects to get a jab in the ribs now an' agen when us 'as a ringers service. Howsomever, he means well, an' I may as well tell yer here that parson be a good sort. Afore this war he never sed us nay when us wanted the bells for a peal, an' that's how I judge a parson.

Then us went down to the Dun Cow for tea, an' right well did George do us. George, he's the landlord. He always feeds yer well, does George. Why, bless yer when us has our club feast us eats so much that George ses it nearly busts him. An' that's how us feels when us have finished. But George don't mind, he ses it's an advancement and he keeps his customers for the rest of the year at the Dun Cow.

There ain't much I can tell yer about the business meetin' us held. There ain't much business doin' at meetin's anyway. But Tom Harris he's always a grumbler an' he will have his grumble. It pleases him and don't hurt we. This time he brought up an' ole trouble. Tom wants we to have a ringin' master in our district; in fact, he wants to be ringin' master; but just because he wants to be, us won't have no ringin' master. Now if he proposed Bob Hawkins or me things might be different. But us couldn't abear to have Tom Harris as master. His face would put yer off yer ringin' if he was callin', an' anyhow we don't want him.

It was decided, I ought to tell yer, that us should have a outin' in the summer, but I dunno how many will go, 'cause it's got to be a outin' on bikes, like the Nuts do, only ours'll be for half a day. However, there's time to settle about that later on, an' it all depends on Hitler, for maybe the young chaps will be in the Army by then. Ifsobe, I don't think there'll be any outin' 'cept as far as the Dun Cow, perhaps.

Us finished the meetin' with votes of thanks to everybody—'cept Tom Harris, he's really a nasty bit of work is Tom Harris. They thanked me, of course, for arranging everything. Then us went back to the belfry an' started ringin' again; an' all went merry as the marriage bell, as the sayin' goes, for an hour, when up come Wilkins, the p'liceman, and shouts 'Stop, stop!' We all thought there was a air raid or at least that Hitler's airryplains was over droppin' leaflets—against church bell ringin', maybe.

'Stop, stop,' he says. So us stopped right at the last lead of Gransir Doubles.

'What's the matter?' says I, being forman of the tower an' havin' the right to speak as it were.

Why, says Wilkins, Sarjent's rung me on the telephone to say as Superintendent as had a letter that you can ring as long as yer like as long as yer don't show no lights.

I says, 'Wilkins,' I says, 'yer don't know manners. First of all yer shouldn't stop ringers when they be at their work and when yer comes into the belfry yer should take off your 'at.'

(Continued in next column.)

## RINGS OF FIVE.

### A COMPARISON BETWEEN MINOR AND MAJOR SCALES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Amos' query was probably much more interesting than he suspected. It abounds with points of interest and difficulty. I have watched, therefore, hoping to see replies from our founders and musicians, for they naturally are the more able to help us. The former in that they have had to deal with many such rings in the past, and the latter as instanced by your correspondent 'W. C. B.', from their knowledge of the history of music and its various scales, major and minor.

One cannot get it on a piano, but the true minor scale is said to be that of Nature herself (though the cuckoo sings in both scales). The scientist shows that the true diatonic major scale is evolved from the upper overtones or 'partials' of the sub-dominant (F producing C major). We commence at the 24th, and it is very interesting to observe that the off-times maligned flat-seventh hum-note of the 'Old Standard' tuning lies exactly at the 25th, which I have only discovered in recent years (thus justifying Alderman Pritchett in his forecast in court, whilst trying to save Coventry bells).

With much of the essential evidence now lost, it is difficult to piece the tale together, but, as Mr. Trollope says, our own forefathers were prone to the minor scales. It was common to the Celts and Teutons. We do know, however, that it was those wonderful ancient Greeks, with their followers, the Persians and Arabs, who discovered and used the diatonic scales, both major and minor. The lost knowledge was rediscovered by us with the passing of the Dark Ages. Perhaps both Pilgrim and Crusader helped in bringing this about. From Italy, as a centre, the major mode slowly spread to the North and West during three centuries.

I have pointed out in my booklet, 'English Bells and their Tuning' (which is in the Council Library), that the 15th century saw the change take place with us. But as Art is a matter of taste, another 100 years would have seen rings of minor still being installed in the remoter areas.

It would appear that there are few of such rings left, so that Mr. Amos may deem himself fortunate. I know of none near London. (The five Smithfield bells by Bullisden, 1510, are major, but they are only a part, I am told, of a larger ring sequestered at the Reformation. And Stow says that there were 'six tunable bells' there in his time.)

Undoubtedly, as your two previous correspondents infer, it is a matter of one's ear and its training. Much may be acquired by listening to unaccompanied choral works and to string quartettes, when the true or 'just' scales may be heard and enjoyed. The ear often demands a tonic major, it depends on the balance of tone (a very difficult subject upon which I am unable to enter). If Mr. Amos feels like that, let him concentrate on the 3rd and call it 'Do' (in Sol-Fah), viz., Me-ra-DOH-te-la, for our ears are wonderfully capable of mysterious self-adjustments.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

### TREBLE BOB COMPOSITION.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In reference to the peal of Treble Bob in your issue of the 16th inst., this undoubtedly belongs to Mr. T. B. Worsley and I trust that the ringing secretary of the Lancashire Association will make the necessary correction in the peal book.

In October last Mr. Timbrell sent me four compositions all without 8 2's and asked me to find out what had been done in this class of peal. I immediately wrote to him that, speaking from memory, only T. B. Worsley had published peals on this plan, and suggested that he should write Mr. Worsley, who could give him the required information. It was only intended, by publication, to find out the truth. I am now informed that Mr. C. Charge published a one-part peal on this plan many years ago.

E. R. MARTIN.

86, Hartington Road, Preston.

### A COUNTRY MEETING.

(Continued from previous page.)

'Yes, I be sorry I didn't take off the helmet,' he says, 'but I said I'd stop yer if I wanted to. And I've stopped yer.' An' he went off laughin' down the stairs.

When we'd done some more ringin' us dropped the bells in peal. 'Twas alright till we got half-way down, then—well, less said about the rest the better. But us enjoyed an hour at the Dun Cow, but us had to clear out at ten o'clock, 'cause Wilkins was waitin' outside. Howsomever us had a good meetin' (partic'lar at the Dun Cow), an' now summertime is come agin I spec us'll have a few more.

SAM SHANKBONE.

Poppletweazel.

P.S.—Please, Mr. Editor, put this in yer paper, but make it a bit ship-shape.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The 52nd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 5 p.m. prompt; Vice-president Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid up ringing members at 2/- each; to other members and friends at 6s. 6d. each. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12), 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.; Aston Parish Church (12) 3 to 4.15 p.m.; St. Philip's Cathedral (10) 4 to 4.45 p.m.; St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, 3 to 4.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**ST. CLEMENT, TRURO.**—The bells will be rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Truro on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m. A ring of four rehung and the tenor recast by John Taylor and Co.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Pulham Market on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. at the Rectory. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—Albert G. Harrison, Branch Sec., 90, Denmark Street, Diss, Norfolk.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting will be held at Church Kirk on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2 p.m. until black-out. Meeting to be held after. Everybody welcome. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E.1. (nearest station Stepney Green), on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea to follow. Handbells, etc., in the evening.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weston Underwood on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea will be provided if possible. A good attendance desired.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—There will be a practice at Springfield on Saturday, March 2nd, and at Great Baddow on March 9th at 3 p.m. All ringers are invited.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. A committee meeting will be held on the same day.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Practice at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, Idol Lane, City, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Ringing at St. Clement Dane's, Strand, London, W.C.1, on Sunday, March 3rd, at 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery.—Practice meetings will be held at Banwell on March 2nd, from 7 to 8.45 p.m., and Churchill on March 30th, from 6.30 to 9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Practice Sec.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Western Division will be held at Steyning on Saturday, March 2nd. Ringing 2 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. at Green's Bakery, 1s. per head.—F. H. Meeten, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, North Street, Worthing.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Earls Colne on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at the Vicarage 5.30 p.m. It is hoped the members will make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LEICESTER & DISTRICT RINGING SOCIETIES.**—The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel (near Clock Tower) at 6.30 p.m. prompt, on March 9th. Ringing at St. Peter's, Belgrave (8 bells), 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and at St. John's (10 bells) from 4.30 p.m. till 5.30 p.m. Tickets, 3s. 6d each, must be obtained on or before March 6th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—Next meeting March 9th at Brentford (St. Lawrence). Bells available from 2.30. Service at 5, followed by tea at Druce and Smith's. Christ Church, Ealing, bells available in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, W.13.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch (Newport Pagnell Deanery).—A meeting will be held at Sherington on Saturday, Mar. 9th. Service 3.30 p.m. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**ST. BOTOLPH'S, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.**—On account of other meetings in London, the Saturday practices are suspended until March 9th.—James E. Davis, Towerkeeper, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., in the Parochial Hall. Business meeting will be held in the tower at 6 p.m. Those requiring teas must notify Mr. W. Robinson, 49, Bowman Street, Agbrigg Road, Wakefield, not later than Wednesday, March 6th. All are welcome. A special meeting will also be held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, for the installation of society's jug and case at social headquarters (Royal Hotel). Full particulars later.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Wigan Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Great Yarmouth on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 3 to 6 p.m. Tea at Hill's Restaurant, King Street, at 6.15 p.m. Business meeting after tea. Owing to the conditions of the present times it is essential that those coming to tea should let me have names or numbers by first post on Thursday, March 7th. All ringers are welcome.—J. Harwood, Hon. Sec., 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Kendal Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (10) available at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Woodhouse hopes to demonstrate his ringing machine at this meeting. Tea will be arranged at 4.30 p.m. only for those who send notice to Mr. L. Townley, 3, Charles Street, Kendal, not later than March 4th. Meeting in the Vestry Room after tea.—N. M. Newby, Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. Lewis Bywaters, 12, New Town, Henlow, Beds, not later than Wednesday, March 6th? Now, just for once, You out of the district LET'S KNOW. We expect You and I mean You.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Rodbourne Cheney on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available afternoon and evening. Tea at 5 p.m. (a card will be appreciated). On Swindon Corporation bus route.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at Redbourn. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. usual arrangements, but tea can only be arranged for those who let me know by the previous Tuesday.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Annual meeting will be held at Warnham, Saturday, March 9th. Tower open at 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea by Wednesday prior to meeting to Mr. W. Charman, Church Street, Warnham. Please help by sending a card.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, March 9th. The eight bells will be available at 2.30 p.m. Tea cards should be sent as promptly as possible to Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cott's, Balcombe, Haywards Heath. We extend a cordial invitation to all ringers in Sussex and elsewhere.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

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**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Dorset Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Hazelbury Bryan, Stourminster Newton, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells ready at 2.30 p.m. Welcome to visitors.—Wm. Uphill, Hon. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—Western District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at Battle Axes Hotel. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me by March 6th?—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belper, on March 9th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Nottingham and Peak districts specially invited. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wotton Underwood on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available from 2.45 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn St., Winslow, Bucks.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 9th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service in church at 4.30. If possible, tea will be provided. Business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 17, Grange Road, Dudley.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A practice will be held at St. Mary-le-Bow on Saturday, March 9th, at 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 12th at headquarters at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**DONCASTER PARISH CHURCH.**—The ring of eight bells, which has been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be dedicated on March 10th at 3 p.m. by Archdeacon T. Sandford.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, March 16th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. It is hoped to arrange a tea for those who send their names to F. A. Staveley, 151, Wentworth Road, Doncaster, not later than Wednesday, March 13th.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, March 16th. Bells of St. John's available from 3 o'clock. Service 5 o'clock. Tea at the Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, Croydon, 5.45. Meeting 6.30. Further ringing after the meeting. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrisons Rise, Croydon, by Wednesday, March 13th.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—Meeting at Witley, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that all requiring tea notify Mr. F. C. Hagley, 2, Wheeler Street, Witley, not later than Thursday, March 14th. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Association service in church at 12 noon. Ringing at All Saints' before the service and after meeting until 6 p.m. If possible, a luncheon will be arranged. Particulars next week.—Fred M. Mitchell, 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Full details later. It is essential that all those requiring tea should notify me before Tuesday, March 19th.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgemoor, Evesham.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Preliminary notice.—The annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Easter Monday. Details will be advertised later, but in the meantime would those who require a cold lunch (price 2s.) please let Mr. J. Hunt or me know during the next ten days or so? The restaurants in Taunton, I am informed, are closed on that day.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton, Bath.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A dark fawn raincoat was left behind at the annual meeting at Hunslet. Will owner please apply to Canon Marshall, St. Chad's Vicarage, Leeds, 6.

#### DEATH.

**CAVE.**—On February 21st, Kate, the dearly loved wife of William A. Cave, of Bristol, and mother of Percival and Dorothy.

#### PRESENTATION AT TOWCESTER.

On Sunday, February 18th, for evensong at Towcester Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,260 changes) was rung by A. Johnson (conductor) 1, W. Sharp 2, A. Findull 3, L. Greenhow 4, V. Burt 5, W. Gardner 6.

This was rung to mark the marriages of the ringer of the fifth and of the conductor's son, which took place the previous day. On behalf of clergy and ringers, the tower captain, Mr. W. Sharp, presented to Mr. V. Burt a tangible proof of their esteem and offered their best wishes.

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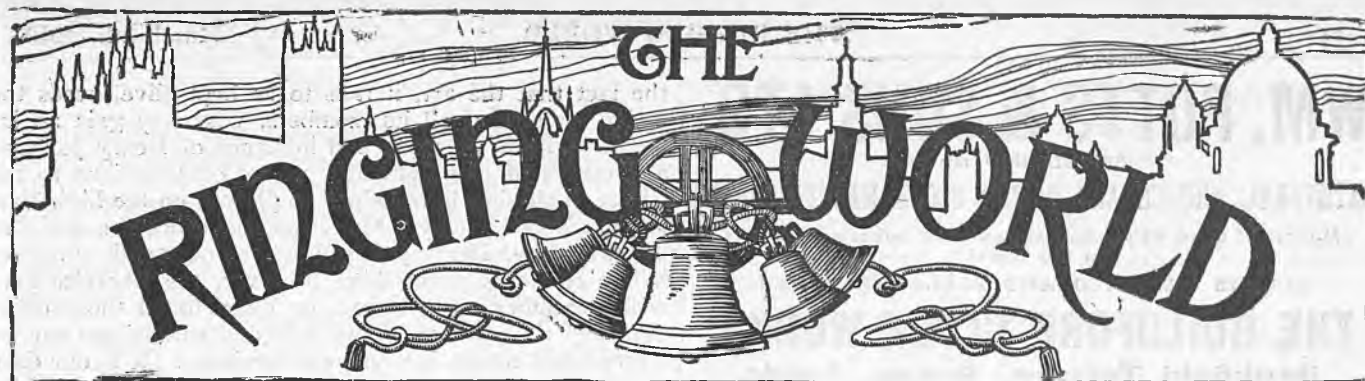
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FRIDAY, MARCH 8th, 1940.

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## ENTHUSIASM IS ESSENTIAL.

The action of St. Martin's Guild in deciding to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner this year was fully justified by events. Although the number attending was smaller than usual, probably smaller than at any time since the eightieth birthday of Johnson was celebrated in 1880, nevertheless a company of nearly a hundred may be considered extremely satisfactory in these difficult days. But although the company was reduced in size, the spirit of former years was there, and the function gained an unusual interest from the fact that it was honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, the Lord Mayor being a member of a distinguished ringing family. His father was Mr. Theodore Pritchett, of Kings Norton, and his uncle is still the Master of St. Martin's Guild. This happy link between the Guild and civic head of Birmingham was one of the main themes of the speeches after dinner, when it was revealed that the Lord Mayor himself had once upon a time been a ringer. Whether the hope, that he may some day return to the belfry, will be realised, remains to be seen, but the renewal of his connection with ringers through this gathering gave great pleasure to the members of the Guild and, we feel sure, to the Lord Mayor himself.

The future of ringing was naturally in the minds of most of the speakers, and the importance, not only of keeping the art alive, but of maintaining Sunday ringing, was rightly emphasised. Now that a really serious call is being made upon the young men of the country for military service, the drain upon the belfries is becoming more and more marked and, as we have over and over again tried to impress upon all those responsible—and, in our view, the responsibility rests not merely upon the leaders of towers but upon every ringer—the business of supplying reserves should begin at once. When the men liable for military service have gone, it may be too late to reconstruct a band. The depletion of the ranks should be forestalled, if necessary by calling in the assistance of ladies, and the task should be taken in hand now.

To keep the flag flying will need all the enthusiasm that ringers everywhere can put into the art. That enthusiasm exists in many places, and there is encouragement to be gained from such gatherings as that at Birmingham on Saturday. The spirit that pervades these functions has its reactions in many directions. It helps the good relations between the towers in and around Birmingham, and radiates to many distant places. It enables ringers to appreciate that ringing is not centred solely within the four walls of their own tower, and it brings home to them

(Continued on page 110.)

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the fact that the art, if it is to be kept alive, needs the active interest of all its members, who may gain an inspiration from the work and influence of Henry Johnson and others of like character, whose contributions to the edifice of ringing have helped to place it on the high level it has reached to-day. Many men have taken a share in this work, but Henry Johnson was an outstanding figure. While commemorating him, however, the Exercise may well remember, also, what is owed to all those other giants of the past, to whose skill and enthusiasm can be traced what to-day is a valuable heritage. It is our duty to see that the art shall be continued in our time, despite all obstacles, and handed on, to those who follow, the better for our association with it.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 6lb.

JOHN H. B. HESSE ... .. 1	...Treble	WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... .. 6
ARTHUR J. BARTLETT ... .. 2		ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 7
C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. 3		WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. 8
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... .. 4		FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... .. 9
BARRY ELLIOTT ... .. 5		HARRY MULLARD ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN ROGERS. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 18 cwt. 2 lb.

*RAYMOND STALLIBRASS ...Treble	*BERNARD G. HOOSEMAN ... 5
*FRANK METHAM ... .. 2	*NOEL E. CHAMBERS ... .. 6
*SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS ... .. 3	JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... .. 7
HAROLD MARCON ... .. 4	*JACK H. CHAMBERS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

\* First peal on eight bells. First peal of Triples as conductor. First peal on the bells since they were rehung in St. Giles' Church from the old St. Peter-at-Arches' Church, Lincoln. All are local members.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt. in F.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. Treble	*LEONARD LUCK ... .. 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 2	*ERIC B. HARTLEY ... .. 6
RICHARD G. BELL ... .. 3	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 7
PERCY L. PARSLow ... .. 4	CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. Tenor

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal of Grandsire Triples. The ringer of the 7th was elected a member previous to starting.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HAROLD CHANT ... .. Treble	WILLIE GREEN ... .. 5
T. COLIN RYDER ... .. 2	ERNEST BROOKES ... .. 6
JOHN E. TURLEY ... .. 3	ARTHUR GILL ... .. 7
DAN SMITH ... .. 4	ALBERT NASH ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS. Conducted by A. NASH.



**SIX BELL PEALS.**

NEWTON, PORTHCAWL, GLAM.  
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION  
On Thursday, February 29, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,  
At the Church of St. John,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two extents, ten callings. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM SURMAN ... .. Treble	ERNEST STITCH ... .. 4
ALFRED HANNINGTON ... .. 2	†ALBERT E. BACON ... .. 5
ALFRED E. WILLIAMS ... .. 3	TREVOR M. RODERICK ... Tenor

Conducted by E. STITCH.

\* First peal. † First peal away from tenor.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 6½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON ... .. Treble	JOHN H. BAILLESS... .. 4
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... .. 2	FRANK T. LONG ... .. 5
GEORGE A. CHARLTON ... .. 3	FRANK BAILLESS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. BAILLESS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Canon J. Casson, Rector of Croft for the past 17 years.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

WALTON, LIVERPOOL.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 28, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 56, CHEPSTOW STREET,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven callings. Tenor size 11.

THOMAS S. HORRIDGE... .. 1-2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 3-4
WILLIAM H. DEACON ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

Rung at the third attempt.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.****SUCCESSFUL GATHERING AT MARKET DEEPIING.**

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Market Deeping on Saturday, February 24th. Previously arranged for January 27th, it had to be abandoned owing to the severe weather conditions, but on the second attempt a very successful meeting resulted. About 25 ringers were present from Surfleet, Bourne, Peterborough, Eye, Edenham, Billingborough, Deeping St. James, Baston, Glington, Manthorpe, Folkingham and Market Deeping. The Rector, the Rev. F. L. Pigott, kindly allowed the use of bells during the afternoon and evening, and they were kept going to a variety of Minor methods, including London and Cambridge Surprise and several six-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

Service was held at 4.30, conducted by the Rector, followed by the tea and business meeting at the Imperial Cafe, 19 sitting down. Mr. R. Richardson, Master of the Guild, presided at the business meeting. The Rev. Thorold Eller, of Burckstone, the president of the branch, and all the vice-presidents and hon. members were re-elected en bloc. Mr. T. L. Bainbridge, of Bourne, was elected as Branch Ringing Master on the retirement of Mr. H. M. Day. Mr. J. E. Allen, of Billingborough, was elected as hon. auditor and Guild representative. Mr. W. Oldham, of Manthorpe, was elected to the Standing Committee in the place of Mr. W. Neale. Mr. Philip Coles, of Edenham, was elected as a ringing member.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Horbling in April.

The business concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and the service, and to Mr. Rupert Richardson for presiding at the business meeting. The tower was again visited and further ringing continued until 9 p.m.

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**DEATH OF MR. W. A. CAVE.****A DISTINGUISHED RINGER.****His Work in Bristol.**

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. William Albert Cave, of Bristol, who passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday of last week after only a short illness. It will be remembered that in our last issue we announced the death of Mrs. Cave, who was buried on Monday, the 26th ult. At that time Mr. Cave was indisposed and was unable to attend the funeral. The following day he was taken suddenly worse, and, despite all that medical skill could do, succumbed to the malady. He was 63 years of age.

Mr. Cave was among the best known ringers in England, and in the Bristol district rendered yeoman service to the art over a long period of years. He had helped to found several local ringing societies in the city, he had been hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and was a valued member of the Central Council for many years. He played a great part in his younger days in raising the standard of change ringing in Bristol.

Born near St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol's famous twelve-bell tower, Mr. Cave was educated at Redcliffe School and learnt to ring on Redcliffe bells. In time he came under the influence of the late James Hinton, the mentor of so many Bristol ringers, and, as a result, he joined St. Stephen's Guild in September, 1894, and remained a member until Easter, 1932. At the time he joined the Guild the band were beginning to ring Stedman, and after a while Mr. Cave took his place with the rest in ringing for service and practice. His first peal was one of Grandsire Triples rung at Wraxall, Somerset, for the Bath and Wells Association in September, 1895. His first peal as conductor came two years later, when he called the first peal of Treble Bob Royal in Bristol by a local band. Mr. Cave watched change ringing in Bristol rise from modest beginnings to a high standard. Whereas in 1894 Stedman was a rarity, before Mr. Hinton died in 1909 peals of Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge and London had been rung by Bristol men. Mr. Cave shared in the conducting, and he grew to be one of the ablest conductors in the West. He was a centre of energy in Bristol and called the first peal of Bristol Surprise and the first of Cambridge Surprise Maximus by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

His activities did not, however, find an outlet merely in peal ringing. He rendered great service in starting new companies at other churches, and to the Gloucester and Bristol Association in various capacities. In 1910 he formed a Guild of Ringers at St. Thomas' Church, and when the new ring of bells was installed at the Church of the Holy Nativity in 1931, he built up a band there, while last year he was assisting Mr. S. H. Wood to form a band at St. Mary Redcliffe.

In 1905 he was elected assistant hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and in 1907 was made joint secretary with Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower. When the latter resigned he carried on alone and gave up in 1914 when military service claimed him. After the war he was Master of the association in 1920-21 and was elected a representative on the Central Council, on which he had previously served from 1909 to 1911. When, in 1929, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association seceded from the Council for a time, Mr. Cave's valued services were retained by electing him as an honorary member, and, for a short time during the absence in South Africa of Mr. E. A. Young, then hon. secretary, Mr. Cave was acting secretary of the Council. A few years ago Mr. Cave published a very useful pamphlet on Cambridge Surprise.

Peal boards in Bristol towers testify to Mr. Cave's prowess as a ringer and conductor, although he never claimed for himself any outstanding performances. Among his peals may be mentioned a 7,023 Stedman Caters, and the one and only peal rung on Lundy Island.

Mr. Cave was an enthusiastic Volunteer, and was an excellent rifle shot. He received the long service medal on the formation of the Territorial Force. Another of his interests was in Freemasonry.

His death will be mourned by a large circle of friends, whose sympathy will go out to the son and daughter in their double bereavement. Mr. Cave will be much missed, and the Exercise can ill afford to lose such men as he.

The funeral service was held last Saturday at the Church of the Holy Nativity, where, at the time of his death, Mr. Cave had charge of the bells. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. W. L. Wynne, assisted by the Rev. M. Paterson, of St. Thomas', and there were many mourners, among the ringers present being Messrs. J. T. Dyke, H. Bennett, W. S. Emery, F. C. Bellamy, P. C. Williams, R. Clark, W. H. Sears, H. Pring, K. M. Bissicks, E. J. Brown, J. Burford, S. H. Wood, W. Knight, J. Cocks, A. Tyler, H. H. Tucker and Edgar Guise, as well as Mrs. Wilkins and Miss Rowe.

The hymns were 'Jesu, Lover of my soul' and 'Peace, perfect peace.' The psalm was 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and at the conclusion the Nunc Dimittis was sung.

The interment was at Arno's Vale Cemetery, where but a few days before Mrs. Cave had been buried, and there were many floral tributes, including one from the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, one from the Bristol Branch and one from St. Thomas' Church.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

The Society of Union Scholars was founded in the year 1713, and had the distinction of being the first company to ring a peal of Major. But after a couple of five thousands they drop out of sight, and we hear no more of them until 1736, when, under the leadership of John Denmead, they began peal ringing again.

Many of their members were deserters from the Society of Eastern Scholars, and among them was Philemon Mainwaring, who seems to have been the principal founder of that company. He had already several fine heavy bell performances to his credit, and he added to them when he joined his new friends by being the first man to turn Southwark tenor in to a peal.

The method was Plain Bob Royal, and the time taken for the 5,040 changes was 4 hours and 10 minutes. The rate of changes per minute was 20.16, which is very much slower than is to-day usual with peals of Maximus on the bells. When William Pye rang Southwark tenor, the average rate was 22 changes a minute.

After a time, Mainwaring went back to the Eastern Scholars, but in the meanwhile they had accomplished their peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's. It was rung on December 17th, 1739, and, although there were no more than 5,082 changes, three men were needed to the tenor. Andrew Field, who conducted, was one of the ringers who went down to Suffolk to make up Theodore Eccleston's band.

The next peal on the bells was a 'fine peal of 5,016 Bob Maximus Double,' by the College Youths, on March 24th, 1740. Annable called the bobs, and John Cundell rang the tenor single handed. He took 4 hours and 4 minutes.

In comparison with Bow tenor, and Cornhill tenor, St. Saviour's tenor must have gone very well indeed. This may be partly due to the greater rigidity of the tower, and partly to the excellent workmanship of Robert Catlin, who made the frame, which is still in the steeple.

It was seventeen years after the Double Bob before the next peal was rung at Southwark, and during that time only two twelve-bell peals were rung anywhere. One was Grandsire Cinques by the Union Scholars and the other Bob Maximus by the Eastern Scholars. Both were at St. Bride's.

It was the time when the rivalries and quarrels within the Society of College Youths, especially between Annable and Cundell, were splitting the company into two factions. Annable died early in 1756, and in the next year a band was formed partly from the College Youths and partly from the Eastern Scholars which became the leading company in London, and in time inherited the name and traditions of the Society of College Youths. For the next thirty years there were two distinct societies of College Youths—the new body, who were usually styled the College Youths, and the other who were called the ancient Society of College Youths.

On April 19th, 1757, at St. Saviour's, 'this Society of College Youths rang their first peal, which was 5,280 changes of Bob Maximus, in 4 hours and 21 minutes, and was call'd by Mr. Geo. Meakins.' That is how Osborn copied the entry in the peal book. There is at present nothing about it being the society's 'first peal,' but the book, as it now exists, has largely been re-written

after having been partially destroyed in the nineteenth century.

The band who rang the Maximus consisted of men who were not only excellent ringers but who maintained the standards of the Exercise in London at a very high level. Joseph Monk, who rang the tenor, was afterwards the editor of the last reprint of the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanalogia,' which had first appeared in 1702.

Just a year after the Bob Maximus, on March 12th, 1758, the same society and almost the same band rang at St. Saviour's a peal of Treble Bob Maximus. 'This capital performance was the first peal of the kind ever accomplished on 12 bells by former professors of the art, and stands unrivalled for the boldness of the undertaking, the intricacy of the Method, and the excellent manner in which it was performed.'

Meakins was again the conductor, and Joseph Monk the tenor ringer. The method was, of course, Oxford, for Kent Treble Bob was as yet unknown. A month after this performance, the Ancient Society of London Youths rang 6,336 changes of Bob Maximus on the bells in 5 hours and 13 minutes.

There has been a society of London Youths for some years, made up, it would seem, by men who practised at Whitechapel and other belfries in the eastern suburbs. It was a rather loosely organised body, and had a tendency to split into different sections. One of these sections, which lasted from 1755 to 1780, had a distinguished career and helped to make ringing history. Another section lasted till the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The peal books of these two bodies survive, but of the company which rang the peal at Southwark almost nothing is known. It would seem that it was formed out of the quarrels which finally wrecked the societies of Union Scholars and Eastern Scholars, and that the band, having rung the long peal of Maximus, dispersed almost immediately. Both before and afterwards, almost all the men were ringing with other companies.

The conductor was John Jennett, and the tenor ringer was the elder Samuel Muggeridge, who ranks among the leading heavy bell ringers of all time. This performance gave him a place in the select group of men who have turned a 50 cwt. tenor in to more than six thousand changes. The group includes only six men—Samuel Muggeridge, his son Samuel Muggeridge the younger, George Harris, James Marlton, William T. Cockerill and William Pye. The first four rang their peals at Southwark, the last two on the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow.

The London Youths' peal was recorded on a board in the belfry, but it has long since disappeared, and we should have known nothing about the performance had not Concanen and Morgan given a copy of the board in their 'History of Southwark,' published in 1795.

Note.—Southwark old tenor was always reputed to be 52 cwt. in weight, but when it was taken down to be recast, I believe it was found to be actually 49½ cwt.

## RINGERS AND CHORISTERS.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Jabez Preece, I trust he will not object if I try to explain why some towers are compelled to wait a bit longer before teaching recruits. He says, 'We have a ring of six bells, tenor 6½ cwt.' Penshurst has a peal of eight, tenor 18 cwt. approx., and as the belfry is on the ground floor and the length of rope is 70ft., this, in my opinion, speaks for itself. Wishing Mr. Preece the best results with his spadework, which could be copied by many others especially at these times. GEORGE EDWARDS.

Penshurst, Kent.

**BELLS TUNED IN MINOR SCALE.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence in your columns in regard to the tuning of rings of bells in minor scales, it may interest your readers to learn that I have found several dating from the seventeenth and subsequent centuries.

At Marsh Gibbon, Bucks, is a minor ring of five originally cast by the Chandlers of Drayton Parslow in 1678, and until quite recently similar rings of five existed at Tingewick, Bucks, and Old Marston, Oxon, the latter dating from the first part of the nineteenth century.

There is a minor ring of four at Ferry Hinksey, Berks, again a seventeenth century example; while in 1701 a minor ring of four was erected at Launton, also by the Chandlers, to which a few years later a tenor was added, making a major ring of five.

Minor rings of three are fairly numerous. There are examples at Fringford, Bucknell, and Oddington, Oxon; while at Oakley, Bucks, is a similar ring with the middle bell a semi-tone flat. The majority of these are seventeenth century bells.

I have found many unique rings. For example, at Nevern, Pembrokeshire, is a ring of six of eighteenth century date tuned in a minor scale, but with the fifth a semi-tone flat; and there is good evidence that they were cast and tuned thus, and have never formed part of a larger ring. At Llanstephan, Radnor, are four bells; the three largest tuned in a minor scale, with the treble one and a half tones above the second. Another unusual example is to be found at St. Petrox Church, Dartmouth Castle, Devon. Here is a ring of six, the largest five of which, cast in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are tuned as the upper five of a major ring of eight. Subsequently a treble was added, thus forming the second-to-seventh of a major ring of ten.

Many more examples could be quoted, but I will conclude with a most peculiar example at Nether Winchenden, Bucks, where there are five bells, tuned as a major ring of five, but with the treble a semi-tone sharp and the fourth a semi-tone flat.

Launton, Bicester, Oxon. **FREDERICK SHARPE.**

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT STEYNING.**

The annual meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Steyning on Saturday, March 2nd, 26 members attending from 12 towers. The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire, Bob Major, Kent, Stedman, Cambridge, Superlative and London. At the business meeting all the outgoing officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. G. J. Norris, who retired from the committee. The secretary wishes to thank all members for their attendances and support during the past business year.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.****THE MIDDLE SECTIONS.**

We have received a very nice letter from one of our friends asking for some further information about the way to work out false course ends. He had, he says, no difficulty in following the instructions we gave so far as the first section of the method was concerned, but he could not see how to adapt them to the other sections. We ought to have explained that in dealing with all the sections the treble is simply ignored, and so they are treated in the same manner. In the example we gave (page 88) you first transpose the lead heads by the first row of the first section and the lead ends by the third row of the first section. Similarly when you come to the second section you transpose the lead heads by the first row and the lead ends by the third row. Ignore the treble and you get the following:

2554678	5324768
5783264	8753624
8647523	4687253
4236857	3246587
3572486	7532846
7865342	6875432
6428735	2468375

As 7 and 8 do not fall into the same relative positions in these two tables, this section gives no false course end.

When you come to the third section you will find that the second lead head, 5738264, transposed by the first row, 3527864, gives 7856423; and the sixth lead end, 6847253, transposed by the third row, 5327864 gives 7865324. When you compare 7856423 and 7865324, you can see that the false course end is 24365.

Similarly when you transpose the lead heads by the third row and the lead ends by the first row you get 8765432 and 8756342, which gives the same false course end, 24365, the second lead of one course being false against the sixth lead of the other.

It is always a good thing to test these things by actual experiment. For instance, write out in full the second lead of the course 23564 and the sixth lead of the course 25346 in the method given as an example, and see what happens.

**DUBLIN.**—At St. George's on Sunday, February 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) by past members of the 14th (Dublin) Company of the Boys' Brigade (St. George's) before corporate Holy Communion for the Boys' Brigade: Ex-Pte. W. McGregor 1, ex-L.-Cpl. D. McGregor 2, ex-L.-B.-Ldr. Miss A. Dukes 3, ex-Cpl. W. Hall (first quarter-peal) 4, ex-S.-Sgt. F. Dukes (conductor) 5, ex-L.-Cpl. G. McGregor (first quarter-peal) 6.

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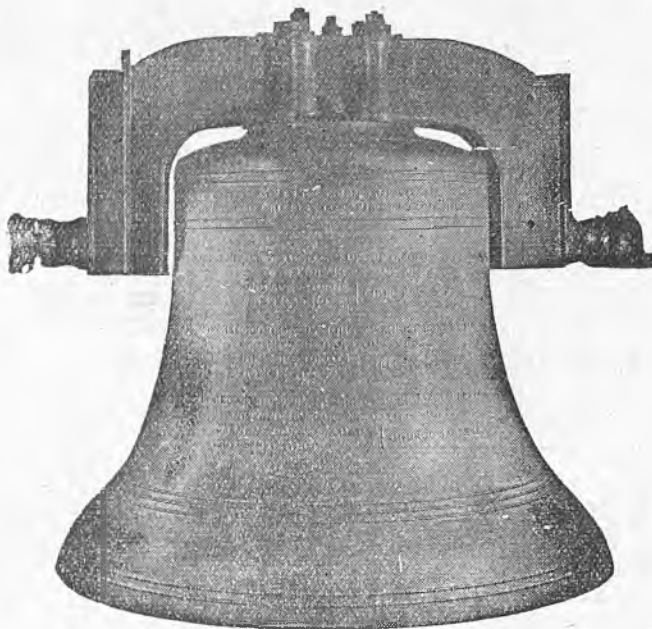
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The vice-president of St. Martin's Guild, who from the chair so skilfully conducted the proceedings at the Henry Johnson dinner in Birmingham on Saturday, had a surprise after the close of the proceedings. It was late before his duties finished and most of the company had long since departed, but when he ventured out into the night he found that not only had the last bus gone, but also the last taxi. He and his guests had to walk three and a half miles to the utter extremity of the city. What he—and they—said doesn't matter now, but they laughed over it—the next morning.

They were not the last of the company to reach their beds, however. The hon. secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, in order to be in his place in his own belfry next morning, left Birmingham at 9.30 p.m., arrived in Newport at 2 a.m. and then had a mile to walk to his home. And he was born in 1865.

We are glad to be able to state that the Master of the College Youths, Mr. E. G. Fenn, has now recovered from the long and serious illness which prevented him from presiding at the annual celebration in November. His first appearance was at the meeting last Tuesday week, and, needless to say, he had a very warm welcome back. Last Sunday he rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the first time for about five months.

The meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, which was advertised to be held at Sandal on March 9th, has been transferred to Silkstone.

On March 8th, 1737, the Norwich Scholars rang on the old ten bells at St. Peter Mancroft 12,600 changes of Grandsire Caters in 8 hours and 15 minutes. At the time it was the longest length in any method and it remained the record for Grandsire Caters until April 11th, 1883, but only narrowly, for only a month after it was achieved the Painswick men rang 12,006 changes in 7 hours and 55 minutes.

The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow was rung by the Cumberlands on March 8th, 1808. It was composed and conducted by the younger George Gross, William Shipway rang the second, and the tenor was rung by Philip Pilgrim, who for many years was one of the leading heavy bell men belonging to the Society of College Youths.

On March 10th, 1742, the Richmond Society rang 'a compleat peal of Five Thousand and Forty of Richmond Triples.' The board which records this performance is still in good condition, but the figures of the method are lost and we do not know what was rung. The two trebles to complete the octave had been given two years earlier by William Gardiner, a local gentleman. He was a ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths. He was Master in 1744. In 1729 he took part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis Backchurch, but he did not stand in any of the peals which were rung at Richmond.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells was rung on March 11th, 1854, by four members of the St. James' Society: John Cox 1-2, William Cooter 3-4, Henry W. Haley 5-6, and Matthew A. Wood 7-8.

## RINGS OF FIVE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—From 1827 to 1906 there was in Cotgrave Church, Notts, a ring of five bells in a minor scale. The third bell was cast in 1827 by Thomas Mears, of London; the other four were much older. The fifth was said to have been cast somewhere about the end of the 17th century, but I cannot ascertain the exact date or the name of the founder. The other three were cast early in the 17th century at different dates by the Oldfields, of Nottingham.

I have often wondered why this third bell was only half a tone above the fourth instead of a full tone, as in a major scale, but I cannot find any reference to it in the church records. Was it by accident or design? Perhaps the successors to Thomas Mears have records of the work done about that time and could enlighten me?

The older people in the village were very fond of this minor peal, and when they were increased to a peal of six in a major scale, many of these older people did not consider the change an improvement. The old five with their plaintive sound certainly had merits.

W. E. WHITE.

Cotgrave.

## BEGINNING YOUNG.

Tower-bell practice having been rather limited in Bournemouth, many of the ringers have turned their attention to handbells—practice takes place in St. Peter's Hall on Tuesday evenings. Among those to join the ringers from St. Peter's and St. John's on these occasions are the son and daughter of the tower captain at St. Peter's, John and Mary. Their progress has been rapid and greatly assisted by the loan of a light peal of ten by Mr. F. S. Wilson, of Midhurst. Mary, aged 9½ years, has learned to ring 1-2 to Grandsire Triples in a little under a month, and, with John (13) ringing 3-4 and father 5-6-7-8, enjoys a course or two on most days. Is she the youngest young lady to accomplish this? Grandsire Doubles and Minor are also rung and attempts at Grandsire Major. John was admitted a member of the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild in December last and assists with the service ringing at St. Peter's. He could hunt the treble and ring 1-2 to Triples prior to his 13th birthday in November last.



## THE MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

ANNUAL DINNER AT BIRMINGHAM.

### The Lord Mayor Renews Association with Ringing.

A touch of unusual interest was given to the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham on Saturday, the fifty-second of the series, when the principal guest was the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Theodore B. Pritchett, M.C. The Lord Mayor's uncle, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, has been Master of St. Martin's Guild since 1902, and his father, the late Mr. Theodore Pritchett, was one of four ringing brothers at King's Norton, who, a generation ago, were among the most distinguished ringers in the Midlands. Even the Lord Mayor himself made a beginning as a ringer, and got as far as attempting a peal. It was not surprising, therefore, to find him, in his year of office as chief citizen of Birmingham, renewing acquaintance with the Guild in which he was once interested.

During the afternoon there had been ringing at St. Martin's and the Cathedral, and special interest was taken in the new peal of eight at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, which were rung for the first time. Dinner was served at the Imperial Hotel and presided over by Councillor A. Paddon Smith (a vice-president). The company included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Very Rev. J. H. Richards (Provost of Birmingham), Canon Guy Rogers (Rector of Birmingham), the Ven. H. McGowan (Archdeacon of Aston) and Mrs. McGowan, Mr. T. Reeves (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Reeves, Mr. F. H. Haynes (Ringing Master), the Rev. Canon Blofeld (Edgbaston) and Mrs. Blofeld, Mr. F. B. Yates (King's Norton), Mr. W. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Warwick Smith, Mr. A. Walker (vice-president) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. R. Richardson (Master of Lincoln Diocesan Guild) and Mrs. and Miss E. Richardson, Mr. H. Knight (hon. secretary, Society for Archdeaconry of Staffs), Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), Mr. J. Austin (Gloucester), Mr. F. Skidmore and Mr. D. Clift (Bristol), Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. J. P. Fidler (Loughborough), Mr. and Mrs. F. Pervin and Mr. F. W. Perrins (Coventry), Mr. W. Griffin and Miss Griffin (Walsall), Mr. and Mrs. W. Viggers (Aldershot), Mr. G. Popnell (Blackwood), Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe (Sheffield), Mr. G. J. Lewis (Worcester), Mr. H. Symonds (Hereford), Mr. F. C. A. Bennett (Wolverhampton), and ringers from many towers in and around Birmingham, numbering in all about one hundred.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER.

After the loyal toast had been honoured, the Hon. Secretary announced that letters of apology had been received from the Bishop of Birmingham, Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mrs. J. H. Richards (wife of the Provost), Mr. F. W. Stevens (churchwarden of St. Martin's), Mr. F. E. Dawe (Woking), Mr. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon, a vice-president of the Guild), Mr. and Mrs. E. Guise (Bristol) and others. The hon. secretary read the following letter from the Master of the Guild (Alderman J. S. Pritchett): 'I cannot tell you how grieved I am not to be with you this evening, but the terrible winter has tried me dreadfully and I feel quite unable to be away from home. I am glad that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress are coming and I hope they will enjoy themselves. The Lord Mayor's father rang with me in Holt's Original, London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise and many other peals. He was a life member of St. Martin's Guild. Please give my kindest remembrance to my old ringing friends. I often think of the happy days in the belfry with them. At about 7 p.m. on Saturday I hope to be drinking "Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild" in a glass of old port (laughter and applause). I desire to be specially remembered to my old friend Tom Miller if present' (applause).

The Hon. Secretary said unfortunately Mr. Tom Miller was unable to be present, as he was an inmate of the Western Road Hospital. That was only the second or third dinner that he had missed in the whole series since the commencement, while Mr. Dawe had reminded them that he was one of the founders of that commemoration, as he attended the first dinner, which commemorated the 80th birthday of Henry Johnson.

#### UNITY NEEDED.

Mr. W. C. Dowding, proposing the combined toasts of 'Church and State' and 'The City of Birmingham,' welcomed the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the clergy who were present and referred to the happy relations which existed in Birmingham between the clergy and ringers. At St. Martin's, he said, the ringers greatly appreciated the visits which the Rector paid to the belfry. Mr. Dowding went on to speak of the great need of unity among churchpeople, and said he was much interested in a recent letter in 'The Ringing World,' under the heading of 'Ringers and Choirmen.' The writer, who said he was both a ringer and choirman, wrote that there was not very much unity, in fact he said there was a certain amount of feeling, between ringers and choirmen; that, in effect, the ringers turned up their noses at the choirmen and the choirmen turned up their noses at the ringers (laughter). That certainly did not apply in Birmingham and they had that evening four choirmen who had come to entertain them (applause). Mr. Dowding appealed to everyone in the Church to 'stick their backs' into the work for the Church, for there never was a time in the history of the Church when more hard work was called for than it was to-day. With regard to the City of Birmingham they were very proud that the State was being piloted by a Birmingham man (applause). Despite the criticism sometimes levelled

at him by certain newspapers, whose editors seemed to know how to do everybody's job but their own (laughter), Mr. Chamberlain was doing his job very well indeed (applause). No man in England needed the devout prayers of the Church and nation more than the Prime Minister, and it was up to everyone to support him to the full (applause).

Continuing, Mr. Dowding said they were all very grateful to the Lord Mayor for sparing that evening from his busy life to come and join them at that gathering. It was a coincidence that the Lord Mayor who visited them last year was the son of a well-known Worcestershire ringer, Mr. Elijah Crump, of Bromsgrove, while the present Lord Mayor was not only a member of a family of distinguished ringers, whose name was once a household word in the Exeter, but had also been a ringer himself (applause). He (Mr. Dowding) had had the pleasure of ringing years ago with the Lord Mayor at King's Norton, and he hoped that, when his civic duties would permit him, he would find time to return once more to ringing and keep up the high standard set by his ancestors (applause). The Lord Mayor's father, Mr. Theodore Pritchett, was a very fine ringer, and his uncles, William and Alfred, were also well known. The only survivor of that generation was Alderman Pritchett, the esteemed Master of their Guild. He had a charming personality and a lovable disposition which endeared him to everybody (applause). Mr. Dowding mentioned a peal in which the four brothers took part on May 2nd, 1904. It was a peal of London Surprise Major at King's Norton, conducted by J. S. Pritchett. It was rung at a time when a peal of London was a very rare occurrence and it was rung by a local band, which proved that they were ringers of great ability. He (the speaker) understood that after the peal the ringers regaled themselves in the manner only known to ringers of the olden days (laughter). He added that they wished the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress a successful term of office and hoped that before that term ended they would be rejoicing that a lasting peace had been restored (applause).

The hour was just seven o'clock when Mr. Dowding finished speaking, and, at the call of the chairman, the company rose and drank to the health of Alderman Pritchett in the hope that at the same moment he would be drinking to the Guild.

#### LORD MAYOR'S BELFRY EXPERIENCES.

The Lord Mayor, who was enthusiastically received, expressed the pleasure of the Lady Mayoress and himself at being present, but said he did not regard himself as being among strangers, for their Guild was a society to which he was introduced many years ago by his family and in which he had found many friends (applause). He thought he would be right, as Lord Mayor, in claiming that the bells in Birmingham were one of the amenities of the city, for there was something very beautiful about the ringing of church bells on Sunday mornings, calling to church, and in the atmosphere they created. At half-past four that afternoon he felt called from his office to make a round of the streets in the neighbourhood merely by the ringing of the bells of St. Philip's Cathedral (applause).

The Lord Mayor went on to refer to his early association with bells and ringing. At first, he said, he used to be taken to the belfry by his father always on Sunday mornings to witness the ringing by himself, his three brothers and the others. He used to sit there as a child noticing particularly the swaying of the belfry, and he remembered the awe with which he was taken up the winding stair to see the bells swinging in the tower. As time went on he became very friendly with Mr. William Palmer, who used to take him to the belfry regularly at eight o'clock there to ring the curfew. In that way he learned to handle a bell. Later on he was taken by his uncle, Will, to his study where he endeavoured to ring handbells, and hunt the treble, perhaps a fairly simple matter, but when it came to taking an inside bell or endeavouring to ring with two bells he found it a very complicated task (laughter). The Lord Mayor recalled the story of a curate at King's Norton who tried to learn to ring but gave it up. He was told by the Vicar that any man could be a parson, but only a very limited number ever qualified as bellringers (laughter). The Lord Mayor said he continued his ringing, and after the war, when he was in Lichfield, he used to ring at St. Mary's Church, where he met Mr. Cope, who told him a lot more about ringing than he was able to absorb (laughter). He also referred to Mr. Betterton, an old ringer at King's Norton, who was extremely deaf. It was very difficult for him to know when the calls were made, and he (the Lord Mayor) was sometimes instructed to stand by him and give him a dig in the back, once for a single and twice for a bob, but there was always trouble when he gave Mr. Betterton the wrong number of digs (laughter). His first peal attempt was at Shenston, where he went with his father. He was put on the treble and all went well for two hours, but then something happened, for which he did not think he was responsible, and they lost the peal. That was his first and last attempt. He was, however, looking forward to renewing his acquaintance with the belfry to try again, when his term of office expired (applause). He had been in the last twelve months trying to show his wife how to hold a handbell, but it was a hopeless proposition (laughter). In conclusion, the Lord Mayor said they looked to the bellringers of their churches at all times of importance in their lives, and they were hoping now for the time when the bells would be rung for the restoration of peace (applause).

Replying for the Church, Canon Guy Rogers congratulated Mr. Dowding upon his fine speech and said he appreciated very much the

(Continued on next page.)

## RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCH & STATE

(Continued from previous page.)

happy relations existing between the clergy and ringers at St. Martin's. He thought he might also speak on behalf of the Provost of the Cathedral, the Archdeacon of Aston and Canon Blofeld in expressing appreciation of the services of the bellringers and their happiness in co-operating with them. They recognised that the ringing of the bells could be not only a summons to worship, but a spiritual symbolism.

Going on to speak of the relationship between Church and State, Canon Rogers said if there was a state of tension between them, it was because the Church was intended to be a goad to those responsible for the administration of the State, to urge them along right moral lines. If the Church was entirely quiet, then, he imagined, it was evading its functions completely. When the time came they would always find that the community was glad that the Church spoke its mind, even if it sometimes made mistakes. A large part of the real success of this country in the position which it held in moral leadership was due to the fact that the State recognised that the Church had a real responsibility. It expected from the Church the inspiration which it sought to give, the warnings which it sometimes sent out and the trouble it sometimes created, and as long as the tension went on they got results which created a Christian nation. In a great city like Birmingham, with its vast business concerns intent on making money, it was extremely easy to forget the eternal background. Unless the Church was true to the Gospel and was continually putting before the people the eternal background of our lives, calling for humility in the presence of God, calling for the right relationships between a people, calling for recognition of the due place of religion and religious observance, the gradual decadence of the nation was certain. That was what really lay behind the tension between the Church and State. There must always be tension in order to create something. They must recognise the position of the Church. They did not want to be patronised, they did not mind being criticised, but they wanted to have their place recognised so that they might give their best service to the community and be faithful to the God who created the Church and made them its officers and ministers.

### A FAMOUS BAND.

Mr. John Austin, one of the four ringers present who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh, gave the toast of 'The Memory of Henry Johnson.' He said that what men did for themselves on this earth was buried with them, what they did for others remained. Henry Johnson's services to ringing lived on and they had evidence of it in that gathering, which brought men together from all over England.

Mr. Austin said he first met Henry Johnson on November 20th, 1882, when Johnson was one of the umpires of the first peal of Stedman Triples rung 'silent.' The band was made up of C. H. Hattersley, John Carter, Henry Bastable, Joseph Griffin, Samuel Reeves, William Wakley, John Jagger and Albert Thomas. Mr. Jagger, who was with them that night, and Mr. Griffin were the only survivors. The umpires were Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, and the Rev. J. H. Fish, of Burton. He (Mr. Austin) was only a probationer at the time, but he was anxious to hear the peal, and he went with the ringers to the meeting house afterwards. He felt he was sitting at the feet of the mighty. He could not join in the conversation, but he listened and he learned a good deal. It was regarded as a national calamity for ringers when Henry Johnson died on January 7th, 1890. St. Martin's Guild had flourished ever since the day when Henry Johnson was Master, and its success was one of the things which had survived him. Mr. Austin referred to the Ringing Masters who had held office since Johnson, and remarked that while it used to be said that St. Martin's Guild could only ring Stedman Cinques, during Mr. Walker's Ringing Mastership they got up to Cambridge Maximus. The success was largely due to the foundation which Henry Johnson laid more than 50 years ago, and to the spirit which he created. He (Mr. Austin) hoped that spirit would long remain in the Guild; as long as it did remain the Guild would prosper.

The toast was drunk in silence.

Other toasts were 'Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' 'The Visitors' and 'The Chairman.' A report of these speeches will appear in our next issue.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**OLDHAM.**—On Monday, February 19th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Moorside Church, Oldham: H. Armstead 1, F. Lawton 2, I. Gartside 3, J. Ogden 4, James Brooks (first quarter-peal) 5, C. Taylor 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, Leonard Brooks (first quarter-peal) 8.

**KILBURN.**—On Sunday, February 11th, for evensong at St. Augustine's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 minutes: W. R. Dennis 1, A. W. Tozer 2, G. A. Parsons 3, Miss M. Prockson 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, F. C. Shorter (conductor) 6, E. Murrell 7, W. Murrell 8.

**SWAVESEY, CAMBS.**—On Saturday, February 10th, at St. Andrew's Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,440 changes): \*J. Hodson 1, \*G. Hodson 2, D. Adams 3, G. E. Crisp 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5. \*First quarter-peal of Doubles. Rung fully muffled in respect of Mr. W. H. Key, many years churchwarden at this church.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### NEW RINGING MASTER IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, February 24th, when quite a good number put in an appearance. Members were present from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's (R.C.), Sheffield, Handsworth, Felkirk, Rotherham, Doncaster, Rawmarsh, Ranmoor, Wath-on-Deane, Whiston, Dore, Eckington, Barnby Don and the local company.

The bells, a nice handy ring of eight (tenor 12½ cwt.), were fully occupied during the afternoon, until black-out time, in all the standard methods and various Surprise ones, whilst at the same time every opportunity was given to a number of beginners, who showed promise for the future.

The business meeting was held in the Schoolroom immediately after the bells had been lowered, the chair being taken by the vice-president, Mr. George Lewis. Owing to illness, the Vicar (the Rev. P. W. R. Kennedy) was unable to attend.

One new member (Mr. Horace Bailey, of Rawmarsh) was elected. Three retiring committeemen, Messrs. F. A. Staveley (Doncaster), A. Panther (Wath-on-Deane) and T. C. Ryder (Rotherham), were re-elected for a further term of three years. Mr. E. Brookes, Hoylandswain, was elected a member of the committee in place of Mr. C. D. Potter, Barnsley, deceased.

The retiring Ringing Master (Mr. Sidney F. Palmer) said he did not seek re-election, and expressed a wish to stand down in favour of some younger man. Mr. Palmer explained that although quite willing to carry on if necessary, he considered it was not policy for one member to hold more than one prominent position. He thought the work should be spread round the district, thus creating more interest amongst the members, especially as there were several promising talented members now on the horizon. As they already knew, he held another important office in the association, and he thought the time had now arrived when new blood should be infused amongst the workers. He hoped, therefore, the meeting would elect a successor in his place, someone who could and would attend all the meetings, and be capable of using tact in controlling the ringing.

On a proposition by Mr. Norman Chaddock, seconded by Mr. Albert Nash, Mr. Harold Chant, of Felkirk, was unanimously elected as Ringing Master for three years, the proposal finding great favour with everyone present.

On the invitation of Mr. F. C. Wilson, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rawmarsh on April 20th.

It was announced that the General Committee had passed a resolution whereby the names of all members serving in H.M. Forces would be kept on the books of the association without further payment until their return to civil life.

The operation of the newly-launched Bell Repair Fund was explained by Mr. S. F. Palmer, who stated that although it had been decided this should be a purely voluntary effort and that no grants could be made until there was an accumulation of funds, he hoped it would meet with a good response. The honour of the first collection in the association fell to that meeting, whereby history would be made.

This realised the sum of 7s. 9d., which was considered satisfactory for the number present.

A vote of thanks to the local company brought the meeting to a close.

### NOTICES.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the Cathedral (12 bells), St. Peter's (10), St. Michael's (6), and St. Stephen's (6) will be open for members from 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 4.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A., followed by tea and business meeting in the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street (close to Westminster Bank). You can depend upon a sumptuous meat tea in this original 16th century barn. Please let me know if you are coming, so as to make adequate arrangements.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Annual general meeting, Easter Monday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m., at Chippenham. Management Committee will meet at 11.30 a.m. Temporary suspension of rules 3, 5 and 31 has been notified as a motion until end of war or until such times as seem desirable. Full times and details of other arrangements will be announced later.—Edgar Guise, 46a, Tankards Close, Bristol, 2.

## LONDON RINGING ORGANISATIONS.

### EFFECT OF PERSONAL DISPUTES.

#### Outspoken Criticism at Middlesex Association Meeting.

The meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, last Saturday, was another successful event to be recorded in the annals of the association's activities. The bells were set going about 2.30 p.m., and from that time until late in the evening something interesting was taking place—a ring on the tower bells, a chat with an old ringing friend, a look round the ancient and interesting church, an inspiring short service, a plentiful tea, a business meeting short and snappy, some handbell ringing and a game of table tennis, also (exclusive to the ladies) some knitting.

Ringers from a wide area attended, and to cater for all present the Ringing Master (Mr. A. Cutler) arranged the bells to be rung in rounds and methods ranging to courses of Bristol Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal.

The service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. French, who welcomed the association and referred to the ancient and historical building which had stood there for four or five hundred years and was the successor of two others, one a humble wooden structure, and the other some of whose stones were incorporated in the present church.

Speaking of the war, he said that since he believed in God he was sure we should win, but when we did win we must see that the victory was turned to good account. Lord Baldwin had said more than once that a war would mean the end of our present civilisation. There were many things in our present civilisation, including the Stepney slums, that he (the preacher) would be glad to see ended.

Prior to the business meeting the chairman (Mr. Vice-President Fletcher) called upon the general secretary (Mr. C. T. Coles), who said that it was perhaps somewhat unusual to start making speeches before the minutes of the previous meeting, but this was no ordinary occasion. To many present it was a red-letter day in the history of the Middlesex Association, for in the 43 years of its existence the society had never before held a meeting at Stepney.

He said that he would have given a great deal for such a meeting during his own term of office as district secretary, and he felt that he had resigned just a bit too soon.

As to the reasons why such a meeting had been possible, most of them did not matter now. But there was something in this connection which ought to be mentioned. They had read a great deal lately about the relations between London ringing societies, and the writer of those articles showed a considerable knowledge of his subject. But they have never been told how much those relations, when difficult, were due to personal bad feeling between ringers. There has been a great deal of this in past days, and they found it breaking out again on occasions amongst older men. For instance, there was a meeting in London a week or two ago—'but I had better put it differently,' said Mr. Coles, amidst loud laughter. They had often heard of a ringer being barred from a tower because of his personal bad relations with the ringers in that tower, but it was rather astounding in these days to hear of a ringer denying himself, and the whole of the members of his society, entry to a tower because of some old personal animosity he himself held towards a ringer in that tower. Yet that was the sort of thing that London had suffered from in days gone by.

He was glad, he added, to see amongst them at that meeting members of other societies who had done their best to mend this state of affairs, and it had always been their aim in the Middlesex Association not to let such a spirit affect their work. The present generation had already shown that they did not wish to have anything to do with these old quarrels, and he could assure them that, with the difficult days that lay ahead for ringers and ringing, co-operation was necessary, or ringing would not survive.

The ringers at Stepney had set them an example as to how to live in friendliness with all. It was one of the good signs of the present day that the younger ringer did not wish to keep up past quarrels.

Mr. T. J. Lock said that although Mr. Coles might have preferred this meeting to have taken place during his own term of office, the credit was still his, for it was entirely due to his efforts that they were enabled to visit Stepney.—Mr. Coles: Thank you, Tom.

Mr. A. A. Hughes paid a tribute to the Stepney ringers. For enthusiasm they could not be beaten. They were entirely self-taught, and at a recent meeting of the College Youths four of them each took a pair of handbells in a course of Stedman Cinques. The Rector and the Stepney people had reason to be proud of these young men.

It was announced that the annual general meeting of the association would be held at Acton on April 27th.

## NOTICES.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Earls Colne on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at the Vicarage 5.30 p.m. It is hoped the members will make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LEICESTER & DISTRICT RINGING SOCIETIES.**—The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel (near Clock Tower) at 6.30 p.m. prompt, on March 9th. Ringing at St. Peter's, Belgrave (8 bells), 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and at St. John's (10 bells) from 4.30 p.m. till 5.30 p.m. Tickets, 3s. 6d each.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belper, on March 9th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Nottingham and Peak districts specially invited. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Wigan Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Great Yarmouth on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 3 to 6 p.m. Tea at Hill's Restaurant, King Street, at 6.15 p.m. Business meeting after tea. Owing to the conditions of the present times it is essential that those coming to tea should let me have names or numbers. All ringers are welcome.—J. Harwood, Hon. Sec., 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Kendal Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (10) available at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Woodhouse hopes to demonstrate his ringing machine at this meeting. Tea will be arranged at 4.30 p.m. only for those who send notice to Mr. L. Townley, 3, Charles Street, Kendal. Meeting in the Vestry Room after tea.—N. M. Newby, Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at Redbourn. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Annual meeting will be held at Warnham, Saturday, March 9th. Tower open at 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

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**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, March 9th. The eight bells will be available at 2.30 p.m. We extend a cordial invitation to all ringers in Sussex and elsewhere.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—Next meeting March 9th at Brentford (St. Lawrence). Bells available from 2.30. Service at 5, followed by tea at Druce and Smith's. Christ Church, Ealing, bells available in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, W.13.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A practice will be held at St. Mary-le-Bow on Saturday, March 9th, at 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 12th at headquarters at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Owing to the indisposition of the secretary, the annual meeting of the above Guild, which was to have been held at Dudley on March 9th, has been postponed to April 6th. Band secretaries please notify the secretary of numbers of members intending to be present.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—There will be a meeting at St. Helens Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. and tea at 5.30. Will all who intend to be present for tea kindly send word to Mr. A. Wallace, 6, Brookside Avenue, Eccleston, St. Helens?—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Somersham on Saturday, March 9th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. A good meeting is desired. Please come.—H. J. Parker, Hon. Sec.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Owing to unavoidable circumstances, the meeting advertised to be held at Sandal on March 9th has had to be postponed, but a meeting will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, March 9th, instead. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at Ring of Bells 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting, and further ringing until 8 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**DONCASTER PARISH CHURCH.**—The ring of eight bells, which has been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be dedicated on March 10th at 3 p.m. by Archdeacon T. Sandford.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, March 16th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. It is hoped to arrange a tea for those who send their names to F. A. Staveley, 151, Wentworth Road, Doncaster, not later than Wednesday, March 13th.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—Meeting at Witley, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that all requiring tea notify Mr. F. C. Hagley, 2, Wheeler Street, Witley, not later than Thursday, March 14th. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, March 16th. Bells of St. John's available from 3 o'clock. Service 5 o'clock. Tea at the Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, Croydon, 5.45. Meeting 6.30. Further ringing after the meeting. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrisons Rise, Croydon, by Wednesday, March 13th.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) AND HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (St. Albans District).**—A joint meeting will be held at Luton Parish Church on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—H. Frost and E. Belson, Dis. Secs.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Meeting of Southampton District at Upham on Saturday, March 16th. Bells 2.30-7.30. Teas only for those who notify by March 13th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wrington on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at the Golden Lion, followed by business meeting.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Tendring on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. at the Vicarage. A good bus service from Colchester. On account of rationing problems, it is very important that those desiring tea shall send names by March 12th to L. Wright, Hon. Assist. Div. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. Mark's Church, Glodwick, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. All ringers welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Secretary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at Tonbridge. Tower open 2.15. Service at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. Canon Frank Child. Tea and business meeting to follow. Election of officers, and plans for the future. Please notify for tea by Tuesday, the 12th.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Eccles, on Saturday afternoon, March 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Subscriptions due.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The combined practice, arranged for Cranleigh on March 16th, is cancelled.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston (8 bells) on March 16th. Ringing, 3 p.m. till 7 p.m. No tea, but a hot supper for those who notify Mr. G. Walker, Southfields, Goodes Lane, Syston, by March 14th. No name, no supper.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.



**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at North Bradley on Saturday, March 16th Bells at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5, for which please advise.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting is arranged to take place at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at 5 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road, at a moderate charge.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—First war-time meeting of Maidstone District will be held at Linton (near Maidstone) on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Association form of service at 5, followed by tea and business meeting in the Institute Room. Tea will be provided by the association for those who notify Mr. C. H. Sone, Linton Park, by Wednesday, March 15th. M. and D. buses 5, 6, 59, and E2 are handy. Subscriptions for 1940 may be paid at this meeting except from members serving in H.M. Forces.—R. G. Rayfield, Dis. Hon. Sec., 86, Hedge Place Road, Hornsross, Greenhithe, Kent.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Church Lawton (8 bells) on March 16th. Will those who intend to be present kindly inform me by March 13th? Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, March 16th. Ringing from 3 to 7.30. Service at 5. Refreshments being arranged. Please notify Mr. J. Taylor or W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at Stoke Bishop on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing to continue until 8 p.m. Buses from Centre Nos. 22 and 222.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Southern Division will take place after the practice at St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available in the afternoon from 3 p.m. No tea. Half rail fare allowed, maximum 1s. 6d.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meet at 3.30 in vestry of St. Mary-le-Tower and service 4 o'clock. At 4.30 the general meeting, in the Oak Room, Oak Lane, followed by tea at Lyons Restaurant. The bells at various towers will be available all day for ringing: St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8), St. Clement's (6), St. Matthew's (6), Sproughton (6), Rushmere (6), and St. Lawrence's (5).—Harold G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Subject to the approval of the Dean and Chapter, general business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m., with address by the Dean. Tea (non-members, 1s. each) has been arranged, but it is essential that all those requiring same

should notify me before Tuesday, November 19th. Bells available: Cathedral (12) 1-2 p.m., All Saints' (10), St. John-in-Bedwardine (8). The usual six-bell towers will probably be available. Information at St. Alban's from 11 a.m. Central Committee meeting in St. Alban's Room at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid, and reports obtained in St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Bedford on Easter Monday. The bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Full particulars next week.—F. J. Plummer, Hon. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Derby on Easter Monday. Various towers will be available. Committee meet 3.30 in St. Peter's Schools. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meeting in the College Room at 11.15. Association service in the Church of All Saints, at noon, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen. General meeting in the College Room at 2.15 p.m. Owing to local conditions and the uncertainty of catering and the members attending, it has been deemed advisable to dispense with the lunch. All practising members attending will be allowed 2s. 6d. each. The bells of All Saints' (10) will be available from 10 a.m. till noon and after the meeting until 6 p.m. It is hoped other towers will be available; if so, will be announced later.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Ewell on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available: Christ Church, Epsom, 11 a.m. to 12.30; St. Martin's, Epsom, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Mary's, Ewell, 3.30 to 5.30, and again in the evening until 8.30 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, in Ewell Church Hall at 5.30. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. C. E. Read, 58, High Street, Ewell, by Wednesday, March 20th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting at Cambridge, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service in the Church of St. Mary-the-Great, 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Consistory Court. Tea at Lion Hotel, 5 o'clock. Ringing: St. Mary's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 3.30, and 6 to 8 p.m.; St. Benet's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 3.15 p.m., and in the evening. Please note change of plan due to war-time conditions.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**DEVON GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ottery St. Mary on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. until 9.30. Service 4.30. Tea meeting at the Church Institute 5.15. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The future address of Mr. A. H. Smith, hon. secretary of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, will be The Bungalow, Bookham Rec., Leatherhead.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 15th, 1940.

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## NO COUNCIL MEETING THIS YEAR.

A postal vote of the Standing Committee has revealed a majority against holding a meeting of the Central Council this year, and the gathering which it was proposed to hold at Cardiff has, in consequence, been abandoned. This is not surprising. A provincial meeting almost at the extreme edge of the country at a time like this could not have been expected to command a large attendance, even if the facilities were available; but when there was a doubt about arrangements being possible, and the conditions such that the representatives of the local association were of opinion that the meeting should not be held, there was little else the Standing Committee could do but call it off. If in some quarters there may be regrets at the decision, there are other aspects from which many people will think the action a wise one. With the majority of members of the Council fully bent on war work, and with the need for rigid economy in everything, the abandonment of the meeting will result in a saving of time and money, the former to members and the latter to both members and associations. These are among the arguments which, doubtless, have weighed with the committee. Moreover, with the interruption of much of the work done by the Council's committees and an absence of any controversial matters for discussion, there was little possibility of an attractive agenda. The committees continue their work throughout the year, and the Council and the Exercise owe them a debt of gratitude which is seldom acknowledged, but the war has naturally upset the even tenor of their way, and in some cases, we believe, progress has been partially, if not entirely, held up since September.

The decision to abandon the meeting follows the precedent of the last war, when two provincial meetings were omitted. There was a meeting in London, in 1915, in the first year of the war, and the Council did not meet again until, in 1918, it assembled once more in London. That break did the Council no harm, for a new spirit grew up after the resumption and the Council began to take on a fresh lease of life, with new blood, and, if one may say so, a new outlook on its functions. Since then it has accomplished much good work for ringing, and has shown its value to the Exercise in an increasing degree. Its work will not cease with the cessation of the general meetings of the Council; the committees will continue its work, wherever it may be necessary, and, perhaps, when it is once more possible to hold the assembly the Council will return to activity with a new vigour.

(Continued on page 122.)

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There is only one thing connected with the Council which is seriously held up by the war, and that is the publication of the Surprise methods book, which was agreed upon last year. Many of the associations had undertaken to back the venture by guaranteeing a number of copies, but the position, in view of the apparent suspension of the issue, will now have to be reviewed before anything further can be done. The scheme for publication was based on pre-war prices, but the delay, which resulted from the uncertainty created by the outbreak of war, is bound to upset those calculations. It might have been as well to go on with the publication, even if the Council's money had been locked up for a time in the stock of books. These certainly would not have lost in value, for the proposed edition was intended to cover anticipated sales for several years, and the book would have been ready to help give a push to ringing when the effort to replace it on a normal footing comes to be made. But now there is the certainty of increased cost, and the Council will have to reconsider the whole scheme before any further action can be taken.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, REDCLIFFE,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;**

Tenor 50 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

ALBERT M. TYLER ... .. 1	DONALD G. CLIFT ... .. 6
ALFRED E. REEVES ... .. 2	STEPHEN H. WOOD ... .. 7
FREDERICK G. LEAKER ... .. 3	GILBERT PEARCE ... .. 8
RICHARD CLARK ... .. 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE ... .. 9
ALFRED PEARCE ... .. 5	EDWARD J. ROWE ... .. Tenor

Composed by WM. WILLSON.

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

The tenor-man was elected a member before starting. The peal was rung half-muffled as a token of regard and respect to the late William A. Cave.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILFRED GOWING ... .. Treble	CYRIL A. BURGESS ... .. 5
GEORGE H. LIMMER ... .. 2	THOMAS BEVAN ... .. 6
PETER A. BLAMEY ... .. 3	JOHN E. TAYLOR ... .. 7
FREDERICK A. BARKER ... .. 4	GEORGE GILBERT ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

Arranged and rung on the annual visit of the senior steward (Mr. T. Bevan) in honour of the marriage of his daughter (Miss Hilda Bevan) to Mr. A. G. Ward. Rung after meeting short for Little Bob.

PENWORTHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;**

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... .. Treble	WILLIAM TAYLOR ... .. 5
E. ROGER MARTIN ... .. 2	FRED RIGBY ... .. 6
CYRIL CROSTHWAITE ... .. 3	JOHN ROSKELL ... .. 7
THOMAS CALDERBANK ... .. 4	JOHN T. MILLER ... .. Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL.

Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

Arranged as an 80th birthday compliment to Mr. J. R. Taylor, of the local company, and to mark Mr. T. Calderbank's 50 years' membership of the Lanes Association.



## CRAYFORD, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Paulinus,

## A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ERNEST H. OXENHAM... ..Treble	GWENDOLIN KIPPIN ... .. 5
THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN... .. 2	CYRIL BRETT-SMITH ... .. 6
THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN... .. 3	FREDERICK J. COLLUM ... .. 7
HARRY HOVERD ... .. 4	PHILIP A. CORBY ... ..Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

The conductor's 100th peal on the bells.

## SIX BELL PEALS.

## APSLEY END, HERTS.

## THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 26, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

(1) Bourne, (2) Lightfoot, (3) Netherseale, (4) Norwich, (5) York, (6) Cambridge, (7) London. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. FEAREY ... ..Treble	WILLIAM J. PUDDIFOOT ... .. 4
*FREDERICK JEFFS ... .. 2	FRANCIS J. TOMPKINS ... .. 5
AUGUSTIN V. GOOD ... .. 3	WALTER AYRE ... ..Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

\* First Surprise peal and in seven methods. Rung as a 'good luck' peal to ringers of 1 and 4 before joining H.M. Forces.

## FULMER, BUCKS.

## THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford Bob and two 720's each of Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

*WILFRID S. CHILDS ... ..Treble	EMILY E. CLARKE ... .. 4
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE... .. 2	JESSE HARRISON ... .. 5
WILLIAM L. GUTTERIDGE... .. 3	HARRY C. WINGROVE... ..Tenor

Conducted by HARRY C. WINGROVE.

\* First peal of Minor. Miss Clarke's first attempt for a peal.

## GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX.

## THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 7, 1940, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. George,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Oxford Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise.

Tenor 15 cwt. in E.

DAISY M. ANDREWS ... ..Treble	VIOLET A. FROST... .. 4
HARRY J. MILLETT ... .. 2	LESLIE WRIGHT ... .. 5
ALAN R. ANDREWS ... .. 3	URBAN W. WILDNEY ... ..Tenor

Conducted by URBAN W. WILDNEY.

## WONSTON, HAMPSHIRE.

## THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes;

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

RICHARD SMITH ... ..Treble	GEORGE SMITH ... .. 4
*ALAN D. TREMEER ... .. 2	WILLIAM MARKS ... .. 5
WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... .. 3	LESLIE A. TREMEER ... ..Tenor

Conducted by L. A. TREMEER.

\* First peal of Minor. Rung after a confirmation service at which three young members of the band were confirmed. Also a birthday compliment to Mrs. C. H. Kippin.

## DEANE, HAMPSHIRE.

## THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 9, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*JOYCE O. COTTRELL ...Treble	CHARLES W. MUNDAY ... .. 2
DONALD W. NASH ... .. 2	F. A. MUNDAY, Gren. Gds. .. 5
RONALD F. KINGHAM ... .. 3	†ERNEST J. GOVER ... ..Tenor

Conducted by DONALD W. NASH.

\* First peal. † First peal of Bob Minor. First peal of Bob Minor as conductor.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

## BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

## THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, March 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

## A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

Umpire: Edwin Jennings.

\* First peal in the method on handbells. First handbell peal in the method as conductor.

## BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

## THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes.

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 13.

*EDWIN BARNETT... .. 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 5-6
*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3-4	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

Umpire—Christopher W. Woolley.

\* First handbell peal of Triples.

## DEATH OF MR. S. TWYMAN.

## RAMSGATE COMPANY LOSES ITS FOUNDER.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Stanley Twyman, of St. Lawrence's, Ramsgate, at the age of 61 years. Mr. Twyman was the founder of the present company at St. Lawrence's, which was started in 1911 after the bells had been rehung for the Coronation of King George V.

Mr. Twyman began his ringing career at Birchington when he was 16 years of age. Afterwards he joined the band at St. John's, Margate, where he was appointed conductor. Then when he moved to Ramsgate, the St. Lawrence's company quickly made headway under his guidance.

He was always ready to assist a beginner or a young conductor, and he composed some fine musical touches. Although he only rang a small number of peals, his enthusiasm was great, and his genial manner in the belfry gave pleasure to all who made his acquaintance. Unfortunately Mr. Twyman had to give up serious ringing owing to ill-health, and he passed away at Margate Hospital on February 15th.

The funeral took place at Margate Cemetery on Tuesday, February 20th, when, in addition to the family mourners, there were present ringers from St. Lawrence's and Mr. A. Kay, a very old ringing friend, from Ashford (Kent).

The passing of Mr. Twyman has left a great gap in the ranks of St. Lawrence's, but the good work commenced by him will remain in the history of St. Lawrence's society.

L. A. P.

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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

Until the beginning of the nineteenth century there was not a ring of twelve bells either at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, or Christ Church, Spitalfields, and consequently, though they were just as ambitious as other societies, there was no belfry where the Cumberlands could regularly practise or ring peals of Cinques or Maximus. Of the four twelve-bell rings which existed in London, St. Bride's and St. Martin's seem to have been closed to them, and at Cornhill the bells were hardly pealable; but St. Saviour's belfry was more or less an open one, and it was there that the society scored, not only its first twelve-bell peal, but every one that it rang until, in 1807, it was able to add the two trebles to the bells at Shoreditch.

On November 10th, 1766, the society rang 5136 changes of Treble Bob Maximus, the second peal accomplished in the method, and, at the time, the longest length. George Partrick conducted from the treble. It was more than five years since he had rung a peal and this was his last. The rest of the band consisted of the best ringers the Cumberlands then possessed. George Gross rang the second, John Reeves the fourth, Charles Purser the fifth, the brothers Wood rang the eighth and ninth, and the elder Samuel Muggeridge had William Lister to help him at the tenor.

It was nearly eight years before another peal was rung at Southwark, and that, too, was by the Cumberlands. The method was Grandsire Cinques, and George Gross conducted. Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenth and his son the eleventh. Again two men were needed for the tenor.

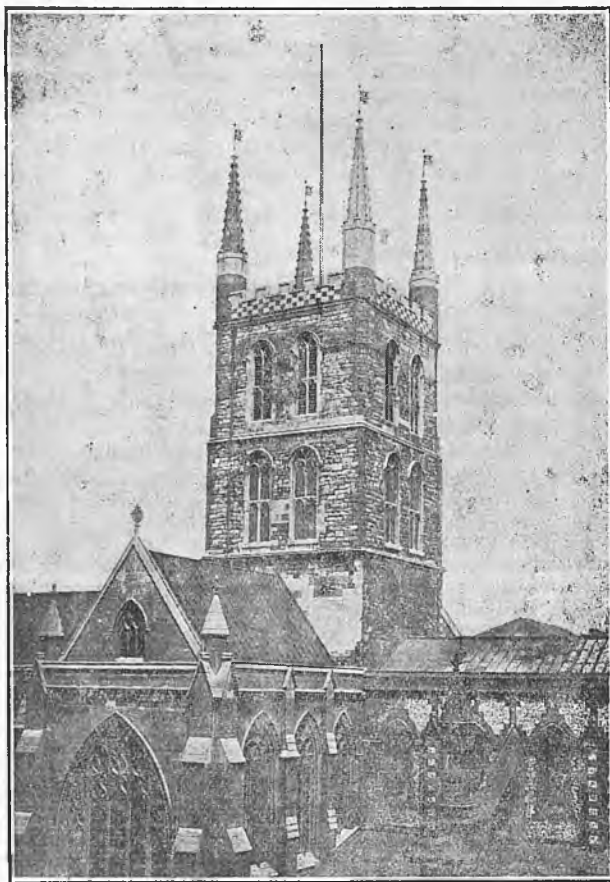
Samuel Muggeridge and his son lived in Southwark and evidently they were persons of some standing and influence. In June, 1793, the Town Hall was being pulled down, and, at a meeting of the ratepayers 'Mr. Muggeridge, in a short speech, sensible and pertinent,' stated to the Court that he had presented a memorial praying that the Committee of City Lands, in their plans for rebuilding, would consider the question of widening the approach to the building.

Double Bob and Double Grandsire were frequently practised by leading bands in the middle years of the eighteenth century and some ringers held that these methods could only be said to be properly double when, not only the dodges, but the bobs also were made when the treble was behind as well as when it was before. George Gross called the first peal of 'real' double Grandsire Caters, 'with the bobs alternately behind as before,' at St. Magnus in 1770, and in 1776 he called at St. Saviour's the first peal of 'real' double Grandsire Cinques. These peals were booked as Cumberland Caters and Cumberland Cinques, and we should not have known, or could only have guessed, what method was rung if the figures of the compositions had not been given in the 'Clavis.'

The next peal, rung eight months after the Cumberlands' performance, was 5236 changes of Grandsire Cinques by the London Youths, who at the time, under the leadership of John Reeves, were one of the best companies in London. Christopher Wells, who made a name for himself by being the first man to discover that Treble Bob Major may be false in the interior of the leads without it showing at the lead ends, rang the eighth.

It was now the time of the great long-peal rivalry between the College Youths and the Cumberlands. On February 18th, 1777, the former society gained the ten-bell record by a 10,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch. On the following April 17th they added the twelve-bell record by ringing 6000 changes of Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark, but they had two men to the tenor.

The Norwich men, who were all Cumberland Youths, beat this length in the following year with a peal of 6240



ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

changes, but on March 8th, 1784, the College Youths regained the record by ringing 7008 changes of Treble Twelve single-handed at St. Saviour's.

This was a really fine performance. Unlike the earlier long lengths of Twelve Bob Royal and Maximus, where the matter is rather doubtful, we know that the composition was true, for John Povey, who conducted, called Reeves' well known one part peal of Royal.

The younger Samuel Muggeridge rang the tenor, and the banded included Winstanley Richardson, James Darquit, George Scarsbrook, James Worster, William Lyford, Joseph Monk, Joseph Holdsworth, and Edmund Sylvester, all of whom are among the most distinguished men on the roll of the Society of College Youths.

The peal was rung by the successors of the band which George Meakins and his friends had formed in 1757,

(Continued on next page.)

**LOOK AFTER TOWER LIGHTS.****A WARNING TO RINGERS.**

Ringers should pay special attention to extinguishing the lights in church towers after ringing.

At Folkestone Police Court the other day Mr. Timothy Anderson, one of the bellringers at Folkestone Parish Church, was fined £1 for a breach of the lighting regulations.

A constable stated in evidence that he was going through the parish churchyard at 12.10 a.m. on a Monday morning when he saw a bright light shining from a window in the tower of the church. He called the caretaker of the church, who accompanied him to the church and extinguished the light. He, however, refused to accept responsibility and said that the bellringers had been ringing the bells on the Sunday afternoon and left the belfry at 3.30 p.m.

Another constable said Mr. Anderson told him that he was responsible for switching off the light, although someone else might have put it on again after he had left.

In calling attention to this case, Mr. C. Turner, of Dover, says a similar occurrence happened in his tower recently, when the police informed him at 9 p.m. that a light was showing down in the street through the louvres.

'I held,' says Mr. Turner, 'that if the main switch in the church had been turned off after the service in the afternoon all lights would have been extinguished. I did not know the light referred to had been used since the war.'

**SOUTHWARK BELLS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

when the College Youths split into two bodies. The other company in 1777 were very active, and were usually called the 'ancient' Society of College Youths. But the board which now records the 7008 of Maximus is headed Ancient Society of College Youths. This was rather a poser, for it seemed to contradict the conclusions I had arrived at regarding the two companies. Eventually I found the solution of the problem. The board as it now stands is not original. It was restored in 1874 when, evidently, the lettering, which had become illegible, was painted out, and the record rewritten from the peal book. The original wording was preserved by Concanen and Morgan and was headed 'Society of College Youths.'

**MINOR FIVES.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—I see nothing in the letters of Mr. Trollope or 'W. C. B.' which gives answer to my query. They contain too many 'I suppose' and 'I should imagine' for either to be considered satisfactory. In stating the reason why there are so many of these minor fives about, Mr. Trollope claims the answer to be 'because their musical effect is so very fine,' and he goes on to say that, although sufficient evidence is lacking, he is of opinion that when rings of five were first put into parish churches, they were usually tuned to the minor scale. How can Mr. Trollope claim this to be a reply to my question if he is only 'of opinion,' and has no definite evidence? As to his other phrase, 'their musical effect is so very fine,' on looking up the dictionary I find it describes anything in a minor key as 'mournful, diminished or imperfect.' What a contrast between this and Mr. Trollope's description! By a simple illustration which they will understand better than all the Norwich Cathedral chimes, I will prove to your readers that the dictionary version and *not* Mr. Trollope's is correct. The difference between a minor five and a major (or back five) is, as most ringers know, that in the latter the third is a semi-tone higher. Thus any minor ring of five by recasting a third a semi-tone higher can be made into a back five—this was done at Little Houghton, near Northampton, three years ago.

I could quote several tunes which can be tapped on five bells (or five corresponding notes on a piano), some in the minor key and some in the major. However, here is one which can be played in both, and those who sing in the choir or who are accustomed to staying behind to the service will recollect it immediately. It is a tune we chant to a psalm—the first half in the minor key and the second half in the major. I advise anyone to try it in the minor first, and then by sounding the third a semi-tone higher, switch over to the major and note the difference and ask themselves if the minor is not exactly as the dictionary terms it—mournful, diminished and imperfect; and whether the description 'the musical effect is so very fine' does not more truthfully belong to the major. 1, 543, 432445.

Despite Mr. Trollope saying it is nonsense to state that there is no proper finishing note, I see your other correspondent W.C.B. says, 'that in the view of ringers, these minor fives are rings of six lacking the usual tenors,' which amounts (does it not?) to almost the same as saying 'they are imperfect or with no proper finishing note.' Relative to his other remark—that Mr. Amos shows that his ear is musically defective—is Mr. Trollope intending to convey the same impression of his own musical ear as he often times does his historical writings, 'that he is the sole infallible judge'?

Northampton.

P. AMOS.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

It was appropriate that the memorial peal at Redcliffe should be rung on the bells which the late William Cave loved so well. It was here that he called the first peal of Cambridge Maximus for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, from the tenor. He had previously rung it to Cambridge Royal.

The conductor would like to pay tribute to the excellent manner in which Saturday's tenor-man rang the bell.

The peal of Cambridge Major at Crayford on Saturday was the one hundredth that Mr. Thomas Groombridge, jun., has rung on the bells. He is the eighth man to accomplish the feat in this belfry and it would be interesting to know if there is another tower where such a thing has happened.

Good wishes and congratulations will be extended to Mr. F. E. Dawe, who to-day celebrates his 78th birthday.

On March 13th, 1733, the Society of Eastern Scholars rang their first peal. It was 5,040 Grandsire Tribbles and the bobs were called by Philemon Mainwaring. What composition they rang we do not know, but most likely it was the false peal from the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia.'

In the seventies and eighties of the last century there was a first-class band at Kenninghall in Norfolk. They rang little else besides Oxford Treble Bob Major, but they had a very high standard of striking. On March 14th, 1871, they rang William Harrison's peal of 10,176 changes. Jeremiah Mordey was the conductor.

The London Scholars rang 'six thousand Cinques' at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on March 14th, 1728, and on the following day the College Youths beat the peal with one of 6,314 changes. A fine board recording the first performance now hangs in the crypt of the church.

On March 16th, 1778, the Norwich Scholars rang the then longest peal of Treble Bob Maximus, 6,240 changes.

The first peal of Duffield Maximus, the method which Sir Arthur Heywood introduced in the hope that it would be as useful for ten and twelve bells as Stedman had proved to be for nine and eleven, was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on March 17th, 1891. It was conducted by the composer.

Since the year 1761 when the eight bells were first hung in St. Mary's Church, Debenham, there have been many peals rung in the steeple, some of them of more than ordinary interest. On March 16th, 1767, the local company rang 10,080 Bob Major, and the board which records the performance has just been restored by one of the ringers, who wishes to remain anonymous. The old lettering has been reproduced as nearly as possible.

The same benefactor has made and presented to the tower a board recording a 'William' peal of Superlative Surprise Major rung on December 3rd, 1938. As his own Christian name is not William, his act is all the more praiseworthy.

## TECHNICAL RINGING TERMS.

### BEGINNERS' DIFFICULTIES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Cannot something be done to standardise the technical terms of the Exercise? It was stated in 'The Ringing World' some time ago that these terms greatly hindered the beginners, but it seems to me that ringers beyond the 'beginning' stage must find it rather difficult to understand it all.

Who was first responsible for turning the good old-fashioned 'Home' into 'Right'? In any case, why mix both terms and use them side by side as is done in the article 'Proof' in this week's 'Ringing World'? In the Central Council book on Triples Methods we find all the course ends of Stedman pricked from rounds, whereas all the touches and peals given are from the six end, and how many times do we hear of a ring of bells called a 'peal'?

These may only seem small points, but they all help to confuse the beginner.

G. A. LEVETT.

P.S.—In a letter published in 'The Ringing World' on ringers as choir-men, the writer said that 'they stood with a full peal.' I have yet to find out exactly what this means.

## EYNESBURY BELLS AND RINGERS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The treble bell at Eynesbury, Hunts, bears the following unusual inscription:—

'R. Taylor, St. Neots, Founder, 1810. S. Orris. Ex. Officer. Professor of Campanology.'

The author of 'Church Bells of Huntingdonshire' says he supposes 'Ex. Officer' means Excise Officer, and also remarks that this early use of the word 'campanology' is interesting.

Mr. E. Morris, in his 'History of Change Ringing,' states that three ringers named Orris assisted in ringing a touch on the bells of East Bergholt, Suffolk, in the year 1821. It would be interesting to know whether or not any of these ringers resided here and were responsible for the inscription on the Eynesbury treble. Perhaps Mr. Slater, of Glemsford, may have something among his records.

SIDNEY J. PECK.

Eynesbury.



## THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

A New Archæological Work by F. M. Sharpe.

The archæology of church bells is a study which has engaged the attention of a select number of enthusiastic men for now practically a full century. The first fruits were a little book entitled 'The Bell,' which was published by Dr. Alfred Gatty in 1847 and which inspired a long and learned article in the 'Quarterly Review' of 1854.

Gatty's book was popular in style and rather slight in texture, but it was followed by a number of works which dealt with the subject in a very thorough and comprehensive manner. C. W. Lukis, in his 'Account of Church Bells' (1857), gave a partial survey of the bells of Wiltshire, and the first complete county bell history was A. D. Tyssen's 'Sussex Church Bells,' published in 1864. Then followed 'Cambridge' by Dr. J. J. Raven (1869), 'Devonshire' by H. T. Ellacombe (1872), and 'Norfolk' by John L'Estrange (1874). Thomas North surveyed most of the counties of the Eastern Midlands, J. H. L. Stahlschmidt dealt with Surrey (1884) and Kent (1887), and gradually the majority of the counties were completed by other men, of whom Mr. H. B. Walters is the most eminent and prolific.

Yet the full task is still unfinished. There remain some counties for which no complete account of the church bells has been published, though a good deal of sectional work has been done, and the results printed in the transactions of archæological societies and such journals as 'The Reliquary.' These necessarily are not very accessible to the general reader.

One of the counties for which no survey exists is Middlesex, which includes London north of the river; and it is perhaps safe to say that no complete survey will ever be made, for the difficulties are very great and altogether out of proportion to the harvest the worker may expect to reap. London bells, which to the ringer have so great an historical interest, are to the archæologist dull and uninteresting to the last degree. The founders of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were splendid craftsmen, but the inscriptions they put on their bells have about as much interest as those on the sanitary inspection covers in the streets. The inscriptions on the majority of the principal rings in the metropolis were published by the late J. R. Jerram in the former numbers of 'The Ringing World.'

Of the other counties in the South of England, Oxfordshire and Berkshire alone remain to be dealt with, and in both the work has been undertaken and partially completed by Mr. Frederick Sharpe, of Bicester. In 1932 he issued a book on 'The Church Bells of the Deanery of Bicester,' and just recently the first part has appeared of a book on 'The Church Bells of Berkshire.'

The intention of the new book is to deal with the whole of the parishes in the county in alphabetical order, and the present part includes 41 of them, beginning with Abingdon and ending with Buscot. Written for the 'Berkshire Archæological Journal,' the book follows the traditional plan of giving the inscriptions, the founders, and as full an account as possible of the bells. In one respect Mr. Sharpe differs from most of his predecessors. They looked at bells solely with the eyes of antiquarians, and knew little or nothing about change ringing. Mr. Sharpe is himself a ringer, and, though his book is addressed primarily to archæologists, in one instance at least he shows that the change ringing interest of a peal of bells can far exceed its archæological interest.

That instance is Appleton, where there is a ring of bells which has played a part in the history of the Exercise exceeded by very few others indeed. To the account of this famous tower and bells, its ringers and many long peals they rang, Mr. Sharpe devotes no less than twelve pages and it was worth while.

From the early days of the last century the family of White has been closely associated with Appleton bells, and it was entirely due to them that the ring exists at all. Closely associated with them were the Holfields, F. E. Robinson, and the men from Oxford, Charles Hounslow and J. W. Washbrook. Robinson gave the two tenors before he became a parson, and when he was still 'Francis Edward Robinson, Esqre., of the Old Bank, Oxford.'

Probably more long peals have been rung at Appleton than anywhere else in England, and Mr. Sharpe gives particulars of the most noted. They include 10,080 Grandsire Caters in 1871; 10,080 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 12,041 Stedman Caters, 13,265 Grandsire Caters and 15,041 Stedman Caters in 1888; 10,043 Grandsire Caters in 1921; 21,363 Stedman Caters in 1922; and 16,271 Grandsire Caters in 1932. The names of White and Holfield appear in all these records.

None of the other bells described by Mr. Sharpe approach those at Appleton in interest from the ringers' point of view, but the archæologist will find much to interest him in the smaller rings. We congratulate Mr. Sharpe on the work he has done and look forward to its completion in due course.

### FAREWELL TO YOUNG RINGER.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung for morning service on Sunday, March 3rd, at Marston Magna Parish Church by S. Sharp 1, J. Webber 2, S. Highmore 3, J. Batson 4, P. Rainey (conductor) 5, L. White 6. This was the first quarter-peal by the ringers of 1, 2 and 3, who have learnt ringing in less than six months. The quarter-peal was rung as a farewell to J. Webber, who has since joined the Colours.

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

CRITICISM OF SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS BOOK.

BY G. L. ('MINORMANIA') JOYCE.

The article 'False Course Ends,' of February 23rd, is described as the system which is recommended in the new book on Major Surprise Methods. Since it would be absurd to offer readers something which differs materially from the original, it may be assumed that the article closely follows the chapter in the book, of which, in August, 1935, Mr. W. G. Wilson wrote so loyally and glowingly, but, as I then remarked, evidently not very knowingly.

He wrote of '... explanation ... in very lucid sentences ...', but I find in the article nothing of explanation to help the 'inexperienced' student, unless bald commands to do this and that may be dubbed 'explanation.' The student must know how to 'nature' the rows (1), and must know what, in a symmetrical method, is a section which is not symmetrical (7). He deduces (4) that the false course end is 32465 because 8.7.4 are in like positions, while 5.6 and 3.2 are transposed. What he would deduce from (say) 4263857-2534867 heaven (and Mr. Trollope) alone know. If he has knowledge of backward transposition he would arrive at 46325 and/or 45263; and, since he is told (4) that the false course *end* (not plural, observe) is 32465, if he decides on one or other of the two I quote it will be because *he knows*. If he knows so much, he wants the article not at all, unless it tells him that he can produce 56,112, or 224 plain course rows from heads and ends, instead of using the whole lead with heads only. How, from (9), Mr. Inexperience will note which lead is false against which I cannot tell. It is true that example 4(a) shows the third lead false against the second, and I suppose he assumes that it does not particularly matter which of them is the plain and which the false course. Well, *the article* is not my particular pigeon, and so much for the so-called explanation of what is described as '... probably the easiest to explain and understand ...'—goodness knows why it should be.

As to the system itself. In September, 1935, Mr. Trollope wrote that he had been familiar with half-lead proof for more than 20 years, and one wonders why he hoards such knowledge and does out a miserable half-bake. He asks the student to produce 16 rows per lead, 112 per course, and the poor devil only escapes the other 112 if he knows what symmetrical sections are. No wonder Mr. Wilson did not understand my prayer that the Exercise should not be invited to produce at least 16 rows to prove that Bristol is clean *when not one is required*.

Even in the very elementary form given, the work entailed can be reduced by 50 per cent. Fourteen of the 28 rows called for (3 and 5) can be dispensed with by reversing the natures given in (3) and (6), altering one word and its example in (4) and adding a few lines of explanation, and by deleting (5) which is unnecessary. Further pruning comes from the fact that it is not necessary actually to 'nature' the rows, and the fourth rows need no marking unless required by (7). Further, by adding a short paragraph, the rows of sections two and four need not be produced at all.

Mr. Trollope also wrote '... the book is finished and no material additions or alterations will be made.' As an executive body I do not understand the Methods Committee and its findings. Individually, I have admired Mr. Trollope—his writings, his achievements and his work—for more than 25 years, and have said so time and again, but I hate and despise the dictator who is clever enough to leave unanswered criticism which matters, and who is not big enough to admit his mistakes and profit by them. I believe that Mr. Turner knows far more of the matters set out here than I do, and I should hate to find myself in serious argument with this softly spoken young genius, but his loyalty to Mr. Trollope is understandable. I have only read of Mr. Wood, and, apart from the fact that he deliberately misquoted me when making a point in Council, I know little of his views. He may be the minority, or his interests may be directed elsewhere, but I am loath to believe he would be satisfied with anything but the best.

And so the pitiful, dogmatic re-hash of the old, old stuff goes on. The Council and its decisions sometimes are beyond understanding and past redemption, while the rank and file pays its penny and has no choice to 'take!'

### BELLS IN NO MAN'S LAND.

GUARDSMEN RING VILLAGE BELLS.

It has been reported in the Press that on a recent excursion into No Man's Land in France a patrol of Grenadier Guards turned bell-ringers.

The story goes that, tired of vainly seeking the enemy in nightly patrols, the Guards decided, before returning to their lines, to make a final raid on a deserted village which was believed to shelter some Germans. A covering party having taken up positions near the entrance to the village, the patrol went on ahead and disappeared up the village street. The covering party waited. All was silent. The village seemed dead. Then a peal of bells sounded on the still air, gentle to begin with, then clamorous and insistent. For the first time since the war began the bells of the village church were ringing.

There are bell-ringers in the Grenadier Guards, we know, and we wonder whether one of the ringers on this occasion was a member of the Aldershot band! If so, this escapade will be something to Bragg about when he returns home.

## HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

### THE PROSPERITY OF ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

(Continued from page 116.)

The Chairman proposed 'Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild' and reminded the company that they were not just hoping for prosperity. In their modest way they had had prosperity and they were going to drink to continued prosperity (applause). He said it was a privileged position in which he stood that night. He did not suppose there was in any ringing association or guild in the country a more enviable position than that of Master of St. Martin's Guild, and, although he was not Master, he was there because their Master, Alderman Pritchett, the Lord Mayor's uncle, was not physically capable of coming out in the evenings in these days. He (Alderman Pritchett) had occupied the chair at that gathering on more occasions than any other man. He was elected as Master of the Guild on October 10th, 1902, and what his name had meant to ringing circles throughout the country and to Birmingham and the Midlands in particular was beyond words to convey. They had been delighted to have him as their Master and they hoped he would continue in that position for many years (applause), although it seemed very unlikely that they would see him in St. Martin's belfry again. He (the chairman) was old enough to remember when Alderman Pritchett and his brothers used often to come to St. Martin's, and there were frequently fireworks not only between the other members of the band, but between the brothers Pritchett as well (laughter). They didn't hesitate to criticise each other if they had any reason to do so, but they were excellent friends all the same. The Chairman went on to invite the Lord Mayor to come to St. Martin's belfry to resume the family tradition.

Proceeding, the Chairman mentioned that during the year they had lost by death Mr. Harry Hall, of Sutton Coldfield, and they had learned that night with regret of the death of Mr. William Cave, of Bristol, who was also a member of the Guild. They were fortunate, he thought, this year in having so small a list of losses through death. That gathering, he proceeded, was probably the smallest they had had since they began the annual commemoration of Henry Johnson, but in view of the very difficult times in which they were living he thought they were to be congratulated on its success. The younger members of military age had gone and that left the older members to carry on. They would do their best and he took it every man and woman in that room interested in bellringing would regard it almost as a sacred duty to keep the bells ringing on Sundays for the church services.

### RINGERS' MAIN DUTY.

Peal ringing in these days, said the Chairman, was a thing they might well forget. It was possible, of course, to go for an odd peal or two, but there could be no heart in it. He thought that side of ringing could very well stand over until peace and victory came, and then they would ring peals—and then some (hear, hear). Their main duty at the moment was to keep the bells ringing on Sundays, not merely to summon people to church. He knew that was the intention for which church bells were put in the towers, but while they liked the people to answer the summons to worship, the ringers' part was, in his opinion, to perform an act of praise—one of the greatest acts of praise to God that could be performed. It was not confined to the four walls of the church, it went out over the streets and the roof tops calling people, even if they were not churchgoers, to thoughts of something higher than the slums and the factories amid which they lived. The voice of the bells reached thousands of people who never went inside a church. That was an important fact that they should remember. It was a pretty high aim; let them make their Sunday ringing worthy of the occasion. He did not worry very much about the number of people who came to church as a result of their ringing, but he was proud of the fact that ringers were doing their part in a great act of praise.

The Chairman went on to say that at first he had his doubts as to the advisability of holding that gathering this year, but the annual meeting decided to go on with it, and the result had shown that decision was right. In coupling the name of the hon. secretary with the toast, the Chairman spoke in high terms of praise of the way in which Mr. Reeves discharged the duties of his office.

Mr. Reeves, in responding, said he received wonderful support from the officers and members of the Guild. Like the chairman, he was dubious of the advisability of holding that dinner, and he had supported the view that it would be better to confine the function to a lunch, just to retain the continuity. But the members decided otherwise, and it was his duty as secretary to carry on with the arrangements. He did so with a certain amount of trepidation, but that gathering proved that his fears had been groundless. Proceeding, Mr. Reeves said the leading article in that week's issue of 'The Ringing World' was very applicable to the toast of Continued Prosperity to their Guild. The article referred to the recent passing of a number of well-known ringers. In St. Martin's Guild they had had some very famous men who, through their day and generation, left their mark not only on the ringing world, but in the world of their everyday life. There was no better man as a ringer and a man than Henry Johnson, who was always out to do a good turn for anyone. And in the history of St. Martin's Guild the men who had

been masters had never spared themselves in rendering service to their fellow-ringers. They, in this generation, must see to it that they pulled their weight and carried on the traditions of their ancient society (applause). At present they had a goodly company, who were not sparing in self-sacrificing work for their fellow-members, and so long as that continued he did not think there would be any doubt about the continued prosperity of the Guild (applause).

### A FINE NEW PEAL.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed 'The Visitors,' and welcomed the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the clergy and the representatives of the other associations and guilds who were present. Mr. Walker referred to the opening of the new peals of bells that afternoon at St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, and congratulated the church in obtaining and Messrs. Taylor and Co. in producing such an excellent peal of bells—a peal worthy of the Cathedral. The visitors had been specially privileged in being able to ring on them during the afternoon.

Mr. J. W. Jones replied for the visitors and mentioned that, although he never met Henry Johnson, he took part in a muffled date touch of Grandsire Triples on the occasion of his death in 1890. Mr. Jones said he hoped that despite the difficult times in which they were living, that commemoration would be continued. At any rate, he hoped it would not be allowed to fall through entirely and that, if a dinner was not possible, they might have a lunch. He congratulated Birmingham on having gained such a beautiful new ring of bells as they now had at St. Chad's.

Mr. Jones having referred to the death of Mr. W. A. Cave, the Chairman asked the company to stand in silence for a few moments as an expression of their regret. One of the last twelve-bell peals which Mr. Cave rang, he said, was for St. Martin's Guild, at Buckfast Abbey.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, in proposing 'The Chairman,' referred to Mr. Smith's long and valued services to St. Martin's Guild, including 20 years as honorary secretary. They all admired him for his many qualities, one of which was his insistence on good striking. Although in years gone by Mr. Smith rang in a great many peals in a variety of methods, it was true that his chief interest in ringing now was

## IMPORTANT.

Owing to Good Friday falling in next week, 'The Ringing World' will be published on Thursday. Notices and all other communications must reach the 'Ringing World' Office by Monday next.

in Stedman Cinques, but it was in good Stedman Cinques (applause). He (Mr. Haynes) confessed that he had been almost convinced by Mr. Smith's ideal, and it was one of which St. Martin's Guild need not be ashamed. If he had given them that ideal and they could always produce a band capable of ringing good Stedman Cinques, then he would have done something worth while (applause).

### NEW BLOOD NEEDED.

The toast was drunk with musical honours, and Mr. Smith, in reply, hoped the members would not think from what Mr. Haynes had said that he was selfish, but he certainly had reached a stage now when he could not put up with bad striking. He had developed a great love of twelve-bell ringing, which appealed to him more than any other type. He thought he must have been weaned on Stedman Cinques and he loved it beyond all other ringing. He never tired of good Stedman Cinques; although he tired of most other things and he got very tired very soon of bad striking (laughter). Mr. Smith said he was afraid when this war was over there would be a difficulty in getting young men into their belfries, and it behoved them all to do their best to keep up the interest of the art and to bring in new blood.

This concluded the toast list, and after the hon. secretary had thanked the artistes, the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem.

Many enjoyable vocal items were contributed by the Cathedral Quartette, and P.C. Cook, of Birmingham Police, gave a number of cornet solos magnificently played. The accompanist was Mr. E. J. Woodhall.

A feature of the evening was a course of Stedman Cinques on a beautiful new peal of handbells size 17, belonging to Mr. George Fearn. It was the first course on the bells, and, the Lord Mayor having asked for more, a course of Grandsire Cinques was also rung, those taking part being Messrs. D. T. Matkin, F. W. Perrens, A. Walker, F. E. Pervin, F. E. Haynes and A. E. Norman.

### BEGINNING YOUNG.

Two fourteen-year-old boys at Rishton, Lancs, rang their first quarter-peal on March 5th, when 1,280 Bob Major was rung by G. Harwood 1, A. Yates 2, R. Atherton 3, T. Hillman 4, J. Appleton 5, R. Balderstone 6, W. Proctor 7, F. Read (conductor) 8. It was the first quarter-peal for the ringers of the treble and the fifth, who thus achieved their first success.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.**

A successful meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at St. Lawrence's, Brentford, on Saturday last.

Twenty-four members and friends were present from Brentford, Bushey, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Feltham, Fulham, Kensington, Kingsbury, Ruislip and Willesden.

The ancient peal of six were raised about 3 p.m. and some very good ringing was accomplished until 5 p.m. under the supervision of Mr. G. M. Kilby, Ringing Master, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Double Court and Double Oxford Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and Cambridge and London Surprise Minor being brought round.

During the ringing the Vicar, the Rev. W. Paton, and Mrs. Paton visited the belfry and showed much interest in the proceedings.

A short service was held at 5 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, with Mrs. Paton at the organ. The Vicar, in an eloquent little address, extended a warm welcome to those present, saying how pleased he was to have his bells rung again after a long silence and regretting the absence of a band of his own. The Vicar extended a cordial welcome to any ringers who could make up a band for any occasional Sunday ringing, and stated how glad he was to note that ringing generally was still being carried on in spite of the present situation, expressing his conviction that in God's good time the bells would ring out their message of peace, with God in His Heaven and all well with the world.

A substantial tea was provided at Druce and Smith's nearby, presided over by the Vicar, supported by Mrs. Paton. There was no formal business, but a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and Mrs. Paton, on the proposition of Mr. Trollope, and the Vicar, in reply, again expressed his pleasure at meeting the association again, and of his hope that they would give him some assistance in occasional ringing at Brentford. Members were reminded of the annual general meeting at Acton on April 27th, and it was stated that it was hoped to arrange the next district meeting at Ruislip and Pinner at the end of May.

After tea, a move was made to Christ Church, Ealing, for an hour's ringing, where touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise were brought round.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.****SOUTH NORFOLK BRANCH AT PULHAM MARKET.**

The annual meeting of the South Norfolk Branch was held on Saturday, March 2nd, at Pulham Market. The bells of St. Mary Magdalene Church were rung during the afternoon and evening until 9 p.m., the methods including Spiced Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

The Rector of Pulham Market (the Rev. R. H. Stacey) conducted the association's special service in the afternoon and gave an excellent address. The lesson was read by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard.

After service, the members adjourned to the Rectory, where the Rector and Mrs. Stacey kindly provided tea.

Before the business meeting began, Mr. W. L. Duffield asked the members to stand in silence in memory of the late Mr. Ernest F. Poppy and the late Mr. Stacey (son of the Rector and Mrs. Stacey).

Mr. W. L. Duffield presided at the meeting, supported by the Rev. R. H. Stacey (hon. member), the Rev. A. St. J. Heard (hon. member), the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (Precentor of Norwich Cathedral), Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary), Mr. A. G. Harrison, Diss (branch secretary), Messrs. E. Whiting, C. Roome and C. E. G. Banham, members of the committee, and ringers from Attleborough, Bergh Apton, Diss, Fressingfield, Pulham Market, Redenhall, Shelfanger, Saxlingham, Norwich, Winfarthing and Yaxley.

All the officers were re-elected for 1940. The suggestion was made that during the lighter evenings practice meetings should be held at various churches on Saturdays.

At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. and Mrs. Stacey for their kind hospitality, also to the Rector for the use of the bells and for his address, and to the organist and choirboys.

The Rector thanked the members for visiting Pulham and gave them a hearty welcome to come for a practice meeting sometimes.

The next meeting of the branch is to be held at Diss in May.

**VISITING H.M.F. RINGERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Our Branches have discussed the question of what should be done in regard to subscriptions charged to ringers in H.M. Forces coming into the county and, while here, ringing peals. The matter has now been brought forward to the committee. Should these visitors be excused paying non-resident members' fees? One suggestion was that they should pay 1s. entrance fee as an ordinary member, and another was that they should pay a small booking fee for a peal or peals rung.

My committee would like to know what other societies are doing in this matter. Perhaps other secretaries will reply through 'The Ringing World' and give us reasons for or against the above proposals.

106, Bank Street, Manchester 11. W. H. SHUKER, Hon. Sec.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL. — In accordance with the decision of the Standing Committee, I give notice that no meeting of the Council will be held on Whitsun Tuesday this year.—George W. Fletcher, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, March 16th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Meeting at Witley, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, March 16th. Bells of St. John's available from 3 o'clock. Service 5 o'clock. Tea at the Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, Croydon, 5.45. Meeting 6.30. Further ringing after the meeting. — E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) AND HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (St. Albans District).—A joint meeting will be held at Luton Parish Church on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—H. Frost and E. Belson, Dis. Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of Southampton District at Upham on Saturday, March 16th. Bells 2.30-7.30. — G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wrington on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at the Golden Lion, followed by business meeting.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Tendring on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. at the Vicarage. A good bus service from Colchester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at Tonbridge. Tower open 2.15. Service at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. Canon Frank Child. Tea and business meeting to follow. Election of officers, and plans for the future.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. Mark's Church, Glodwick, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. All ringers welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Eccles, on Saturday afternoon, March 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Subscriptions due.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The combined practice, arranged for Cranleigh on March 16th, is cancelled.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston (8 bells) on March 16th. Ringing, 3 p.m. till 7 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting is arranged to take place at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at 5 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road, at a moderate charge.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—First war-time meeting of Maidstone District will be held at Linton (near Maidstone) on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Association form of service at 5, followed by tea and business meeting in the Institute Room. M. and D. buses 5, 6, 59, and E2 are handy. Subscriptions for 1940 may be paid at this meeting except from members serving in H.M. Forces.—R. G. Rayfield, Dis. Hon. Sec., 86, Hedge Place Road, Hornscross, Greenhithe, Kent.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Church Lawton (8 bells) on March 16th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, March 16th. Ringing from 3 to 7.30. Service at 5. Refreshments being arranged.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—There will be a practice at Little Waltham on Saturday, March 16th, at 3 p.m. All ringers welcomed.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Ewell on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available: Christ Church, Epsom, 11 a.m. to 12.30; St. Martin's, Epsom, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Mary's, Ewell, 3.30 to 5.30, and again in the evening until 8.30 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, in Ewell Church Hall at 5.30. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. C. E. Read, 58, High Street, Ewell, by Wednesday, March 20th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting at Cambridge, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service in the Church of St. Mary-the-Great, 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Consistory Court. Tea at Lion Hotel, 5 o'clock. Ringing: St. Mary's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 3.30, and 6 to 8 p.m.; St. Benet's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 3.15 p.m., and in the evening. Please note change of plan due to war-time conditions.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meet at 3.30 in vestry of St. Mary-le-Tower and service 4 o'clock. At 4.30 the general meeting, in the Oak Room, Oak Lane, followed by tea at Lyons Restaurant. The bells at various towers will be available all day for ringing: St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8), St. Clement's (6), St. Matthew's (6), Sproughton (6), Rushmere (6), and St. Lawrence's (5).—Harold G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

**LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Newport, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service at 4. Tea and business meeting to follow in All Saints' Mission House, Lyne Road. Bells of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' available.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meeting in the College Room at 11.15. Association service in the Church of All Saints, at noon, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen. General meeting in the College Room at 2.15 p.m. Owing to local conditions and the uncertainty of catering and the numbers attending it has been deemed advisable to dispense with the lunch. All practising members attending will be allowed 2s. 6d. each. The bells of All Saints' (10) will be available from 10 a.m. till noon and after the meeting until 6 p.m. It is hoped other towers will be available; if so, will be announced later.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Subject to the approval of the Dean and Chapter, general business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m., with address by the Dean. Tea (non-members, 1s. each) has been arranged, but it is essential that all those requiring same should notify me before Tuesday, March 19th. Bells available: Cathedral (12) 1-2 p.m., All Saints' (10), St. John-in-Bedwardine (8). The usual six-bell towers will probably be available. Information at St. Alban's from 11 a.m. Central Committee meeting in St. Alban's Room at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid, and reports obtained in St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

**DEVON GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ottery St. Mary on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. until 9.30. Service 4.30. Tea meeting at the Church Institute 5.15. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting.—The annual meeting will be held as usual at Bedford on Easter Monday, March 25th. The bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head, followed by the business meeting, will be held at the Lion Hotel, High Street, at 4.30 p.m. Postcards will be very welcome.—F. J. Plummer, Hon. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.



**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the Cathedral (12 bells), St. Peter's (10), St. Michael's (6), and St. Stephen's (6) will be open for members from 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 4.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A., followed by tea and business meeting in the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street (close to Westminster Bank). You can depend upon a sumptuous meat tea in this original 16th century barn. Please let me know if you are coming, so as to make adequate arrangements.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 50th annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Easter Monday. Committee meeting at St. James' Schools 11.20 a.m. Service at St. James' 12.30. Luncheon (2s.) at the Black Horse Hotel 1.15. Business meeting on the same premises 2.15. Bells available: St. James' (8), 11-12.30; St. George's, Wilton (8), 11-12.15; St. James' after the meeting until 4 p.m.; St. Mary's (12), 4-7. The rings of six at Trull and Staplegrave are also available if required. Do please let Mr. Hunt or me know if you require luncheon.—J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton, Bath.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting, Easter Monday, at Derby. Bells of St. Andrew's (10), St. Peter's (8) available all day, subject to weddings, etc. Cathedral (10) open for two hours before black-out time. St. Alkmund's (8) possibly available; notice will be given. Committee meet at St. Peter's Schools 3.30. Tea (2s. head) 5 p.m., at Babington Café, Babington Lane, followed by general meeting. Tickets for tea obtainable from Mr. W. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby, not later than Thursday, March 21st. No ticket—no tea! — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Staverton (6) on Easter Monday, March 25th. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, March 20th. Make this an enjoyable holiday meeting.—W. C. Moore, 5, William's Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. Service at 4.15 p.m. Address by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall. Tea at 5 o'clock, free of charge to those who notify Mr. F. Bradley, 34, Mansfield Road, Skegby, Notts, by Tuesday, March 19th. Will visitors please provide their own sugar? Annual meeting immediately after tea.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 63rd annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday at Norwich. Bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles available from 10 a.m.; All Saints' from 11.30. Service at St. Peter Mancroft at noon; preacher, Rev.

A. G. G. Thurlow. Luncheon at 1, at Samson and Hercules House, Tombland, 2s. 6d. per head. Subscriptions due.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec. and Treasurer, Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, at Headquarters, The Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., at 7 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—A practice meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 2 to 4 p.m. and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, from 4 p.m. until dark.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**LADIES' GUILD** (Northern) and **LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A joint meeting of these societies will be held at Armley Christ Church on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until dark. Arrangements for tea will be made for those who send in their names to me by Wednesday, March 27th. — H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Ringing after. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**WITHINGTON, Nr. Hereford.**—The postponed rededication of the restored ring of six will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 31st, by the Lord Bishop of Hereford. The two trebles recast and the peal rehung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Ernest W. Pye is now 18, Albany Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The future address of Mr. F. S. Wilson, of West Lavington, Midhurst, will, after March 19th, be Vanessa, Dean Swift Crescent, Lilliput, Parkstone, Dorset.

**KILBURN.**—On Sunday, March 10th, for evensong at St. Augustine's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 43 minutes: Miss V. Jaquest 1, E. M. Atkins 2, E. B. Hartley 3, C. D. Nichols (conductor) 4, A. Tozer 5, G. A. Parsons 6, H. Kilby 7, W. H. Seabrook 8. First quarter-peal by Miss V. Jaquest.

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## BEGINNERS AND RINGING TERMS.

The correspondent, who last week asked for the standardisation of ringing terms, is making a plea that numerous people for themselves, or for the benefit of others, have made. We have every sympathy with the beginner who finds himself confused, both by the alternative words that are used to indicate the same thing, or by the same term used to indicate different things, but the art of ringing has now reached a stage when it will be difficult to effect standardisation. The obstacle is not so much to prescribe standard terms as to secure their adoption. It might be a fairly simple task—we do not say it would be—for the Central Council to say this particular word shall, in future, have only one specific meaning, or that thing shall be designated only by this one term. It would be a totally different matter to get the Exercise to adopt such a ruling. Ringers in the mass have always been very loose in their technical vocabulary and many of the terms which have grown into use are not the best that might have been chosen, because they were first used by men who had no knowledge of the finer distinctions of the meanings of words. They were terms that were at first never laid down in any text book, but were passed from mouth to mouth, until they grew into the language of ringers and have found a place from which it would be difficult to eradicate them. The same remark applies to those terms which have more than one meaning, such as 'lead' and 'course' for example, but it would need the efforts of more than a generation of ringers to tie down the use of such words to one specific purpose and to acquire the use of other words to replace them in other connections.

The solution of the beginners' troubles, we think, rests with the beginner himself and his instructor. The latter should be at great pains to explain every technical ringing term to his pupils as he comes to it and, what is more, should make sure that he understands it. The beginner should realise that a knowledge of these terms is an essential part of his studies. Moreover, while certain terms have dual meanings, it would be hard, we think, to find an instance where anyone, beginner or not, could really be confused in the application of the term to the matter in hand. There may be more difficulty in understanding the use of a word which has gradually slipped into ringing parlance without due thought, and the aptness of certain words to the purpose intended may be a source of dispute, as witness the recent correspondence in our columns on the word 'shunt,' but that gives rise not so much to a need for the standardisation of terms as a revision of them.

(Continued on page 134.)

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When, many years ago, the Central Council published 'The Glossary,' it did much to help clarify the situation and make plain, to those who cared to study the book, the many terms which had grown up in ringing. If, some day, a revised edition, modernising and simplifying the extensive technical vocabulary of ringers, could be produced, it might prove extremely useful to instructors and beginners of the future in enabling them to follow a common practice in the use of terms. And yet it would, we feel, be a matter of regret to those to whom the old words are so familiar and about which there is the halo of traditional usage—one might almost say romance—if these terms were to lose any of their age-long meaning. But then, perhaps the generation that loves these old terms, having studied and mastered them, and is content to know their proper application, will have passed. The future lies with others; there will be nothing to stop them improving on the old ringing terms—if they can.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

WIGAN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 12, 1940, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

SIDNEY FLINT ... .. Treble	SIDNEY FORSHAW ... .. 5
*ALBERT PARKER... .. 2	*WILLIAM PILKINGTON ... .. 6
JOHN POTTER ... .. 3	JOHN BROWN ... .. 7
*WILLIAM FARRIMOND ... .. 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD... .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by JOHN BROWN.

\* First peal in the method. Rung after meeting short for Grandsire Caters, and with the bells fully muffled in memory of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

GOSFORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.)

On Wednesday, February 21, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN ANDERSON ... .. 1-2	WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON... .. 5-6
*WILLIAM H. BARBER... .. 3-4	ERNEST WALLACE ... .. 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

\* The 200th peal as conductor for the above association.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 16, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

First peal in the method by all.

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 Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.



## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### PRESENTATION TO FORMER DISTRICT SECRETARY.

A handsome oak clock, with Westminster chimes, has been presented to Mr. F. Ridgwell, formerly district secretary and afterwards District Master, in recognition of his ten years of valuable service to the Essex Association. The presentation took place at Earls Colne, where a meeting of the Northern Division of the association was held on Saturday week. Members were present from a wide area, including Earls Colne, Halstead, Colne Engaine, Greenstead Green, Braintree, Kelvedon, Maldon, Bocking, Dunmow, Colchester and Stebbing.

A service was conducted by the Rev. H. Monks, R.D. (Vicar), who in the course of a brief address said that in every craft one could always go on learning; the golfer, for instance, was always trying to improve his stroke. In the ringers' association, too, they realised the importance of individual effort and that they were members of a body. All the time they were a team; one was dependent upon the other; and as such they required team spirit. That afternoon they had been ringing in a tower which had been standing since 1532 and which bore the mallets of the Earls of Oxford. In that tower men had rung throughout the ages, and all along it was realised that men could only ring in harmony with their fellow ringers. Indeed, there was, perhaps, no craft where the team spirit was so deep and strong. It was such team spirit which was so much needed amongst the nations of the world to-day, so that, guided by the spirit of Christ, they could impart such harmony into human life that the life of the nations of the world might become glorious.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. C. H. HOWARD.

After the service the ringers were entertained to tea at the Vicarage by kind invitation of the Vicar.

Mr. H. W. Smith (Dunmow), Master of the Northern Division, presided at the subsequent meeting and referred to the great loss the Essex Association had sustained by the death of Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree. Mr. Howard, who was Master of the association for 25 years had, he said, done much for bellringing in the county, and a number of restorations had been due to his efforts. He was most regular in attendance at association meetings, and never despised meetings in the lowly villages. They all very much regretted his death. The Master also referred sympathetically to the death of Mr. E. Turner (Gestingthorpe), who died in December, and who had been a ringer for many years.

As a tribute to the memory of these two, all stood for a brief silence.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen (Braintree) referred to the decision to arrange practice meetings and wondered what had been done.

Miss Hilda Snowden (Halstead), the hon. secretary, said that owing to the weather during the winter it had been difficult to get sufficient ringers together. It was up to the ringers themselves to decide what best could be done under the circumstances.

Mr. Ridgwell thought that as the weather improved more would attend. Such meetings did good, as they wanted to keep the ringers together. It was the Vicar's wish that practice meetings at Earls Colne should recommence as soon as possible.

It was decided to leave the matter for the summer months, the Master expressing the view that all companies should do their best to get new ringing recruits. Efforts would also be made to arrange local practices.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Witham, the date being left for the secretary to arrange.

The District Master moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his hospitality. There were but few places they visited where they were so generously entertained. He also thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and giving such an excellent address. Their thanks were also due to the organist and organ-blower.

Mr. Ridgwell, who is hon. secretary to the local St. Andrew's Guild of Ringers, endorsed the District Master's remarks, and said how thankful they all were they had a Vicar like Mr. Monks. Mr. Ridgwell recalled that he first joined St. Andrew's Guild in 1898, and although he subsequently left the village for some years, he found, on his return, that he had still been retained as a member. They had a splendid band of ringers at Colne, and were most grateful to the Vicar and Mrs. Monks for their interest and help.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and, in reply, the Vicar said he was pleased to do anything he could to help them. He hoped the association would forge ahead with their ringing and get all their towers fully manned. He mentioned that one of their Earls Colne members had been a ringer for 40 years and his father was a ringer for 50 years.

### MR. RIDGWELL'S VALUABLE SERVICE.

The District Master said that for eight years Mr. Ridgwell served the Northern Division as hon. secretary and then for two years he was District Master. He resigned last year and the members felt they could not allow the occasion to pass without some recognition of Mr. Ridgwell's work, for he had always been most courteous, took much trouble in arranging meetings and was always willing to assist in ringing a peal. They were very grateful for all he had done.

Mr. Wiffen also paid a tribute to Mr. Ridgwell's work for the division, which was always carried out most efficiently.

On behalf of the members, the Vicar then handed the clock to Mr. Ridgwell, and, in doing so, said he fully agreed with what the District Master and Mr. Wiffen had said. He had known Mr. Ridgwell long

(Continued in next column.)

## TECHNICAL RINGING TERMS.

### STANDARDISATION NOT ADVISABLE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The standardisation of the technical terms of the Exercise which Mr. C. A. Levett asks for is neither possible nor advisable. The great majority of the terms employed in the belfry were evolved naturally by ringers and have been in use for two or three hundred years. The beginners' difficulties are not in the terms, but in the things which the terms express, and, like most difficulties, they cannot be overcome unless the beginner is prepared to take some trouble.

Whether technical terms used in books and writings are a success or not depends on whether the author knows his job and whether the leader is prepared to do his share. Words in ringing matters, as elsewhere, are (or should be) living things, and the skilful writer can give them the precise meaning he requires by the way he uses them.

The use of the term *Right* as an alternative for the 'good old-fashioned Home' was approved some fifty years ago by the Central Council because the latter can often be ambiguous. For instance, if Mr. Levett were told to call the fifth, 'Fourth's and Home,' three times in a touch of Bob Minor, where would he call his bobs?

Why in the Central Council's book on Triples the tables of Stedman course ends are pricked from 1234567 and the peals and touches from 2314567 is obvious to anyone who knows what tables of course ends are used for, and how peals and touches of Stedman are customarily rung.

To speak of a 'peal' of bells is perfectly good English, though there has been for some years a preference for 'ring' of bells, which also probably is the older use.

The existence of two terms which mean practically the same thing is not a defect but often a very great help to a writer. X.Y.Z.

### EXAMPLES WHICH BREED CONFUSION.

Dear Sir,—Mr. C. A. Levett's letter in to-day's issue of 'The Ringing World' concerning technical ringing terms suggests to me the following additional examples which breed confusion. I happen to be organist as well as ringer, and when 'seated at the organ,' *up* means from a low note to a higher one in pitch, *down* means from a high note to a lower one. A note *above* means a note higher in pitch, and a note *below* means a note lower in pitch. In the ringing chamber, *up* means from the treble bell to the tenor or high to low; *down* means from the tenor to the treble or low to high. A bell *above* another means a bell higher in pitch; a bell *below* means a bell lower in pitch.

I am getting used to this somersault business now, but it still requires a strong mental effort. It seems to me that Lewis Carroll missed a fine opportunity by not introducing bellringing into Wonderland!

C. HUTCHINSON.

### KELVEDON'S OLD INHABITANTS.

At St. Mary's Church, Kelvedon, Essex, on Sunday, March 10th, a quarter-peal of Minor (720 Oxford Treble Bob, 360 Kent and 180 Plain Bob) was rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. W. W. Thorne, who passed away at the age of 88 years, and to Mr. L. G. Fitch, another old inhabitant, who died on February 27th.

Mr. Thorne was headmaster of Kelvedon C. of E. Boys' School for 42 years, organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's Church for 46 years and was always ready to co-operate with the ringers.

Mr. Fitch was churchwarden at Kelvedon Church for many years.

WRAYSBURY, BUCKS.—On Saturday, February 24th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Double Oxford Bob Triples, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, composed by C. Charge and rung as a birthday compliment to his wife: C. Charge 1, G. Martin 2, Guardsman R. Chance 3, N. V. Harding 4, W. Birmingham 5, W. Welling 6, Sergt. A. Ford (first quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor) 7, G. Gilbert 8.

### ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

enough to realise that he would bring every thought and care into all that he did.

In returning thanks for the gift, Mr. Ridgwell said he had been taken completely by surprise. What he had done had been with the idea of benefiting the association, and he assured them that he would continue to do his best, not only for his own tower, but for the Essex Association as well (applause). Mr. Ridgwell eulogised the work of Miss Snowden, who, he said, was carrying out the duties of hon. secretary in a most efficient manner.

The clock bore the following inscription: 'Presented to Mr. F. Ridgwell on his retirement from office by the members of the Northern Division Essex Association of Change Ringers, March, 1940.'

After touches on handbells the ringers returned to the tower. During the afternoon and evening the following methods were practised: Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise and London Surprise.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

Double Bob Major and Double Bob Royal were methods which were practised in London almost as early as Plain Bob Major and Plain Bob Royal. Annable called the first peal of Major in 1727, of Royal in 1734, and of Maximus in 1740, all with bands belonging to the College Youths. These peals were rung with the bobs made when the treble was leading, but, soon after 1760, the opinion began to be held by ringers that the method could only be said to be properly double when bobs were made with the treble behind as well as in front, and for many years the only Double Bob rung was that 'distinguished,' as the 'Clavis' says, 'by the epithet of Real Double.'

Then many disputes arose as to what was proper Real Double. 'The first system' was broached about 1765, the method of which is to have the first bob when the treble is behind, and the second bob perhaps at the distance of half a lead from the first, or perhaps one lead and a half, or two and a half &c, at pleasure, the object being only to have one behind and one before alternately.'

On this plan George Gross composed a peal of Major, and called it for the Cumberlands at Whitechapel in 1769. Following their custom the society booked it as 'Cumberland real Double eight in.'

In 1771 the 'ancient' Society of College Youths rang at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields a peal of Maximus on the same plan.

Many ringers, however, held that these peals were not 'real' Double at all. 'Everyone agreed,' they said, 'that all double was spurious and lopsided till bobs behind were brought up, consequently to have a bob behind and perhaps ring a hundred or more changes before the other bob comes to counterpoise the system and balance it equal, when a bob at half a lead would have effected it so much sooner, is no other than ringing one hundred or more changes of lop sided double unnecessarily.'

These people held that, whenever there were bobs, there should always be two in a lead. There seems to have been quite a heated controversy on the matter, and it led to a competition between the two societies of College Youths.

A fortnight after the 7008 of Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark very nearly the same band rang at St. Bride's '5160 changes of Real Double Bob Maximus with 2 bobs in a lead, one before and one behind, being the first ever rung.' It was composed and conducted by John Povey.

Only two days later the other band, the 'ancient' Society of College Youths, rang 6048 changes at St. Saviour's. John Reeves, who composed the peal, was the conductor, and the band included some of the most distinguished ringers of the time, among them being Thomas Blakemore, one of the authors of the 'Clavis,' Christopher Wells, George Byers, who had called the peal at St. Martin's on the other plan, and Francis Wood, who had fallen out with the Cumberlands. George Harris rang the tenor single-handed, a feat which gives him an honourable place among heavy bell ringers, but though he rang many more peals, this was his only outstanding performance at the back end.

The next peal at St. Saviour's was rung by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. It was one of Grandsire Cinques which George Gross called from the eleventh. The ringer of the sixth was William Shipway, who only

six months before had come up to London from Bath because he was keenly anxious to advance in the art of change ringing and saw no prospects of so doing in his native city.

Grandsire on even numbers of bells is a good deal of a misfit, and the four blows behind at a plain lead and six at a bob are glaring defects. Yet for all that it has had great attraction for some leading ringers and composers. It was popular in Birmingham in Henry Johnson's time, John Carter called several peals of it, and earlier still John Reeves favoured it. He, indeed, claimed the credit of being the first to extend it to Maximus. 'We shall just observe in respect of this method,' says the 'Clavis,' 'that it is far superior to the other plain method on an even number of bells both for music and variety of changes; as, for instance, in ringing a peal of Plain Bob Maximus you have in every course the same thing over again except a little alteration with the small bells; but here you have both music and variety of changes upon the whole number.'

It is not surprising, therefore, that during the time he held office in the Society of Cumberland Youths, John Reeves should have arranged a peal of Grandsire Maximus. This he called at Southwark on May 7th, 1792, with a band which included William Shipway.

The only other peal at St. Saviour's during the eighteenth century was one of Grandsire Cinques by the College Youths on March 25th, 1799, and the next one in the steeple was on March 22nd, 1802, when the Cumberlands gained the final victory in the long peal contest by ringing 7104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in five hours and a half.

The composition was John Reeves' one-part peal in nine courses which in Royal runs to 5200 changes and was very popular on ten bells. Four of the men who had taken part in the 12,000 of Royal at Shoreditch in 1784 rang in this peal. They were the elder George Gross, James Barnard, Thomas Reeves and Malachi Channon. The younger George Gross called the bobs from the second, Shipway rang the fifth and John Hints the ninth. Hints was at the time one of the most active ringers in London. He appears to have been the steeple-keeper at St. James', Clerkenwell, and it was out of the band of young ringers he got together there, that the St. James' Society was formed.

The two back bells were rung by the two best heavy bell men the society possessed, William Stephens and James Marlton. Stephens had rung Spitalfields tenor to Royal and Edmonton tenor to the then longest peal of Treble Bob Major, 10,112 changes, in 1800. Like many another famous London ringer, Marlton was born an East Anglian. Nearly a year later these two men rang the two big bells at St. Mary-le-Bow to the first single-handed peal of Royal accomplished on the bells. It was the same composition.

The College Youths had still many excellent and active ringers, and we may be sure that they did not see with indifference the double honour pass from them. But they had no tenor men of the calibre of James Marlton, and they were getting older and not enough of them were prepared to face the physical strain of record peal ringing. William Lyford, indeed, said his ambition had always been to 'stand the clock round,' but he had no support. We can get some idea of the difference be-

(Continued on next page.)

### DEATH OF MR. A. C. PANKHURST. SUSSEX DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.

The Sussex County Association has suffered the loss of a good ringer and officer by the death, on March 5th, after a short illness, of Mr. Alfred Cyril Pankhurst, of Eastbourne, at the early age of 43. For eight years he held the position of hon. secretary of the Eastern Division, and he was a member for 19 years of the St. Saviour's Guild.

The funeral service took place on Saturday week at St. Mary's Parish Church and the interment at Ocklynge Cemetery. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Hughes, and many friends were present. The bells of St. Mary's Church were rung fully muffled. Mr. Pankhurst leaves a widow, son and daughter in bereavement.

### MUFFLED RINGING IN CANADA.

#### CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL BELLS, VICTORIA.

On Wednesday, February 14th, preceding the memorial service for Baron Tweedsmuir, a quarter-peal of 1,260 changes of Grandsire Triples with the bells half-muffled: D. Boniface 1, Margaret Izard 2, A. C. Melhuish 3, A. King 4, W. Sampson 5, A. B. Lomas 6, E. W. Izard 7, E. Hutchins 8. The bells were also rung immediately after the service. After the service, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Sexton came up into the belfry and congratulated the ringers, on behalf of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Eric Hamber, on the excellence of the ringing. D. Boniface is 16 years of age, and this was his first attempt at a quarter-peal.

### CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from previous page.)

tween heavy bell ringing then and now, when we notice that after Cripplegate bells were increased to twelve and rehung, it took two men to ring the tenor to a peal of Cinques, and those two men were Philip Pilgrim and James Marilton, the only two ringers who, till then, had been able to ring Bow tenor behind single-handed to a peal.

The 12,000 at Shoreditch and the 7104 at St. Saviour's still stand as the record lengths for Oxford Treble Bob Royal and Maximus.

### BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

#### MEETING AT SILKSTONE.

The March meeting was held at Silkstone on March 9th, when 14 members attended from the following towers: Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company. Ringing was delayed until 4.15 p.m. owing to a wedding and a funeral.

Tea was served at the Ring of Bells at 5 p.m. and the business meeting was held in an adjoining room, with Mr. E. Brookes (president) in the chair. The Chairman expressed the thanks of those present to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to the local company for the arrangements they had made. This was strongly supported by the secretary, who added extra thanks to the Vicar and the local secretary for having at a very short notice arranged this meeting, which had been transferred from Sandal.

Shelley was chosen next place of meeting, to be held on April 13th. Further ringing followed until 8.15 p.m., the methods being Plain Bob, Double Bob, Double Stedman Slow Course and Treble Bob methods, ranging from Oxford to Cambridge Surprise.

### MR. AMOS' CRITICISMS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Although not a very outstanding personality in ringing circles and probably, as my letter will indicate to you and other ringers as well, not much of a writer, I feel, after reading various letters concerning the controversy over major and minor rings of five in the country, that I, like many others of my ringing 'pals,' would like to say a little, not about the same thing, but about the waste of valuable space in your paper which Mr. Amos is using to criticise what Mr. Trollope tries to explain as fully as he can to enlighten such people as myself who are interested in ringing as it should be in these critical times. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Trollope at one of our meetings, and he seems to me to be a man who deserves all the credit he can possibly be given for the work he has done for the Exercise as a whole. When in the belfry he doesn't seem to mind whether he rings the treble for a course of Grandsire Doubles or 'makes one' for a touch of Cambridge Maximus. I am sure the letters of Mr. Amos would be more appreciated if at times like these he would write something to help further the art of change ringing, which is the main idea of all ringing associations.

Using a previous quotation of yours, I am certain that if Mr. Amos was to visit our band and criticise Mr. Trollope as he does in 'The Ringing World,' he would find himself again 'in the soup.'

C. E. BLACK.

Deeping St. Nicholas.

# John Taylor & Co.

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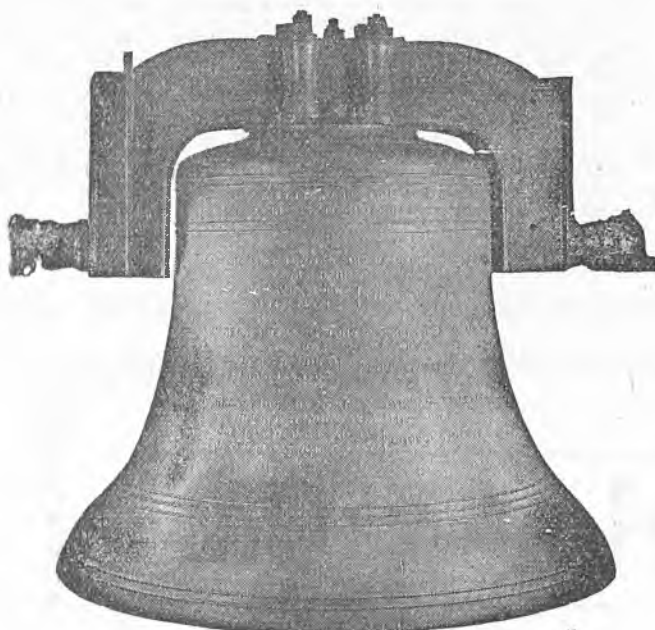
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The bells of St. Andrew's, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, have been restored by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who have recast the second, fifth and seventh and rehung the whole peal on ball bearings. A great improvement has been effected. The bells were rededicated on Sunday week by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in the presence of a crowded congregation.

To-day (Friday) is the anniversary of the 7,104 of Treble Bob Maximus which was rung by the Cumberlanders at Southwark in 1802.

On the same date in 1901 the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major was rung at St. Peter's, Brighton. It was conducted by Mr. George Williams, and two others of the band, Messrs. George Baker and Frank Bennett, are still alive.

Elijah Roberts tapped 19,440 changes of Treble Bob Maximus at Liverpool on March 23rd, 1837. He started at nineteen minutes to four in the morning and finished at twenty-four minutes past five in the afternoon. Although no ringer heard it, there is no reason to doubt the truth of the performance, which was a most marvellous mental and physical feat, but hardly one that we should like to see repeated.

The St. Martin's, Birmingham, men rang 8,888 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells on March 23rd, 1898, and on the same date in 1783 a band of College Youths, mostly made up of men who lived at Kensington, Hammersmith and the western suburbs, rang at Fulham a peal of Old Double Caters, i.e., Plain Bob Caters. James Barham's men had already rung peals of the method at Leeds, and on March 23rd, 1751, they rang a peal of Reverse Bob Major, which was nearly, but not quite, the first of its kind.

Last Sunday would have been the 82nd birthday of the late Mr. Challis F. Winney, who died a few weeks ago. His friends in the College Youths remembered him by ringing a well-struck touch of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes.

## DEATH OF MR. H. SHEPPARD, OF DUDLEY.

SECRETARY OF DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Herbert Sheppard, of Dudley, which took place at his residence on March 5th in his 71st year. His loss will be keenly felt, as he was hon. secretary of Dudley and District Guild for nearly 30 years and carried out his duties with the greatest enthusiasm. He was also secretary and treasurer of the band at St. Thomas', Dudley, for about 20 years.

The funeral took place on March 9th at St. Thomas' Church, and the service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Dudley (the Ven. Dr. Sheppard), who was assisted by the curate (the Rev. E. H. Ivall). The hymn, 'Let saints on earth,' was sung, and after the committal a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells at the graveside by J. Lloyd 1-2, J. Goodman 3-4, C. Skidmore 5-6, B. Ashford 7-8.

The bearers were Messrs. J. Goodman, N. Leech, C. Rowley, H. Hubball, brother ringers, and Messrs. Deakin and Oakley. There were also many old friends at the church.

The deceased leaves a son, who is in South Africa, and two daughters to mourn their loss.

## DEATH OF MR. E. J. BOTTLE.

BELLRINGER FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS.

One of Sittingbourne's most respected inhabitants has passed away in the person of Mr. Edwin John Bottle, who had reached the venerable age of 84 years, and with his passing goes one who has left his mark in the community in which he had lived so long.

He went to Sittingbourne about the year 1870 and was the oldest change ringer in this part of the county. As a boy he rang the bells at Tonge Parish Church, where his father was then verger, and he was the sole remaining member of the original band of ringers who rang the first peal on the occasion of the founding of a branch of the Kent Change Ringers' Society at Sittingbourne. This was nearly sixty years ago, when there were only six bells in the tower.

In this connection it is interesting to recall that the original six bells were cast in 1687. Prior to 1882 these bells had never been properly rung, and the following ringers took part in the first 720 of Plain Bob Minor on the bells: W. G. Gordelier 1, F. C. Mattison 2, E. J. Cooper 3, E. J. Bottle 4, Sam Snelling 5, W. J. Judd 6. Two years later these same six ringers rang the last touch (a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor) on St. Michael's bells before the two new trebles were added.

After the opening of the eight bells on December 20th, 1885, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples was rung, with Mr. Bottle at the fifth. Before then Mr. Bottle used to walk to and from Leeds, ten miles away, to practise eight-bell ringing. As a bellringer he was full of enthusiasm, and had travelled widely (both in the county and out of it) ringing in different towers. At one time he was a fireman; in fact, he was one of the original members of the Sittingbourne Brigade when it was formed in 1874.

On March 17th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled: H. E. Simpson 1, Miss D. Dobbie 2, W. Dobbie 3, E. Dobbie 4, A. S. Boar 5, G. Eastman 6, S. Dobbie (conductor) 7, F. Holdstock 8.



## SURREY ASSOCIATION.

### LIAISON WITH GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

#### Serving Members and Their Subscriptions.

Between sixty and seventy members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Surrey Association at Croydon on Saturday; indeed the number of visiting ringers present was remarkable. They came mostly from London towers, but there were others present from Sussex, Kent and Essex. The Surrey towers represented were Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Leatherhead, Epsom, Beddington, Kingston, Southwark (St. George's), Hersham, Banstead, Merstham, Camberwell, Ashted, Mitcham, Reigate and Redhill. Towers represented by visitors were Henfield and West Grinstead (Sussex), Leytonstone, Stepney, St. Stephen's, Westminster, Willesden, Chelsea, Brockley, Bishopsgate, etc. The fine peal of twelve bells at St. John's Parish Church was, of course, a great attraction, and, under the direction of Mr. Dan Cooper, everyone had an opportunity of taking part in the ringing both in the afternoon and during the 'black-out.'

The service in the Parish Church was a source of inspiration to those who shared in it. It was unusual for a ringers' gathering, it lacked the formality of the usual 'service form,' but lost nothing of the dignity and impressiveness associated with a beautiful old church. The prayers were not recited, as is customary, from a reading desk, but offered by the Rev. J. C. Kinnear (senior curate) standing in the aisle between the pews occupied by the ringers, and they were prayers which went deep to the heart of things.

The address by the Bishop of Croydon (the Rt. Rev. Dr. Anderson), who is also Vicar, was a homely discourse delivered from the chancel steps, as a man talking to brothers. It was based upon three simple things which Christ asked for during his life—a boat, in other words a dinghy, from which to address the multitude by the Sea of Galilee, a donkey, in which He rode in triumph into Jerusalem, and a drink, when He was dying on the cross. The lessons of these simple things were drawn by the Bishop, the first being that we should not be ashamed to try new methods—Christ was prepared to preach from a boat. This was a changing world. Whatever the result of this war, the world that comes out of it will be a very different world even from that of 1939. The Church might have to change her methods and it will be the duty of Christians to think keenly as to how they can apply their faith to the changed conditions. Secondly, we should never be afraid of simplicity—Christ did not despise the donkey—for there was no garb in which charity was more irresistible than humility. Thirdly, the request for a drink was an appeal to neighbourliness which to the last Christ hoped to find in humanity. There was a need for neighbourliness in the world to-day. 'I am more and more conscious,' said the Bishop, 'that the bellringers of our Church set to all other Christian workers an example of neighbourliness. I wish I could get to the bottom of your secret that I might pass it on to other bodies of Christian workers.'

#### WAR-TIME PEALS.

The Master of the association (Mr. Kenneth Birt) presided over the tea and business meeting, being supported at the former by the Bishop of Croydon, Mr. C. F. Johnston, the Rev. J. C. Kinnear, Mr. E. G. Talbot (hon. secretary) and Mr. D. Cooper. The Bishop had to leave before the meeting, but prior to his departure was thanked by the Master for allowing the association to come to his church, for his part in the excellent arrangements, and particularly for his address.

The Bishop replied by welcoming the association and remarking that if his own small part had been of any use, he was more than rewarded.

At the meeting which followed, the treasurer's statement of accounts was presented by the secretary and adopted. The year was begun with a balance of £23 4s. 3d. and ended with a balance of £25 6s. 8d., the receipts, including £13 9s. 3d. from the North-Western Division, and £4 8s. 6d. from the Southern Division, being £23 11s. 9d., and the expenditure £21 9s. 4d.

The committee, in the annual report, said: When war was declared in September it was generally expected that, in common with all spheres of activity, ringing would be seriously interfered with. We had visions of our bells being silenced altogether with consequent disastrous results to the art and to the association. Ringers, however, were undoubtedly more than glad to find eventually that the Home Office Order relating to the control of noise did not prohibit the use of church bells in a customary manner, and although in most cases the normal times of ringing have been altered, mainly by reason of the black-out, ringing has ceased absolutely only in two towers affiliated to the association. Moreover, up to the present time we can be thankful that our towers and bells have suffered no material damage as a result of enemy activity.

When the first shock had passed away the committee met to discuss the situation, with the result that the towers were circularised and sundry recommendations placed before members. It is hoped that these suggestions, wherever possible, have been acted upon.

In some churches ringing takes place twice on a Sunday, and in the majority of cases ringing for one service has been the custom. In quite a number of instances, despite the black-out, practice nights are being well attended; at one tower methods of a high order, which have been dropped for two or three years, are being revived.

What the future has in store no one can forecast with any certainty, but, if the association can maintain the ringing in its area as it is doing, the set-back experienced will not attain large propor-

tions. The committee, however, cannot emphasise too strongly the all-important fact of obtaining recruits to fill the gaps which must necessarily arise from the calls of national service. By striving to keep our bells going we are not only furthering the aims of the association, but we are also performing in some degree a national service. For when we ring the bells for Sunday service we are giving to our fellow-men and, on occasion to the very world a proclamation that there still exists in this country the right to worship and act in accordance with the principles of the Founder of true civilisation, and in this respect our bells may indeed be termed the voice of freedom.

Until the outbreak of the war, meetings of the association were held on the same scale as in preceding years, those in the North-West District being very well supported. Afterwards the programme of district meetings was revised, and, despite the difficulties of travel and the weather, three well-attended meetings, two in the North-West District and one in the Southern District, have been held.

#### THE YEAR'S PEALS.

During the year 15 peals were rung, 14 in the North-West District and one in the Southern, and the association is proud to have scored its second peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, rung at St. John's, Croydon. The number of peals is not high, but it cannot be said that variety is lacking as the following details reveal: Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Stedman Cinqes 1, Cambridge Royal 2, Bob Royal 1, Stedman Caters 1, Grandsire Caters 1, London Surprise Major 1, Stedman Triples 2, Grandsire Triples 3, Bob Minor 1. It will be observed that the foregoing include peals on all numbers of bells from Minor to Maximus. The conductors were C. H. Kippin 5, F. E. Collins 3, W. H. Hewett, A. Walker, E. C. S. Turner, F. E. Darby, J. Beams, E. Hancox and H. R. Thorpe 1 each. Six members rang their first peal and 15 others their first in the method.

According to information received to date, the number of annual subscribing members amounts to 286, though this figure will have to be revised when exact details are available. The total funds of the association now stand at £47 7s. 4d., made up as follows: General Fund, £25 6s. 8d.; North-West District, £12 16s. 8d.; and Southern District, £9 4s. If members' subscriptions had been maintained at the 1938 level, however, the funds would probably have reached a figure of £52 10s.

The support given to the association by members during the past year does not, in view of the circumstances, compare unfavourably with previous years, and the committee, whilst expressing their thanks, make an especial request that those who are still with us should make a particular effort this year to give extra help to the association by regular attendance at their own towers and at the district meetings.

Mr. H. E. Wills (Croydon) thought the report unduly pessimistic, but it was adopted on the motion of the chairman.

Mr. H. Wood (Merstham) was elected a member of the association, and Messrs. H. Thompson, L. and T. Fox and G. Cecil (Stepney) compounding members.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Reigate, and the following officers, having been nominated, were declared elected: President, the Bishop of Southwark; Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin (in place of Mr. H. F. Wallis); hon. secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks (in place of Mr. A. J. Cook); hon. auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere. The Bishop of Croydon and Mr. Arthur Dean (Leatherhead) were re-elected vice-presidents.

#### CLOSER RELATIONS WITH GUILDFORD GUILD.

Last year the Surrey Association and the Guildford Diocesan Guild, whose territories overlap, each approved in principle of the election of a representative to serve on the committee of the other organisation. This proposal, said the Master, had been further explored and had now got so far that the hon. secretary of the Guildford Guild had suggested a form of resolution that might be adopted by both, but the matter had to come before the Guildford Guild's annual meeting for final decision on their part. The point that had to be settled was the position of these representatives on the respective committees. Apparently they could not be full representatives under the rules, and therefore would not have power to vote, but would be very helpful and useful in a consultative capacity, and tend to keep the associations closely together. He, therefore, suggested the adoption of the following motion: 'That with the object of maintaining cordial relations between the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Surrey Association and to facilitate the frictionless working of the two societies, the general committee be asked to invite to its meetings such representatives as the Guildford Diocesan Guild shall choose at their general meeting for the purpose of discussing but not of voting on the business of the meeting.' That, said the Master, was the form of resolution put forward by the secretary of the Guildford Guild.

Replying to a question, the Master said the fact that the person appointed was already a member of both organisations was not important and would not impede his work.

The Rev. J. C. Kinnear proposed and Mr. C. Parks seconded the motion, which was carried with applause.

The Master said the committee of the Surrey Association had discussed the question and had recommended that Mr. C. H. Kippin be appointed as the representative of the association to accept any invitation of the Guildford Diocesan Guild to attend meetings of its Executive Committee.—This was agreed to, and Mr. Kippin remarked that it was the first time in his life he had been appointed to a diplomatic post (laughter).

(Continued on next page.)

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous page.)

**REVISION OF SERVICE FORM.**

The Master said the committee had further discussed the printing of a revised form of service. They had come to certain conclusions and had consulted ecclesiastical authorities, but they had not yet got entirely what they wanted in the way of prayers. The prayers in the book they had been using, which were specifically ringers' prayers, dealt with the question from the point of view of the outsider, but there was an absence of any that dealt with the way in which the ringers should carry on their job in the belfry. That, he thought, applied no more in Surrey than elsewhere. They knew there were tremendous difficulties about carrying on the work in the belfries successfully, and such things as jealousies, undue ambitions, personal ambition as against ambition for the band and such things. There was no single prayer that they had seen for fellowship, for friendship and the close need of what he could describe as love that ought to be found in the belfries. The work of a band was a unique opportunity for getting to know one's fellow-men and for learning to treat them gently and quietly. They often saw remarkable examples among older ringers of tact and of the charming way they coached and helped along younger people—they were ready to help them in any kind of way. It was prayers to encourage that sort of thing that were lacking. He was interested to hear that day, almost for the first time, a suitable prayer for fellowship in the belfry, which Mr. Kinnear used in their service. He thought the committee wanted to get something of that sort into the service, so that it might be really useful and helpful. He hoped it would not be long before the committee would finish their labours.

The meeting sanctioned the printing of the service forms by the committee, when ready, at a cost not exceeding £5.

A discussion took place on the printing of the annual report. The Master stated that, if it was decided to dispense with the printed report in the usual form, a member had kindly offered to produce a report in a condensed form, giving just the essential details, without cost to the association.

After discussion it was resolved that the 1939 report should be printed as usual, with certain statistical omissions, but that no further reports be printed until after the war.

Thanks were accorded to the members of the committee for the offer to provide condensed reports.

**SERVING MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

The question of relieving serving members of their subscriptions was discussed, and the meeting agreed to the following resolution: 'That annual subscribing members serving with His Majesty's Forces be excused payment of subscriptions until their return to civil life.'

Mr. Wills raised the question of excusing the subscriptions of service ringers coming into the area to ring peals.

It was pointed out that if they were stationed in the area they would automatically come under the resolution, but it was decided that nothing could be done in the case of ringers stationed outside the county, who would have to pay the compounding member's subscription.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. J. C. Kinnear for his presence at the meeting and for his part in the service, and the Master welcomed the many visitors who had attended the meeting.

Thanks were accorded to the officers for their services and to Mr. Dan Cooper for making the local arrangements.

Mr. Cooper, in reply, congratulated the members upon the way they had sent in notifications for tea. Sixty had sent in their names and sixty were present (applause).

**BRISTOL RINGERS' SUCCESSFUL MEETING.****DISASTROUS END OF HANDBELL TOUCH.**

About 25 ringers attended a very successful meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association at Stoke Bishop last Saturday. From just before 3 o'clock until 4.30 p.m. the light peal of six was used to its full advantage. It was very encouraging to see two recruits in Bryan Downing and Roy Miller, of only 10 and 12 years of age, taking such a keen interest in the proceedings. It was their first meeting, and the novelty appealed to them greatly. Visitors from Westerleigh were very welcome, and it was surprising to see nearly a dozen ladies.

At tea, which followed, the Rev. Canon Wortors extended a hearty welcome to all present, and hoped they had all reaped benefit from the afternoon's 'bell pulling.'

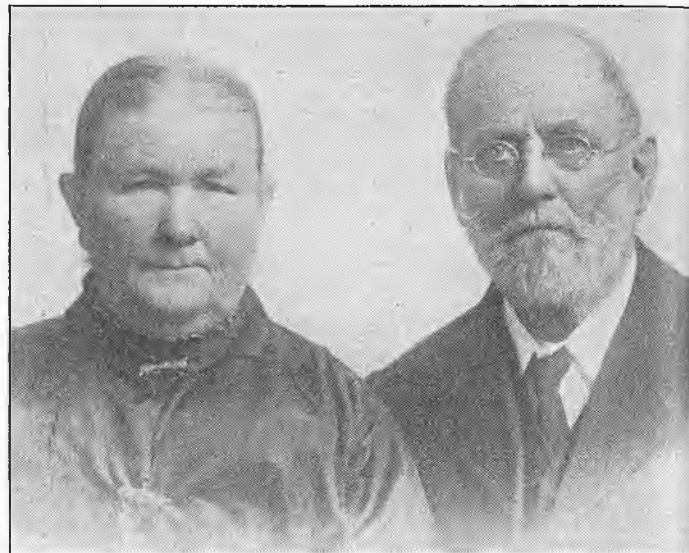
The vice-chairman (Mr. T. Harris) expressed thanks to the Canon on behalf of those present for giving permission to use the bells and providing tea.

Several ringers remained for handbell ringing, while the majority attended a short service of intercession. Heedless of the fact that A.R.P. regulations were not being complied with, a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells while walking back to the tower. The second touch, however, came to grief through the ringer of 1-2 walking into some brambles, which made short work of the pair of stockings she was wearing. Being her suggestion originally, she has, no doubt, paid the price for her request.

Ringings continued until 8 o'clock without further mishap, and two courses of Bob Minor completed an enjoyable afternoon's ringing.

**STONEY STANTON'S OLDEST RINGER.****DEATH OF MR. HARRY BRIGGS.**

The passing of that grand old man of Leicestershire ringing, Mr. Harry Briggs, of Stoney Stanton, occurred on March 5th in his 90th year. It can be said of him that the present standard of ringing in the Hinckley district was undoubtedly due in the greatest degree to his insistence that if you want the best out of the music in change ringing ears count equally or more than the eyes, the simple method being far above Surprise methods if one has to worry through the higher. This precept was handed down to those of the writer's generation, and it is now carried on in the next. It is noteworthy in that district Mr. Briggs' views, pointedly expressed at times, still bear fruit. In his own family three of his sons were ringers, and on

**THE LATE MR. AND MRS. H. BRIGGS.**

one occasion the father and his three sons rang in a peal together, but unfortunately all have now passed on. Mr. Briggs' last peal, rung some years ago, included his son Charles and a grandson. Harry Briggs was a gentleman worth calling a friend.

Mr. Briggs' wife predeceased him last June in her 92nd year. In the days gone by, when Stoney Stanton was the happy hunting ground for the Leicester, Nuneaton and Coventry ringers for peal attempts, the meeting place invariably was the home of the grand old couple for tea. It was reckoned that, if this visit was missed before the attempt, the result was inevitably no success.

Harry Briggs and his wife, 'Mother and Dad' the ringers called them, lived together through 68 years of married bliss. It is certain that many a ringer will give a thought to the passing of a pious old friend. The deceased was laid to rest with his wife on Saturday, March 9th, beneath the bells of Stoney Stanton that he loved so well. After the interment a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by T. Herbert 1, W. Wood 2, W. Clough 3, I. Bailas 4, C. Brown 5, F. Long 6, A. Ballard (conductor) 7, L. F. Watson 8.

**NORTH STONEHAM RINGER BEREAVED.****DEATH OF MRS. W. T. TUCKER.**

Mr. W. T. Tucker, of Eastleigh, Hants, has suffered a sad bereavement by the death of his wife, Mrs. Ellen Madeline Tucker. Mrs. Tucker, who was 63 years of age, had been in ill-health for a considerable time and died in the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. She had many friends among the ringers in that part of the county, for Mr. Tucker, who is a member of the North Stoneham band, was formerly hon. secretary of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

The funeral service took place at Eastleigh Parish Church on March 4th. The Vicar (the Rev. T. B. Randolph) officiated, and, in addition to the family mourners, there were present the Rev. H. G. Peile (Rector of North Stoneham), the Rev. L. Blackhall (curate), Mr. George Williams (Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild), Mr. G. Pullinger (hon. secretary, Southampton District) and other ringing friends. The North Stoneham ringers and the Eastleigh Mothers' Union were among those who sent wreaths.

**AUGHTON, LANCS.**—On Sunday, March 3rd, at Christ Church, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: J. Marsh 1, J. Taylor 2, J. Lunham 3, J. N. Brown 4, \*W. H. Deacon 5, \*J. E. Wilson 6, T. H. Dearden 7, T. S. Horridge (first quarter-peal and longest length as conductor) 8. \* First quarter-peal of Bob Major.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

AND THE NEW SURPRISE MAJOR BOOK.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Even if they were fair and reasonable (which they decidedly are not), Mr. G. L. Joyce's criticisms in his article in your last issue would be entirely wide of the mark.

Whether a Treble Bob method has a false course end or not depends solely on whether, within the plain course, 1,7,8 fall twice into the same relative positions in rows of like nature; and any system of working out false course ends must, in the long run, consist of examining and comparing the rows where such a thing can happen.

At first the plan was to write out the full course, as is done in the 'Clavis.' Next men found out that the rows could be better and more quickly discovered by transposition. And then they found out that some of these transpositions can safely be ignored.

A man who has done a lot of work of this sort and is in good practice can usually spot the presence of false course ends without going to the trouble of making transpositions, and it is not at all difficult, by comparing the positions of the different pairs of coursing bells in alternate rows, to make sure that a method like Bristol has a clear proof scale. But it does not follow because a man has a system which he finds to be quick and safe in use that it is the best for everybody, and it certainly does not follow that it is the best to be recommended in a text book.

The new Surprise Major book was not written for a few 'experts.' It was written for average intelligent ringers. Such people have very seldom any need of working out false course ends, and the matter is of no great importance to them. The size of the book is strictly limited, and there is a great mass of material to be dealt with. Therefore, if any system of working out false course ends is given at all, it must be one which can be dealt with in a very short space, one which will fit into the general scheme of the book, one which requires little or no explanation, and one which an ordinary person can learn and use without much trouble.

The system recommended does fulfil these conditions and, I am sure, better than any other can. It is only childish of Mr. Joyce to talk of 'pitiful dogmatic re-hash of the old, old, stuff.' The essential features of the problem are the same as they were when John Reeves first faced them in the eighteenth century, no one can do otherwise than make a 're-hash' of them, and in the nature of the case it must be 'dogmatic.'

I suppose that Mr. Joyce's real grievance is that he thinks the merits of his own 'dogmatic re-hash of the old, old, stuff' have not been sufficiently appreciated. But that is neither here nor there.

It would have been easily possible to have expanded what has been written on working out false course ends, and to have explained how and why many short cuts can be made, but, apart from the limitation of space, I am very doubtful whether such a thing would have been desirable. One of the most subtle temptations which besets the man who attempts to write a text book on such a thing as change ringing is to try to do too much. You can easily defeat your own end if you ask more of the average reader than he is prepared to give. He wants to know, perhaps, two or three times in his life-time how to work out the false course ends of a method, and he wants as few and as simple rules as possible. He is not prepared to spend hours in studying a system in order that, when he has learnt it, he can save a few minutes in the actual working.

Further than that, it is very doubtful whether for ordinary people there actually is any saving of time. Personally I found, when I worked out the false course ends of more than 800 methods, that in the long run it was quicker to make the full transpositions, even the reverse ones (which, strictly speaking, are not necessary), for the reason that by so doing I got an automatic and reliable check. Mr. Joyce talks loudly about saving the necessity of making transpositions; but actually all the transpositions necessary in such methods as Superlative, Oxford, Kent, Cambridge, London and Bristol can be made in five or ten minutes. So the saving of time cannot in any case amount to much.

Mr. Joyce has criticised and condemned what has been written in the new book entirely on guesswork, for he does not know what has been written; and it seems a pity that he should so often think it necessary to be personal in his letters. That is a game more than one could play at, if it were not too low down.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

**RINGERS' DUTY IN WAR TIME.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Now that a more serious call is to be made on the younger ringers to serve in H.M. Forces, it is up to everyone concerned to make a determined effort to obtain recruits to replace our losses. This should be the aim of all ringers alike, and no one should leave the matter for someone else to do. Only so shall we be doing our duty to those who have been called upon to serve King and country.

T. HARRIS.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.**—On Sunday, March 10th, for evening service and as a farewell to Mr. H. Bird on his joining His Majesty's Forces, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples (1,260 changes): T. Ward 1, H. M. White 2, H. Bird 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, E. Ansell 7, W. Wilkinson 8.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting at Cambridge, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service in the Church of St. Mary-the-Great, 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Consistory Court. Tea at Lion Hotel, 5 o'clock. Ringing: St. Mary's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 3.30, and 6 to 8 p.m.; St. Benet's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 3.15 p.m., and in the evening. Please note change of plan due to war-time conditions.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meet at 3.30 in vestry of St. Mary-le-Tower and service 4 o'clock. At 4.30 the general meeting, in the Oak Room, Oak Lane, followed by tea at Lyons Restaurant. The bells at various towers will be available all day for ringing: St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8), St. Clement's (6), St. Matthew's (6), Sproughton (6), Rushmere (6), and St. Lawrence's (5).—Harold G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

**DEVON GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ottery St. Mary on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. until 9.30. Service 4.30. Tea meeting at the Church Institute 5.15. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meeting in the College Room at 11.15. Association service in the Church of All Saints, at noon, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen. General meeting in the College Room at 2.15 p.m. Owing to local conditions and the uncertainty of catering and the numbers attending it has been deemed advisable to dispense with the lunch. All practising members attending will be allowed 2s. 6d. each. The bells of All Saints' (10) will be available from 10 a.m. till noon and after the meeting until 6 p.m. It is hoped other towers will be available; if so, will be announced later.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Subject to the approval of the Dean and Chapter, general business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m., with address by the Dean. Tea (non-members, 1s. each). Bells available: Cathedral (12) 1-2 p.m., All Saints' (10), St. John-in-Bedwardine (8). The usual six-bell towers will probably be available. Information at St. Alban's from 11 a.m. Central Committee meeting in St. Alban's Room at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid, and reports obtained in St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgemoor, Evesham.

**LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Newport, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service at 4. Tea and business meeting to follow in All Saints' Mission House, Lyne Road. Bells of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' available.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting.—The annual meeting will be held as usual at Bedford on Easter Monday, March 25th. The bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head, followed by the business meeting, will be held at the Lion Hotel, High Street, at 4.30 p.m. Postcards will be very welcome.—F. J. Plummer, Hon. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the Cathedral (12 bells), St. Peter's (10), St. Michael's (6), and St. Stephen's (6) will be open for members from 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 4.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A., followed by tea and business meeting in the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street (close to Westminster Bank). You can depend upon a sumptuous meat tea in this original 16th century barn. Please let me know if you are coming, so as to make adequate arrangements.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 50th annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Easter Monday. Committee meeting at St. James' Schools 11.20 a.m. Service at St. James' 12.30. Luncheon (2s.) at the Black Horse Hotel 1.15. Business meeting on the same premises 2.15. Bells available: St. James' (8), 11-12.30; St. George's, Wilton (8), 11-12.15; St. James' after the meeting until 4 p.m.; St. Mary's (12), 4-7. The rings of six at Trull and Staplegrave are also available if required. Do please let Mr. Hunt or me know if you require luncheon.—J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton, Bath.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting, Easter Monday, at Derby. Bells of St. Andrew's (10), St. Peter's (8) available all day, subject to weddings, etc. Cathedral (10) open for two hours before black-out time. St. Alkmund's (8) possibly available; notice will be given. Committee meet at St. Peter's Schools 3.30. Tea (2s. head) 5 p.m., at Babington Café, Babington Lane, followed by general meeting. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. Service at 4.15 p.m. Address by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall. Tea at 5 o'clock. Annual meeting immediately after tea.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The 63rd annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday at Norwich. Bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles available from 10 a.m.; All Saints' from 11.30. Service at St. Peter Mancroft at noon; preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Luncheon at 1, at Samson and Hercules House, Tombland, 2s. 6d. per head. Subscriptions due.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec. and Treasurer, Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Ewell on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available: Christ Church, Epsom, 11 a.m. to 12.30; St. Martin's, Epsom, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Mary's, Ewell, 3.30 to 5.30, and again in the evening until 8.30 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following in Ewell Church Hall at 5.30.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—In addition to the Maidstone tower, the following towers will be open before the service and after the meeting at the annual general meeting on Easter Monday: Leeds (10), Aylesford (8) and West Malling (8).—Fred M. Mitchell, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, at Headquarters, The Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., at 7.45 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—A practice meeting will be held on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 2 to 4 p.m. and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, from 4 p.m. until dark.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilchester on Saturday, March 30th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Please notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly will be held at Weekley (6) on Saturday, March 30th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea must be sent in previously.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

**HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Hawkhurst on Saturday, March 30th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (free to members) at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting for the election of officers, etc., and to make plans for the future to follow. A really good attendance hoped for, but please notify me re tea by Thursday previous.—F. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., 18, Wellington Cottages, Hawkhurst, Kent.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—E. Bucks and S. Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Amersham (6 bells) on Saturday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head for those who notify me not later than March 26th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

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**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Ringing after. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H.Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify by Thursday, March 28th.—R. Gilling, Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A special meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, to instal society's jug and case at headquarters (Royal Hotel). Bells (8) available 2.30 until 5.30 p.m. Service in church 5.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged at Royal Hotel at 6 p.m., followed by social evening. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, March 28th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Bitton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Please advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Gifford House, Frampton Cotterell.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Boston on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Tea will be provided for those who let me know by Tuesday, March 26th.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Newton Longville, on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Bus leaves Bletchley about 3.15 p.m., returns 8.15 p.m. A good attendance required for a good practice.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting, Bolsover, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short meeting in belfry during afternoon. Owing to prevailing circumstances, refreshments cannot be provided. Why not bring a bit with you? Remember, Bolsover always makes you welcome.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD (Northern) and LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A joint meeting of these societies will be held at Christ Church, Armley, on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until dark. Arrangements for tea will be made for those who send in their names to me by Wednesday, March 27th.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**WITHINGTON, Nr. Hereford.**—The postponed rededication of the restored ring of six will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 31st, by the Lord Bishop of Hereford. The two trebles recast and the peal rehung with modern fittings in new iron frame by Gillett and Johnston.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).**—Quarterly meeting

will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5.15. Business meeting to follow. Owing to food rationing, all intending to take tea must notify Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, not later than Thursday, April 4th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—A quarterly meeting will be held at Willenhall on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45, with an address by the Rev. A. F. Sargent. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word by Tuesday, April 2nd.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will all those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 3rd, so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held (p.v.) at Ecton (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Service at 4.30. Please send card if you require tea.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) at Co-op Café, High Street, 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Schools—election of officers, etc. Names for tea to C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by April 1st.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Epping on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and after the meeting. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Church Hall. It is hoped as many as can will avail themselves of the opportunity of ringing on this fine peal. *Kindly note:* it is essential I have numbers for tea by first post Tuesday, April 2nd, at the latest. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Topsham on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m., free to members. Those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, April 1st.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

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No. 1,514. Vol. XXXV.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 1940.

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## **A NEW DEPARTURE.**

A class in campanology, as part of the organised programme in connection with London County Council evening institutes, is a departure which should be welcomed. Such a class was organised last December, and little has been heard about it until now, but it has gone on with such success that the students have reached the practical stage of their training. The innovation in the London County Council programme came about in this way. The silence of the bells at St. John's, Waterloo Road, once a centre of great change ringing activity, was keenly felt by some of the parochial organisations, and particularly by the members of the Mothers' (now the Women's) Fellowship of St. John's. They determined that the bells should be rung again, and through the Waterloo Women's Institute the L.C.C. was approached with a view to establishing a campanology class so that they might learn something of the subject. The Council claims that every one of its evening institute classes is the result of a spontaneous request on the part of a group of students, and whenever there is such a request every effort is made to provide accommodation and facilities. In this case the accommodation and the facilities—St. John's belfry and the bells—were awaiting them, and with one of London's best-known lady ringers, Mrs. J. E. Davis, as instructor, the class was established and proved an immediate success. The class has a membership of eighteen and an average attendance of about fifteen, but its influence has gone outside the actual members, and the enthusiasm of the mothers who initiated the class has, we understand, in some cases already infected their husbands and children.

What a great opportunity seems here to open up for recruiting the belfries at a time when it will be specially difficult to keep them manned. If, in London, mothers can be found sufficiently interested to initiate such a course of study without any previous acquaintance with the many-sided attraction of 'campanology,' and to become enthusiastic in it, there ought surely to be a big field throughout the country for opening up similar classes. It may not be possible, of course, to get all of them recognised by the education authorities, but there are parochial organisations which should be able to provide the material, and there are the belfries already equipped. The essential feature of this sort of instructional class, however, is important. It is no casual effort to bring in new ringers, beginning with an individual invitation to the belfry. The class is an organised unit, with a definite curriculum and syllabus. The first lesson is not at the

(Continued on page 146.)

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end of a rope; there is class instruction and paper work to be done; the pupils have to receive enlightenment on the principles of change ringing before they begin its practice, and the course has to pursue from stage to stage a carefully prepared plan. It does not follow that, in every tower where a class might be possible, there is a ready-made instructor, and nothing would be more fatal to success than an incompetent teacher—however good a ringer he may be—in charge of such a class. Instructors, however, could be found, and in these days there are many men trained in the teaching profession who could be employed. It is a direction in which the associations might profitably lend a hand by encouraging the formation of classes and helping to provide the best instructors. We are quite sure that the outline of the work at Waterloo Road would be willingly passed on, but the initiative must come from the parishes, where the help of the most suitable existing organisation should be sought.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, March 16, 1940, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERPILERS, 5057 CHANGES;

JOHN LLOYD ... .. Treble	HENRY HUBBALL ... .. 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... .. 2	HAROLD SHUCK ... .. 7
JOHN GOODMAN ... .. 3	BERNARD ASHFORD ... .. 8
CHARLES W. COOPER ... .. 4	NORMAN LEECH ... .. 9
HENRY GOODMAN ... .. 5	BENJAMIN FULLWOOD ... .. Tenor

Composed by W. MICKLEWRIGHT. Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN.  
Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of Herbert Sheppard,  
secretary of the above Guild for 27 years.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 16, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

HARRY LEWIS ... .. Treble	FRANK VARTY ... .. 5
ROBERT SPERRING ... .. 2	PHILLIP A. CORBY ... .. 6
LESTER L. GRAY ... .. 3	HARRY PYE ... .. 7
JOHN GRIFFITHS ... .. 4	PERCY SWINLEY ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FRANK VARTY.  
First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major as conductor.

MILNROW, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROCHDALE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 16, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

ALLAN WITHNELL ... .. Treble	JOHN H. C. MASSEY ... .. 5
GEORGE STAFF ... .. 2	STEPHEN L. PARRY ... .. 6
DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. 3	HAROLD HAMER ... .. 7
SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... .. 4	ALBERT BUCKLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD HAMER.

\* First peal in the method. First peal of Stedman by the local band.

NEWHEY, LANCS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes;

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALAN WITHNELL ... .. Treble	FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 5
FRED DUNKERLEY ... .. 2	JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... .. 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT ... .. 3	HAROLD HAMER ... .. 7
STEPHEN L. PARRY ... .. 4	IVAN KAY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MEADOWCROFT, JUN.



## WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 10 cwt.

ERIC B. HARTLEY ... .. Treble	ALICK CUTLER ... .. 5
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... .. 2	JAMES BENNETT ... .. 6
GEORGE M. KILBY ... .. 3	HARRY KILBY ... .. 7
*RUSSELL G. SPEARS ... .. 4	WILFRID G. WILSON ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by W. G. WILSON.

\* First peal in the method. Rung as a compliment to Mr. Edward C. Lankester on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Elsie Lakin, of Spalding, Lincs.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Wednesday, March 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,*

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by JAMES HUNT. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.*

At TRENTWOOD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... .. 1-2	JACK BRAY ... .. 5-6
ROBERT RICHARDSON ... .. 3-4	*GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witnesses—Mrs. G. E. Fearn and Mrs. J. Bray.

\* First peal in hand.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,*

At the Residence of W. C. MEDLER,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... .. 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER ... .. 3-4
ERIC DURRANT ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by ERIC DURRANT.

First handbell peal in three methods by all and first handbell peal in three methods by the association.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND THE RECAST BELLS.

The annual meeting of the Doncaster and District Society was held at Doncaster on the 16th inst. Ringing began at 2 o'clock, and the service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon A. Ll. Davies, who is the president of the society.

At the meeting after tea, the secretary reported that 11s. 9d. balance on the year's work had been placed in the bank, and Mr. Harold Walker, late of Doncaster and now at York, presented his cup to the winners, who were the Felkirk band. Mr. Dan Smith received the cup on their behalf and said he hoped that more would enter for it another year.

On the suggestion of Mr. W. E. Lloyd, it was agreed that members who joined H.M. Forces should remain members without any further payment until they had left the Forces.

Canon Davies said they were grateful to the Yorkshire ringers who had contributed towards the cost of recasting the bells.

**BEGINNERS AND RINGING TERMS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I give just one instance where confusion was caused by the misunderstanding of a term? The method was Cambridge Major, the going was getting rather rough when the conductor called one of the ringers to 'do treble work.' This, according to Snowden in his letterpress, is the 'dodge, lead, dodge' or 'dodge, lie dodge.' This the ringer very dutifully did and came away, with disastrous results to the Cambridge.

At the subsequent inquest it appeared that by 'treble work' the conductor meant work with the treble or the full work. The treble work, as understood by the ringer, the conductor called 'treble bob work.'

I should like to have replied to Mr. X.Y.Z., but I have no time for those who hold views (especially on such a harmless subject) which they wish to air in the public press and for some obscure reason find it impossible to write their name after them.

I must apologise for badly misquoting the extract from the 'Ringers and Choirmen' correspondence. It should have been 'Cease the full octave in peal.' This, a correspondent informs me, means to lower the bells.

C. A. LEVETT.

P.S.—If Mr. Hutchison had to keep his bell up to go down and lower his bell to go up he would, I think, be in a worse confusion.

**HELPFUL ADVICE.**

Dear Sir,—Though a little late, I should like to put Mr. Levett right on a few points and thus repay him for the many tips he has given me in the past. He asks 'Cannot something be done to standardise the technical terms of the Exercise?' For about 20 years the 'Glossary' was advertised weekly in 'The Ringing World' until it became defunct. In fact, so defunct that in the end the copies were given away. I had one given to me when I wasn't looking!

My own ways of finding out anything I want to know about ringing are: (a) Get one of the several publications available and study it. (b) Admit my ignorance and ask someone who does know. Among the dozens of ringers I know I have yet to meet one so discourteous as to refuse the information if available. Why worry about 'Right or Home'? Has Mr. Levett never heard of the word 'synonymous'? 'Right and Home' are synonymous, so are 'Make fourth's' and 'Make the bob' in Plain Bob, and 'Make fifth's' and 'Make the bob' in Stedman Triples. I advance this information for Mr. Levett's edification or 'edication.' Synonymous terms again! On the point of Stedman course ends I decline to argue. The Central Council has some weird and wonderful ways, past the understanding of mere mortals. His question about the correctness of the terms 'ring' or 'peal' of bells brings up our dear old pal 'synonymous.' I know a man who only knows one way of spelling 'cat'—K-A-T—and swears blind it is the correct way. 'Stood in with a full peal' drags up our old pal 'synonymous' again. What about 'Manned all the ropes'?

When I meet Mr. Levett again with a few more of our mutual acquaintances I hope to 'stand a full round' and 'set all clappers going.' Is it all clear now, Mr. Levett?

A. H. KEMP.

**UPS AND DOWNS.**

Dear Sir,—The letter by Mr. C. Hutchinson is a good example of how, in these things, men make their own difficulties. Ringers as well as organists talk naturally and similarly of notes being higher or lower in pitch, and ringers just as naturally talk of hunting up and hunting down, and of one bell being above or below another in ringing. They also talk about a bell being up or down when they mean it has been raised or ceased, and they may talk about one bell being above another when the bells are hung in two tiers. No ordinary man finds any confusion in these various uses, for the context supplies the meaning.

X.Y.Z.

**THREE GENERATIONS.**

At Burton Latimer on March 7th, with the bells half-muffled, as a last tribute of respect to Mr. Henry Whitney, who was one of the chief subscribers when the bells were augmented to eight nearly 20 years ago, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Parker's Twelve-Part): Miss M. J. Saddington 1. H. Turner 2. G. Lines 3. C. G. Hendry 4. T. Garley 5. J. Saddington 6. B. J. Saddington (conductor) 7. W. Shelford 8. This was the first attempt for a quarter-peal by the treble ringer, whose age is 14 years. The conductor is her father and the ringer of the 6th her grandfather. Three generations thus shared in the ringing.

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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

In the early years of the nineteenth century change ringing greatly declined in London and there were no more peals at St. Saviour's until the rise of the Society of Junior College Youths. This company was originally founded in 1820 by Henry Symondson as an auxiliary to the Society of College Youths at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. It was quite distinct from the older body, the members of which were far too exclusive to associate on terms of equality with the younger men. But death was beginning to thin their ranks and though they had astonishing vitality and most of them lived to a good old age, they had increasing difficulty in maintaining the ringing at St. Martin's. Ultimately in 1830 the two societies were formally united, though the union lasted for no more than two years.

The headquarters of the Junior College Youths were originally at a house in St. Martin's Lane, but many of them lived on the Surrey side of the river, and much of their ringing was done at Southwark and on the bells of the new churches which were built at Camberwell and Newington. One of their members was James Mash, the steeplekeeper at St. Saviour's. This office was held by himself and his descendants for many years, and since they were all strong College Youths, the belfry, which in earlier years had been practically an open one, now became a stronghold of that society.

As the older generation of College Youths died out the men who had been members of the Junior Society were admitted to the company in increasing numbers until at length they secured full control. Then they abandoned St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and The Barn and moved the headquarters to the Winchester Arms by Southwark Church, where it remained until 1892, when it was transferred to the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard, a house which was pulled down in the early days of the present century.

The Junior Society of College Youths rang one peal of Grandsire Caters at Southwark in 1827, and ten years later, when John Cox was their principal conductor, they had a very skilful band, which laid the foundations of the prosperity the Ancient Society of College Youths enjoyed during the nineteenth century.

In 1836 Cox composed and conducted the first peal of Stedman Caters on the bells, and in the following year the first peal of Stedman Cinques. 'It had been for many years,' says the peal board, 'the wish to compose and call a peal in this method on the twelve bells, but the honour remains for the undermentioned persons.' Edward Lansdell, who rang the eleventh, was one of a family of ringers who lived at Rolvenden in Kent, and who 'acquired their information of change ringing within twelve months solely from reading Shipway's "Campanologia."'

In 1820 four brothers rang 5040 Bob Triples with their father at the tenor. Edward Lansdell called the bobs, and after removing to London, where he was employed in the Bermondsey Hop Market, he became a leading ringer and conductor. He is said to have introduced half-muffled ringing to the Metropolis. Before then the custom was to muffle the bells on both sides.

On January 7th, 1846, the College Youths, with John Cox as conductor, rang 5088 changes of Kent Treble

Bob Maximus at Southwark, and on the board the claim is made that this was 'the first peal in the method ever rung in London on twelve bells.' The claim was, of course, made in good faith, but, as I have pointed out elsewhere in these articles, there can be little real doubt that the peal of Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus rung by the Cumberlands in 1795 was the first of Kent accomplished not only in London, but anywhere.

In 1848 William Lobb called another peal of Kent Treble Twelve with James Hewett, Henry Haley, Jeremiah Miller, and Matthew Wood in the band. This was a Cumberland peal, and six months later John Cox called 5184 changes in the same method for the Society of College Youths with William Cooter, William Banister, Robert Jameson, Robert Haworth, Edward Lansdell and James Dwight in the band. On December 19th, 1849, much the same company rang a peal of Stedman Cinques.

The other peals at Southwark in the nineteenth century are not of much interest, but mention should be made of an attempt to ring a record peal of Stedman Cinques which was lost after six hours and a half owing to the band being put out by the man who came into the belfry to light the gas.

About forty years ago St. Saviour's bells were restored by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who recast the tenor, and since then many peals have been rung on them in several methods. The Middlesex Association rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on February 18th, 1922, the first peal of Superlative Surprise Maximus on January 19th, 1929, the first peal of spliced Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Maximus on January 11th, 1930, and the first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus on January 31st, 1931. Except for the Cambridge these peals were the first in the methods in London. William Pye rang the tenor and called them all.

A very fine heavy bell feat was performed on February 9th, 1924, when a band of College Youths, with Mr. Henry R. Newton at the tenor, rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major on the back eight.

The most notable performance in the steeple of recent years unfortunately was not a peal. On May 29th, 1923, a band of College Youths, with Mr. Herbert Langdon as conductor, and Mr. Alfred B. Peck as tenor man, rang 12,675 changes of Stedman Cinques in nine hours and 47 minutes. By the unanimous testimony of the many persons who heard it, the ringing was exceedingly fine, but some years afterwards it was discovered that the composition was false in one six only. A false peal is, of course, no peal at all, but in most ways the merits of the performance are not diminished, and there are many people who are inclined to think that it was a pity the falseness was ever discovered.

### WEDDING PRESENTATION AT SPALDING.

At SS. Mary and Nicholas' Church, Spalding, on Sunday evening, March 17th, the Vicar (Canon Nicholas), on behalf of the ringers, presented Miss Elsie Lakin with a set of fish carvers and servers on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. E. C. Lankester, of Willesden.

The Vicar said how sorry they were at Spalding to lose Miss Lakin's services, and he acknowledged the large amount of voluntary work all his ringers did for the church. He wished Miss Lakin a happy time in the future.

Mr. A. J. Farr, captain of the local band, endorsed what the Vicar had said and remarked that he knew Miss Lakin had enjoyed her ringing at Spalding. He also knew they were going to miss her from the belfry.

The wedding of Mr. Lankester and Miss Lakin took place on Saturday at Wigtoft.

**NEW BELLS AT STAFFORDSHIRE CHURCH.****DRAYCOTT INCREASED TO EIGHT.**

The Bishop of Stafford, on March 10th, dedicated two new bells, to complete the octave, at St. Margaret's Church, Draycott, Staffs. Formerly there were in the tower five bells, all cast in the seventeenth century, the oldest dating from 1607. They were retuned and rehung in 1933 and then, in commemoration of the silver jubilee of King George V. and Queen Mary, a treble was added to make a ring of six in 1935.

The bells now dedicated are the gifts of Mr. Edward Steele, of Caverswall, in memory of his wife, the late Mrs. Beatrice Steele, and of the Shelley family, in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Shelley, of Draycott. Both Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Shelley, who is people's warden at Draycott, are members of the North Staffordshire Association.

The Rector of Draycott (the Rev. A. Stanley), Mr. A. Hough (Rector's warden), Mr. W. Shelley (people's warden) and Mr. E. Steele took part in the dedication of the bells.

The following members of the North Staffordshire Association were present: Messrs. A. D. Steele, C. H. Page, Bass and N. Holland (of Stoke); E. Steele (Langton), J. Cartledge (Cheadle), A. W. Hall (Cheadle), W. Carnwell (Kingsley), W. P. Deane (Leek), and the Draycott ringers. After the service touches in the standard methods were rung on the bells.

Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. have carried out the augmentation as they have done all the previous work, and Draycott now has a delightful ring of bells.

**VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED.**

At the age of 85 years, Mr. F. L. Bumpstead took part in a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) rung at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Sunday, March 17th, to celebrate his birthday. He received the congratulations and good wishes of the band. The quarter-peal was also a compliment to two other of the ringers, Messrs. G. N. Rashbrook and V. Kerridge, whose birthdays occurred during the following week, and to Mr. W. Keeble, whose birthday is to-day (March 29th). The ringers were G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, G. N. Rashbrook 3, F. L. Bumpstead 4, C.Q.M.S. R. W. Pye 5, R. Cadamy 6, W. Chalk (conductor) 7, V. Kerridge 8.

**TREBLE BOB COMPOSITION.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Will you please publish the following correction: In reference to the 5,248 of Treble Bob rung at Penwortham on March 9th, Mr. G. Lewis has established the first claim to the composition. Preston. E. R. MARTIN.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****RETIREMENT OF DISTRICT SECRETARY.**

On Saturday week a meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association took place at St. Edmund's, Tendring, 23 ringers attending from 12 different towers. Ringing commenced at 2.30 p.m., but a well-known personality from Swindon was in readiness by 1.30 for the opening of the tower.

The Rector (the Rev. P. M. MacCready) conducted the service and gave the ringers a hearty welcome and a very inspiring address.

Tea was served in the Rectory and was kindly provided by the Rector.

The Master read a letter from the secretary (Mr. J. R. Sparling) tendering his resignation from office owing to war work and pressure of business.

On the motion of Mr. E. E. Davey, Mr. L. Wright (assistant secretary) was appointed district secretary until the end of the year.

Five new ringing members were elected, viz., Mr. J. Stone and Master Geoffrey Andrews from Thorington, Mr. G. E. Russell and Mr. C. Steele from Kirby-le-Soken, and Mr. Roy Duesbury from St. Osyth.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Sparling for his past work as district secretary.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Kirby-le-Soken (8 bells) towards the middle of May.

The Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector, the organist and all the members of the choir for their services.

Those taking part in the ringing during the day were members from Tendring, Ipswich (St. Mathew's), Mistley, Thorington, Kirby-le-Soken, Little Clacton, Thorpe-le-Soken, Great Bentley, St. Osyth, Great Holland, Swindon and Dedham. The ringing included London, Cambridge and Ipswich Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, with rounds and Grandsire leads for the learners.

**FOUR-IN-HAND.****AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE.**

Mr. Joseph Slade, of Calne, Wilts, celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday on Sunday, March 17th, by ringing four handbells to a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles. Mr. Slade rang 1-2-3-4 and called the 120's, and Horace Hillier scored his first quarter-peal by ringing 5-6. Mr. Slade's performance was an extraordinary one, and Mr. Hillier must also be congratulated, for those who have tried to ring double-handed while someone else rings four will realise that, for a first quarter-peal, it was no mean task to ring 5-6.

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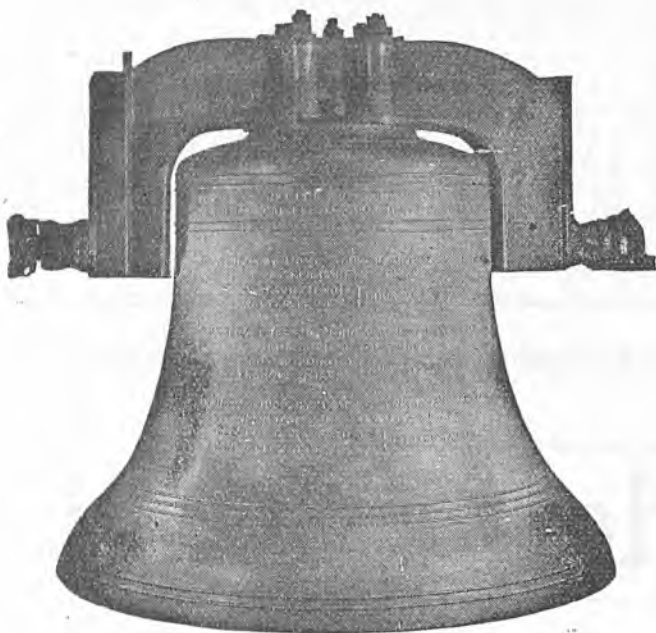
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Still hale and hearty, Mr. George Henry Coombes, who lives at 25, Swanmore Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, celebrated his 97th birthday yesterday. Although he cannot now take part in the ringing, he is still one of the ringers at Ryde and a member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. He attended the annual meeting when it was held at Ryde last July. Ringers everywhere will extend to him their heartiest greetings and good wishes.

There are more survivors of the first peal of Bristol Surprise than was indicated in our paragraph last week reminding our readers of this noteworthy performance in 1901. In addition to Messrs. Williams, Baker and Bennett, Messrs. A. A. Fuller, G. Smart and G. A. King are, happily, still in the land of the living. The last named, however, has been for many years in Canada, but we learn that he is very well. His old friends in Sussex will congratulate him upon having four great-grandchildren.

The other members of the Bristol Surprise band were G. F. Attree and R. J. Dawe. The former died in Canada some years ago.

'The Easter Bells of Moscow' was the subject of an interesting B.B.C. talk on Sunday morning by M. Paul Shishkoff, who vividly described his boyhood's impressions of Easter in the Russian capital, before the Revolution, in which the bells of the churches, booming and clanging, played an important part. He expressed the opinion that Russia was more bell-minded than any other country. Alas, those days seem to have departed.

In regard to our note on Mr. Groombridge, jun., being the eighth person to ring 100 peals at Crayford, an Ipswich correspondent says that, without digging into records, he can say for certain that six members of the society have rung 100 peals on twelve bells at St. Mary-le-Tower, and others of the same society may have rung 100, including all numbers. He suggests, too, that several of the Birmingham men must have rung 100 at St. Martin's. Moreover, he believes that several of the Leiston and Helmingham bands have rung that number at their respective towers, and has recollections of Charles Bailey conducting 100 consecutive Surprise peals at Leiston, a record which will take some beating.

On March 27th, 1784, the Cumberlands rang their famous record peal of 12,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, and on the same date in 1827 the Wakefield men rang 5,400 changes of Superlative Royal. The extension from Superlative Surprise Major was by Shipway and the peal composition by Joseph Tebbs. William Woodhead was the conductor.

Some years ago the late Henry Law James tried to revive Shipway's Superlative Royal, but actually it is very poor stuff for ten-bell ringing.

On March 28th, 1750, George Partrick called, at Shoreditch, a peal of New Bob Triples for the Cumberlands. It is the only peal as yet rung in the method, which is well worth practising.

The band of ringers at Wye in Kent, on March 29th, 1736, rang a peal of 'Grandsire Tripples in 3 hours and a half, being ye first set that ever rang it in the county, without the assistance of Londoners or others.'

The first ten thousand of Grandsire Caters by ten men only was rung at All Saints', Fulham, on March 29th, 1762, by the ancient Society of College Youths, and the first ten thousand in any method was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, by the Norwich Scholars on April 1st, 1727. The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major and the composition, which most likely was by John Garthorn, was probably true.

The ringer of the tenor to the peal at Deane, Hants, on March 9th, was Ernest J. Gower, not Gover as printed.

A decree has been signed by Field Marshal Goering ordering that all church bells in Germany shall be surrendered to the government to form a reserve of metal for the purposes of munitions. A promise is made that compensation will be granted—after the war.

## BEGINNING YOUNG.

PROGRESS OF ISLEWORTH BAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading the articles on 'Beginning Young' in recent issues of 'The Ringing World,' I think it would be of interest to readers to know a few facts about some young members of the All Saints', Isleworth, band.

Among the junior members of this band are eight ringers with ages ranging from 9 to 15 years. Their progress has been very rapid; they are all now able to ring a pair of handbells to Grandsire Triples or Caters.

The band which won the London County Association handbell cup was picked from these eight young people, their average age being 14½ years.

They are equally competent in their handling of the tower bells, all being able to strike the bells very well, and they are also making good progress in change ringing.

I would add that at this tower the ten bells are rung regularly twice each Sunday.

These facts give a good idea of the spadework put in by the Master of the tower.

H. W. ROGERS, S./Sgt., R.A.O.C.



## HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### SECRETARY'S FIFTY YEARS IN OFFICE.

#### Mr. G. W. Cartmel's Great Record.

Five years ago the Hertford County Association reached its jubilee; last Monday, on the occasion of its annual meeting, Mr. G. W. Cartmel, the hon. secretary, completed 50 continuous years of service. It is a remarkable record. For the first 14 years he was assistant secretary, and since 1904 has discharged the duties of hon. secretary.

Mr. Cartmel, who is now 75 years of age, began his ringing career in the autumn of 1883 and became a member of St. Albans Cathedral Society in January, 1884—before there was any change ringing in the city. Indeed, Bennington and Hertford were the only towers in the county where the art was regularly practised. But the Cathedral band imbued with new blood then took up change ringing in earnest, and by August, 1885, some of them, Mr. Cartmel among their number, had rung their first peal. And then, in the following January, Mr. Cartmel took part on the Cathedral bells in the first peal by an entirely local band for upwards of 120 years and the first 'local' peal in St. Albans since 1810.



MR. G. W. CARTMEL.

By this time several of the St. Albans company had taken up handbell ringing very seriously, and made rapid progress with the help of the late Mr. Challis Winney. Mr. Cartmel rang 7-8 to the first double-handed handbell peal by the Herts Association, in April, 1886, and later became the first ringer to call Holt's Original from each pair of bells.

In 1899 Mr. Cartmel was appointed conductor of St. Albans Cathedral Society, which office he held for five years, resigning after a prolonged illness. In recognition of his services he was elected a life member of the society. Under medical orders he abstained from ringing for some few years, during which he took up church work in other directions. He is a lay reader in the diocese and a prominent temperance worker. He never again resumed peal ringing seriously, but his interest in the work of the Hertford Association has never flagged. For 50 years he has held office, first as assistant secretary to his old friend, the late Mr. E. P. Debenham. He was appointed in 1890, and, when Mr. Debenham retired in 1904, Mr. Cartmel was the obvious choice as his successor. For 36 years now he has held the secretarial reins, and has guided the association with tact and skill throughout this long period. In the Hertford County Association the office of president is an honour which is passed round year by year, and in 1928-29 Mr. Cartmel filled the position in addition to the secretaryship.

The meeting at St. Albans was well attended and the only disappointment was that the ten bells of St. Peter's had to remain

silent owing to illness near the church. But the visitors found plenty of ringing in the other towers in the city, and the twelve at the ancient Abbey were in great demand. To ring on them well repays the long climb of about 150 steps to the ringing chamber.

Service was held in the choir of the Abbey, conducted by the Sub-Dean (Canon Beaufort). The lessons were read by the Dean (Dr. Thicknesse), and the address given by the Rev. A. M. Fergusson (Vicar of St. Peter's).

Tea was served at the Waterend Barn, a sixteenth century building, which has been carefully removed from its original site near Wheat-hampstead and skilfully re-erected in the city as an annex to a popular restaurant. At the business meeting that followed tea, the president (Mr. A. Day, of Harpenden) presided, supported by the Dean, the Sub-Dean, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, the hon. secretary (Mr. Cartmel), the hon. treasurer (Mr. G. E. Debenham) and the district secretaries. About 75 members and friends were present.

The President, in welcoming the members, said at the outbreak of war ringing throughout the country received a great shock and the activities of ringers almost entirely ceased. Then, as the war did not develop as was anticipated, ringing was resumed, an Order in Council permitted church bells to be rung without interruption, and service ringing and practices were resumed and meetings held as far as circumstances allowed. He hoped ringing would continue so that when war was over it would quickly recover from the shock that it received. It had been a great pleasure to him, he added, to serve the association during the last year, and he would look back upon it with proud recollections. He had hoped to visit all the districts in the course of the year, but he had to apologise to the Eastern District for not having been able to visit that area.

#### IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Hon. Treasurer, in presenting the statement of accounts, said this was the first year in which they saw the result of the increase of the annual subscription from 1s. to 1s. 6d. Briefly, the result was that, whereas in 1938 the members' subscriptions totalled £21 13s., last year they totalled £32 4s. 6d., an increase of almost exactly 50 per cent. It proved that the 'Dismal Jimmies' who prophesied that, if they put up the subscription, the membership would go down, were wrong—as he knew they would be. The balance had gone up from £2 19s. 10d. to £13 9s. 1d., an increase of £10 9s. 3d. (applause). He was personally very much happier to have a more substantial balance at the back of him. He would know how to spend it when the time came (laughter).

The balance sheet was adopted, as were also the accounts of the Benevolent Fund and Voluntary Bell Fund.

With regard to the Benevolent Fund, Mr. Debenham said it showed an income of £4 15s. 2d. during the year and the balance now stood at £26 13s. 5d. The income was received from ten towers and various individuals. Three applications were made for grants from the fund, two were granted and a total of £4 expended. The help was very welcome to the recipients. The third application was also a very deserving case, but could not be dealt with, as neither the band to which the individual belonged nor the individual himself had contributed to the fund. Under the rules, therefore, they could not make a grant. The moral to be drawn from that was that every tower in the association should support the fund, and he hoped the day was not far distant when they would do so (hear, hear). The Voluntary Bell Fund had not received very much support, the income having been only £2 15s. 9d. and there was actually a deficit of 17s. 3d. on the year, as they made a grant of three guineas for the restoration of Hitchin bells. That was the first grant they had made out of the fund, which now had a balance of £8 6s. 2d. The reason for the drop in the income of the fund was that there were fewer meetings held during the year and consequently fewer collections.

#### SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the hon. secretary naturally began on a personal note. It opened with the statement: 'Fifty-five not out' is the position of our association to-day, and the barometer is still steady, thanks to the team spirit of its members. It is also my fiftieth birthday in your service, having been elected assistant secretary to the late Mr. E. P. Debenham in 1890, and general secretary on his retirement in 1904. When I contemplate your kind forbearance of my shortcomings for such a lengthy period I cannot but recall the Psalmist's words, 'Surely goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life.' It has been a privilege to enjoy a ringer's fellowship for so many days, and it has been accompanied with many blessings, fully compensating for the services I have been able to render. Time passes quickly, and although ringers are always pursuing changes, yet that fellowship of friendship remains true.

The report went on to say that during the past year 41 peals were rung, 32 on tower bells and nine on handbells. Eight new Surprise Major peals were rung, four of them without any previous practice, and four spliced peals, one especially noteworthy being the Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples. The North Mimms band had rung their first 'local' peal of Stedman Triples, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal had been rung at Rickmansworth, and the Apsley band had rung a peal of London Surprise, one peal in seven Surprise methods, and two peals each in 14 Surprise methods, while at Baldock the first peal for the association of St. Clement's Bob Major was rung. There had been 15 conductors, and of the 32 tower bell peals 19 were in Surprise methods. Nine peals have been rung upon handbells, viz., four peals of Bristol Surprise, one of Spliced Surprise in four methods, and one each of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Stedman Triples.

(Continued on next page.)

## HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)  
**APPEAL FOR BENEVOLENT FUND**

The peals were rung in 13 different towers, 26 having been accomplished in the Watford and Western districts. This was the outcome of gifted and energetic leadership, backed up by men who, having seized their opportunities, had gone on to success. Congratulations were offered to all who took part. Mr. Harold G. Cashmore conducted 21 of the peals.

The report went on to say that at the meeting of the General Committee at St. Albans on February 10th, Rule 10, relating to the payment of 1d. per head per member, for peals, was fully discussed, and in view of the forgetfulness of some conductors to collect the needful money (every penny of which is spent on entries in the peal book), the secretary was instructed to stress the point in the annual report. Unless the money is forthcoming, it becomes a heavy charge upon the finances of the association.

### ROLL OF HONOUR.

It was agreed to keep a roll of honour of all members serving in His Majesty's Forces, and at the suggestion of Mr. Ayre all conductors of towers are asked to send in names and designation of regiment to the general secretary, when they will be entered as an Appendix to the Peal Book.

Support of the Voluntary Bell Fund continued and the balance sheet of the treasurer sufficed to show the present position.

The report went on to commend the Benevolent Fund to each individual member, and asked that someone in each tower would make himself responsible for collecting something during the current year. Whilst grateful for the support already received, it was felt much more could be accomplished if the treasurer had the funds. It would be out of place to mention where gifts had been made, but if members knew the cheer and help it had given to the recipients they would not hesitate to earmark the price of even one packet of cigarettes for a very human cause.

The hon. secretary offered congratulations to the Editor and proprietor of 'The Ringing World' on the occasion of the issue of the 1,500th number of the ringers' journal. He said, 'May I remind you of the immense value the paper has been, and still is, to ringing, without which I am sure change ringing would not have reached its present high position. War conditions will make difficulties in production, and I ask for your loyal support of Mr. Goldsmith's effort to keep going a paper which is of such value to bellringing in general. Each week we are given a most interesting production, and its correspondence columns are open to you to inform the ringing fraternity of its shortcomings (including the Editor), and if you want a grouse, you can have it for a three-halfpenny stamp, paper and envelope, without fear of being cited for libel. The Editor is a broadminded individual and accepts your written matter quite regardless of his own personal safety. So place a standing order with your newsagent at once, and if the expense is too much, share with another. By these means I believe the circulation could be increased.'

### AN APPEAL TO MEMBERS.

The work of the district secretaries had been carried on as usual, proceeded the report. Their work was indispensable for the welfare of the association, and the secretary asked all members to support them by attendance at district meetings, whenever possible, and by paying their subscriptions promptly on becoming due. The members' practical interest not only cheered them in their labours, but to them was a recognition that their services were appreciated.

With the advent of war hostilities many towers had suffered depletion of its younger and most useful members, and if the bells were to be rung these displacements must be made good. To the village band it was a serious problem, but he was sure they would tackle their difficulties in the spirit that brought success. In the town areas with larger populations, it was somewhat easier, especially if the effort of recruiting of either sex was backed by the whole band, and not left to the conductor to carry the entire load. St. Peter's, St. Albans, had already set a good example in securing new members of both sexes.

Thanks were tendered to all incumbents for the use of their bells for district meetings, and for their kindly interest in the association; to the honorary members for their subscriptions, and to all other known or unknown persons who had furthered the interests of change ringing. For the future, it was up to each one of them to do their best during the disturbed war period (and after) to keep the bells ringing for the Sunday services and practices, and to fill up the gaps in the ranks that must inevitably come. Let them think of the bells as a national possession, and not merely within the limits of parochialism, for ere long they prayed that the bells would ring out not only the joys of this nation, but the joys of the civilised world. 'So,' said the secretary, 'keep the ranks full with men and women of the younger generation, initiate them into the intricacies of change ringing, and by so doing you may enable them to share with you in a definite church work.' The report was adopted.

The following new members were elected: A. L. Waldron, Oxhey; G. French, Luton; A. Hattor, St. Albans; W. Easey, Watford; L. Coborn, Harpenden; A. Dore and Miss K. West, St. Peter's, St. Albans.

On the motion of Mr. W. Ayre, resolutions were passed that all members of the association serving in H.M. Forces be kept in mem-

(Continued in next column.)

## GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT WITLEY.

A successful meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Witley on Saturday week. The ringing was supervised by Mr. C. E. Smith (District Ringing Master), and progress in the standard methods was made by many who have recently taken up change ringing, including several attached to the local tower.

Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. P. G. Holden), who is himself a ringer, and special prayers were said for ringers who are serving in the Forces. The Vicar based his address on the text, 'See that ye do all to the glory of God.'

Tea was served in the Parish Hut, a company numbering 35 sitting down to a splendid repast, following which the Vicar was voted to the chair for the business meeting. Three new members were elected, viz., Mr. A. Edwards (Godalming), Mr. W. Bicknell (Bramley) and Mrs. B. Cope (Guildford).

The district secretary, Mr. W. F. J. Cope, said he had received a letter from Mr. R. Whittington, of Cranleigh, expressing regret at being unable to continue to support to the full the Guild meetings. He now had to supervise his business, as his son had been called up for service.

Mr. Cope expressed thanks and best wishes to Mr. Whittington for the loyal support he had given the Guild and the Guildford district in particular.

Mr. C. W. Denyer (Aldershot) voiced thanks to the Vicar; to the organist, Mr. Baker; to Mr. Hagley and his ringers for making the arrangements and to the caterers.

Mr. C. E. Smith associated himself with the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude for the enthusiasm shown by the local ringers. They were an excellent company, he said, and he wished them every success.

The motion was received by acclamation.

The Vicar, responding, said the credit was due in the main to Mr. F. C. Hagley, who had recently been elevated to the office of captain to act in place of Mr. David Ayling, who had retired after 47 years as captain and 52 years' service as a ringer at Witley. He was sure they all knew this to be a wonderful record of service and they thanked Mr. Ayling for what he had done in the past (applause). As captain emeritus it was hoped that Mr. Ayling would be present on many future occasions.

Thanks were also extended to Mr. Martin (Bramley) for arranging combined practices.

It was announced by the secretary, in reply to a question, that meetings would be arranged in future as in the past, circumstances permitting, and a fixture card would shortly be issued to each member.

## SERVING MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(Continued from previous column.)

bership during the period of the war, and that payment of subscriptions by them should be optional. Also that a hearty welcome be given to all members of other ringing associations to come into the county while serving in H.M. Forces, and any persons taking part in a peal might be elected members on payment of one subscription of 1s. 6d. for the period of the war.

The Hon. Secretary, who seconded, said the latter resolution was put forward as the result of a circular he had received from the Lancashire Association asking other associations their opinion on the question.

Mr. C. H. Horton was installed as the new president of the association, Mr. G. E. Debenham was re-elected hon. treasurer, Mr. G. W. Cartmel hon. secretary, and Mr. H. V. Frost librarian. Mr. H. Hole was appointed hon. auditor.

Mr. Horton, in acknowledging his election, appealed to the members to give bigger support to the Benevolent Fund.

Thanks were accorded to the preacher (the Rev. A. M. Fergusson), to the Dean, the Vicars of St. Peter's, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's, and to the steeplekeepers for their services.

The Dean, in reply, said they owed grateful thanks to the Hertford County Association and all ringers who were keeping the bells of England ringing through war time. Specially he wanted to say 'Thank you' to the ringers of St. Albans Abbey.

'I have not a very great deal of respect,' continued the Dean, 'for political or theological brains, but I have enormous respect for change ringers. I simply do not know how it is done (laughter). It leaves me staggering every time I see or hear them doing it, rolling out of their heads stuff that leaves me giddy' (laughter).

The Dean added that it was a great pleasure to be present that day with the ringers, and he joined in the congratulations and thanks to Mr. Cartmel upon completing 50 years of service to the association (applause).

Mr. Cartmel thanked the members for having again elected him to the office of secretary. He had had a long innings and he was glad to say he was 'not out' (applause). He would continue to do his best for the association, for he liked those gatherings and he had found a great fellowship and friendship among ringers. Some of them were the best friends he had ever met. He asked the members all to do their best to see the association through the difficult days that lie ahead.

A vote of thanks to the organist and choir terminated the meeting and afterwards there was further ringing at the Abbey.

## BIRMINGHAM'S LATEST RING.

### THE BELLS OF ST. CHAD'S CATHEDRAL.

St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral bells spoke with a new voice on the occasion of the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner on March 2nd, when they were rung for the first time after restoration at the Loughborough Bell Foundry.

For some little time the old bells had been in poor condition, while ringing had become 'horse work' on account of the dilapidated state of the frame. Now, however, that is all changed and St. Chad's possesses a glorious ring with a tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F, a credit both to the Cathedral and the bell foundry.

It may be of interest to some ringers to relate the story of these bells upon which so many peals have been rung and which have the closest connections with Birmingham ringers of the old school.

In 1687 a company of Franciscan Friars ventured back to Birmingham and built, in what is now 'Mass-House Lane,' a substantial church and convent, to which James II. gave timber valued at £180. This church was destroyed by a mob in 1688, and as the Penal Laws were again in force, the Friars retired to Edgbaston. In 1786 they again returned to Birmingham and built St. Peter's Church, Broad Street (which is still standing). This church, small in size, became rapidly inadequate for the growing number of Catholics in the town so that, in 1806, a warehouse in Water Street was acquired. Two years later this, in its turn, was superseded by 'Old St. Chad's' on the site of the present Cathedral in Bath Street. The existing building was consecrated on June 22nd, 1841, thirteen Bishops being present.

The Cathedral, which is of red brick with stone facings and dressings, has two towers with spires, one at the north-west and the other at the south-west angle of the church. In the north-west tower hang the bells.

### A CENTURY OF BELLS.

The earliest mention of bells in this church is in 1840, when the Catholic Friendly Society presented a large bell of some 17 to 20 cwt. to the Cathedral. This hung in the south-west tower. Eight years later a ring of five bells was cast by Mears, of London, the single bell being removed to provide metal for the new ring. These bells were supplied to the order of Mr. John Hardman as a memorial of Dr. Moore, the then administrator, on his being appointed president of Oscott College. The ring of five bells (tenor of which was 13 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.) cost £269 0s. 11d.; five clappers, £5; headstocks, iron-work, wheels, pulleys, bearings, etc., £25; making and fixing bell frame, £50; total £329 0s. 11d.

These bells were opened in August, 1849, by William Chattell and his band from St. Philip's Church. In 1851 they were rehung in the north-west tower.

Some 25 years later (in 1876-7) a movement was set on foot to augment the peal to eight, subscriptions were raised (one bell was given by a private donor), and on Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1877, three trebles cast by William Blews were blessed and the new ring of eight were rung for the first time.

At least one Birmingham ringer, still living, was present on that occasion, Mr. Tom Miller, who was a regular ringer at St. Chad's for 56 years. 'Tom' incidentally took part in the first and last peals on the old bells, the former on February 20th, 1878, the latter (in honour of his 80th birthday) on July 6th, 1938.

The trebles supplied by Blews were hung in the upper tier of the frame, which was extended to receive them. The first peal was rung on February 20th, 1878, the method was Grandsire Triples and the ringers William Saniger treble, Thomas Miller 2, Robert H. McDonald 3, Samuel Jarman 4, Henry Jones 5, Charles Standbridge 6, Freeman Ball (conductor) 7, Anthony Druce tenor.

Many subsequent peals were rung here, including several 'firsts,' and this tower was a favourite resort of Birmingham ringers of former days. Many good stories are told of the old stalwarts of St. Chad's band, and Henry Johnson rang one peal there, the first of Stedman on the bells.

About 12 months ago, the condition of the bells having become extremely bad, it was decided to take the matter of restoration in hand, and after discussions between the local band and the Cathedral authorities and officers of the St. Martin's Guild, Messrs. Taylor and Co. were commissioned to recast the old bells and rehang them with all new fittings in a new frame.

### THE FIRST TOUCH.

The bells were solemnly blessed by Dr. Griffin, Bishop Auxiliary, on February 14th, according to the ancient rites of the Church.

On Saturday, March 2nd, a large number of ringers assembled at the Cathedral to try the bells. After a 504 of Stedman Triples as the opening touch had been rung, the new bells showed all their good qualities in touches in various methods. As their glorious tones floated over the roof tops of the city, those present were loud in their praises of the bells, and Messrs. Taylor, the founders, came in for many congratulations.

The new bells are an excellent job, tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F, and are in every way worthy of the Cathedral. The tone and 'go' are perfection.

The first touch on the bells was rung by F. E. Pervin 1, A. Walker (conductor) 2, Mrs. A. Richardson 3, J. W. Jones 4, D. Clift 5, W. Viggers 6, R. Richardson 7, G. E. Fearn 8.

Regular ringing began on Easter Day and will take place on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

W. E. B.

## A YORKSHIRE WORTHY.

### DEATH OF MR. CHARLES PRATT, OF CALVERLEY.

The Yorkshire Association has lost an old and valued member by the death of Charles Pratt, of Calverley, who passed away on March 13th in his 80th year.

Although illness and advanced years had prevented Mr. Pratt from taking an active part in ringing during the closing months of his life, his interest and enthusiasm were sustained to the last. A man of genial but outspoken disposition, he was respected by all who knew him. He gave praise where praise was due, but did not hesitate to voice his opinion on any matter which did not please him. A good ringer himself, he never lost an opportunity of urging young ringers to improve their striking and to practice more advanced methods.

'Charlie,' as he was affectionately known, joined the Yorkshire Association 53 years ago, and his first two peals for the association were in methods very little known and very rarely practised in these days—Prince Albert Major and London Treble Bob Major. Cambridge was his favourite method, however, and he rang in the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by the Yorkshire Association. His last peal, rung in April, 1933, was also one of Cambridge Surprise Major. Altogether he rang 77 peals for the Yorkshire Association, nine of which he conducted, but he had rung others of which there is no record.

He was one of the foundation members of the Leeds and District Society and was secretary for many years.

Mr. Pratt will be remembered by many members of the Central Council as one of the party which the late Mr. Thomas Maude used to organise to visit the venue of the Council meetings. Charlie loved to talk of the good times he had had on those outings.

Mr. Pratt was one of the outstanding characters in the village of Calverley, where he lived, and he took a lively interest in public affairs. He was a member of the Calverley District Council for many years and was chairman of that body for two or three periods. He was also a member of the Horsforth Pensions Committee and the Public Assistance Committee, and was a former manager of the church day schools at Calverley.

The funeral took place on the Saturday following his death, and he was laid to rest in the churchyard of his native village. A large and representative assembly of ringers and members of the various bodies with which he had been connected gathered at the church to pay homage to his memory. The bells were rung deeply muffled as the cortege approached the church and again as the coffin was carried from the church to the grave.

At the conclusion of the committal service the plaintive music of the handbells rose on the still afternoon air as a course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by J. Thackray, P. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler.

Afterwards a muffled touch of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung on the tower bells by P. J. Johnson, H. Davison, J. Ambler, F. Davison, R. Myers, W. Barton, C. Scott and W. Lee.

And so another man of sterling quality has passed away. Ever ready to serve, he will be missed but not forgotten by those who knew him well.

W. B.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### TONBRIDGE DISTRICT MEETING.

The first meeting this year of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held on Saturday, March 16th, at Tonbridge, and proved most successful. The district towers were well represented, members attending from Benenden, Brasted, Chiddingstone, Horsmonden, Leigh, East Peckham, Penshurst, Sevenoaks, Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells and the local tower. During the afternoon the bells were put to good use in the standard methods.

Service was conducted by the Rev. Canon F. Child (Vicar).

At the business meeting Mr. T. Saunders presided, and a report of the last year's progress, together with a statement of accounts, was adopted. The latter showed that the receipts were £18 0s. 6d., plus 14s. for the Benevolent Fund. The expenditure was £3 17s. 11d., the total balance remitted to the general secretary in November last being £14 16s. 7d.

Letters of 'goodwill' and apologies for absence were read from Mr. F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary of the association) and Mr. E. H. Lewis (vice-president).

Mr. T. Saunders gave an account of the business transacted at the committee meeting held at Maidstone in November of last year.

Mr. A. Richardson was re-elected secretary, Messrs. T. Saunders and J. Medhurst representatives, and Mr. E. J. Ladd District Master. Miss C. Richardson, Mr. F. W. Garner, of Brasted, and Mr. G. Turner, of Tunbridge Wells, were elected as practising members.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Chiddingstone on May 4th.

### A GOOD FRIDAY QUARTER-PEAL.

At Coalbrookdale on Good Friday, with bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes from J. E. Groves' Transposition of Parker's Twelve-Part): Stanley Cooper 1, William Saunders 2, Robert Evans 3, Arthur Pritchard 4, Joseph Hanley 5, E. Dennis Poole 6, Alfred S. Bayley (conductor) 7, Alastair C. Maclean 8.



## NOTICES.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—E. Bucks and S. Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Amersham (6 bells) on Saturday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 1s. 3d. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Ringing after. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H. Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. Gillling, Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A special meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, to instal society's jug and case at headquarters (Royal Hotel). Bells (8) available 2.30 until 5.30 p.m. Service in church 5.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged at Royal Hotel at 6 p.m., followed by social evening. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Boston on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Newton Longville, on Saturday, March 30th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Bus leaves Bletchley about 3.15 p.m., returns 8.15 p.m. A good attendance required for a good practice.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting, Bolsover, March 30th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short meeting in belfry during afternoon. Owing to prevailing circumstances, refreshments cannot be provided. Why not bring a bit with you? Remember, Bolsover always makes you welcome.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The next meeting of the Lincoln District will be held at Harmston (8 bells, tenor 14 cwt.) to-morrow (Saturday, March 30th). Bells available from 2 p.m. to black-out. Short service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rossendale Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Helmshore to-morrow (Saturday, March 30th). Bells available from 3 until 8 p.m. A good attendance requested. All will be welcome.—J. Porter, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—There will be a practice on Saturday next, March 30th, at Writtle, at 3 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—A quarterly meeting will be held at Willenhall on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45, with an address by the Rev. A. F. Sargent. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word by Tuesday, April 2nd.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5.15. Business meeting to follow. Owing to food rationing, all intending to take tea must notify Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, not later than Thursday, April 4th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will all those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 3rd, so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) at Co-op Café, High Street, 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Schools—election of officers, etc. Names for tea to C. Ellison, 9, Hazeldene, Queensbury, by April 1st.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Epping on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and after the meeting. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Church Hall. It is hoped as many as can will avail themselves of the opportunity of ringing on this fine peal. *Kindly note:* it is essential I have numbers for tea by first post Tuesday, April 2nd, at the latest. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Topsham on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m., free to members. Those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, April 1st.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Rutland Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Uppingham on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available 3 p.m.—S. Towell, Hon. Sec., 27, West Road, Oakham.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—Baldock, April 6th. Bells available 3 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, only for those who let me know. Don't forget postcard.—R. Thomas Newman, Dis. Sec., Salisbury Road, Baldock.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wirral Branch.—A combined meeting of the Wirral Branch and the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association will be held at Christ Church, Port Sunlight, on Saturday, April 6th. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tower open at 3 o'clock. A plain tea, for which a small charge will be made. Please let me know if you intend to be present.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Practice at St. Clement Danes, Strand, W.C.1, on Saturday, April 6th, at 3.30 p.m., followed by quarterly business meeting. Also ringing at the above tower on Sunday, April 7th, at 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, Assist. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.



**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Cartmel Priory Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart (R.C.) Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells at liberty for ringing from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only Business meeting after ringing.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool, S.S.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Norton, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. until dusk. Tea in the Church Room at 5 p.m. sharp. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. W. Carfield, The Fields, Leek Road, Norton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than April 3rd?—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—Quarterly meeting at Hursley on Saturday, April 6th next. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting in the Club Room. Those requiring tea must please notify me not later than Wednesday, April 3rd.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Newbury Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Beedon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m., to be given by Mrs. Stewart Menzies, of Beedon House. Intending visitors for tea please notify Mr. Tom Curtis, World's End, Beedon, near Newbury, by Wednesday, April 3rd.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3.30. Tea arranged for those who notify me not later than Friday, April 5th. Please bring your own sugar. Reports ready.—W. A. Wood, Fosseway, Croft, near Leicester.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Frome and Midsomer Norton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Nunney (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Whatley (6 bells) will be available after the meeting. Butter for those who advise for tea, margarine for others.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow (10 bells), on Saturday, April 6th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—Charles R. Raine, 21, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, April 6th. Usual arrangements as far as possible. Tea will be provided if arrangements can be made, but cafes available.—W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Tempsford on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. We shall be pleased to meet you. What about it?—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Stockport Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bowdon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. Alan J. Brown, 15, Priory Road, Bowdon. All welcome.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held (D.V.) at Ecton (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Service at 4.30. Please send card if you require tea.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7.45 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Broughton Parish Church, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch, Rusholme, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secretary.

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cullompton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (10) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. It is necessary that those wishing to attend should inform me by Monday, April 8th.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange light refreshment at 4.45 for those who notify me by Wednesday, April 10th. Meeting to follow. Hearty invitation to North Staffs friends and Derby District members. Subscriptions now due, and reports ready.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

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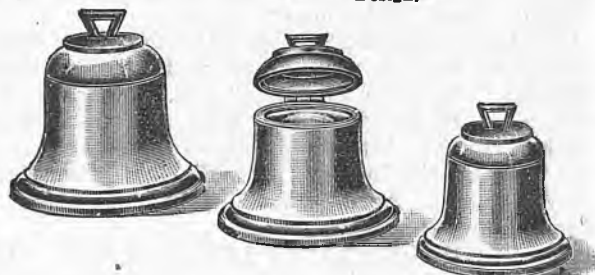
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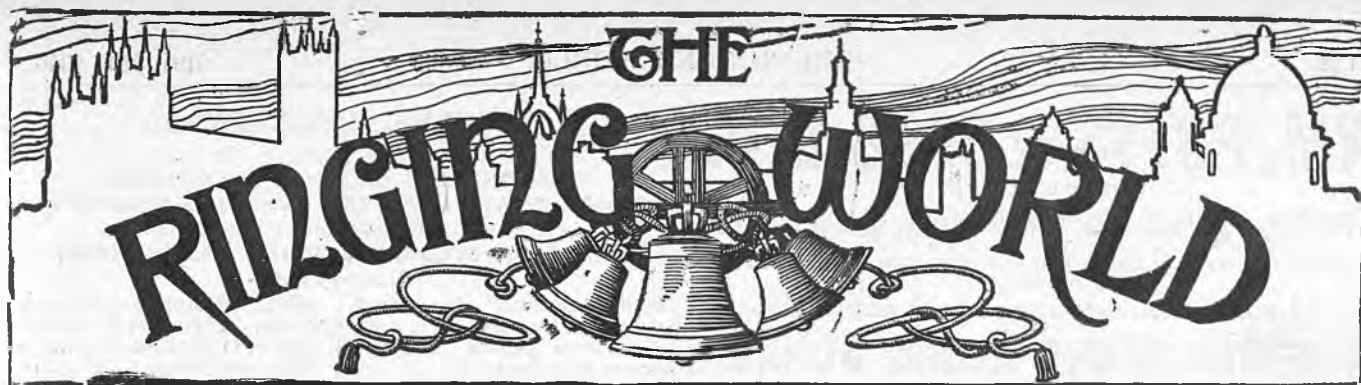
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### THE FIFTEENTH HUNDREDTH ARTICLE

We hope we may be pardoned by our readers for introducing a personal touch into this week's leading article. It has been only rarely that personal reference has been allowed to creep into this column, but we feel that the present is one of the occasions when it may be permitted. This is the fifteen hundredth article that the Editor has written for this page, and in that respect it is a notable milestone on the journey of 'The Ringing World.' The fifteen weeks when another pen filled this space were those covered by the memorable trip to Australia in 1934, in which the Editor was able to share, and when, of course, it was impossible for him to supply this weekly article. With that exception it has been his privilege and his task to supply the 'leader' every week since 'The Ringing World' started. It has not always been easy, but there have been constantly kept in view the desire to raise the standard of the art of ringing and the aims of ringers. How far we have succeeded others must be left to judge, but for more than twenty-nine years we have striven to direct thought and practice into channels which we have hoped would lead to the improvement in the status of the ringer and the elevation of the art.

We have realised that the privilege which has been ours in trying to mould opinion has carried with it responsibilities. We hope we have not shirked them, and, while we know it is impossible on any question to expect entire agreement with our views, we have endeavoured always to be fair and to offer criticism, even though at times it may have been strong, without malice or intention to hurt individual feelings. Our aim from the first, as we have more than once said, has been to induce ringers to think for themselves and, if possible, to discuss with one another subjects which have been of mutual interest. We feel that in this we have been in some degree successful, and it will be our object to continue this policy, for in it, we believe, lies the way to improve still further the things which make for all that is best in ringing—the spirit of fraternity among ringers, the recognition of their office, the uplifting of the art itself, both as a contribution to the service of the Church and as a pursuit worthy of all the gifts that a man or woman can put into it. These articles have been written in many climes and under many conditions, some of them difficult, but they have all been written with the same ultimate end before us. We make no undue claims for any influence we may have been able to exert, but we hope it may be possible to say, when at length this pen has to be laid aside, that at any rate we have left both the art of ringing and the Exercise a little better than we found it. If so, these fifteen hundred articles will not have been written in vain.

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## TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

COLIN HARRISON ... .. Treble	BURLEY P. MORRIS ... .. 7
ERNEST W. RAWSON ... .. 2	*HARRY BROUGHTON ... .. 8
J. FREDERICK MILNER ... .. 3	SIDNEY O. CHENEY ... .. 9
SHIRLEY BURTON ... .. 4	WILLIAM J. ROOT ... .. 10
HARRY WAYNE ... .. 5	HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 11
FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... .. 6	JOHN GRANT ... .. Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

\* First peal of Cinques.

## TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

CHARLES A. HUGHES ... .. Treble	RONALD H. DOVE ... .. 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... .. 2	WILLIAM SIMMONDS ... .. 7
MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK ... .. 3	EDWARD D. SMITH ... .. 8
ERNEST W. FORBANK ... .. 4	JAMES BULLOCK ... .. 9
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... .. 5	FREDERICK W. WICKS ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER

RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

FRED HAYES ... .. Treble	*WILLIAM REDRUP ... .. 6
*MISS M. I. GOODSHIP ... .. 2	REV. R. F. R. ROUTH ... .. 7
MISS K. E. FLETCHER ... .. 3	*A. E. MILLETT ... .. 8
STAFFORD H. GREEN ... .. 4	CAPT. J. H. FREEBORN ... .. 9
G. R. GOODSHIP ... .. 5	HARRY WINGROVE ... .. Tenor

Composed by CAPT. J. H. FREEBORN. Conducted by F. HAYES.

\* First peal of Stedman Caters. First peal of Stedman Caters on the bells. The composition, which has the 6th its extent in 5th in Tittums and handstroke, is now rung for the first time.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

MRS. R. J. WILKINS ... .. Treble	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... .. 6
MISS MARGARET PACK ... .. 2	ALFRED PEARCE ... .. 7
ALBERT M. TYLER ... .. 3	GILBERT PEARCE ... .. 8
ALFRED E. REEVES ... .. 4	JOHN A. BURFORD ... .. 9
GEORGE POPNELL ... .. 5	DONALD G. CLIFT ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

A wedding peal for R. G. Gilbert, who is a member of St. Stephen's Guild.

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**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*JOHN E. CLARKE ... .. Treble	LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... 5
CHARLES MARSHALL... .. 2	*W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON ... 6
J. LESLIE WILLIAMS ... .. 3	R. S. WILLIAM SMITH ... 7
†ERNEST W. TIPLER ... .. 4	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD

\* 50th peal. † First peal of Kent Major and 75th peal. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. J. H. Proctor, M.A.), also to welcome the new curate of the parish, Mr. Povey. The peal also was rung as a first birthday compliment to the daughter of the Vicar.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, LEESFIELD,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14 cwt.

HAROLD HAMER ... .. Treble	ISAAC GARTSIDE ... .. 5
FRED DUNKERLEY ... .. 2	STEPHEN LL. PARRY ... .. 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... 3	IVAN KAY ... .. 7
DENNIS HOLLOS ... .. 4	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by IVAN KAY.

SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 11 cwt. (approx.).

*DENNIS HOLLOS... .. Treble	STEPHEN LL. PARRY... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER... .. 2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... 3	*ISAAC GARTSIDE... .. 7
FRED DUNKERLEY ... .. 4	IVAN KAY ... .. Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by H. HAMER.

\* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, OLDHAM ROAD,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 11½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT... .. Treble	JOHN HASSELL ... .. 5
*IVAN B. GARDINER ... .. 2	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... 6
*J. ANTHONY BEAUMONT ... 3	ALAN J. BROWN ... .. 7
JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... .. 4	FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ALAN J. BROWN.

\* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major. Rung as a first birthday compliment to Kathleen Bell, niece of the tenor ringer.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*E. STANLEY COOPER... .. Treble	WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 5
WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... .. 2	FREDERICK PRICE ... .. 6
E. DENNIS POOLE ... .. 3	EDWARD V. RODENHURST... 7
THOMAS PRICE ... .. 4	†ALASTAIR C. MACLEAN ... Tenor

Composed by E. V. RODENHURST.

\* First peal. † First peal on eight bells.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes;

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

G. R. NEWTON ... .. Treble	W. PILKINGTON ... .. 5
T. S. HORRIDGE... .. 2	E. F. BENNETT ... .. 6
J. LUNHAM ... .. 3	P. W. CAVE ... .. 7
*W. H. DEACON ... .. 4	H. ROBERTS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

\* First peal of Stedman Triples.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 10 cwt.

NORMAN HEAPS ... .. Treble	*JAMES W. GROUNDS ... .. 5
SIDNEY FORSHAW... .. 2	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... .. 6
JOHN BOOTH ... .. 3	JOHN POTTER ... .. 7
GEORGE B. JACKSON ... .. 4	WILLIAM PILKINGTON ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

\* 150th peal. Rung in honour of the marriage of Lieut.-Commander W. Dickinson, jun., son of Mr. W. Dickinson, a member of the local band, and Miss A. J. Ross, of St. David's, Auckland, New Zealand, who were married at Auckland, New Zealand, on December 24th, 1939.

BREWOD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND CHAD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 21½ cwt.

*C. SANDFORD DUMBELL ... Treble	ARTHUR PEARSON... .. 5
JOHN PERRY ... .. 2	HERBERT E. WAKELAM ... 6
HERBERT KNIGHT ... .. 3	ROGER L. HAWKSWORTH ... 7
HERBERT E. BOOTH ... .. 4	ROBERT BROUGHTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PERRY.

\* First peal and rung on his 21st birthday.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND MARY,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 24 cwt.

CLEM W. CRACKNELL ... Treble	EDWIN A. CRACKNELL... .. 5
KEITH W. WHITTELL ... .. 2	SHELFORD SPARROW ... .. 6
GEORGE W. ABLITT ... .. 3	HARRY D. LISTER ... .. 7
*FRANK STERRY ... .. 4	ARTHUR GRIMWOOD ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HARRY D. LISTER.

\* First peal of Kent Treble Bob.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, March 27, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb. in F.

C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. Treble	FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 5
CHARLES EDWARDS ... .. 2	HERBERT A. MCKINNELL ... 6
J. ANTHONY BEAUMONT ... 3	REV. R. D. ST. JOHN SMITH ... 7
JOHN HASSELL ... .. 4	DAVID VINCENT ... .. Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

Rung for the wedding of the Rev. J. W. Hollingshead, curate at Bowdon, and Miss L. M. Boulton, which took place at Harrow, Middlesex, the same day.

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**SIX BELL PEALS.**

ALDERMINSTER, WARWICKSHIRE.  
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten callings.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

*ALBERT J. PRINT ... .. Treble	*FREDERICK C. LYNE ... .. 4
HORACE LL. TERRY ... .. 2	CLARENCE R. STREED ... .. 5
*VIVIAN B. HUNT ... .. 3	LEONARD KINCHEN ... .. Tenor

Conducted by HORACE LL. TERRY.

\* First peal.

SUTTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven extents called differently, all 5-6's at back stroke.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ARNOLD WORTH ... .. Treble	EDNA M. P. FETHERS ... .. 4
JOHN WORTH ... .. 2	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 5
REV. FRANK BONNER ... .. 3	CHARLES W. LAWTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

First peal of Surprise on the bells. First peal of Cambridge Minor by all except the ringer of the 2nd.

OLD WARDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of York and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

SAMUEL DANIELS ... .. Treble	*C. HENRY HARDING ... .. 4
*ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... .. 2	C. EDWARD JEFFERIES ... .. 5
RONALD J. SHARP ... .. 3	LEWIS H. BYWATERS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATERS.

\* 25th peal together.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in F sharp.

FRED TERRY ... .. Treble	MRS. E. BRADLEY ... .. 4
WILLIAM HAWLEY ... .. 2	LESLIE WOODHEAD ... .. 5
HORACE S. MORLEY ... .. 3	EDWARD BRADLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by E. BRADLEY.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 1-2	*EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3-4	†LEONARD LOCK ... .. 7-8

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First handbell peal away from the tenors. † First peal on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 26, 1940, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First handbell peal in the method away from the tenors.

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.****SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN DUBLIN.****Competition For Good Striking.**

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, the national holiday. It was attended by members from the following towers: Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Dublin (Christ Church Cathedral, SS. Augustine and John's, St. George's, St. Patrick's Cathedral), Limerick (Mt. St. Alphonsus), Kilkenny and Waterford. The Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Christ Church, the Rev. Canon Campbell and Mr. W. Chamney were also present. One hundred and three sat down to lunch, which was kindly provided by the St. George's Society (Dublin), in St. Andrew's Hotel. This was the largest number to attend any Dublin meeting since 1909.

The bells of four Dublin towers were placed at the disposal of the ringers and were made use of from an early hour.

The contest for the Murphy Cup Striking Competition took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral before lunch. Eight teams competed and after a keen contest St. George's, Dublin, won the cup for the second year in succession with 85 per cent. It should be mentioned that St. Patrick's, Dublin, scored 86 per cent., but, being the 'home' team, they were penalised by 10 per cent. and this placed them third. Bray were second with 81 per cent. The adjudicator was Mr. George Harrison, while the Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., attended in the tower. The teams were marshalled in an efficient manner with the result that the contest was run off in less than two hours. The actual time allowed for the contest is ten minutes per team, and a maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for getting ready and leaving. Six of the teams did change ringing, the other two doing call changes. The winners rang G. Lindoff's 240 of Grandsire Doubles.

After the lunch in St. Andrew's Hotel, the manageress very kindly placed a room at the disposal of the members for the business meeting, which was presided over by Mr. J. B. Tough (Bray), president. The report stated that the shield for Sunday service ringing has been won by three societies, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, St. George's, Dublin, and St. Saviour's, Arklow, each obtaining 99.88 per cent.

**LOSS OF MEMBERS.**

The committee has been obliged to delete from the list of membership a great number of names, the majority of whom had got into arrears with their subscriptions.

One society, St. Finbarr's Cathedral, Cork, had ceased to function, but St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, after having their bells rehung, had reorganised and rejoined.

Blessington, who had practically dropped out of ringing, had also reorganised their society and rejoined. This place being so near Dublin, the various Dublin societies were recommended to pay occasional visits, where they would be not only welcome but a great help.

Only one peal was rung during 1939, that of Grandsire Doubles, by the St. George's Society, Dublin. It was hoped that it would not be long before they could be congratulated upon their first peal of Grandsire Triples, of which they had rung several touches. Miss A. Dukes, who rang in the peal, was to be congratulated on being the first Irish lady to ring a peal of 5,000 for the association.

Waterford Cathedral bells had been rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon. They had been fitted with ball bearings and hung at a lower level in the tower, thereby greatly reducing the volume of sound in the immediate neighbourhood. When the Waterford ringers got into their stride it was hoped they would uphold honourably the tradition of their glorious past.

The total number of members now on the books is 247. The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £4 0s. 8d., and the Belfry Repair Fund a balance in hand of £64 18s.

Twenty-seven new members were elected.

Kilkenny was selected as the meeting place for 1941 on the kind invitation of St. Canice's Society, and a vote of thanks was passed to this society for their kindness.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. S. Gibbs (Kilkenny); hon. treasurer, Mr. D. Gibson; hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Dukes, Grad.I.E.E., M.I.E.T.; Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C.

An appeal from Ballyleson resulted in the meeting voting £5 from the Bell Restoration Fund.

**PRESENTATIONS.**

The shield for Sunday service ringing was presented to Messrs. S. Evans (Arklow), W. E. Lynch (Christ Church Cathedral) and D. McGregor (St. George's) on behalf of their respective societies.

The Striking Cup was presented to Miss A. C. Dukes (the only lady competitor in the competition) on behalf of the winners. She rang with St. George's team.

A presentation was made to Mr. Dan Kennedy, captain of SS. Augustine and John's (O.S.A.), Dublin, and who has been ringing with that society for over 59 years.

Mr. J. B. Tough (president), in making the presentation, which took the form of a chiming clock, said that his many friends, both in his own society and the association, wished to be associated with the presentation to this very keen ringer, who had done very much, at times against great odds, to maintain the ringing in his own tower. Even though the bells were in bad order, he still kept those that were ringable pealing forth from Sunday to Sunday.

(Continued in next column.)

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT YARMOUTH ATTRACTS GOOD ATTENDANCE.**

The annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Great Yarmouth and 35 members were present. This was considered a very good attendance in view of the present notoriety of the East Coast, which it is hoped will not frighten prospective visiting ringers away. Ringing before the meeting was carried on from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.

Tea was provided at Hill Restaurant, and the business meeting held afterwards was presided over by Mr. W. J. Lee (chairman), supported by Mr. J. G. W. Harwood (branch secretary), Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary) and Mr. H. Tooke (branch secretary, North Norfolk).

Mr. W. J. Lee was re-elected chairman and Mr. J. G. W. Harwood branch secretary.

The committee was re-elected en bloc, and Mr. A. King and Mr. W. Barbers representatives on the General Committee of the association.

One new member was admitted, and it was proposed to hold the next meeting, if possible, at Gorleston-on-Sea in June.

The methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, Plain and Little Bob Spliced Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Cinques, Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples, Cambridge Royal, Kent Royal, Plain Royal, Double Norwich Major, Kent and Plain Major.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar (the Rev. R. Aubrey Atkin) for the use of the bells, and a letter was read from him wishing success to the meeting and saying he was sorry that he was unable to be present owing to absence from the town.

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.**

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. Kennedy replied, thanking all members, and said that when his legs would no longer take him up the steel circular staircase of St. John's, he would look at this clock and think of the very happy days he spent with his very broad-minded friends, the members of the Irish Association.

It was unanimously decided that members serving in Defence Forces should remain on the books and should be exempt from paying their annual subscriptions until such time as they return to their respective towers.

Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing president and the officers. Dean Wilson said that the manner in which the president conducted the business and his fair dealing with all matters was admirable.

A vote of thanks was passed to St. George's Society for so kindly providing the lunch prior to the meeting.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.****ANNUAL MEETING AT BEDFORD.**

The annual meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Bedford on Easter Monday. Owing to war-time restrictions, the usual day's ringing had to be curtailed, but the bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's were at the disposal of the ringers from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., and the attendances in the belfries were well up to previous years and there was almost continuous ringing of a good standard.

Tea was served in the Lion Hotel and the business meeting was held in the hotel lounge. Canon A. Rust, the president, welcomed the forty odd members to Bedford and to the meeting. After the secretary had read the committee's report the meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to two St. Paul's ringers, Mr. H. Tingey and Mr. H. Sharp, whose deaths are a great loss. Mr. Sharman proposed that a special record should be made in the minutes of the valuable work Mr. Tingey and Mr. Sharp had done for the association.

The balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £19, was adopted, but, although the membership had remained steady, regret was felt at the decrease in numbers in the Bedford District.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Canon A. Rust; vice-presidents, Miss E. Steel, Mr. A. King, Mr. J. Nicholls, Mr. E. Herbert, Mr. C. W. Clarke and Mr. A. E. Sharman; secretary, Mr. F. J. Plummer; auditor, Mr. E. Herbert.

The President at the request of the members, after reminding the meeting that the late secretary had served the association for 17 years, presented Mr. Arthur E. Sharman with a suitably inscribed barometer as a mark of appreciation of his valuable work as secretary.

The annual meeting for 1941 was again fixed for Bedford, and the summer festival for Husborne Crawley. A long discussion took place respecting the position of the Luton members, who are at present performing members of both the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Associations. The secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council and ask to have the question raised at the next meeting. It was pointed out that the formation of a St. Albans Diocesan Guild would solve this problem and suggested that every effort should be made to secure that end.

The resolution, 'That members serving with H.M. Forces should retain their membership without payment,' was carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the clergy of St. Paul's and St. Peter's for the use of the bells. The towers were again visited and ringing continued until 7.30 p.m.

**BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOS.**—For morning service on Easter Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 46 minutes: D. Webb 1, H. Sayce 2, R. W. Daniels (conductor) 3, L. Aston 4, W. G. Folley 5, D. Creswell 6.

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■■■■■

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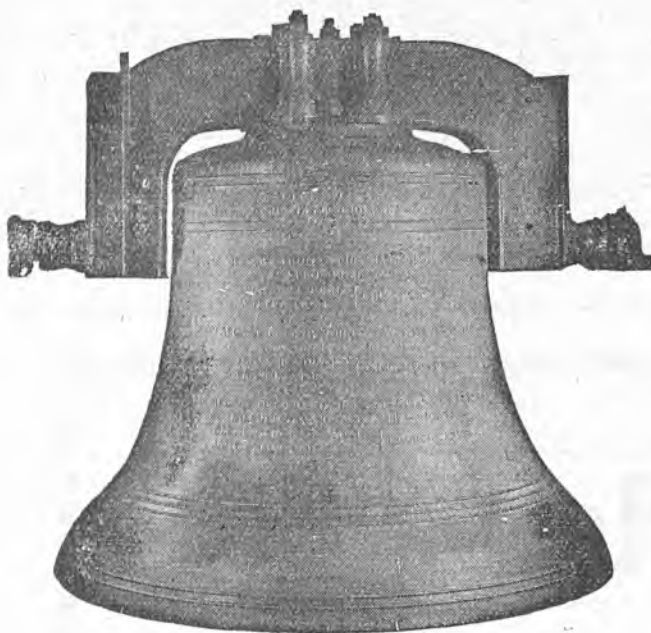
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The reports of several meetings and peals are unavoidably held over. While the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association celebrated its golden jubilee on Easter Monday, the Kent County Association celebrated its diamond jubilee. Two members of the Kent County Association who attended the first meeting in 1880 were present at Maidstone last week. They were Messrs. Philip Hodgkin, of Headcorn, and Mr. E. S. Ruck, of Willesborough.

Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, whose contributions as a composer to the art of ringing are almost beyond computation, was again re-elected hon. secretary of the Irish Association at the meeting on St. Patrick's Day.

As our readers learned last week, Mr. G. W. Cartmel has been secretary of the Herts Association for 36 years, but even this record of service is exceeded by Mr. Lindoff. We are not sure for how long Mr. Lindoff has held his office in the Irish Association, but it is certainly 40 years.

Which recalls an incident in 1901 when the annual meeting was held at Arklow. The ringers were entertained by the Earl of Carysfort and so pleasant were the proceedings that the official business was forgotten and the members left without transacting it.

In our notes last week about the first peal of Bristol Surprise, rung in 1901, we mentioned Mr. A. A. Fuller as being one of the survivors of the band. We now learn from Mr. George Baker that Mr. Fuller died in July, 1938.

Mr. P. W. Cave wishes to thank all those who sent him expressions of sympathy in his recent bereavement, and especially the bands who rang at St. Stephen's and Holy Nativity Churches on the day of the late William Cave's funeral, and in the memorial peal at St. Mary Redcliffe.

Mr. W. H. Deacon rang his first peal of Stedman when he took part in a peal of Triples at Aughton, Lancs, on Bank Holiday. It is interesting to note that this was only his third 'touch' in the method. The first was a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples and the only other one, 1,191 of Stedman Caters, the night before the peal at St. Nicholas', Liverpool. This was his first touch on more than eight bells.

April 3rd is the anniversary of one of the record peals rung by the late William Pye. It was 15,072 changes of Double Norwich in 1899 at Erith. James W. Washbrook beat it with his long peal at Kidlington

## RINGS OF FIVE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Having read with much interest some of the letters from various correspondents upon the subject of rings of five, I feel I must disagree with one of them who contends that there is no 'finishing note' (his words). May I remind him that the diatonic scale is divided into two modes, viz., the major and minor, and that each scale has its 'finishing note' (or, in 'musical parlance,' its tonic or key-note). If he hums over the last few bars of any minor tune (e.g., 'Aberystwith'), he will probably grasp my meaning. I except from this rule minor tunes ending with a major chord (the 'tierce de Picardie').

I think your correspondent, like many others (bellringers and musicians), prefers the major mode to the minor; but that does not in any way alter the fundamentals of the two 'modes' in question; each has its distinct tonic or key-note (whether pleasant to the ear or the reverse).

Let any of your readers who are in doubt on this point play over one of the 'Harmonic Minor Scales' a few times—say, for example, D E F G A B (flat), C (sharp), D.

Uphill, Weston-super-Mare.

H. MINIFIE.

## 'YOKEL' THINKS BOTH BE RIGHT.

Dear Zur,—I don't often trouble 'ee with a letter, for I bain't no scolar, but I mind I sent 'ee one a year or two back after some chaps had been a-hollering and a-carrying on about this, that and the other. All as were the matter were as none on 'em couldn't see more nor their point of view, and I reckon there's a bit o' that in this 'ere to-do with Mas'r Amos and Mas'r Trollope.

I knows what Mas'r Amos meant—you don't often come across five bells in that sort of sad tune, what he calls a minor five. Most on 'em be the bold back five, and he wonders how it come about as they put they others in like it. Mas'r Trollope ups and says t'other chap's ear be all wrong for saying as 'em don't sound finished. That don't seem to I to matter. If Mas'r Amos reckons they don't sound finished to him, he's right, and if Mas'r Trollope reckons they do, he's right. When us be practising here, us sometimes has the front five, and sometimes the back five. They both sounds all right to we, but I suppose both our ear'oles be wrong.

My friend Freddie Sharpe (hope he don't mind me calling him that now he's doing some big work about bells for the Berks summat-or-other Society), he reckons as a lot of rings years ago was that front five, and then they mucked about with the third and made 'em sound different.

'Ere—do 'ee remember they boys I was telling 'ee about last time? Two on 'em be calling Grandsire, and us can man the ropes from the choirboys and they as be growing up a bit, and then have some over. Us be glad on 'em too, now some of the chaps have joined up. When this 'ere war's over, I reckon all the bells'll ring all right, ting-tang and all, and damn whether 'em be minor or major.

'YOKEL.'



## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING AT DERBY.

### Large Number of Unpaid Subscriptions.

Bank Holiday, ideal weather, a good company of ringers, plenty of bells, inevitable result: successful meeting! That in a few sentences sums up the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association at Derby on Easter Monday. From an early hour the bells of St. Andrew's (10), St. Alkmund's (8) and St. Peter's (8) were available and made full use of by members and friends from many centres. St. Luke's (8) were also open to any who wished to go there, and some ringers took the opportunity of doing so. The Cathedral bells (10) were available after tea until dusk and good use was made of the time at the members' disposal.

At St. Andrew's the hon. secretary's essay was very short-lived. Taking the tenor with the intention of ringing a course of Cambridge Surprise, at the very first whole-pull he broke off the rope below the sally! Then he had the cheek to ask if he could keep the broken end to take to one of his ringers who, being a tree-feller, needed such a piece!

The committee met in St. Peter's Parochial Hall in the afternoon and as a result of their deliberations it was agreed to grant a donation from the Bell Repair Fund to Kegworth, where the ring of six bells are to be overhauled and two new trebles added.

A letter from the secretary of the Lancashire Association regarding members of other associations and guilds in H.M. Forces who migrate into the area was discussed. It was agreed that instead of asking the usual non-resident life membership fee before starting for a peal, they should be exempt from any payment, and any peals such ringers might take part in would be accepted in the association's records without fee. This, of course, would be in force for the duration of the war only.

Mr. C. Harrison pointed out that it was unlikely the number of such peals would be many, and the association should be generous to the men now serving.

Mr. C. H. Belton, of Barwell, an old and honoured member, was placed on the honorary life membership list.

### THE TEA CRUSH.

Tea was served at 5 p.m. at the Babington Cafe, Babington Lane. This was, perhaps, somewhat awkwardly arranged, but the fault lay, not with the caterers, but with those members who failed to notify their intention of being present. Some 60 *did* notify, but 90 turned up and it was noticed that, as usual, the erring ones were those who complained the most. However, all were served, thanks to the local secretary, who had to do some rushing about in an endeavour to please everyone.

The general meeting followed and the chair was taken by the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert). Members were present from all branches of the association, viz., Burton, Chesterfield, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham, as well as a number from long distances and non-resident friends.

The President, in his address, said that if he had been going to preach and needed a text, it would be from the minutes that had just been read. He well remembered the day of that meeting—the severest snowstorm prevailing—yet to know that 40 members attended was a lesson and an inspiration worth recording. He trusted all those present that day would continue their good work, especially with regard to Sunday service ringing, and that they would not let the belfries fall into disuse. It was most difficult in these days, when so many men were called up for duty, for A.R.P. and other work, yet they must see to it that the bells never ceased to proclaim their message.

He voiced the feeling of all present in proposing a vote of sympathy to Mr. William E. White, the treasurer, who, through illness, was unfortunately unable to be present. Mr. White joined the association in 1884 and so far had never missed an annual meeting and only a very few quarterly meetings, and the association's welfare was very close to his heart. He (Canon Fitzherbert) would write a personal letter, and he asked the secretary in the name of all present to send Mr. White a note of good wishes and Godspeed for recovery to health again.

### MEMBERS ON POINT OF BEING STRUCK OUT.

The annual report stated that the number of members on the books was 873 ringing members and 158 hon. members. This did not include some hundreds of non-resident life members, but did include a large number of members who were on the point of being struck out for non-payment of subscriptions. The work of the association suffered considerably through these lukewarm members. The peals rung by the association during 1939 consisted of 6 of Doubles, 21 of Minor, 17 of Triples, 31 of Major, 5 of Caters, 1 of Royal and 4 of Cinques, on tower bells, and 2 of Doubles, 4 of Minor and 2 of Triples on handbells, a total of 93. Two peals had been omitted from the records, having been rung contrary to the association rule that a peal on six bells may not be rung with a covering bell. Up to the outbreak of war, peals were well up to the average, but from that time, in common with all other societies, peal ringing in the Midlands practically ceased. It remained, and rightly so, restricted, except in a few towers, and handbells might now be used with advantage. Among the peals recorded were the first of Erin Triples and Caters for the association. During the year the hon. secretary became the first

ringer to score a hundred peals on the bells at Loughborough Foundry and the first Midlands ringer to achieve a total of 800 peals.

On the subject of finance, the report stated that the deficit on the general account was well covered by the value of the association badges which were on sale. It was noticed with regret that, notwithstanding the welcome influx of new hon. members, the total number was gradually falling, and of those whose names appeared in the report for 1938, the subscriptions of some 25 to 30 had not been collected. Also that of the 835 ringing members on the books, the subscriptions had been received from 593 only.

The general account showed receipts of £89 1s. from members' subscriptions and £25 12s. from other sources including £14 9s. 6d. from the sale of badges—a total of £114 13s. The expenditure amounted to £130 17s. 1d., of which £32 11s. 4d. was the cost of meetings, postages, etc., £24 honorariums to general and district secretaries, £37 16s. printing the annual report, and £29 for association badges.

In the absence of the hon. treasurer, the hon. secretary stated that the annual report and balance sheet had now been printed and circulated. This was somewhat late, but delay was due to Mr. White's illness and to Easter coming so early this year.

Mr. G. Stedman Morris (auditor) proposed the adoption of the accounts as printed, assuring the members that the books were in good order and correct, and that Mr. White's system and careful accountancy made the auditor's task an easy one.—The report was unanimously adopted.

### THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT.

The new members elected included four ringing, one honorary, and as no other nominations were received, the general officers now serving were re-elected, viz.: President, the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert; vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. E. White; general secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

The President, in acknowledging the honour again conferred upon him, said he felt that this office should be changed yearly and suggested that the members should think of suitable gentlemen in other districts who might fill the position. He assured the members of his hearty co-operation in all their efforts.

Mr. C. Harrison also acknowledged his re-election and said he would do all in his power to further the association's interests.

Mr. Ernest Morris, in thanking the members for once again electing him, said that many times he had asked them to relieve him of the office; he did not seek the job, which was getting more and more irksome every year. He would be delighted if someone else would take it on. Referring to the annual report, he said he was well aware there were some errors in it, but these were not his nor the local secretaries' fault. If members would only take the trouble to acquaint him at once of any alterations needed, these would be rectified. It was not fair to leave it until next Easter and then complain. He had received many corrections after the report was in print!

The President then announced the names of the places suggested by the committee for the next three quarterly meetings, viz.: June, Ratby and Groby; September, Newark; January, 1941, Netherseale and Measham or Overseale.—These were agreed to.

Canon Fitzherbert then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Lancaster and the local committee for their work in making arrangements for the meeting; the Vicars and steeplekeepers of the churches where the members had been privileged to ring; and to the auditors for their work in checking the accounts.—This was unanimously passed and a happy meeting closed. Handbell ringing and tower-bell ringing at the Cathedral closed a most successful day.

### SOME PEAL NOTES.

A wedding peal three months after the ceremony is an unusual event, but these are unusual times and no earlier opportunity presented itself to the ringers at Southport of celebrating the marriage of Lieut.-Commander Dickinson, the son of one of their members. Lieut.-Commander Dickinson met the band after the peal, but the bride is still in New Zealand, occupied with her duties as assistant matron to the Northern Command Medical Services.

It was nearly as long before the Rickmansworth bells could be rung to a peal in honour of the wedding of the Vicar, the Rev. W. B. Belcher, who was married last January to Miss Calway. An attempt at the time came to grief.

After a lapse of 16 years, Mr. J. Frank Smallwood's name appears again among the conductors. Last Saturday he called a peal of Stedman Caters at Bristol.

The many friends of Harold J. Poole will be very pleased to learn that he has now quite recovered his health and is just as 'perky' as of yore.

### SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

**BRIGHTWELL, BERKS.**—On Easter Day, for matins, a quarter-peal of Doubles (720 of Plain and 600 of Grandsire): M. Girling 1, F. Castell 2, O. G. Barnard 3, G. Lewington 4, C. J. Castell (conductor) 5, F. Brooker 6. For evensong, 1,440 Grandsire Doubles: F. Brooker 1, F. Castell 2, O. G. Barnard (conductor) 3, G. Lewington 4, C. J. Castell 5, W. Currill (first quarter-peal) 6.

**LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.**—On Sunday, March 3rd, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Miss S. Harman (first quarter-peal) 1, G. Marriner 2, G. Massey 3, C. Smart 4, C. Otway 5, W. Whiting 6, A. Smith 7, A. Harman (conductor) 8.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### FALL IN MEMBERSHIP.

#### But Funds Now Exceed £1,000.

At Maidstone on Easter Monday, the Kent County Association held its sixtieth annual general meeting, and in spite of war time 37 towers in the county were represented by over a hundred members. The only alteration to the usual procedure was that the luncheon provided by the association was abandoned owing to the uncertainty of the number attending and the prevailing conditions, and the members were given a sum to cater for their own needs.

In years past this meeting has been noted for the attendance of youth. This occasion was a marked exception, owing to so many of the younger ringers having been called to the Colours.

The bells at All Saints' Church were going in various methods to suit all tastes shortly after 10 o'clock, and at noon the association service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen, an hon. member of the association. Mr. G. W. Grant, of Headcorn, proved a capable volunteer organist.

The Vicar gave an inspiring address, and said he was agreeably surprised to see such a large attendance under the present circumstances. It demonstrated the zeal of the members in their work for the Church and their interest in the association. He appealed to those who were left in the belfries to carry on their work and pray for the safe return of their younger fellow ringers who had been called away to fight for a just cause. The bells, he said, must be kept ringing to call people to worship God in His House. No one knew how long and arduous was the task that lay ahead, but they must all do their duty to God and country. 'You, as ringers,' he said, 'must see to it that the bells are rung in towns and villages and thus keep up the spirit of the nation.'

The service concluded with the hymn, 'O God, our help in ages past,' and a collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £1 12s.

The members reassembled at 2.15 in the College Room adjoining the church for the business meeting.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) apologised if any inconvenience had been caused, but he thought the members would understand that to make preparation for a meeting in such times was rather a difficult task, as no one could foresee what might happen. They would have had to guarantee a certain number to provide lunch, and as arrangements had to be made well ahead, the committee had taken what was perhaps the wisest course and let the members get their own lunch, recompensing them after the meeting.

In the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis (who was in Scotland), the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley was voted to the chair.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, the hon. secretary was asked what was the result of the appeal for the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore Memorial Fund. He replied that in spite of the appeal that had been issued in 'The Ringing World' at present no donation had come in.

The annual report was presented and unanimously adopted.

#### EFFECT OF THE WAR.

The report stated that the 60th anniversary of the association opened in dark days for the country. War had upset, for the time, all organisations in the land, and they had, as ringers, experienced many difficulties. During the winter months peals of bells had been silent owing to local conditions and the 'black-out.' Meetings were cancelled or postponed, but with the lighter days ahead it was hoped that the difficulties would be overcome.

Many members had been called to the Colours and it was expected that before the war was won, many more would be called. They wished all 'Godspeed and a safe return.'

The members who were left to 'carry on' were urged to do all in their power to keep the bells ringing for Sunday service. 'Every belfry,' said the report, 'will miss a face or faces, and there will be many ropes without a ringer. But don't neglect your part! If there are not enough to ring the full peal at your towers, ring what you can, and prove to those that have gone that you intend to keep up the spirit of our race, and do your duty to God and fellow-ringers.'

Owing to the 'black-out' and travelling conditions, the usual annual district meetings were postponed. Perhaps some thought this an unwise decision, but the various officers carefully considered the question of holding the meetings and getting a representative gathering, and in some cases took a plebiscite of the district, the result of which proved their decision was right.

The committee had decided that all members of the association who are called to serve in any of H.M. Forces shall have their names retained as members of their respective towers, the usual membership fee being waived during their absence. Tower secretaries were asked to include all serving members when sending in their list, stating regiment, etc.

There were 110 towers in union; Wye, Deal, Faversham, Bearsted, Minster and Speldhurst having dropped out through non-payment of subscriptions. Hartlip and Ruckinge had rejoined.

It was with regret that the committee reported the falling off in both honorary and practising members, the former having fallen from 68 to 54, a loss of 14, and the latter from 1,000 to 944 (894 adults and 50 juveniles), a loss of 56. Twelve non-resident life members joined during the year.

### PEALS AND MEMBERSHIP.

No restoration work in the area of the association had been reported during the past year. Peal ringing virtually stopped with the outbreak of the war in September. During the year 98 peals were rung—53 less than in 1938—84 on tower bells and 14 in hand, as follows: On 12 bells, 2; on 10 bells, 8 (2 in hand); on 8 bells, 73 (9 in hand); on 6 bells, 14 (3 in hand); on 5 bells, 1. The peals were rung in 47 towers in Kent, two in London and one in Sussex. Twenty-three members rang their first peal, six their first in hand, and 151 rang their first in the method. The conducting was undertaken by 37 members and four conducted their first peal. It was again pleasing to note that the younger members were sharing their responsibility as conductors. Messrs. P. A. Corby, Derek Sharp and G. A. Naylor were striking examples, as nearly one-half of the peals rung were credited to these young enthusiasts, and it was hoped when the war was won they and others would keep up their good work. Ashsted Surprise Major and Cheltenham Bob Major were rung for the association for the first time, and the first peal has been rung on the bells at Ringwould.

Mainly through the falling off in membership, the income was reduced in the General Fund by £20. Owing to the war the district meetings were not held in the autumn, which effected a saving in the expenses, and the balance in hand was £68 9s. 10d., an increase of £6 12s. 4d. The Belfry Repair Fund showed an increased balance from £144 13s. 6d. to £152 9s. 6d. One appeal was received during the year—from St. Stephen's, Canterbury. A grant of £5 was made.

The grants from the Benevolent Fund to aged members and widows of members amounted to £20 5s. The income of the fund exceeded this amount by £11 15s. 9d., thus increasing the balance to £308 0s. 5d. The income from collections was reduced by £4 8s., and this was accounted for by reason of the district meetings being postponed.

The increased income over expenditure as shown by the balance sheets revealed the total worth of the association to be £1,010 1s. 8d.

The general account showed that the members' subscriptions amounted to £111 8s. 6d., and interest to £8 1s. 4d., out of a total income of £127 8s. The expenditure amounted to £120 15s. 8d., including £10 to the Benevolent Fund, £6 7s. 8d. (from interest) to the Belfry Repair and the Benevolent Funds. The investments of the association amount to £481 1s. 11d., and the balances in the various funds to £528 19s. 9d.

In the absence of the hon. auditor, Mr. G. H. Cross, who had been called home owing to the illness of his mother, the balance sheets were presented by Mr. W. J. Jeffries, one of the trustees, and adopted. The announcement that the funds of the association had reached over £1,000 was received with loud applause.

On the proposition of Mr. F. J. Cullum (Erith), seconded by Mr. T. Saunders (East Peckham), the whole of the officers were unanimously re-elected.

The Hon. Secretary reported that at the committee meeting held earlier in the day the question of ringers coming into the county from other societies while serving in H.M. Forces had been discussed. It was considered that a hardship would be imposed on Service ringers if they wished to stand in a peal and the rule was enforced that they become non-resident life members with the usual fee of 5s. The committee unanimously decided that such ringers should be admitted to membership as ordinary practising members, under Rule 5, on the payment of 2s. and participate in all the privileges extended to county practising members, without further payment whilst serving in the county in H.M. Forces, for the duration of the war.

This announcement met with hearty approval.

Believed to be the last surviving members of the formation of the association, Messrs. P. Hodgkin (Headcorn) and E. S. Ruck (Willesborough), who attended the first meeting in 1880, were present and accorded a hearty ovation.

The Chairman, in proposing thanks to the hon. secretary and treasurer, said he had known the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, their late hon. secretary, all his life and knew the great interest he took in the welfare of the association, and he considered the mantle had fallen on worthy shoulders. Their thanks were due to him for carrying on the work.—Mr. Mitchell briefly replied.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Maidstone, to the chairman, and the volunteer organist and all who had helped to make the meeting so successful, terminated a very happy war-time gathering.

The members then departed to the various towers that had been so kindly placed at their disposal for further ringing. In addition to All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, West Malling, Linton and East Peckham were visited.

A few donations were received for the Helmore Memorial Fund, and further donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the hon. secretary, Mr. F. M. Mitchell, 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend. Cheques and postal orders can be made payable to 'Helmore Memorial' and crossed Lloyds Bank, Gravesend.

### A FAMILY AFFAIR.

On Easter Sunday, before the 7 a.m. celebration at St. Margaret's, Leicester, 648 Boh Minor by Miss Margaret Morris 1, Ernest Morris (conductor) 2, Josiah Morris 3, G. Stedman Morris 4, Edwin Cattell 5, Arthur Cattell 6. This band consists of one grandfather, two fathers, one daughter, two sons, four brothers, one uncle, one niece. Truly a family affair!

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION****IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Chippingham, Wilts, on Easter Monday, about 50 members attending. Among those present were the Rev. L. C. Cornwell, Mr. J. Gould, Mr. S. Romaus and Mr. S. H. Wood. The Master, the Rev. N. E. Hope, R.D., presided.

The secretary (Mr. Edgar Guise) stated that since the outbreak of war the association had lost 130 members (it is not known at the moment how many of these may have been called to the Colours) and that a further 90 members had failed to pay their subscriptions for 1939. The income of the association was £20 less than 1938, yet there was a profit, very small perhaps, upon the year. New members totalled 33, as against 120 in the preceding twelve months. Twenty-one peals had been rung during the year.

All the officers were re-elected and the Rev. M. Paterson, of St. Thomas', Bristol, was elected a vice-president.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

'That for the duration of hostilities, the Management Committee be authorised, notwithstanding Rule 3, to cancel the annual general meeting in any year in which they consider that the circumstances then prevailing make it undesirable to hold it.'

'That the annual report be issued omitting such materials that show no alteration, such as the rules, etc.'

'That all members of the association called to H.M. Forces and to service in the Mercantile Marine shall be excused from paying subscriptions during the war. The end of the war shall be determined as December 31st in the year of peace.'

'That members of H.M. Forces if taking part in a peal, shall be invited to become out-diocesan members of the association without payment of subscription; that such membership shall not be deemed part of compounding fee as a life member and shall only take effect for the duration of the peal.'

'That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association strongly urges the Central Council of Church Bellingers to continue its full activity during the war, particularly to watch the interest of church bell-ringing, even though their activities may be curtailed in regard to change ringing.'

'That no Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association peals shall be accepted after publication in "The Ringing World" unless all moneys due, such as subscriptions and peal fees, have been paid by those taking part. The general secretary shall disclaim any peals published in which the rules of the association have not been complied with.'

Before and after the meeting the bells of St. Paul's and the Parish Church were available, and the success of the arrangements was due to Mr. F. W. Merrett.

The annual meeting for 1941 will be held at Cheltenham on Easter Monday, April 14th, subject to the resolution referred to above.

**LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION****ANNUAL MEETING.**

All Saints', Newport, extended a hearty welcome to the large gathering which attended from both dioceses on Easter Monday for the annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association. The bells of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' Churches were made full use of during the afternoon and evening. Service was held in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. G. Lewis), with the assistance of his curate. At the outset the Vicar gave a cordial welcome to the visitors.

Tea, very kindly provided by the ladies of the parish, was served in the Mission House, the large room being taxed to its utmost. These same ladies served at the tables.

The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar. The names of those members who had passed away during the past year were read, and all stood in silence as a mark of respect.

A report of the bell restorations carried out during the year was received, and it was unanimously decided to vote £3 to St. Bride's Major Restoration Fund.

The question of future meetings was discussed and it was resolved to hold two summer meetings, one in Glamorganshire, the other in Monmouthshire, at St. Athan and Abergavenny respectively. The next annual meeting is to take place at Llandaff.

Correspondence was read in regard to the proposed Central Council meeting at Cardiff, which is now postponed.—The action taken by the hon. secretary was approved.

Mr. F. Hannington was elected Master for the ensuing year, and the hon. secretary and auditors were re-elected.

The treasurer, the Rev. Ivor J. Richards, now in France, wrote asking for someone else to be appointed, as he was uncertain as to his future. The Rev. C. R. G. Lewis, Vicar of All Saints', Newport, kindly consented to take the position.

Many new members were elected. The question of the subscriptions of members serving with the Forces was discussed, and it was decided not to make any alteration to existing rules.

It was decided to transfer £25 to War Savings Certificates.

The usual votes of thanks brought to a close one of the best and pleasantest meetings in the history of the association.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE & NOTTS ASSOCIATION****MONTHLY MEETING IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN.**

The annual meeting of the East Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Association, held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Easter Monday, proved one of the most successful and enjoyable meetings held for a considerable time, and the splendid ring of six (tenor 15½ cwt.) and the fine spring weather, with the prospect of a brief respite from the more serious business of war and its worries, brought together a happy crowd of ringers.

The bells were raised about 2 p.m. and until 4.30 were 'kept at it' in fine style. The service, which was conducted by the Vicar of St. Mary's (the Rev. H. N. Wrigley), was well attended, and the address was given by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall, Retford. A collection for the Sutton Bell Fund realised £1 3s.

Tea was generously provided by the Vicar and wardens in the Parish Room and was followed by the business meeting. The president (Mr. John Hobbs) occupied the chair, supported by the Revs. H. N. Wrigley and R. F. Wilkinson and officers of the association. The assembled company stood in silence in remembrance of four members who had passed away since the last annual meeting, the Rev. E. A. Morgan, of Cole, Norfolk, a former Vicar of Tibshelf, one of the founders of the association in 1887; Mr. Wilson Allin, a past president; Mr. Herbert Allwood, of Crich, and Mr. James E. Scott, of North Shields, a former officer of the association. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. T. Clarke, Ringing Master, and Mr. Joseph Machin, auditor.

The balance sheet and auditor's report, presented by Mr. H. Doughty, were accepted.

In presenting his report, the secretary drew attention to the fact that, although the number of entrances each year was very satisfactory, the total membership remained practically the same, an increase of three this year, which means a considerable number of losses annually.

On the motion of Messrs. C. M. Heathcote and W. Dobb, it was decided to send a letter to incumbents asking for their co-operation, for, as the secretary remarked, 'parsons depend on ringers as much as ringers depend on parsons.'

Some discussion took place on the question of meetings during the period of the war, and it was agreed to hold monthly meetings during the summer and autumn, and only the December quarterly meeting in winter.

The following meetings were arranged: Annual meeting, Easter Monday, 1941, Alfretton; quarterlies at Pleasley (June), Heanor (September) and South Normanton (December). It was agreed that all members serving in H.M. Forces should be considered members without further subscription until their return to civilian life.

The Jubilee Shield, awarded to the tower showing most progress during the year, was presented by the president to Mr. H. Draycott, captain of the Tibshelf tower, who has completed 50 years' service as a ringer at this church. Mr. Draycott suitably replied to the congratulations.

The officers were elected as follows: President, Mr. John Hobbs; vice-president, Mr. Wilson Dobb; treasurer, Mr. C. M. Heathcote; Ringing Master, Mr. C. Bleby; secretary, Mr. J. W. England; auditors, Messrs. J. Machin and H. Doughty. Messrs. T. W. Hopson and W. Swain were added to the Executive Committee.

The Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, who is a popular figure amongst ringers in the district, received an enthusiastic reception, and expressed his pleasure in meeting so many old friends, including Mr. T. Bettison, who now resides at Watford.

**WEDDING BELLS.**

For the wedding of the Rev. W. C. C. Williams, curate in charge of Ystradfellta, to Miss Rita Jones, of Clydach, which took place at St. Mary's Church, Clydach, on March 23rd, a peal had been arranged to be rung at Morriston, but unfortunately the band met one short and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was substituted: E. Stinch 1, J. L. Bloxham 2, T. M. Roderick (conductor) 3, E. J. Morris 4, J. T. Williams 5. The band took refreshment at the home of Mrs. Williams, mother of the bridegroom and the ringer of the fifth, when the best wishes for the future of the happy pair were extended to them.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**MULBARTON, NORFOLK.**—On March 29th, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,260 changes): F. W. Wasey 1, G. W. Woolmer 2, H. Nicolls 3, F. W. Middleton 4, C. F. Goodman (conductor) 5. Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect for the Rev. E. H. H. Ward, 24 years Rector of Mulbarton. First quarter-peal by the ringers of 1, 2 and 3, who have been converted with H. Lake from stoney during the last 18 months.

**NETHERTON.**—On Sunday, March 24th, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): L. Prestidge 1, J. W. Smith 2, H. Hill 3, H. Hubball 4, A. Davies 5, A. Prestidge, jun. 6, T. A. Townsend (conductor) 7, J. H. Davies 8. Rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. C. Corbett and Miss M. Prestidge. The bride is a daughter of Mr. A. Prestidge, for many years a ringer and late leader of the Netherton company.

**NOTICES.**

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5.15. Business meeting to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**.—South-Eastern District. — The next meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Western Division. —The annual meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) at Co-op Café, High Street, 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Schools—election of officers, etc.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**.—South-Western Division. —The next meeting will be held at Epping on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and after the meeting. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Church Hall. It is hoped as many as can will avail themselves of the opportunity of ringing on this fine peal. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION**.—Northern District. —Baldock, April 6th. Bells available 3 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, only for those who let me know. Don't forget postcard.—R. Thomas Newman, Dis. Sec., Salisbury Road, Baldock.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Furness and Lake District Branch. —A practice meeting will be held at Cartmel Priory Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Fylde Branch. —A meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart (R.C.) Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells at liberty for ringing from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only Business meeting after ringing.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool, S.S.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Winchester District. —Quarterly meeting at Hursley on Saturday, April 6th next. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting in the Club Room.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, April 6th. Usual arrangements as far as possible. Tea will be provided if arrangements can be made, but cafes available.—W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION**.—Hinckley District. —Next meeting at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3.30. Reports ready.—W. A. Wood, Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Branch. —A quarterly meeting will be held at Nunney (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Whatley (6 bells) will be available after the meeting. Butter for those who advise for tea, margarine for others.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Newbury Branch. —The spring meeting will be held at Beedon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m., to be given by Mrs. Stewart Menzies, of Beedon House.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION**.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow (10 bells), on Saturday, April 6th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—Charles R. Raine, 21, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Biggleswade District. —A meeting will be held at Tempsford on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. We shall be pleased to meet you. What about it?—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Stockport Branch. —A meeting will be held at Bowdon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. Alan J. Brown, 15, Priory Road, Bowdon. All welcome.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS**. —There will be a practice at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on Saturday, April 6th. Meeting time 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7.45 p.m. A practice at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Saturday, April 13th, at 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Wigan Branch. —The next meeting will be held at Cophull on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. each) 5 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS**. —There will be ringing at 5.30 p.m. for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Sunday, April 7th. Visitors welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.** — The practices at the above church are reverted to Mondays, commencing Monday next, April 8th, 6.30 p.m. until black-out.—James E. Davis, Tower Keeper, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**. — Manchester Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch, Rusholme, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secretary.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD**.—Devizes Branch. —A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Bishops Cannings (8 bells) on Saturday, April 13th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5. Meeting to follow. Please advise me early how many will attend the tea.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION**.—Eastern Division. —A special meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Will all members intending to be present let the undersigned know not later than Wednesday previous to the meeting.—F. H. Dallaway, Stone Cross, Pevensey, Sussex.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Preston Branch. —The annual branch meeting will be held at Broughton Parish Church, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.



**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange light refreshment at 4.45 for those who notify me by Wednesday, April 10th. Meeting to follow. Hearty invitation to North Staffs friends and Derby District members. Subscriptions now due, and reports ready.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cullompton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (10) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. It is necessary that those wishing to attend should inform me by Monday, April 8th.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Welford (8 bells) on April 13th. Usual arrangements. Please send names for tea by April 9th.—H. H. Shrides, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Tyringham on Saturday, April 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at Purton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available afternoon and evening. Tea by invitation of Vicar. A card re tea will oblige.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bridgwater Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at Moorlinch. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting to follow. All welcome.—C. Evans, Local Sec., 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bottesford on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Please make own arrangements for tea. Come and try this fine peal.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Macclesfield Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Bosley on April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. If tea is required, a line will be appreciated early.—Jack Tipper, Hon. Branch Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at Emmanuel and St. Andrew's on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available from 2.45 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. respectively. Tea at 5 p.m. Buses Nos. 22 and 222 to Guthrie Road.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**CORNWOOD, DEVON.**—At 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th, the Lord Bishop of Exeter will re-dedicate the ring of six bells restored by John Taylor & Co.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Shelley on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting and further ringing until 8 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. F. R. Brook, Lilac Nook, Shelley, near Huddersfield, not later than April 10th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Harpenden on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Forget your worries and come to Uckfield on Saturday, April 13th. A warm welcome and a cheerful company await you. Owing to war, etc., tea will be 1s. 6d. Please send cards as promptly as possible.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at West Hallam, on April 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. For tea please notify me not later than Thursday 11th. Come and have a ring at this handy peal. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be at St. James', West Derby, on Sat., April 13th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 5. All ringers cordially invited.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Roydon on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. until dusk. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Whitworth Parish Church on Saturday, April 13th. Bells, available from 3 p.m., are well worth a visit. All ringers and friends cordially invited. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Overton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Overton Rectory. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by April 17th the Rev. E. G. Wells.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

**CORNWORTHY, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.**—The ring of six bells, restored by John Taylor and Co., will be re-opened on Saturday, April 20th, at 3 p.m.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 20th. Bells at Cathedral Church 3 to 4.15 p.m., S. Nicolas' afternoon and evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe (next to S. Nicolas'). Numbers for tea must be sent to me by April 17th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Please notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Wednesday, April 24th. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. A. Lawrence is now 6, French Horn Lane, West Goldings, Hatfield, Herts.

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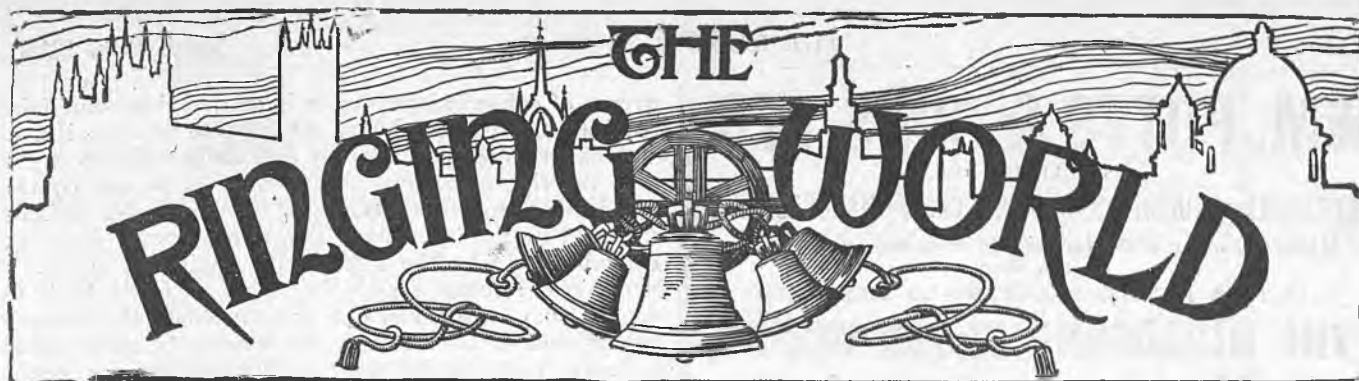
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FRIDAY, APRIL 12th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## FALLING MEMBERSHIP.

These are difficult days for ringing associations. The war is affecting them in many ways, and it will not be easy to keep activities alive. Apart from the 'black out' which has curtailed ringing since war broke out, the bell-fries are already suffering, some of them seriously, from the withdrawal of man-power, owing to the claims of the fighting forces. A still greater drain upon them is to be expected in the months immediately ahead, and this calling up of ringers is going to have its reflection in the financial resources of the associations. Already the strain is having its effect, and several of the associations, whose annual reports have recently been issued, have shown heavy falling-off in paying members. For instance, the Midland Counties Association reports no fewer than 242 unpaid subscriptions among 835 members. The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association records 130 members lost during last year, as well as 90 who failed to pay their contributions. The Worcestershire Association has a falling-off of 73 ringing members, and the Irish Association has had to delete a great number, the majority of whom got into arrears with their subscriptions. Such facts as these are not a little disturbing. Losses of membership on this score cannot all be traced to the claims of the forces, and it looks as if some associations, at any rate, are faced with a two-fold struggle—to make good the gaps caused by the absence of those who are on national service, and to recover lost ground caused by the apathetic in their ranks.

There is always something of a mystery about the membership of ringing associations. Scores of new members are added every year, and yet the total does not grow to anything like a corresponding extent, even allowing for deaths. We remember the question being more than once asked at the annual meetings of the Oxford Guild: What becomes of these new members? The answer is to be found in the lapses of subscriptions. Far too many ringers take up the pursuit in a half-hearted manner, or, even if they start with keenness, let their enthusiasms evaporate. They pay an association subscription for a year or two, and then let it drop, even if they do not drop out of ringing altogether. They do not take their responsibility to their association seriously, and more often than not this type of ringer fails also to take his full responsibility in his own tower. At the best of times he becomes just an incubus; in these days his apathy may prove a real danger, involving the risk of breaking up his own band as well as depleting the resources of the association. It is not easy under present circumstances to start a drive for new members, or even the recovery of

(Continued on page 170.)

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arrears of subscriptions, but it is certain that some fairly definite and organised effort will have to be made if asso-  
ciations are not to sink into difficulties. Better try to  
stem the tide now than wait until it is beyond control.  
This is not merely the business of the association officials;  
it should be the immediate objective of every man—and  
woman—who has the interest of ringing at heart. A  
determined attempt should be made to bring back the  
ringers who have fallen out and to add to the ranks by  
getting new blood into it. There must be many people  
in nearly every parish who at this moment are looking  
for some definite outlet for their desire to do useful work.  
Here, in co-operation with the clergy and parochial or-  
ganisations, is a chance of turning this desire into a prac-  
tical channel.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

 WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF ERIN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

CECIL RADDON ... .. Treble	FRED GRUNDY ... .. 6
STANLEY HARRISON ... .. 2	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD ... .. 7
ARTHUR JAMES ... .. 3	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE ... .. 8
ROBERT ALLRED ... .. 4	PETER CROOK, SEN. ... .. 9
FRANK BARRACLOUGH ... .. 5	PETER CROOK, JUN. ... .. Tenor

 Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by JOSEPH H. RIDYARD.  
First peal of Erin Caters on the bells and by all the band.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HERSHAM, SURREY.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH  
SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*HERBERT COLCOMBE ... .. Treble	MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK ... .. 4
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... .. 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... .. 6
CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. 3	WILLIAM SIMMONDS ... .. 7
JOHN W. WARD ... .. 4	EDWIN COLCOMBE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

\* First attempt for a peal in the method.

LISS, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt, 1 qr. 16 lb.

FREDERICK W. BURNETT ... Treble	ERNEST J. AVLIFFE ... .. 5
JOSIAH D. HARRIS ... .. 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. 6
ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... .. 7
CHARLES E. BASSETT ... .. 4	C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. Tenor

 Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.  
First peal of Major on the bells.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

*PETER WOODWARD ... .. Treble	*FREDERICK NICHOLLS ... .. 5
WILLIE GREEN ... .. 2	ARTHUR GILL ... .. 6
MRS. EDWARD BRADLEY ... .. 3	EDWARD BRADLEY ... .. 7
SIDNEY BRIGGS ... .. 4	DANIEL SMITH ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by D. SMITH.

\* First peal of Major.



## DUNMOW, ESSEX.

## THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

CLAUDE SNOWDEN ... .. Treble	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 5
MISS HILDA G. SNOWDEN ... 2	GEORGE SAUNDERS ... .. 6
JOSEPH C. JENNINGS ... .. 3	H. WALTER SMITH ... .. 7
LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 4	ALBERT WIFFEN ... .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

## ALMONDSBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

## THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 25 cwt.

*RAYMOND C. HARDING ... Treble	*RAYMOND A. ADAMS ... .. 5
MISS MARGARET PACK ... .. 2	ROYSTON G. BRYANT ... .. 6
ALBERT M. TYLER ... .. 3	DONALD G. CLIFT ... .. 7
SYDNEY G. RICHES ... .. 4	FRANK SKIDMORE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

\* First peal. First peal of Grandsire Triples for all except the ringers of seventh and tenor.

## SUTTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

## THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANCES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

*ARTHUR YOUNG ... .. Treble	NEVILLE HOLLINGWORTH ... 5
*W. ALLEN RICHARDSON ... 2	JOHN G. AMES ... .. 6
HAROLD BARSLEY ... .. 3	*ALBERT E. FLATTERS ... .. 7
ARTHUR J. FARR ... .. 4	CYRIL A. BURRELL ... .. Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by C. R. BURRELL.

\* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

## EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.

## THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

## A PEAL OF SPLICED LITTLE AND PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

MISS K. BURCHNALL ... .. Treble	MISS G. BURCHNALL ... .. 5
GEORGE E. FOSTER ... .. 2	FREDERICK HOOPER ... .. 6
HAROLD DENMAN ... .. 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE ... .. 7
ARTHUR E. CHILTON ... .. 4	CLIFFORD A. VESSEY ... .. Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by C. A. VESSEY.

There were 2,464 changes of Plain Bob and 2,576 changes of Little Bob, with 43 changes of method. First peal of Spliced Major by all the band and the association. C. A. Vessey's 50th peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to H. Denman.

## SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

## CUCKNEY, NOTTS.

## THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Double Bob and two of Plain Bob.

JOHN NORRIS ... .. Treble	FREDERICK FLINT ... .. 4
HAROLD DENMAN ... .. 2	JOE READER ... .. 5
WILLIAM DICKINSON ... .. 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by H. T. ROOKE.

Rung as a first birthday peal for Master Denman, son of the ringer of the 2nd.

## SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.

## THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Helen,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Reverse Canterbury, Oxford Single Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise.

SYDNEY FLINT ... .. Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... .. 4
*ROBERT GUY ... .. 2	WILLIAM H. DEACON ... .. 5
THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... 3	*GEORGE SKELLAND ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

\* First peal in seven methods.

## YARNTON, OXFORD.

## THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

## A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 42 six-scores (21 different callings) in four methods, Bob, Union, Grandsire and April Day.

Tenor 28½ cwt. in D.

HARRY RADLEY ... .. Treble	LIONEL G. DURHAM ... .. 4
HARRY P. FLOYD ... .. 2	NORMAN B. BUSBY ... .. 5
GEORGE E. BROWN ... .. 3	DOUGLAS B. POULTON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by H. P. FLOYD.

## SUTTON COURTENAY, BERKS.

## THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 29, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Comprising seven extents: (1) London Scholars' and Kingston Treble Bob; (2) Beverley and Cambridge Surprise; (3) Hereward and Oxford Bob; (4) Plain and Double Bob; (5) Double Oxford and St. Clement's; (6) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Thelwall and Childwall Bob; 81 changes of method.

Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT E. LOCK ... .. Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 4
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 5
F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... .. 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

First peal in 14 minor methods by all except the conductor. First peal in more than 12 methods in seven extents by the Guild.

## DEEPING ST. JAMES, LINCOLNSHIRE.

## THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

## A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being seven 720's, viz.: (1) Norfolk and Primrose; (2) London and Wells; (3) Durham, York, Surfleet and Beverley; (4) Ipswich and Cambridge; (5) York and Durham; (6) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Primrose, Hull and Bourne; (7) Beverley.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

FRED BRIGHTMAN ... .. Treble	WILLIAM OLDMAN ... .. 4
CHARLES WOODS ... .. 2	HORACE M. DAY ... .. 5
WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

## NORTON CANON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

## THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 40 six-scores, 10 callings and 240 of Morris' Arrangement.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

THOMAS R. PAYNE ... .. Treble	ALBERT E. JONES ... .. 3
LESLIE EVANS ... .. 2	*DAVID H. BENNETT ... .. 4
	A. BRYAN ELSMORE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by DAVID H. BENNETT.

\* 25th peal for the Guild.

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GARSINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.  
On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Double Court, Childwall, Thelwall, Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

MARIE R. CROSS ... .. Treble	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 4
* WILLIAM C. PORTER ... .. 2	† LESLIE J. GREGORY ... .. 5
FRANCIS E. TAYLOR ... .. 3	ALAN R. PINK ... .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

\* First peal in seven methods 'inside.' † First peal in seven methods. The Rev. C. E. Wigg's 200th peal.

POWDERHAM, DEVON.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, April 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 different callings. Tenor 9 cwt. in G.

CHARLES R. LILLEY ... .. Treble	JOSEPH BREALEY ... .. 4
JAMES E. LILLEY ... .. 2	BRIAN PIDGON ... .. 5
REGINALD TRUMAN ... .. 3	* SYDNEY HOLWELL ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

\* First peal. First peal on the bells. A birthday compliment to the ringers of the 5th and treble and to the son of the ringer of the 4th.

Will the conductor of the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Brightwell, Berkshire, kindly forward his name, which he omitted to send with the report.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

EASTER-TIME MEETING AT EWELL.

A very successful meeting was held at Epsom and Ewell on Easter Monday, about 60 ringers attending during the day. A large number of methods were rung, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Treble Ten.

Ringling commenced at Christ Church, Epsom, at 11 a.m., and continued until 12.45. After a short break for lunch, the party proceeded to St. Martin's, Epsom, where ringing continued from 2 to 3 p.m., when a wedding service interrupted the proceedings for half an hour. The ten bells were then rung from 3.30 to 4 p.m.

Meanwhile ringing commenced at Ewell at 3.30 and continued until 5.30, when the company adjourned to the Church Hall for tea. Thirty-six members and friends sat down to tea, including Mr. H. M. Muggeridge, a churchwarden of Ewell. Mr. Muggeridge welcomed the association to Ewell on behalf of the Vicar, who was unable to be present.

A short business meeting was held, presided over by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master. Before the official business commenced the meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect to the late Mr. E. Acock, of St. John's, Croydon, who died at the beginning of February. He had been a member of the association for about ten years.

Mr. A. J. W. Hughes, of Kensington, was elected a ringing member of the association.

Banstead, St. Martin's, Epsom, and Dorking were proposed for the next meeting on May 25th, and after some discussion Banstead was chosen. As the Vicar of Ewell had expressed a desire that a meeting of the association should be held later in the year when he could be present to conduct a service and attend the meeting, it was agreed to hold another meeting at Ewell, in November if possible.

Messrs. J. Beams and C. E. Read, of Ewell, were congratulated on having reached their fiftieth year of membership of the Surrey Association. Mr. W. H. Hewett said that it was mainly due to Mr. Read that he had originally taken up change ringing.

The usual votes of thanks to the incumbents of the various churches for the use of their bells, to the tower secretaries for the arrangements made, and to the caterer for providing an excellent tea, were passed, and this concluded the formal business of the meeting.

Before the company returned to the tower for further ringing until 8.30 p.m., they were entertained to several courses in various methods on handbells by the experts present.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

On Easter Monday, at the Parish Church, Cirencester, the wedding took place of Mr. F. J. Lewis, jun., and Miss Olive May. The bridegroom is a very popular member of the local band and was the recipient of a present from the ringers. As the happy couple were leaving the church the bells pealed forth and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by H. S. Parsons 1, A. Painter 2, A. W. Baldwin 3, E. Cooper 4, W. Godwin 5, H. Lewis 6, J. Hope (conductor) 7, W. H. Hayward 8.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL BELLS.

ALL THE RINGING PEAL CAST.

The thirteen bells which are to form the ringing peal at Liverpool's new Cathedral have now been cast. The last of them came out of the mould at the Whitechapel Foundry recently, and they form a noble peal.

With a tenor of over 80 cwt., they are, of course, easily the heaviest peal to be hung for ringing, but at present they cannot take their place in the tower, as the structure is not yet complete. Building operations are still in progress, but until the tower is ready for their reception the bells have to be stored, and the Cathedral authorities now have this matter under consideration. The probability is that the bells will be taken to Liverpool and stored somewhere in the Cathedral.

It has been decided that the bourdon bell, which will weigh over 14 tons, shall not be cast until after the war.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A MEMORIAL JUG.

A special meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, March 30th, when members were present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Rawmarsh, Hoylandswaine, Retherham Parish and Wath. The bells were kept busy from 3 p.m. until 5.30 p.m., when a service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector (Canon W. E. Wilkinson), who gave a brief but inspiring address.

The party then adjourned to the Royal Hotel for a 'ham and eggs tea,' which was thoroughly enjoyed. The ceremony of installing in its case the jug which was bequeathed to the society by the late president and founder, Mr. C. D. Potter, was the chief item of interest.

The president (Mr. E. Brookes) opened the proceedings and said the death of Mr. Potter created a great gap in the society, but the jug would help to preserve his memory. He hoped the members would do all they could to preserve it for all time.

It was very pleasing to have Mr. A. Nash, of Rotherham, the first secretary and a founder of the society, present. Mr. Nash gave a brief outline of how half a dozen ringers used to meet about the year 1905 and eventually decided to form the society, which was founded in January, 1909. The principal object was to encourage six-bell ringers and ringing. It was very pleasing to see that the society had been a success. The membership at the end of 1909 was about 50 and now it was just over 170, which was, without doubt, due to the efforts of the late Mr. C. D. Potter.

Mr. H. Potter, son of the late president, who had kindly attended to perform the ceremony of placing the jug in the case, said although he was not a ringer, he was always pleased to meet ringers and wished the society success in every way.

The jug, which is of earthenware, has recorded on it the details of a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 6,080 changes, rung at Barnsley on December 26th, 1879, with the ringers' names who took part. It holds just over a gallon. It has been placed in an oak case so that it may be handy for 'state occasions' and be kept safe at all times.

The president moved a vote of thanks to the Rector and also to Mr. H. Potter (who had borne the entire cost) for providing the case for the jug.

The rest of the evening was spent in ringing touches of Major and Minor on handbells.

BROADCAST RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After hearing this morning's broadcast from Lichfield Cathedral, I feel like asking, 'Does any member of the Lichfield company take "The Ringing World"?'

If the answer is in the affirmative, might I suggest that he turns over some of the past copies in which you have stressed the responsibility to one's fellow-ringers, which accompanies the 'honour' of being chosen to broadcast, of putting over a touch which shall be a credit to the Exercise.

If there are no readers in the tower, perhaps you, sir, might undertake to forward a few extracts from your back numbers to the tower secretary for the benefit not only of the band, but of ringers and listeners generally.

I have contemplated writing this letter for some considerable time, but have kept postponing it in the hope that some improvement might be shown in this periodical broadcast, but unfortunately I can only detect deterioration, with Sunday morning's broadcast as the limit so far in that direction.

I do not doubt that Lichfield, in common with all places, is hit by the Forces' demand for man power, but why on earth attempt to ring Triples with the 2nd out and 8-10 covering when the same band could not strike in rounds at the finish? I do not apologise for interfering in others' business, for I consider it is the business of ringers at large, when a caricature of ringing is periodically put on the air, as is done from Lichfield, and I would suggest to them that they tune in to Croydon when they are on the air, and listen to the interval signal of the B.B.C. Call changes on the front six would be a much greater credit to them than the 'floundering' attempts at method ringing which they have so far supplied.

Crayford.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAST DEVON BRANCH AT OTTERTON ST. MARY.**

Ottery St. Mary has a beautiful church and the lady friends of the local band are excellent caterers; at least, that was the opinion of the 73 ringers and friends who visited the town on Easter Monday for the annual meeting of the branch. All ringers like Ottery bells, even if the circle is a bit uncommon and the 'stances' awkward.

At the service the Vicar, the Rev. B. C. Jackson, welcomed all who came from the neighbouring parishes and from other branches of the Guild. He said that change ringing was a unique feature in English life and that there was a bond of fellowship between ringers. Ringing contributes to the impressiveness of church life. The appeal of the bells 'opens the cells where memory sleeps.'

At the business meeting after tea, the Rev. E. V. Cox, president of the Devon Guild, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. B. C. and Mrs. Jackson and the Rev. Carew Cox. The Vicar and Mrs. Jackson, who left early, were thanked for their presence and the use of the bells.

The annual report showed that during the past year three meetings had been held with an average attendance of over 50; five peals had been rung; the membership was now 100, of which five were serving with H.M. Forces. Sunday ringing had been done regularly, but practices were difficult. There was a balance in hand of £19 12s. on the year's working. It was proposed that an Instruction Fund should be formed.

The Rev. B. C. Jackson was elected as an honorary member and also as the chairman for the ensuing year.

Messrs. J. H. Godfrey (hon. secretary and treasurer), W. G. Burrow (Ringing Master), H. G. B. Gundry, J. Chown and J. Wheaton (representatives to the Central Committee) were re-elected.

It was decided that the next annual meeting should be held at Honiton. Fayhembury was fixed as the venue of the meeting on the last Saturday in August.

Messrs. K. Percy (Feniton) and J. Connatt (Sidmouth) were elected as members, and Mr. J. G. Sparks, of Trull, as a life member.

The President expressed the thanks and appreciation of all present to the ladies, the organist and all who had helped in this successful and happy gathering. He also informed the meeting of the severe illness of Mr. T. Laver, the valued general secretary of the Guild, to whom an expression of deep sympathy was accorded. Mr. Laver is resigning his post as secretary.

From a ringing view, the meeting was most successful, even enterprising, and excellent touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich were brought round.

**GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. QUARTERLY PEALS FOR BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH.**

A quarterly meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at St. Mary's Church, Bitton, on Saturday, March 30th. Members attended from St. Ambrose's, Mangotsfield, Herlway, Stapleton, St. Werburgh's, Coalpit Heath and the local tower. There was also a visitor from Melksham, Wilts. The bells, a peal of eight, were set going at 3.30 p.m., and service was afterwards conducted by Canon Phillips, who gave a very interesting address. The branch secretary ably presided at the organ. Tea was served at the Church Hall by ladies of the Women's Hour. The short meeting that followed was presided over by the branch chairman (Mr. C. Harding). A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies for preparing tea and to Canon Phillips for taking the service.

The members stood in silence as a token of respect to the late Canon Taylor, who was always pleased to welcome the ringers to Bitton.

The question of quarterly peals for the branch was discussed. It was decided that a peal be arranged each quarter, and that any member wishing to take part in a peal should send his name and the method he wishes to ring to the branch chairman as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made as to place, time, etc.

The next monthly meeting will be held at Olveston, and a joint meeting will be arranged with the Bristol City and Wotton-under-Edge Branches at Chipping Sodbury in May if possible.

Standard methods and a touch of Cambridge Minor were rung when the tower was revisited.

**LADIES' GUILD.****MEETING OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.**

The March meeting of the Northern District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Armley, Leeds, last Saturday. The attendance of ladies was rather disappointing, and it was wondered if some members had not got out of touch with 'The Ringing World.' Those present came from Sherburn, Armley, Bramhope, Headingley and Sheffield.

It was a grand day, and, owing to the fact that the meeting was held jointly with the Leeds and District Society, some good ringing was enjoyed.

One new member, Mrs. Hill, of Goole, was elected. The annual meeting is to be held at Todmorden in June.

**TAUNTON (St. James' Guild).**—On Easter Day at St. James', a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Hunt 1, W. G. Gigg 2, H. H. Walker 3, A. A. Walker 4, W. E. Priddle 5, J. Roy 6, A. H. Read (conductor) 7, W. T. Jeanes 8.

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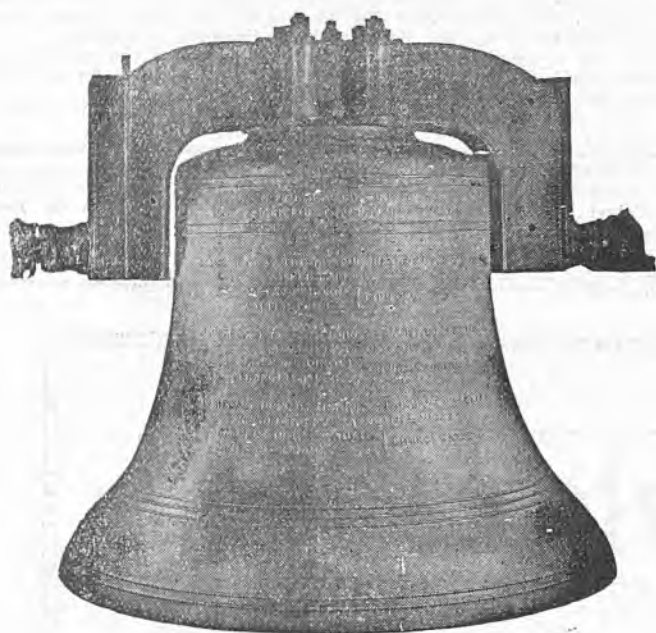
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The newly-appointed treasurer of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association is, like his predecessor, very keen and fond of the bells. Although not yet a change ringer, he takes the tenor regularly each Sunday. He has been at All Saints' just a year.

Caerleon bells have not been heard for some time until last Wednesday week, when they rang for the wedding of the Vicar's niece. The assistance of ringers from Newport enabled this to be done.

Caerleon, with a light ring of eight by Warner, with 7½ cwt. tenor, is really the home of change ringing in that part of the country, thanks to the late Mr. Evan Davies, father of Mr. Claude Davies, the hon. treasurer of the Lancashire Association and brother of the late Mr. William Davies, for many years at St. Nicholas', Liverpool.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Almondsbury was arranged to enable Mr. T. Harris to make his first attempt as conductor, but unfortunately illness prevented him from standing in and another conductor had to be substituted at short notice.

Mr. Percy H. Derbyshire, who rang the eighth to the peal of Erin Caters at Worsley on Saturday, was one of the band who rang the first peal of Erin Triples on the old eight, which was conducted by Mr. Joseph H. Ridyard's father.

Many city churches were closed for Sunday services at the outbreak of war. St. Lawrence Jewry was one of them, but this church is to be reopened on Sunday, April 21st, and the bells will be rung for service, for the first time since September, from 10.15 to 11 a.m.

Mr. Michael Girling, who rang his first peal at the first attempt on March 29th at Brightwell, Berks, is the son of the Rector, the Rev. F. B. Girling, and is now a serving member of H.M. Forces. He learnt to handle a bell a little over 12 months ago, and his only opportunities for practice have been when on vacation from Oxford and (since the war) when on leave.

Could not the Lincoln Diocesan Guild take the new Lincoln Society, Nebraska, U.S.A., under its wing and make itself responsible for furnishing special assistance in the way of such instruction and advice as may be possible from so great a distance?

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who conducted several peals of record length, was born on April 7th, 1857. On April 13th, 1914, he called Johnson's variations of John Reeves' peal of Treble Bob Royal, which contains 14,000 changes. It is still the longest length rung in the method.

On April 9th, 1830, Elijah Roberts 'opened' a new set of musical handbells by tapping on them a peal of 'Treble Bob Maximus with the Kent Variation.' It consisted of 7,536 changes and took 4 hours and 51 minutes. Joseph Powell called the bobs and several well-known Birmingham ringers were present, including Henry Cooper and Charles Thurstans.

George Newson, for many years the leading conductor of the Society of Cumberland Youths, died on April 7th, 1896. Among his peals he rang the tenor and called 13,440 changes of Double Norwich Major at Romford in 1894. The band, which included Henry Dains and Edwin Barnett, in a previous attempt at Brentwood broke a rope just before the bells should have come round.

Ringling at St. John's Church, Surrey Road, Bournemouth, has been cancelled for duration of war.

Should this meet the eye of A. Patrick Cannon, or anyone in touch with him, will he please communicate at once with the secretary of the Devonshire Guild, Mr. T. Laver, 21, Cross Park, Heavitree, Exeter, respecting the peal rung at Crediton in August last, as the inclusion of the record in the Guild report is held up.

Mr. Albert Coles' many friends will be glad to hear that he has now returned home from hospital after his serious accident.

In our account of the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association, it was stated that Mr. W. E. White joined the association in 1884, but that was not so. He did not join until November, 1887. We are glad to learn that his health is slowly improving.

## RINGERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

### THE REMISSION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—As will be seen from the report of the Midland Counties Association meeting at Derby on Easter Monday, the question was discussed of non-resident ringers who, being in H.M. Forces, are transferred to our area. It was pointed out that as we are allowing our own members now in H.M. Forces to remain on the books without fees, so we ought to allow members of other associations and guilds who come to our area the same privilege. We should be as generous as we could to such visitors and give them a hearty welcome to any tower in our area. Also that as the number of peals any such visitors might possibly take part in would be very small, no fee should be asked for or expected.

ERNEST MORRIS, General Hon. Sec., M.C.A.

## WEDDING BELLS.

As a compliment to Mr. H. K. Mackinder and Miss W. Lake, who were recently married at St. Mary's Church, Woodford, Essex, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung at the Church of St. John the Baptist, West Wickham, Kent, on Saturday, March 30th: Miss H. Oakshett 1, H. Mackinder 2, C. Cullen 3, M. F. Oakshett 4, A. S. Richards 5, D. G. Brown (conductor) 6. First 720 in the method on the bells.



## DEATH OF MR. W. D. SMITH. ONE OF THE OLDEST COLLEGE YOUTHS.

### A Link with Bygone Generations.

Another veteran of the Ancient Society of College Youths has been called to his rest. Last Friday afternoon Mr. William David Smith passed peacefully away in his sleep at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Mr. Smith, who was 82 years of age, had been in failing health for some time and had been staying with his daughter for about six months. It was only in the last few weeks, however, that he became seriously ill.

His death removes another link with bygone generations of London ringers, for Mr. Smith came of ringing stock. Both his father, Mr. David Smith, and his grandfather on his mother's side (Mr. George Marriott) were born in Hackney, where Mr. W. D. Smith was also born (on December 13th, 1857), and all of them were ringers at St. John's Church, Hackney.

With ringing 'in his blood,' it was only natural that Mr. Smith should take up the art early in life, but while his father and grandfather were both members of the Royal Cumberland Youths, Mr. W. D. Smith joined the College Youths in 1878 and had thus been a member for 62 years. His first peal was rung with the society on December 9th, 1878—a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's, Bow, E., conducted by James Pettit.

Mr. Smith took part in the first peal of Treble Twelve at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1894, and the first peals of Stedman Caters at Canterbury and Lichfield Cathedrals. He also rang, in 1919, in a peal of Stedman Triples at Westminster Abbey, the first peal on the bells. Altogether he took part in 92 peals, the last being a peal of Stedman Triples at Eastbourne, Sussex, on October 15th, 1928. It is an interesting fact that he rang in Sir Arthur Heywood's first peals of Stedman Triples (at Shadwell), Caters (at Stepney) and Cinques (at Cripplegate).

Although Mr. Smith was an excellent conductor in the standard methods, and taught quite a number of young ringers how to conduct, he never called a peal, and the reason was that, after a succession of failures, for which he was in no way responsible, he made a vow never to attempt another peal as conductor.

Mr. Smith was elected Master of the College Youths in 1891 and again in 1903 and 1904. He was one of the first members of the Central Council, on which he represented the society from 1891 until 1899.

The family connection with ancient ringing history stretches back over an exceptionally long period, for George Marriott, who died in 1887, took part in the funeral peal of Malachi Cannon, who rang the 9th to the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch in 1784. George Marriott himself took part in an attempt for a record peal of Stedman Cinques, on May 5th, 1851. At this time rivalry between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was very keen. On January 6th the former society rang 7,524 of Stedman Cinques at St. Giles', Cripplegate. The Cumberlands attempted 8,184 at St. Michael's, Cornhill, but after ringing 7,746 changes in 6 hours 2 minutes, 'they were too exhausted to finish their task,' and thus, for a time, the record remained with the College Youths, but the 7,746 was the greatest number of changes of Stedman Cinques up to that time rung by twelve men only.

Mr. W. D. Smith, of course, was intimately acquainted with many of the famous London ringers of both societies, who made history in the last century. It was a standing joke with John Cox to remind 'young Smith' that he called his grandfather's first peal a week before his (W. D. Smith's) mother was born. This was a peal of Grandsire Triples at Bishopsgate on March 12th, 1835.

Mr. W. D. Smith was in the postal service and rose to the responsible position of a superintendent at the General Post Office, St. Martin's le Grand. When he retired in 1917 he went to live at Eastbourne, and it was not until then that he severed his connection with ringing at St. John's, Hackney.

While in Eastbourne he rang at St. Saviour's Church, and interested himself in the Sussex Association, whose meetings he frequently attended. He usually made a point of attending the annual dinner of the College Youths and was present at the tercentenary celebration. The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Wednesday, the interment being in the family grave.

The sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended to Mrs. A. A. Hughes and other members of the family in their bereavement.

### DEATH OF A ST. ALBANS RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph F. Chatley, of St. Albans, which took place on March 23rd at the age of 50 years.

At the funeral on March 29th a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Messrs. F. Kirk, W. Ayre, H. Frost and G. E. Debenham. In the evening, at St. Peter's Church, 588 changes of Grandsire Caters was rung half-muffled by T. Seymour 1, H. Frost (conductor) 2, H. Goodenough 3, G. E. Debenham 4, E. Gale 5, H. Mason 6, F. Spicer 7, F. Kirk 8, W. Ayre 9, K. Jones 10. Mr. Chatley became a member of the Cathedral Society in 1908 and was also an honorary member of St. Peter's Society, a member of the Herts Association and the College Youths.

## WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire Association at Worcester on Easter Monday was marked by one of the best attendances of recent years, over 100 members and friends being present. They included Mr. L. G. W. Morris (the hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Association), Mrs. A. H. Beamish (the hon. secretary of the Warwickshire Guild), Mr. A. H. Beamish and visitors from Barnsley, Wolverhampton, Sutton Coldfield, Erdington, Castle Bromwich, Hereford and Leominster.

The general business meeting was presided over by the president, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, Dean of Worcester, supported by the Rev. G. W. Webb (clerical secretary), Mr. S. T. Holt (Master) and Mr. J. D. Johnson (hon. general secretary). In welcoming the association, the Dean observed that it did one's heart good to hear the bells that day and to know that one association at any rate had not abandoned its annual engagement. So many people had stopped doing ordinary things that when anybody carried on it was all to the good. This association meant to carry on.

The report of the Central Committee stated that it had been decided that members serving with H.M. Forces should be exempt from payment of subscriptions during war service. In response to a circular from the Lancashire Association, it was further decided that the privileges of membership be extended to all ringers in the Forces, stationed in or on leave in the county during war service, without payment of any subscription or fees.

In presenting the annual report and balance sheet, the general secretary remarked that he wished to refer to future balance sheets and to remind them of the lessons of the last war and post-war periods. They faced the present war in a strong position, much stronger than the last. They had reserves of over £100 and there was no necessity to increase them further, but they were probably facing a period of diminished income and rising costs, and it was far easier for a balance to dwindle than to be built up again.

After the last war, subscriptions had to be raised for several years to 2s., which was never a very popular step. He trusted they could avoid a repetition of this, and with everyone working together and pulling their weight they would be able to show a credit balance next year. Both report and balance sheet were adopted.

The librarian (Mr. C. W. Cooper) reported one of the leanest years—only 12 applications for 13 books, and the Dean stressed the value of the library and urged better use.

Arranged for the last Saturday in September, last year's annual dinner had to be cancelled, and although the wisdom of this step was never in question, there appeared to be a strong feeling in favour of reviving the function this year if possible. It was decided to leave this matter entirely to the discretion of the dinner sub-committee.

The whole of the officers were re-elected. Nine new performing members were elected, and the annual peal was left for arrangement at the discretion of the Master.

Worcester was again selected for the next annual meeting.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Dean and Chapter and incumbents of the various city churches whose bells were used that day—All Saints', St. John's and St. Nicholas', and, of course, the glorious twelve at the Cathedral, where the privilege of half an hour's extension to the usual hour was much appreciated.

The members later attended choral evensong in the choir of the Cathedral, when the special sermon was preached by the Dean. Here it should be remarked that the congregation of ringers compared favourably with the assembly for tea—contrary to a noticeable fact of recent years.

One snag marred the arrangements for the day. In spite of the general secretary's earnest appeal for 'numbers for tea by Tuesday previous,' postcards continued to arrive, numbers gradually mounted, and varying estimates were sent to the caterers (including the usual allowance for those who do not write) as late as Easter Monday morning. Even so, an extra table had to be hurriedly erected and at least two distinguished visitors were crowded out altogether. To these and others inconvenienced the association tenders this explanation and apologies.

### PEALS AT SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope's articles on the bells of Southwark Cathedral were very interesting, but there are one or two points which call for correction. Mr. Trollope states that the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on the bells was rung on February 18th, 1922, but there were several peals in this method rung before this date. On March 23rd, 1912, Mr. A. B. Peck rang the tenor and conducted a peal of Cambridge Maximus, the first in the method on the bells, and on January 4th, 1913, Mr. F. Dench conducted a peal in the same method, with the late Mr. W. T. Cockerill ringing the tenor. Both these peals were rung for the College Youths.

On February 27th, 1904, Mr. H. R. Newton rang the old tenor to a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, a magnificent performance, as the long dodging in this method makes great demands on the skill and stamina of the tenor-man.

I am indebted to Mr. A. B. Peck, who very kindly supplied me with the dates of these peals.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

## BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION JUBILEE MEETING.

### War-time Difficulties in Somerset.

The annual meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association took place at Taunton on Easter Monday. It was the jubilee meeting, and attracted ringers from places so far afield as Bath, Frome and Minehead. It was also, in a sense, an experiment, for this was the first occasion that the annual meeting had been held on a Bank Holiday, and, in spite of adverse conditions of travel, the gathering was well attended. There were visitors from Plymouth, Newton Abbot and Buckfastleigh. Ringing began at 11 a.m. and service was held in St. James' Church, where the Vicar (the Rev. Walter Green) gave a short address, in which he paid tribute to the work of the association, particularly in regard to the improved tone of the belfries and to the advance in the standard of ringing.

Luncheon, which might easily have been a peace-time one, was taken at the Black Horse Hotel, and some 50 people sat down to it.

The loyal toast was afterwards drunk and the business meeting followed.

The secretary (Mr. J. T. Dyke) read a short report, in which he said: 'The two chief factors we have to consider in connection with war-time conditions are the inevitable loss in subscriptions owing to our members joining H.M. Forces, the curtailment of ringing and difficulties of travel; and measures which we must adopt in order to keep alive this ancient art of ours, so that always we may be able to render our service to the Church.'

'I am unable, at the moment, to tell you of the numerical or financial state of the association with accuracy, for the accounts of two branches, although due on January 31st, have not yet been received. Of the nine branches which have sent in accounts, three, viz., Chew, Crewkerne and Ilchester, show an increase over 1938, but there is a total drop of £6 5s. 8d. over the nine branches. There was a slight increase over the amounts paid direct to me. Your committee has proposals to put before you to meet this decrease in income, which will probably get more serious as time goes on, unless we make some constructive effort to get more young ringers into our towers. The times are in our favour, because, especially in the country, the restricted public transport services and the petrol rationing tend to keep people in their own villages. It is for you to make suggestions and to carry them out as to how to keep the numbers in our belfries.'

'Before you consider this matter, it is as well that you should see clearly what the task is. It is useless to generalise, because conditions vary so much in different parts of the county. We have fewer people living in the whole county than live, for instance, in Bristol. More than one-sixth of our people live in one town alone, and only about one-half live in villages. Yet these villages produce four-fifths of our ringers. In places where many ringers live in a comparatively small area, the matter of co-operative ringing should not present much difficulty. I am pleased to note that two branches, Chew and Axbridge, still carry out their practice meetings, and I hope that they will be able to continue them. The type of instruction which I was carrying out at the outbreak of war had to cease abruptly owing to petrol rationing, and the association's rule about instruction will have to be waived for the time being at any rate, where much travel by the instructor is involved. We know, too, that many of our towers are remote from a really capable instructor.'

The report was adopted and the meeting proceeded to consider the recommendations of the committee. It was decided to print a report, but to delete the long list of non-resident life members. Several members spoke of the use of the list, but reluctantly, in the interests of economy, the decision was made.

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS SUSPENDED.

The meeting endorsed the committee's recommendation to grant to Burnham tower two guineas towards their recent bell restoration. It was also decided to discontinue the general quarterly meetings for the duration of the war. It was pointed out that this would still leave 44 branch, one general and many practice meetings per year.

The next recommendation was passed without discussion. It was that all members joining H.M. Forces should have their subscriptions remitted and that their names should be retained in the report, with an indication that they are the names of the serving members. Ringers visiting the county for military training may be admitted to membership without charge, for as long as they are resident in the diocese.

It was announced that Evercreech tower had decided to continue to pay the fees of its serving members, and this was considered very laudable.

The officers of the association were then re-elected without dissent, viz.: Rev. W. M. K. Warren, Master; J. T. Dyke, secretary; D. G. Taylor, auditor.

The meeting then discussed ways and means of keeping the bells going in war time, and it was evident from the animated discussion which took place that the members have the matter very much at heart. The following members contributed to the varied suggestions: Messrs. Smallwood, Hunt, Woodburn, Lloyd, Stacey, Taylor, Prescott, Beck, Davies and Osborn. It seemed that the consensus of opinion was that the strength of the Guild lay in its individual towers or in small groups of towers.

(Continued in next column.)

## ANOTHER U.S.A. CENTRE.

### LINCOLN STUDENTS FORM CHANGE RINGING SOCIETY.

Another 'group' interested in change ringing has been established in America. A few weeks ago we published a communication from Mr. J. F. Laker, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, giving information of a new centre of interest in the art.

Now comes news from Lincoln, Nebraska, of a 'club' founded about two years ago to study change ringing. It began under the title of the Society of High School Bell Ringers. It is now the Lincoln Society of Bell Ringers. Lincoln is a city about in the centre of the United States and there are some 15 members of the group—students at the High School and College.

Facilities have naturally been limited and progress slow, but there is marked interest among the members. Their president, Mr. D. Putney, has written a small monograph on the subject, which is intended to explain change ringing to the local people, who, for the most part, have never heard of change ringing, or heard changes rung, or seen bells hung for scientific ringing.

The society is now in touch with Mr. W. H. J. Hooton, librarian of the Central Council, and a number of the Council's and other books of instruction have recently been added to the society's library, of which the custodian is Mr. George Werner, of 3310, Dudley Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Among the books which the library possesses is 'Change Ringing' by Troyte and 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' by Wigram, which they were able to copy photographically when one of the members unearthed them in a college library on the east coast. Such patience and industry shows the extraordinary keenness of the students.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL NOMINATION MEETING.

The Leeds Society's annual nomination meeting was held at Armley on Saturday, when members were present from Bradford, Bramley, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Leeds, Pudsey, Rothwell, Selby, Sherburn, Shipley, Tadcaster and the local company.

At the business meeting Mr. W. H. Senior, as chairman, asked all to stand in memory of the late Mr. Charles Pratt, of Calverley, who, as stated in last week's 'Ringing World,' was a foundation member of the society.

The Chairman gave a welcome to the Rev. H. Gordon Hutchison, the new Vicar of Christ Church, Armley.

A vote of thanks for the use of the bells was proposed by the Rev. Canon Marshall, who said it was very good of the new Vicar of Christ Church to give a personal welcome to the visiting ringers. It was a gesture we hoped for, but did not always receive. This was seconded by Mr. A. Armitage. A vote of thanks to the local company for making the arrangements and to the ladies for waiting at the tea tables was proposed by Mr. W. Barton.—Mr. J. W. Benten acknowledged the vote and said the Armley ringers were pleased to see so many visitors present, and if the visitors had enjoyed themselves the local company were amply repaid.

The next meeting will be at Burley on April 27th, 1940, when it is hoped the Vicar of Leeds will unveil the Jubilee Peal Board.

Nominations were then received for all officials for the coming year.

## DEATH OF A FORMER LEISTON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Keeble, which took place rather suddenly on March 31st at Forest Row. The deceased, who was 67 years old, was one of the band at Leiston which some years ago made ringing history by scoring peals in many Surprise Major methods. He was a regular service ringer and had taken part in about 100 peals. The funeral service was at St. Margaret's, Leiston, on April 4th, and the interment at the local cemetery. The local band was represented by Mr. J. G. Rumsey.

## ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

On the motion of Mr. W. J. Prescott, the meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. William Cave, who rang his first peal for the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.

Mr. Pugsley, the only member present who had been at the inaugural meetings in 1890, was congratulated by the meeting on the proposition of Mr. Stacey.—Mr. Pugsley, in reply, emphasised the need for even closer co-operation with the clergy.

It was decided to send the greetings of the meeting to some of the original members still living, but not present that day. They were Messrs. Brown, J. Maddock and J. Burge. Many members later conveyed their greetings in person to Mr. Maddock, who has so far recovered from his long illness that he was able to take a pair of handbells in a touch of Grandsire Triples. It was to men like these, and to the Rev. C. W. Griffith, that the association survived the very difficult days following its inception.

An omnibus vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. D. G. Taylor to the various incumbents and to the local ringers, in particular Messrs. J. Hunt (who made the catering arrangements with the host, Mr. Stevens), P. Merson and Hayward.

During the day, the bells of St. Mary's, St. James' and St. George's, Taunton, as well as those of Trull and Staplegrave, were rung in various methods.

## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

The city of Norwich, famous for its bells and ringers, heard again on Easter Monday the sound of four of its peals, when the customary annual meeting was held. In spite of the many difficulties of these times, the attendance was good, and the enthusiasm with which the subscriptions were paid in was extremely gratifying!

The bells of St. Peter Mancroft, St. Giles', St. Miles' and All Saints' were available from 10 o'clock, and a large variety of touches was rung from Doubles to spliced Maximus.

Divine service was held at noon at St. Peter Mancroft, conducted by the association's president, the Rev. Hugh McMullan, Vicar of St. Peter's. The Rev. Alfred G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of Norwich Cathedral and a well-known ringer, gave the address, basing his discourse on St. John ix., 5. Mr. Thurlow said: 'The circumstances under which we meet this year force us to think more deeply than usual about what it is for which we stand as ringers. Churches, alone, are accustomed to have bells which loudly sound everywhere because they, alone, are meant to concern everywhere. We can only justify our position as ringers if we sincerely believe in our Lord's claim that He is the light, the only light which can truly lighten this otherwise dark and hopeless world. Similarly we can only justify the war against totalitarianism if, while guarding Christianity against destruction from without, we strive with all the strength of which we every one of us are capable to protect Christianity from indifference and opposition from within our land.'

Luncheon was served at the Samson and Hercules House. The business meeting followed, the chair being taken by the president, supported by Messrs. Arthur L. Coleman (vice-president), F. Nolan Golden (general secretary and treasurer), William L. Duffield, William J. Lee and John A. Godfrey (branch chairmen), Albert G. Harrison, J. G. William Harwood and Henry Tooke (branch secretaries), the Rev. A. St. John Heard and Messrs. George Bailey, R. William Barber, Eric G. Bennett, Robert W. Cooke, William C. Duffield and Leslie W. Houghton (committee), and members from Acle, Attleborough, Barsham, Beccles, Bergh Apton, Fakenham, Fornsett, Gressenhall, Halvergate, Hethersett, Kirby-le-Soken, Lowestoft, Mulbarton, Reedham, Rockland, Shelfanger, Snettisham, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Swaffham, Winfarthing, Wroxham, Wymondham and Yarmouth. Mr. S. Breeze (Guildford) and Mr. D. Coombes (Prittlewell) were also present.

The report and balance sheet were adopted. The report stated that 13 branch and two general meetings had been held, and the attendances had been satisfactory. Forty-eight new members had been elected, but the total of annual subscribers showed only an increase of 14. Fourteen members were lost by death. Restorations had been carried out at Hethersett, Paston and Somerleyton. There was a balance in hand of £4 19s. 11d., while the reserve fund totalled £148 8s. 9d. Forty-three peals only were rung, but these included eight fresh performances.

The officers of the association were all re-elected and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow was made a vice-president. The Rev. Hugh McMullan, in acknowledging his re-election as president, conveyed to the members on behalf of his brother clergy their very sincere thanks for carrying on as best they could with the ringing for services. The ringing of the bells helped to keep up the morale of the people, and so ringers were performing an even greater service than they did in normal times. Mr. Golden expressed his appreciation of the support he had been given as general secretary and treasurer and hoped that the members would continue to rally round.

Four new members were elected—Miss N. Curson (Hethersett) and Messrs. R. C. Button (Watton) and F. and H. Smithson (Buxton).

It was decided to replenish the stocks of badges and certificates as soon as possible. Mr. W. C. Duffield urged members to enlist the support of their churchwardens and clergy, since the exemption of members of the Forces from paying subscriptions would affect the finances of the association considerably.

Mr. W. L. Duffield expressed the gratitude of the members to the president for his work and influence, and to the incumbents of the city churches for allowing them to have the use of the bells that day. Reference was also made to the organist, who gave up part of his holiday to assist in the service, and Mr. Golden voiced the thanks of the members to Mr. Thurlow for his stirring address and for his tact in refraining from talking about the history of bells and the other appurtenances of the traditional ringers' address.

### SAXMUNDHAM RINGER'S BEREAVEMENT.

Sympathy will be extended to Mr. F. W. Watling, one of the Saxmundham ringers, in the death of his wife, Mrs. Rosanna Jane Watling, at the age of 67 years, after a long illness. Mrs. Watling's father, Mr. George Fastough, was parish clerk and a ringer at Wenboston, Suffolk, for many years.

### HOME ON LEAVE.

At St. Peter's Church, Pentre Rhondda, on March 16th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Lovett 1, W. Page 2, J. Evans (first in the method) 3, T. Page (conductor) 4, G. Page 5, H. Davies 6, F. Lasbury 7, H. Crabb 8. Arranged for G. Page, who was home on leave from France.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch, Rusholme, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secretary.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Bishops Cannings (8 bells) on Saturday, April 13th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5. Meeting to follow.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Broughton Parish Church, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Meeting to follow. Hearty invitation to North Staffs friends and Derby District members. Subscriptions now due, and reports ready.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cullompton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (10) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bottesford on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Please make own arrangements for tea. Come and try this fine peal.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**CORNWOOD, DEVON.** — At 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th, the Lord Bishop of Exeter will re-dedicate the ring of six bells restored by John Taylor & Co.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Harpenden on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Forget your worries and come to Uckfield on Saturday, April 13th. A warm welcome and a cheerful company await you. Owing to war, etc., tea will be 1s. 6d.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at West Hallam, on April 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. Come and have a ring at this handy peal. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Sandhurst, Saturday, April 13th, 5.30 p.m.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be at St. James', West Derby, on Sat., April 13th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 5. All ringers cordially invited.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Roydon on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. until dusk. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Whitworth Parish Church on Saturday, April 13th. Bells, available from 3 p.m., are well worth a visit. All ringers and friends cordially invited. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A practice will be held at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Saturday, April 13th, at 3.30 p.m. As ringing is restricted to one hour, ringers are urged to turn up promptly.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The following Saturday afternoon practices have been arranged: April 13th, Danbury; April 20th, Widford; April 27th, Boreham; and May 4th, Broomfield; all commencing at 3 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Overton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Overton Rectory. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by April 17th the Rev. E. G. Wells.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 20th. Bells at Cathedral Church 3 to 4.15 p.m., S. Nicolas' afternoon and evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe (next to S. Nicolas'). Numbers for tea must be sent to me by April 17th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Grimsby District.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at St. James', Grimsby, on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. and after business meeting till 9 o'clock. Service 4.15. Meat tea, at 1s. 9d. per head, 5 p.m., in the Church House, Bull Ring. Please be sure and notify me of the numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, April 17th. Subscriptions are now due. We should be very glad to welcome any ringers in H.M. Forces who are in the district.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**CORNWORTHY, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.**—The ring of six bells, restored by John Taylor and Co., will be re-opened on Saturday, April 20th, at 3 p.m.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Aldenham, open for ringing from 3.30 till 7.30, Saturday, April 20th. Tea at Village Club 5.30. Business meeting after. Nearest station, Bushey or Radlett. Excellent bus service to church. Those requiring tea must let me know by Thursday morning, as arrangements have to be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Horley on Saturday, April 20th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Six Bells 5.30. It is essential that those requiring tea should send their names to Mr. A. Bull, Jesmond, Queen's Road, Horley, by Tuesday, April 16th.—A. T. Shelton, Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horbling on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (6) available from 2-8 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Plough Inn, P.R.H.A. Will those requiring tea please send postcard by Wednesday previous?—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Sleaford, Lincs.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting for practice will be held at Chew Magna on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—A ringing meeting will be held at Tibshelf on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea in Church Hall at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, April 17th?—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The annual meeting is to be held at Nuneaton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Committee meeting in the vestry at 4 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting in the Parish Hall. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. Visitors welcomed.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—The next meeting is at Kegworth on Saturday, April 20 (not 13th as arranged). Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 1s. each for those who notify Mr. F. J. Sutton, Market Place, Kegworth, Derby, by Thursday, April 18th, at the latest. Reports are now ready.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—North Norfolk Branch.—The next meeting will be at East Dereham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea in Church House at 5 p.m. at 1s. 2d. each. Will all members attending tea please let me know by Wednesday, April 17th?—H. Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

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**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh, on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. until dark. Short service at 4.30 p.m., which all are invited to attend. Tea (at 1s. per head) will be served in the Schoolroom at 5 p.m., and all those requiring same must notify Mr. F. C. Wilson, 131, Wheatcroft Road, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, by Wednesday, April 17th. This is important owing to catering difficulties. Business meeting afterwards.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Long Sutton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. All those intending to be present must let me know by April 15th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Witney on Saturday, April 20th, 3 p.m., at the church. All those requiring tea please let me know by TUESDAY, April 16th, certain.—W. Evetts, Hon. Sec., Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Fareham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Rosemary Cafe at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Burnett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Newcombe Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—Next meeting on Saturday, April 20th, in Westminster. Ringing at St. Gabriel's, Warwick Square, 3.30 to 4.30, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, 6.15 to 8.15 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Dis. Sec. pro. tem.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Byfield (6 bells) on Saturday, April 20th. Usual arrangements. Kindly notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Thrapston Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Woodford (6 bells) on April 20th. Usual arrangements. Please send names for tea by April 15th.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock, near Kettering.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Corringham (6 bells) on Saturday, April 20th. Tea (1/3) only for those who notify me by Wednesday previous.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Dis. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bedford District.—Wootton, Saturday, April 20th. Bells (a fine peal of six) ready from 3 p.m. No tea arrangements are being made. We shall be pleased to see you.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Please notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Wednesday, April 24th. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary Cray on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea, by kind invitation of the local ringers, to members notifying me by Saturday, April 20th, if possible, certainly not later than Monday, 22nd. Please support the efforts made on your behalf. St. Mary Cray expects large numbers!—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody cordially invited. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.**—Cathedral (12 bells) practices for the summer months have now commenced. Every Tuesday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—John Anderson, Hon. Sec.

**ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON.**—We are now practising on Monday nights from 7.45 to 9.15 p.m. All ringers who can come along will be welcome—H. E. Mills.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—Mr. F. White has removed from Westfield, Cranbrook, to 142, Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The home address of Mr. G. V. Murphy (at present serving with the Royal Artillery) is now 219, Court Road, Motttingham, S.E.9. All communications should be sent to this address.

# DEATH.

**BARTRAM.**—On April 1st, suddenly, at 33, Rosebery Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Arthur H. Bartram passed away peacefully, aged 35 years.

# EASTER BELLS.

At Burnham, Bucks, for morning service by the local band, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): J. D. Taylor 1, G. W. Limmer 2, M. A. Blamey (R.A.F., Cranwell) 3, Miss S. M. S. F. Fleming 4, P. A. Blamey 5, C. A. Burgess 6, O'Neill 7, G. Gilbert (conductor) 8.

At Usk, Mon., on Easter Eve, March 23rd, for preparation service, 700 changes of Grandsire Triples, and on Easter Day for early Holy Communion, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, from Holt's Original: G. Thomas 1, L. Jones 2, A. Hawkins 3, G. Hawkins 4, S. Kear 5, D. G. Clift (conductor) 6, N. Sweet 7, E. W. Luff 8.

At Christ Church, West Didsbury, Lancs, on Easter Sunday, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Mellor 1, H. Longden 2, H. Hollingworth 3, A. Frost (conductor) 4, B. Walshaw 5, A. Ford 6, H. Jones 7, R. Longden 8. Ringing at Christ Church now takes place on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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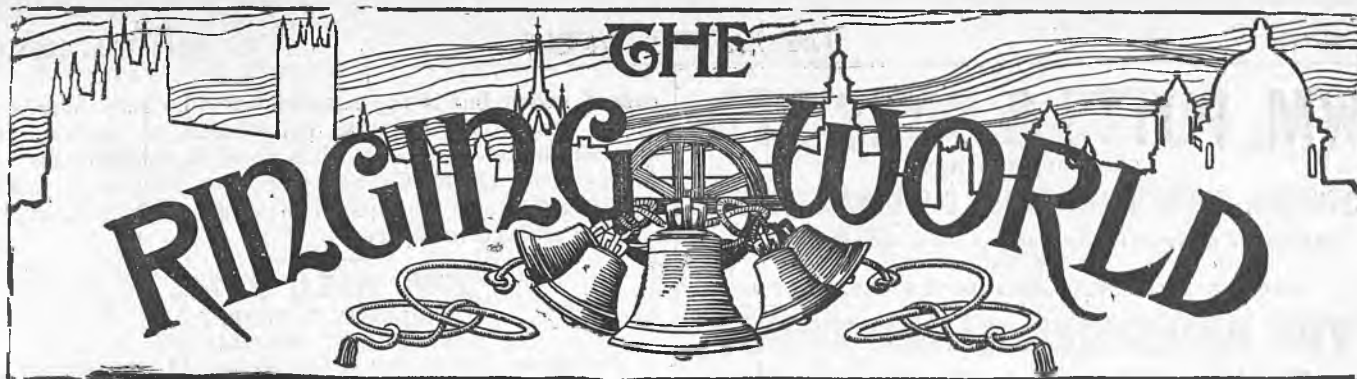
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FRIDAY, APRIL 19th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

In our last issue we referred to the falling-off of membership experienced by some of the leading associations, as revealed by the reports just published. This reduction, as we pointed out, is somewhat disturbing, and cannot be dismissed as of no importance, even in present conditions, but by contrast the same reports have revealed most encouraging indications of the determination of the associations to carry on their work which, at the outbreak of war, seemed likely to collapse entirely. On every hand towers have given evidence of a supreme effort to 'carry on,' and this is reflected in the endeavours of the associations, not only to keep their organisation alive, but to maintain their activities at a level which a few months ago seemed out of the question. Some may find themselves compelled to carry on with a reduced income, but while there is the will to continue, ways and means will not be found lacking.

The Central Council meeting, as our readers already know, is not to be held this year, but note will probably be made of the resolution of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, urging the Council to continue its full activity during the war. It is, of course, too late to alter the decision of the Standing Committee to abandon this year's meeting, and the future is too uncertain to decide anything about next year. The Gloucester and Bristol Association's resolution does not, of course, complain of the decision with regard to the Cardiff meeting, but it must be admitted that in face of local feeling in the matter it would not have been easy to go on with the arrangements. Everything, naturally, depends on the course of the war, but if the associations express the view, as the Gloucester and Bristol Association has done, that the Council's full activities should be continued, the Standing Committee, which has to decide the question, short of a vote of all the members, will have to give due weight to the opinions expressed. That the Council will watch the interests of church bellringing, whatever may happen in regard to its annual meeting, is, we think, beyond question. Its committees will continue to function, and the officers of the Council will continue to watch as vigilantly as ever for any development which may adversely affect ringing in the present or future.

The Gloucester and Bristol Association's resolution was not untimely, however. It is well that the Council should know what the affiliated societies think on this matter, and it is helpful to have the assurance at such a time that continued activity by the Council will be welcomed, and not be the subject of adverse criticism. It is idle to speculate upon what may happen before another year has

(Continued on page 182.)

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passed away, but if the associations who send members to the Council will intimate their wishes, as the Gloucester and Bristol Association has done, it would be an encouragement to the Council to sustain the work, which might easily, and perhaps with some justification, otherwise be allowed to lapse.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.  
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;  
Tenor 18½ cwt. in E flat.

WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. Treble	†GEORGE W. CECIL ... .. 6
MISS GWENDOLINE KIPPIN ... 2	FRANK E. DARBY ... .. 7
*GEORGE W. MASSEY... .. 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 8
†ARTHUR W. JONES ... .. 4	DANIEL COOPER... .. 9
MRS. CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 5	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. Tenor

Composed by FREDK. DENCH. Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.  
\* First peal and first attempt. † First peal of Cambridge Royal.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BARWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;  
WASHBROOK'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.  
Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE A. NEWTON... .. Treble	WILLIAM NEWTON ... .. 5
PTE. T. C. BELTON ... .. 2	ALFRED BALLARD ... .. 6
*GEORGE H. PEERS, JUN. ... 3	FRANK K. MEASURES... .. 7
E. HARRY STONELEY ... .. 4	*HARRY ENGLAND ... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES.  
\* First peal. Specially arranged for Pte. T. C. Belton, who was home on leave. A birthday compliment to Mrs. Ballard, of Stoncy Stanton.

READING, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 10, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES:

ALBAN R. POYNIZ ... .. Treble	EDGAR HUMFREY ... .. 5
RICHARD T. HIBBERT ... .. 2	PERCY J. DYKE ... .. 6
HARRY W. SMITH ... .. 3	ALBERT DISBRENS ... .. 7
DONALD W. NASH ... .. 4	WILLIAM HIBBERT ... .. Tenor

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by W. HIBBERT.

MORTIMER, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

*MISS JOYCE O. COTTRELL Treble	RONALD F. KINGHAM ... 5
WILLIAM HIBBERT ... .. 2	DONALD W. NASH ... .. 6
RICHARD T. HIBBERT ... .. 3	†ERNEST J. GOWER ... .. 7
CHARLES W. MUNDAY ... .. 4	PERCY J. DYKE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by R. T. HIBBERT.  
\* First peal of Triples. † First peal of Triples away from tenor.

EWHURST, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.  
Tenor 11 cwt.

JAMES R. MACKMAN ... .. Treble	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... .. 5
WILLIAM T. BRESON ... .. 2	GEORGE L. GROVER ... .. 6
ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 3	C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. 7
WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... .. 4	WILLIAM DENYER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.  
First peal on the bells since being augmented to eight in July, 1938.



**BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.  
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

*On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-THE-MARTYR,**

**A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM T. FORRESTER ... Treble	HARRY TURNER ... .. 5
ERNEST W. FURBANK ... .. 2	ROBERT C. HEAZEL ... .. 6
ERIC B. HARTLEY ... .. 3	FRANK B. LUFKIN ... .. 7
REGINALD W. DARVILL ... .. 4	EDWARD D. SMITH ... .. Tenor

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS. Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

First peal of New Cambridge by all the band.

**POOLSTOCK, WIGAN, LANCASHIRE.**

**THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

*On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,**

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;**

Tenor 25 cwt.

*ALBERT PARKER... .. Treble	JAMES W. GROUNDS ... .. 5
*GEORGE B. JACKSON ... .. 2	SIDNEY FORSHAW ... .. 6
ALAN CARPENTRY ... .. 3	*WILLIAM O. FARRIMOND ... .. 7
JOHN BOOTH ... .. 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD

\* First peal in the method.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

**HALSALL, LANCs.**

*On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 each of Woodbine Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Oxford Bob, and two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

*E. HAYTON ... .. Treble	W. MORE ... .. 4
T. PRESCOTT ... .. 2	*W. STAFFORTH ... .. 5
†H. SERGEANT, JUN. ... .. 3	A. MAWDSLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. MAWDSLEY.

\* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' Rung for the wedding of Second-Lieut. C. E. L. Mother, eldest son of the Rector of Halsall.

**SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, NOTTS.**

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

*On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 of Double Court, and two each of Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 15 cwt.

*JACK GINEVER ... .. Treble	RALPH PARTRIDGE ... .. 4
JACK BLEBY... .. 2	FRANK BRADLEY ... .. 5
COLIN EVANS ... .. 3	CLIFFORD BLEBY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by CLIFFORD BLEBY.

\* First peal and first attempt. Rung as a farewell to two ringers, W. Stocks and P. Eastland, who have joined H.M. Forces, and to the ringer of the third, who is joining the Navy.

**CORFE MULLEN, WIMBORNE, DORSET.**

**THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HUBERT,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being three 720's of Kent Treble Bob and four 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

CPL. P. H. TOCOK, R.T.C. Treble	LOUIS J. LOCKYER ... .. 4
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... .. 5
WILLIAM STORY ... .. 3	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. W. Story, J.P., of Newcastle.

**DISLEY, CHESHIRE.**

**THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Saturday, April 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**

**A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven extents in eleven methods: (1) Willesden and College Bob IV. Delight; (2) Newdigate and Old Oxford Delight; (3) Wragby and St. Albans Delight; (4) Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob; (5) London Scholars' Pleasure and Oxford Treble Bob; (6) Capel and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Sandal and Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt.

EDNA M. P. FETHERS ... Treble	JAMES A. MILNER ... .. 4
*J. ANTHONY BEAUMONT ... 2	*CHARLES W. LAWTON ... 5
REV. FRANK BONNER ... 3	JOHN WORTH ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

\* First peal in 11 methods. Rung for the wedding of Robert Ian Bruce Walker-Patchett and Miss Pamela Crick, which took place at Disley, Cheshire, on the same day.

**FULMER, BUCKS.**

**THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Wednesday, April 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Norwich, Surfleet, Beverley, Cambridge and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

WILLIAM L. GUTTERIDGE Treble	REV. R. F. R. ROUTH ... 4
*DOROTHY R. FLETCHER ... 2	*GEORGE GUTTERIDGE ... 5
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ... 3	HARRY WINGROVE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

\* 100th peal.

**WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.**

**THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

*On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,*

**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,**

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 of Oxford Treble Bob and two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

ERNEST TREAGUS... .. Treble	ALBERT E. LAKER ... .. 4
FREDERICK ROBERTS ... .. 2	CRCIL LONGHURST ... .. 5
EDGAR RAPLEY ... .. 3	ALBERT J. STEELE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. STEELE.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

**FELSTEAD, ESSEX.**

**THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

*On Thursday, April 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,*

**AT SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,**

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*SIDNEY BROWN ... .. 1-2	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... .. 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL ... .. 3-4	ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... .. 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* Elected a member of the association before starting.

**NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.**

**MEETING AT NORTON-LE-MOORS.**

On Saturday, April 6th, a meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Norton-le-Moors, when members were present from nine towers.

Tea was served in the Church Hall, and the Rector welcomed the visitors, saying that it was good to see the ringers sticking to their towers, and though many of them would be called to serve in the Forces, he hoped they would be able to carry on. They should remember that the work at the west end of the church was just as important as that at the east end.

The ringing was of a high standard, and the methods rung included Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent, and Wells, London and York Surprise.

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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The visitor to London who arrives at Waterloo is almost certain to notice, as he turns down the slope out of the railway station, a church steeple that rises above the roofs of Waterloo Road. Probably he will not give it a second thought, for there is nothing remarkable or beautiful about it, but for the ringer it has a special interest as the home of a ring of bells which has played a considerable part in the history of London peal ringing.

After the great war with France, which ended with the defeat of the Emperor Napoleon in 1815, Parliament voted a considerable sum of money for the erection of new churches in various places, and about eight of these churches were built in new districts which had grown up round London.

In providing this money, Parliament was following the precedent set in Queen Anne's reign after the great victories won by the Duke of Marlborough; but whereas in the earlier time there were several gifted architects who designed buildings of outstanding merit, when the later group was erected the English classic style of church architecture was dying, and the churches built were poor and commonplace.

St. John's was no exception. It has a heavy portico, and a tower and spire above it, which do not make a happy combination.

The cause was not lack of money. The church and steeple were well built, and a ring of eight bells with a tenor of 18 cwt. was supplied by the Whitechapel Foundry. The style of the building necessitated a rather small tower, and the eight bells had to be hung in two tiers. The frame probably was put in the tower while it was being erected, and actually a third tier was included with pits for two more bells, though for some reason or other they were never hung.

A steeplekeeper's job in a tower like this is anything but an easy one, and there are two other South London towers—St. Peter's, Walworth, and St. John's, Horsleydown—where it is even worse.

St. John's was finished in 1823, the cost being over £18,000, which is equivalent to at least twice that amount to-day. The first peal on the bells was rung by the College Youths on October 24th, 1825, and was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, conducted by John Cooper, who at the time was the leading man in the society.

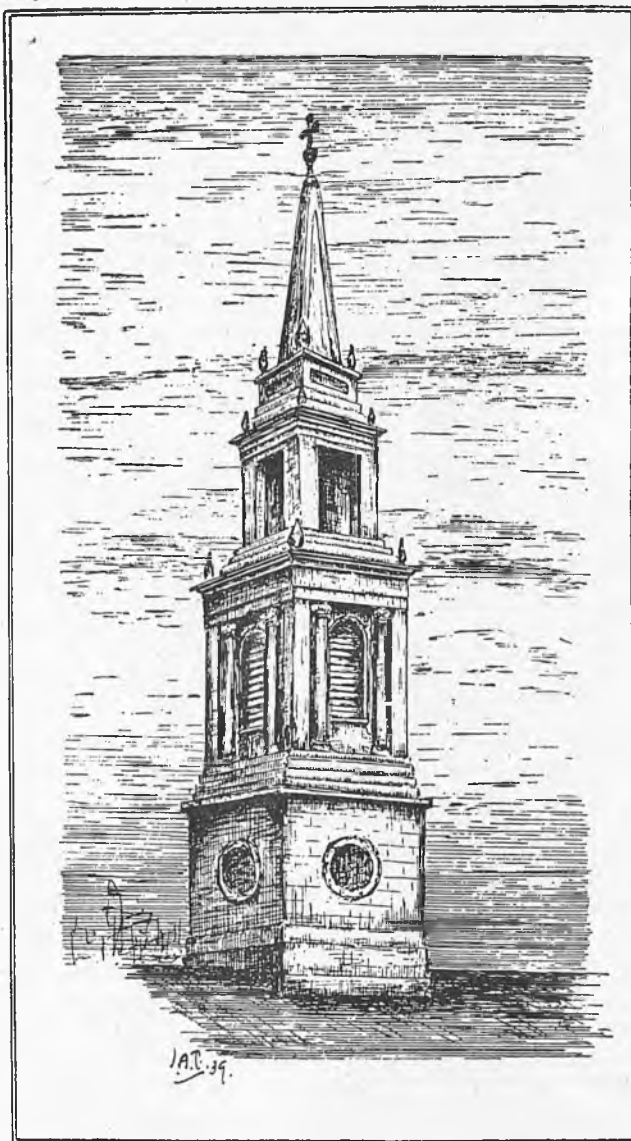
Ringing generally in London was then at a low ebb, and it was nearly two years before the next peal was rung. This was Grandsire Triples, by a mixed band who called themselves a 'Friendly Society.' The conductor was William Atherton, who was at the time calling peals of Grandsire with various hands. Thomas Tolladay rang the seventh.

The St. James' Society rang peals, also of Grandsire Triples, in 1856 and 1868, and in the latter year the Waterloo Society was founded. It seems to have been started by a number of men who were dissatisfied with the apathy which had overtaken most of the older companies.

The new society rang their first peal, Holt's ten-part, on June 12th, 1869. William Baron was the conductor, and John Cox, George Newson and George Stockham were in the band.

The Waterloo Society lasted for about thirty years and

filled a useful place in the London Exercise. A regular practice meeting was held at St. John's, and a number of peals of Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob were rung there and at other towers, including Holt's Original, non-conducted, on June 4th, 1898. The headquarters were eventually moved to St. John's, Vassall Road, Kennington, and shortly afterwards the whole thing faded away.



ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD.

It was in the years between 1900 and the outbreak of the Great War that St. John's, Waterloo Road, figured most as a peal-ringing tower. The band was an informal one, under the leadership of Mr. James E. Davis and Mr. Frank Bennett. A large number of peals were scored in the standard Surprise methods, and also peals of New Cumberland Surprise, Brighton Surprise, Waterloo Reverse Bob, Forward and Duffield. That was in the days before peal ringing in new methods was a fairly common thing.

On the Wednesday after the war started the ringers met as usual, but a message came from the Vicar, saying

(Continued on next page.)

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING AT DUDLEY.**

The annual meeting of the Dudley Guild was held at Dudley on April 6th. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Ven. Dr. Sheppard, Archdeacon of Dudley, who gave a very interesting address. Owing to the meeting being postponed on account of the death of the secretary, there was not the usual number of ringers present. At the meeting after the tea the president (Dr. Sheppard) was in the chair, and the election of officers took place. All the vice-presidents were re-elected, with the exception of Dr. Blaker, who has left the district, and Mr. Temple was elected in his place. The Ringing Master, Mr. W. Farley, was re-elected, with Mr. J. Goodman as secretary and Mr. H. Shuck as hon. treasurer.

The Chairman spoke of the very thorough way in which the late Mr. Sheppard had done his work, and asked the members to stand in silence for a few moments.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Vicar for his beautiful address, for presiding at the meeting, and for the use of the School Hall; to the organist for the musical part of the service; to the ladies who looked after the tea; and to all the officers for their work during the past year. The next quarterly meeting will be held at Enville, subject to the usual arrangements.

**EASTER DATE TOUCH.**

On Easter Sunday at Rettendon, Essex, for morning service, a date touch of Minor and Doubles (1,940 changes) was rung in 1 hour and 2 minutes in the following methods: 720 of Plain Bob, 504 Oxford Treble Bob, 288 Kent Treble Bob, 288 Woodbine Treble Bob and 140 of Grandsire Doubles: Frank C. May 1, Harry Jay 2, Gerald Frost 3, Roy Wheston 4, Charles Jay 5, Frank S. Jay 6. Arranged and conducted by Frank C. May.

**ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD.**

(Continued from previous page.)

that he would rather they did not ring until peace came again. So the bells were left up for four years, and when they were pulled off once more they were half full of dirty water.

Two or three more peals were rung on them, and then the tenor gudgeon broke. That meant silence for several years, but Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have since rehung them, and they are now in first-class ringing order.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.****AND THE NEW SURPRISE MAJOR BOOK.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am afraid that I do not know what 'being personal' means. I think that it must be a stand-by for the man who has a weak case, and knows it. I do know that I have never had the impudence to back argument by saying that Mr. Trollope is 'impertinent'; nor have I had the effrontery to imply that he is 'low down.' These are the prerogative of a writer who cannot answer specific points of criticism.

I do wonder what the writer of the original article will do when he reads that I have criticised on 'guesswork.' Will he explain why he bracketed the new book with his article, when (as Mr. Trollope would imply) the essential explanations due to your readers are not there?

Whether a Treble Bob method is false or not does not depend 'solely' on the reasons quoted by Mr. Trollope in his second paragraph, but I agree with Mr. Trollope as to the 'long run'—an understatement I should call it a marathon!

Contradicting me in 1935, Mr. Trollope said that he had never recommended 'old style' proof to anyone (although the book was already written). Well, here you are offered a system where you write out the plain course by transposition, instead of writing it out as they did when the 'Clavis' was printed. If this is not what the article said, I cannot read! And if it is 'new style' enough for Mr. Trollope, I regret that Council publications cannot be designed to lead those 'ringers of average intelligence' to the shorter and less boring paths, especially the younger ones, in these modern days of counter-attractions.

I am afraid that my grievance does lie where Mr. Trollope puts it. But I believe that our work is an advancement, and, as Mr. Trollope says, it has not been sufficiently appreciated. More, it has never been examined by those whose responsibility should be to obtain, for the Exercise, only the best, since the Exercise is paying the piper.

Let me repeat what Mr. Trollope said in his letter: 'The system does fulfil . . . and, I am sure, better than any other can.' The emphasis is mine, and the operative words are 'I am sure.' That is all that matters—Mr. Trollope is sure!

G. L. JOYCE.

Hilltop, Hornchurch.

WOOLWICH.—On April 6th, at the Church of St. Mary, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): Miss L. H. Aldridge 1, J. E. Lyddiard 2, R. Johnson 3, Jim Hurrell 4, C. Mouncher 5, F. E. Fogden 6, B. W. Aldridge (conductor) 7, F. Hurrell 8. Rung for the induction of the Rev. C. K. N. Bardsley as Rector of Woolwich.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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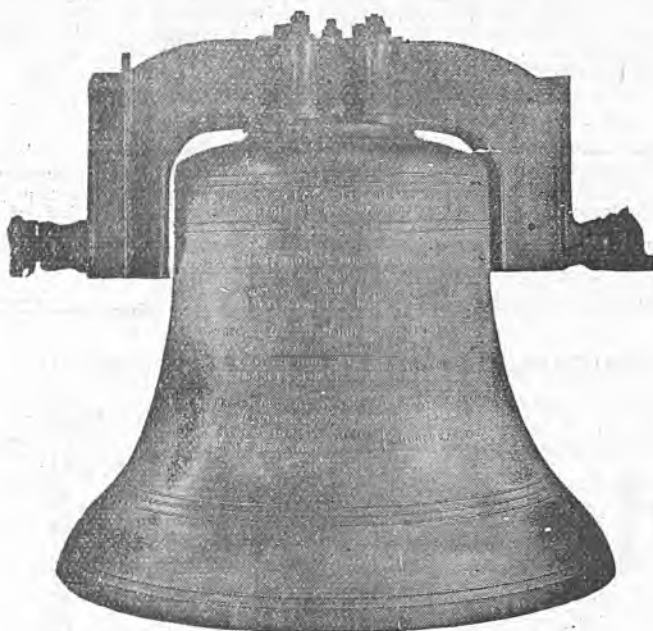
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**BELL ROPES MUFFLES; &c.**

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Last Saturday, a peal of Cambridge Major was arranged as a birthday compliment to the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, but after two parts had been rung the clapper of the 7th fell out. A 720 of Cambridge Minor was then rung on 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

On April 21st, 1888, 10,304 changes of Bob Major were rung at St. Margaret's, Leiston, by a band of bachelors, whose average age was 21 years. James Motts conducted from the treble, his brother William rang the fifth and Mr. Fred Tillet rang the tenor. Three of the band, Messrs. Tillet, H. Button, and R. W. Stannard, of Barking, are still alive.

Mr. William Hewett writes that he hardly agrees with our remark that Shipway's Superlative Royal is 'poor stuff.' Some five or six years ago the St. Margaret's, Westminster, band rang it—some touches and a 1,440—and would have rung a peal if the bells had been in good enough order. 'Though the music is different to coursing methods,' says Mr. Hewett, 'it has some good positions of the back bells at times, which we don't hear often.'

We regret to learn that on April 8th a terrible accident happened to Mr. Frank Barrowclough, one of the St. Mark's, Worsley, ringers. He fell from an overhead crane and sustained severe injuries to shoulder and head; both his arms and his thigh were broken, and one arm has had to be amputated. He is now in the Salford Royal Hospital and his many friends are hoping for the best.

## THE LATE SAMUEL SLATER.

BOOKS PRESENTED TO IPSWICH LIBRARY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am writing to you to let you know that I have sent to the Central Library, Northgate Street, Ipswich, the following books and papers compiled and collected by Samuel Slater: 'Clavis Campanologia' in 'Bell News' reprint, 1895; 'History of Change Ringing in Suffolk,' two volumes; copy of Cumberlands' name book; copy of Peal Book, Romford, Essex; collection of views of Suffolk churches, woodcuts and engravings; an original Shipway 'Art of Ringing'; Sottanstell's 'Art of Ringing'; list of peals rung by Ely Diocesan Association, 1895-1904; Norwich Diocesan Association reports, 1877 to 1930 inclusive; an account of the Union Scholars, by Robert Tuke; 'Bells and Belfries,' by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe; copy of Oxford Diocesan Guild Peal Book, first 520 peals, 1881 to 1894; and Snowdon's 'Grandsire.'

I am sending you these particulars for publication so as to let ringers know what has become of Samuel Slater's life work.

THEODORE E. SLATER.

## BEGINNING YOUNG.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In connection with the paragraphs in recent issues of 'The Ringing World,' it may be of interest to your readers to know that my daughter, Stella Wickens, aged 8 years and 9 months, can ring Grandsire Doubles on 1-2 in hand while I ring 3-4-5 after only a month's practice.

We have to borrow our handbells from Twineham Church, so if any of your readers have a set they want to give away or sell cheap they might think of us.

CHARLES H. WICKENS.

2, North View, Blackstone, Henfield, Sussex.

## THE CURFEW AT PENSURST, KENT.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Penshurst (still very old-fashioned) hangs on to some old customs. One of them is the ringing of the curfew from Michaelmas to Lady Day. On the last night of this term 1939-1940, owing to the early introduction of summer time and the fact that the west door opens into the belfry, the curfew was rung without the aid of artificial light.

G. EDWARDS.

## AN INVITATION FROM AMESBURY.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—As I think there must be some ringers serving with His Majesty's Forces at Larkhill and Bulford, I would like to say that they will be welcomed at Amesbury Parish Church, which is within easy walking distance of both these camps. There is a good ring of six—tenor 22 cwt. Please communicate with me at 5, Belmont Villas, Durrington, or just come at 10.15 a.m. or 5.15 p.m.

J. H. TELFORD.

## CAMBRIDGE MAXIMUS AT SOUTHWARK.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am obliged to Mr. Roberts for correcting me about the first peal of Cambridge Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The peal which I thought was the first in the method on the bells was really the first of Cambridge Maximus at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.



## THE LATE MR. W. D. SMITH.

### FUNERAL AT ILFORD.

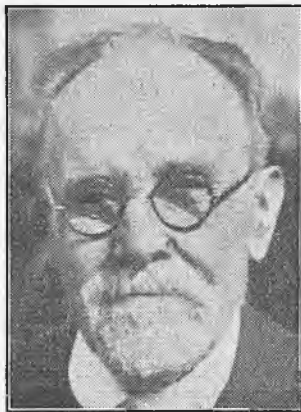
Representative members of the Ancient Society of College Youths attended the funeral of the late Mr. William D. Smith, whose death at the age of 82 years we recorded in our last issue. Mr. Smith was three times Master of the society, which he joined in the year 1878. He was one of the oldest members of the society and one of the first members of the Central Council.

The death of Mr. Smith terminates a long family connection with ringing, for he was the third generation to be associated with the art at St. John's, Hackney, and through his grandfather he formed a link with ringing over a hundred and fifty years ago.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, April 10th, at the City of London Cemetery, Little Ilford, where the deceased was laid to rest in the family grave. In addition to the family mourners, members of the College Youths present included the Master (Mr. Ernest G. Fenn), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), Mr. E. Alexander Young, Mr. Rowland Fenn, Mr. R. Stanard, Mr. Harry Hoskins, Mr. Herbert Langdon, Mr. T. H. Taffender and Mr. E. P. Duffield.

A course of Stedman Triples was rung over the grave by H. Langdon 1-2, T. H. Taffender 3-4, E. P. Duffield 5-6, and A. B. Peck 7-8.

Besides the flowers from the family and personal friends, wreaths were sent by the Central Council, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lewis, Mr. G. W. Fletcher and Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. James Parker and Mrs. Parker, Major J. H. B. Hesse, and Mr. W. S. B. Northover, of Bridport.



THE LATE MR. W. D. SMITH.

## WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

### SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT HURSLEY.

By kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. J. R. Husband, a quarterly meeting of the Winchester District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Hursley on Saturday, April 6th, when there was an excellent attendance, no less than 17 different towers being represented, and the bells were kept going in a variety of methods from 2.30 till 7 o'clock.

Although feeling far from well (he was only just recovering from an attack of influenza), the Vicar conducted the Guild service, and in his short and helpful address welcomed members to the church.

Tea was served in the Club Room, the catering arrangements being in the capable hands of Mrs. Hunt.

The business meeting followed, and in the absence of the district chairman (the Rev. N. C. Woods, from whom a letter of apology was read), it was presided over by Mr. George Williams (Master of the Guild), supported by the district secretary (Mr. W. G. Goodchild). The Chairman said how pleased he was to see such a good company, and extended a hearty welcome to all, particularly to those members of H.M. Forces, of whom several were present. Four new ringing members were elected, namely, H. Jones and W. Bark, Hursley; G. Arrowsmith, Wonston, and J. W. E. Dunn, King's Somborne.

Mr. Andrews, on behalf of all present, expressed the hope that the Vicar would soon recover his good health, and thanked him for taking the service and for use of the bells. Thanks were also accorded to the organist, Mr. Smith, and to Mrs. Hunt and her helpers for arranging tea.

## SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

### MEETING AT WILLENHALL.

A successful meeting was held at Willenhall on April 6th, when upwards of 40 members and friends assembled from Bradley, Brewood, Codsall, Cosleley, Coventry, Darlaston, Penn, Stafford, Tettenhall, Trysull, Walsall, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton.

The service was conducted by the Rev. R. N. Harper Holdcroft, curate-in-charge, and the Rev. A. E. Sargent delivered an excellent address, while the Rev. C. H. Barker, clerical secretary and treasurer, presided at the organ. A capital tea was laid in the Church Institute, at which the Rev. R. N. Harper Holdcroft presided, supported by the Revs. A. F. Sargent and C. H. Barker, etc. The Chairman expressed his pleasure at seeing such a good company, and gave them a hearty welcome. A vote of thanks was passed to the clergy for their part in the proceedings, to which they replied in happy vein; and to the ladies who served the tea, to which Mr. C. Wallater replied.

The annual meeting is arranged to take place at Lichfield on June 22nd.

A return to the tower for further ringing brought to an end a happy and successful meeting.

## CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### THE INFLUENCE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

A meeting of the Stockport Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday at Bowdon, when some 28 members and friends were present. The bells were set going early in the afternoon to various methods, and several good touches were rung before service in church at 4.30. This was conducted by the curate, the Rev. J. W. Hollingshead, who gave a very interesting address, speaking from the text, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.' He said that what the world was in need of, to-day more than at any other time, was that 'upward glance.' In these days when men are asking, 'Is this the end of our civilisation?' they turn to the Church for guidance, and what can the Church offer them? He thought it could be summed up in the phrase, 'In God have I put my trust I will not fear what man can do unto me.' Another question which is very often asked in these days is 'Why does God not stop the war?' That is, of course, a question which would not be asked if a little thought was taken for, if God gives man the blessing of free-will and man misuses His gift, then man must ask himself why does he allow himself to fight and to make wars? If the Gospel of Christ was carried out by all men war would be impossible, and it is our duty to work until all the world becomes Christian. In this respect he said that the bells could have a far wider effect than any preacher as they reached the ears of thousands whereas most preachers only had the opportunity to reach hundreds. He was very glad indeed that on the previous Wednesday evening, as he and his bride, who had been married a few hours before at Harrow, arrived at their new home in Bowdon, the very first sound which met their ears was the sound of a peal of welcome being rung on the bells of the Parish Church.

Tea followed in the nearby schools, when all enjoyed a most excellent meal which seemed to belie the fact that there really is a scheme of rationing in action. The business meeting was presided over by Mr. Charles Edwards in the absence of both the chairman and vice-chairman of the branch. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft, the Disley band, and Mr. D. Vincent. One new member, Mr. H. Nuttall, of Stockport St. Mary, was elected, and it was decided to send a letter of congratulation to the Rev. A. J. Humphreys, the Vicar of Norbury, on his appointment as Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral.

A resolution was unanimously passed instructing the secretary to write to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' congratulating him on having reached the 1,500th article, and expressing the hope that he will be able to contribute many more. Several members spoke of the profound influence which the leading articles have had on ringing and compared the very high standard of the present journal with its predecessor. As one of the speakers said, the most effective method of showing appreciation of the service given to ringing was by increasing the circulation and at the same time by so doing they would be helping themselves.

A resolution was passed to cover the eventuality of the secretary's being called up for military service, as this was quite likely to occur before the next meeting. Votes of thanks were extended to the curate for his services, the wardens, the ladies who looked after the tea, the local ringers for having everything in readiness, and to the organist, without whom the service would not have been so bright.

Further ringing then took place on the bells until about 8.15, when the bells were lowered in peal.

## THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT GLASGOW.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Association was held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Saturday, April 6th. It was the first meeting to be held since the outbreak of war, and, despite transport difficulties, 30 members attended. Ringing commenced at 2.30, and Grandsire and Stedman Caters were rung, with Triples for the beginners.

The service was conducted by the Provost of the Cathedral (the Very Rev. J. G. Murray), and a young member of the association (Mr. A. R. Smith) acted as organist.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold more meetings, the extra meetings to take the form of practices for more advanced methods and to give beginners the opportunity to practice with more experienced ringers.

After the meeting the bells were kept going till almost black-out time. Touches of Treble Bob Royal and Stedman Caters and a good course of Cambridge were rung.

## DEATH OF MR. H. JARMAN, OF OSWESTRY.

We regret to announce the passing of Mr. Harry Jarman, a member of Oswestry Parish Church tower for 50 years, who died on Easter Day, aged 71 years. He was a native of Welshpool, where he learned to ring, and on removing to Oswestry in 1890 he joined both the helfry and the choir. He took part in about 20 peals, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major, and was an efficient handbell tune player. At the funeral on March 28th, four members of the choir acted as bearers, while the bells were rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to a very lovable character.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION VISITS EPPING.

After a lapse of 14 years, the South-Western Division of the Essex Association paid a visit to the beautiful Church of St. John, Epping, for a district meeting, and about 70 members and friends, including visitors from Twyford, Berks, and Beckenham, Kent, took the opportunity of ringing on this excellent ring of eight bells.

Ringling began at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.45, when the company attended a service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. B. Mortlock, which included a rendering, by a member of St. John's choir, of the baritone solo, 'Lord God of Abraham,' from Mendelssohn's 'Elijah.' A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 17s. 4d.

After the service, tea, kindly provided by the members of St. John's, was served in the Church Hall and was much appreciated by all.

At the business meeting which followed, the Vicar occupied the chair, supported by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk. The Master said that since the last meeting two most loyal members of the district, Mr. A. Pye, of Romford, and Mr. H. James, of South Weald, had passed away. He also spoke of the loss sustained through the death of Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree, who, perhaps, had done more for the welfare of the association than any other ringer, and asked the company to stand for a moment in silence as a token of respect to these three members.

The Rev. C. B. Mortlock was elected an honorary member of the association, and 18 ringing members, including five of the local band, were also elected. The place of the next meeting was entrusted to the secretary, who announced that he hoped to arrange one at Stanford-le-Hope some time in June.

Mr. G. L. Joyce made a short statement with regard to the re-drafting of the rules, saying that the General Committee had met and approved a draft, which would be put to the annual meeting at Chelmsford on Whit Monday for the members' approval.

Mr. Chalk then stated he had received a message from Mr. G. B. Lucas, who unfortunately could not be with them owing to illness, wishing the meeting every success, and he asked Mr. C. T. Coles, the bearer of the message, to convey to Mr. Lucas the good wishes of all present, and hoped that very soon they would once again see him in their midst.

Mr. Coles moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the very warm welcome he had extended to all for conducting the service, which, in his opinion, was one of the most delightful he had attended at a ringers' meeting, and for his very interesting address, and to the organist and choir, with a special word of thanks to the soloist. He congratulated the ringers of St. John's on their enthusiasm and noted with great pleasure that the curate, the Rev. J. T. H. Hare, was one of the band elected to the association on that day, and thanked them for having everything in readiness. He ended with a word of appreciation to the ladies who had been responsible for providing the tea and making them all so comfortable. This was carried with much applause.

In reply, the Vicar thanked Mr. Coles and stated that for many years very little ringing had been done in Epping, and he was naturally delighted to hear once again the bells ringing regularly every Sunday, although it seemed odd that an upheaval in Europe should have been one of the chief reasons of bringing this about. He paid tribute to Mr. Shayler, the towerkeeper, and Mr. Morris, of the North Weald band, for their loyalty and patience in the teaching of new recruits, and ended by saying how pleased he was to see such a large gathering and expressed the hope the day would not be far off before they decided to come to Epping again.

The tower was then revisited, when the bells were kept going until 9 p.m. in various methods ranging from Grandsire to Bristol Surprise.

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT BOLSOVER.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Chesterfield District was held at Bolsover Parish Church on Saturday, March 30th, when members turned up from various towers in and out of the district to the number of 26, and several visitors were present, including Mr. Dean from Stoke, Mr. J. Brothwell from Rotherham, and Mr. Tom Bettison. Mr. Herbert Chaddock, of Sheffield, was elected a non-resident member. Clay Cross was suggested as a possible place for the next meeting at a date to be arranged as convenient.

Mr. J. Flint explained the difficulties now being experienced in arranging for catering, and his remarks were fully appreciated by everyone.

Mr. W. Palmer proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for granting the use of the bells, and to Mr. Flint and his band for having everything in readiness.

Methods rung afterwards ranged from Bob Minor to Stedman Triples and various Major methods, with rounds for several learners.

AUGHTON, LANCs.—At Christ Church on Sunday, April 7th, for evensong, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Triples in 43 minutes: S. Flint 1, J. Marsh 2, J. Taylor 3, J. N. Brown (conductor) 4, J. Lunham 5, W. Deacon (first in the method) 6, J. E. Wilson 7, W. Gibbons 8. The monthly quarter-peal rung at this tower for visitors from Liverpool.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT QUEENSBURY.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a most successful annual meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Queensbury, on Saturday, April 6th, when upwards of fifty members attended from a wide area. Being favoured with splendid weather, all were able to enjoy some real Yorkshire fresh air, as Queensbury is situated very high—in fact, it is one of the highest points in the district. The bells, a delightful ring of eight, were on the move very early in the afternoon, and except for brief intervals for tea and the business meeting were kept fully employed until long after black-out time. The methods ranged from Plain Bob to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, and the standard of striking was said to have been exceedingly good when one considered the bands were very mixed.

A splendid tea was served in the Co-operative Cafe, at which 42 members sat down, and this was followed by the business meeting held in the Church Schools with the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson) in the chair.

The Ringing Master, Mr. T. W. Strangeway, and the three retiring committee members, Messrs. F. W. Dixon, J. Hardcastle and J. Cooper, were all elected for a further term of three years, and new nominations having been received.

The Chairman, in voicing the thanks of the members to the Vicar and churchwardens for kindly inviting the association to Queensbury, and to the local company for their splendid arrangements, said how pleased he was to see such good work being carried on. Their tower was one of the brightest spots in a rather dark period. When most towers were having great difficulty in carrying on with their work, the ringers at Queensbury seemed to be going on from strength to strength, and under the guidance of Mr. William Ambler and Mr. Whiteley were more than holding their own in these difficult times. He wished that other towers would endeavour to emulate the fine example.

Mr. Craven, one of the churchwardens, in replying, expressed his pleasure at seeing such a representative gathering at their meeting. It seemed to him a long time since the association had visited them, almost nine years ago, and he hoped that the next interval would not be so long. He was sure the Vicar would be delighted to hear of the success of the meeting, and he would pass on to him the kind expressions voiced by the chairman.

### THE MARCH OF TIME.

Mr. Whiteley, the senior member of the local company, also expressed the company's pleasure at the gathering and said how pleased they would be to welcome the association to Queensbury whenever it was convenient. If ever the association were in difficulties about having a venue for a meeting, he hoped they would remember there was a tower here and a welcome waiting for them. He was pleased that up to the present they were at least holding their own as regards progress, but they, like others, were losing a few of the younger members owing to the nation's call, but though times were rather difficult, they would endeavour to carry on with the good work. He was particularly pleased that all their members had peals to their names, which in itself showed that they were active. Although the weather had not been bad that day, he hoped that the next meeting would be held in the summer time when their district would really be seen at its best.

Mr. Barton spoke of the regret they all felt at the loss the association had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Pratt, of Calverley. He had always been an enthusiastic member and had shown the greatest keenness in all matters relating to ringing. Although the year had not progressed very far, they already had a much larger obituary list than for many years. This was no doubt owing to the 'march of time,' but it was a great loss to the association. The members then stood in silence as a mark of respect to those who had passed away.

As no invitations had been received for the next meeting in June, it was decided that the meeting should be held at Ilkley if arrangements could be made. This should be an ideal choice, as by then the weather ought to be on good behaviour and transport difficulties should not be too difficult.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund was taken at the tea tables and realised 14s. 6d., which, together with a further 2s. 6d. received afterwards in the tower, made a total of 17s., which was considered an excellent beginning for the new fund.

After the meeting the members were entertained with a gramophone record of Spliced Surprise handbell ringing, which was greatly appreciated.

The towers represented during the day were as follows: Armley, Batley, Birstall, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Brighouse, Burley, Denholme, Drighlington, Earlsheaton, Elland, Giseley, Halifax, Northwram, Haworth, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Huddersfield, Idle, Ilkley, Lindley, Pudsey, Queensbury, Shipley and Sowerby. It was a pleasure to see Mr. Titterton (aged 84) now fully recovered after his recent illness.

LEATHERHEAD.—On Sunday, April 7th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Royal (1,260 changes): Miss S. Harman 1, A. H. Winch 2, E. W. Bugden 3, G. Marriner (conductor) 4, A. C. Otway 5, A. H. Smith 6, W. G. Newberry 7, W. J. Whiting 8, A. Harman 9, H. V. Young 10.

## NOTICES.

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The following Saturday afternoon practices have been arranged: April 20th, Widford; April 27th, Boreham; and May 4th, Broomfield; all commencing at 3 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Overton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Overton Rectory. Business meeting follows.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Grimsby District.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at St. James', Grimsby, on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. and after business meeting till 9 o'clock. Service 4.15. Meat tea, at 1s. 9d. per head, 5 p.m., in the Church House, Bull Ring. Subscriptions are now due. We should be very glad to welcome any ringers in H.M. Forces who are in the district.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**CORNWORTHY, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.**—The ring of six bells, restored by John Taylor and Co., will be re-opened on Saturday, April 20th, at 3 p.m.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Aldenham, open for ringing from 3.30 till 7.30, Saturday, April 20th. Tea at Village Club 5.30. Business meeting after. Nearest station, Bushey or Radlett. Excellent bus service to church.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Horley on Saturday, April 20th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea at the Six Bells 5.30.—A. T. Shelton, Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horbling on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (6) available from 2-8 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting at the Plough Inn, P.R.H.A.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec., Folkingham, Sleaford, Lincs.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The annual meeting is to be held at Nuneaton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Committee meeting in the vestry at 4 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting in the Parish Hall. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. Visitors welcomed.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Witney on Saturday, April 20th, 3 p.m., at the church.—W. Evetts, Hon. Sec., Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—The next meeting is at Kegworth on Saturday, April 20 (not 13th as arranged). Bells available from 3 p.m. Reports are now ready.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—North Norfolk Branch.—The next meeting will be at East Dereham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea in Church House at 5 p.m. at 1s. 2d. each.—H. Tooke, Branch Sec., The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The next meeting will be held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. until dark. Short service at 4.30 p.m., which all are invited to attend. Business meeting after tea.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Long Sutton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Fareham on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Rosemary Cafe at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Burnett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Newcombe Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—Next meeting on Saturday, April 20th, in Westminster. Ringing at St. Gabriel's, Warwick Square, 3.30 to 4.30, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, 6.15 to 8.15 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Dis. Sec. pro. tem.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Corringham (6 bells) on Saturday, April 20th.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Dis. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Aldenham (8 bells), Saturday, April 20th. Tower open 3.30. Tea at Village Club 5.30. Usual business. Bells available till 7.45. Nearest station Bushey or Radlett. Excellent bus service to church.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey (City 4270).

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on Saturday, April 20th, from 3 p.m. Business meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, April 23rd, 7.45 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 20th. Bells at Cathedral Church 3 to 4.15 p.m., S. Nicolas' afternoon and evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe (next to S. Nicolas').—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Please notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Wednesday, April 24th. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary Cray on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow. Tea, by kind invitation of the local ringers, to members notifying me by Saturday, April 20th, if possible, certainly not later than Monday, 22nd. Please support the efforts made on your behalf. St. Mary Cray expects large numbers!—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody cordially invited. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Swithland (6 bells) on April 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Refreshment at the Griffin Inn, near church, at 6.30 p.m., for those who notify me by April 25th. Buses from bus station, Belgrave Gate. Please come and enjoy a visit to this beautiful bit of country.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cirencester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chedworth on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., by kind invitation. A card re tea will oblige by April 22nd.—W. H. Hayward, Branch Hon. Sec., 1, Bowling Green Road, Cirencester.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ely Branch.—A meeting will be held at Harston on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service, followed by tea at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. P. G. Ward. All welcome, but please send a card either to the Vicar or myself if you are coming.—C. W. Cook, Dis. Sec., Newton, Cambridge.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The branch annual meeting has been arranged at Burnham, Bucks, on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Guild service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., at 1s. per head, for those who notify me not later than April 22nd. Phone Slough 23260. Annual meeting 5.45 p.m. Hitcham bells (6) available afterwards.—A. D. Barber, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Eynesbury on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Olney on Saturday, April 27th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Winscombe on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. If tea required, please notify H. Minifie, Hon. Sec., Royston, Uphill, Somerset.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Annual general meeting will be held at Burley (St. Matthias') Church on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Unveiling of golden jubilee peal board by the Vicar of Leeds at 3.15 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., will be arranged for those who notify Mr. L. Drake, 7, St. John's Terrace, Leeds, 3, by April 24th.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Liss on Saturday, April 27th. Bells of St. Mary's Church (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Business meeting follows. Bells available after meeting until 7 p.m. Numbers for tea must reach me not later than Tuesday, April 23rd.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at the Ashton Parish Church on Saturday, April 27th. Bells at 3.30. Meeting 7.—T. Jackson, President.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5.15 p.m.; preacher, Rev. Percival Gough. Tea in Church Hall at 5.45 p.m., for which there will be a collection. Business meeting to follow. All members requiring tea must notify Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, 16, St. Stephen's Road, W.13, by April 23rd. The bells at St. Stephen's, Ealing, 4, to 4.50 p.m., and Christ Church, Ealing, 7.30 to 9 p.m., also available.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 27th. Ringing at the Cathedral (12), St. Giles' (8), and St. Peter-at-Gowts (6) from 2 p.m. Service at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. Tea at Newport Hall at 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. J. A. Freeman, 95, Sincil Bank, Lincoln, by the Wednesday previous? No names, no tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincs.

**SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.**—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, April 27th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Please notify me for tea by previous Thursday.—I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next practice meeting will be held at Dagenham on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who desire it.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Barnby Don on Saturday, April 27th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Will those who require tea please let me know by Tuesday, April 23rd?—Ernest Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Olveston on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) open 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. It is most essential to advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., Gifford House, Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting of the Southern District will be held at Bishop Auckland, on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8, tenor 12 cwt.) available from 2.30 p.m.—J. T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—A meeting will be held at St. George's, Southwark, on Saturday, May 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea at Lyons, London Bridge, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting in church vestry. Please turn up in full force, as we wish to discuss future activities of the district.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Dis. Sec.



**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held in Brighton on Saturday, May 4th. Bells of St. Nicholas' and St. Peter's available during the afternoon and evening. Service at St. Nicholas' 4.30, with address by the Rev. L. N. Phillips, M.A., M.C. Tea (price 2s. 6d., 1s. to members) 5.15, by ticket only, obtainable from the undersigned on receipt of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, not later than May 1st. Half rail fare (maximum 2s. 6d.) allowed to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 24, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton, 6.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—On Saturday, May 4th (D.V.), a meeting will be held at Chiddingstone. Please book this date now. Further details next week.—Alec. E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division. — A meeting will be held at Witham on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. It is most essential that those requiring tea should notify Mr. A. Evers, 6, Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, not later than Wednesday, May 1st. Tea will only be provided for those who send in their names.—Hilda J. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Newington on Saturday, May 4th. Further particulars next week.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The Guild festival will be held at Salisbury on Saturday, May 4th. Annual meeting in the Church House at 2.30 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. P. J. Hayes, Vicar. Tea in the Church House at 5.15 p.m., 1s. each member. Towers available—St. Thomas', St. Martin's (8 bells); St. Paul's, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Wilton, Amesbury (6 bells). Ringers intending to be present should signify their intention to the Secretary by Monday, April 29th, at the latest.—F. L. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, on Saturday, May 4th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30 p.m. Teas arranged for all who notify Mr. T. G. Bradley, New Road Parade, Whittle-le-Woods, not later than Wednesday, May 1st. Everybody welcome, but please remember, no card, no tea.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday, May 13th. Central Committee meet 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Room. Service, St. Peter's Church, 3.30. Address by Rev. E. V. Fenn. Tea at Angel Hotel 4.15, followed by the business meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send names to general secretary by Monday, May 6th. Honorary and subscribing members free, others 1s. 6d. each. Bells available: St. Giles' (10), St. Edmunds' (8) 11 to 1, All Saints' (8), Holy Sepulchre (8) 1 to 3, St. Peter's 1 to 3.30; after the meeting until 7.30, St. Giles', St. Peter's, All Saints', Holy Sepulchre and Kingsthorpe (6).—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Mary's Deane first and third Saturdays in the month. Bells available afternoon and evening.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

**ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON.**—We are now practising on Monday nights from 7.45 to 9.15 p.m. All ringers who can come along will be welcome.—H. E. Wills.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—All communications should now be sent to Mr. H. J. Hazell, acting secretary, 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans. The association's library is now in the hands of Mrs. A. M. Fergusson, 23, Hall Place Gardens, St. Albans. Will members please make a note of these alterations?—H. V. Frost, St. Albans.

**COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.**—Sunday service ringing, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Practice every Wednesday evening (handbells and tower bells, 10) 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All visitors welcome.—W. Saunders.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Mr. R. H. Bartram and family wish to thank all their friends for the tokens of sympathy and condolence in their great loss.

### STAFFORD VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY.

At St. Mary's, Stafford, on Sunday, March 17th, to celebrate the 87th birthday of Mr. Z. Baker, the veteran of the band, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Eley 1, F. Wiggin 2, W. Cowan 3, J. Warrilow 4, A. E. Garbett 5, W. G. Curtis 6, R. J. Warrilow 7, F. Ryell 8. Also on Sunday, March 24th, for Easter evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Dunn 1, E. W. Vaughan 2, F. Eley 3, J. J. Taylor 4, W. G. Curtis 5, A. E. Garbett 6, R. J. Warrilow 7, J. Warrilow 8. First quarter-peal for the treble man and first quarter-peal of Triples 'inside' for the ringers of the 2nd and 3rd. Conducted by R. J. Warrilow.

### SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

#### DEVIZES BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at Bishop's Cannings last Saturday. Ringing began at 3 p.m., and the methods rung ranged from Double Norwich to Grandsire Triples, with rounds for those who desired them. At the service the Vicar (the Rev. S. L. R. Sharp) officiated. Mr. C. D. Heginbotham read the lesson, and the organist and choir were in attendance. Tea followed in the Village Hall, to which about 30 sat down, and visitors from North Stoneham, Broadchalk, Chippenham and Swindon were made very welcome. Ringing continued in the evening till about 7.30 p.m., which brought another happy meeting to a close.

### COUNTRY MEETINGS.

The Rev. J. F. Amies is trying to keep up interest in ringing in the Newport Pagnell Deanery of North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild by arranging fortnightly meetings. One such was held at Tyringham (five bells), in charming country just off the Newport Pagnell-Northampton main road on Saturday.

The Rev. J. F. Amies voiced the thanks of the ringers to the Rector, to the organist and to the local ringer and his wife who provided tea.

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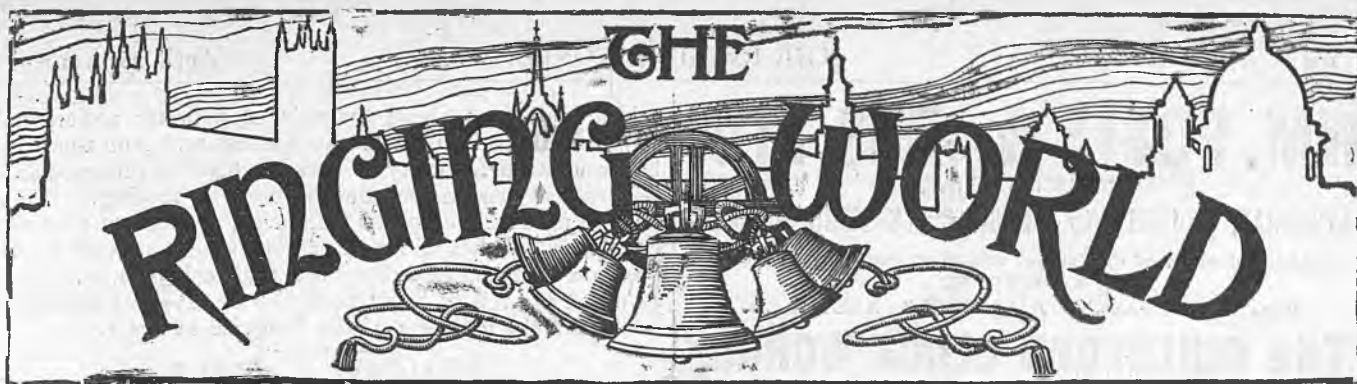
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FRIDAY, APRIL 26th, 1940.

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## A FRIENDLY MEASURE.

The Guildford Diocesan Guild, at their annual meeting on Saturday, clinched by resolution a reciprocal arrangement with the Surrey Association which, we think, creates an entirely new departure in the relationship between territorial ringing associations. Nearly the whole of the diocese of Guildford lies within the county of Surrey, and while, in the days of the old Winchester Diocesan Guild, out of which the Guildford Guild was formed at the splitting up of the diocese, there was a kind of tacit understanding between the two societies as to their spheres of influence, when the Guildford Guild came on the scene the position was altered, particularly in regard to the towers at the north-eastern corner of the diocese, which up to that time had largely thrown in their lot with the county association. Happily, when the reorganisation took place twelve years ago, the coming of the Guildford Guild was met by a most cordial attitude on the part of the Surrey Association, and the good relationship then established has not only been maintained, but has improved as time has passed. It has been recognised that the two organisations can exist side by side without friction, and can serve the common purpose, although in part the operations overlap. The good feeling has now been cemented by each society resolving to invite a representative of the other to serve upon its Executive Committee. It is an example of how a position, that might have involved clashing interests, can be turned to good account, by uniting the two societies in a stronger bond of fellowship—a fellowship that has already shown itself in the frequent holding of joint meetings and a personal intercourse between members that has been welcomed and appreciated on both sides.

There are not, of course, many societies in quite the same relative positions as the Surrey Association and the Guildford Diocesan Guild, but there is London and the suburban areas, where, as we have said before, something is long overdue to solve a state of affairs which is leading nowhere, to put it mildly. Then there are areas in which localised societies are operating within the sphere of larger organisations. All have the same objects in view and all are intent upon improving the status of ringers and ringing, but, while the membership of the competing societies is drawn from the same personnel, there is little or nothing done to unify or co-ordinate the efforts of the societies. We do not suggest that what has been done in Surrey is, in itself, the solution of any difficulties that may exist among organisations whose territories overlap, but the course, if adopted elsewhere,

(Continued on page 194.)

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might well be a stage towards even better understandings and more useful work in the future. And there will be every need for unity of action when the time comes to re-establish the belfries on the pre-war footing. There will be no place for petty jealousies, or even of aloofness one from another if ringing is to return quickly to the position it occupied before the outbreak of war. Unity of effort as well as of purpose will be essential among all who have the interests of the Exercise at heart.

## TEN BELL PEALS.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, April 17, 1940, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,  
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

FRED HAYES	... .. Treble	WILLIAM H. PLUMRIDGE	... 6
MISS KATH. E. FLETCHER...	2	REV. R. F. R. ROUTH...	7
MISS DOROTHY R. FLETCHER	3	CAPT. J. H. FREEBORN	8
RALPH COLES	... .. 4	HARRY WINGROVE	... 9
ROLAND BIGGS	... .. 5	EDWARD CROXFORD	... Tenor

Composed by J. H. FREEBORN.

Conducted by FRED HAYES.

Rung in honour of Gunner Plumridge, of H.M.S. Ajax, for some time a local probationer, son of the ringer of the 6th, also to celebrate the Allied victories around the Norwegian coast.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, PRITTLEWELL,  
A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

* BERTRAM C. HINES	... .. Treble	FRANK B. LUFKIN	... .. 6
ERIC B. HARTLEY	... .. 2	* EDWARD T. SITCH	... .. 7
* RUSSELL G. SPEARS	... .. 3	REGINALD W. DARVILL	... .. 8
ALBERT E. NORTH	... .. 4	HORACE J. MANSFIELD	... .. 9
JOHN H. SITCH	... .. 5	ROBERT C. HEAZEL	... Tenor

Composed by GEO. HAYWARD.

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

\* First peal of Royal. Fiftieth peal as conductor.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BLAGDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

GEORGE POPNELL	... .. Treble	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD...	... 5
MISS NORAH G. WILLIAMS...	2	FRANK SKIDMORE...	... 6
MISS MARGARET PACK	... 3	JOSEPH T. DYKE	... .. 7
ALBERT M. TYLER	... .. 4	DONALD G. CLIFT...	... Tenor

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

LEWISHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HARRY WARNETT, SEN.	... Treble	GEORGE A. PARSONS	... .. 5
CHARLES H. WALKER...	2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	... .. 6
THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN...	3	EDMUND MOUNTER	... .. 7
HARRY WARNETT, JUN.	... 4	JAMES BENNETT	... .. Tenor

Conducted by HARRY WARNETT, SEN.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

BERT C. COCK	... .. Treble	CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY	... .. 5
CLAUDE SNOWDEN	... .. 2	RONALD SUCKLING	... .. 6
BERNARD W. PETTIT	... .. 3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN	... .. 7
HILDA G. SNOWDEN	... .. 4	H. WALTER SMITH	... Tenor

Conducted by LEWIS W. WIFFEN.



HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.  
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION  
AND SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN FLINT... .. Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 5
TOM BROTHWELL ... 2	F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 6
*JACK G. BROTHWELL... 3	JOHN THORPE ... 7
JOHN E. TURLEY ... 4	ERNEST THORPE ... Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

\* First peal in the method.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes;

At the Church of St. Margaret,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt.

*ALAN D. STEEL ... Treble	JOHN CARTLEDGE ... 5
EDWARD STEELE ... 2	ALFRED GEORGE BASS ... 6
WILLIAM PERKINS ... 3	†CHARLES H. PAGE ... 7
WILLIAM CARNWELL... 4	FREDERICK SHELLEY ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

\* 50th peal. † 150th peal. First peal on the bells since the two trebles were added by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. Rung as a farewell peal to William Perkins before leaving to join the Royal Air Force.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

BRIGHTWELL, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 29, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Agatha,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 10 six-scores, eight 360's (Lindoff's) and four 240's.

Tenor 11 cwt.

*MICHAEL A. GIRLING ... Treble	†GODFREY H. LEWINGTON... 4
†FRANK C. CASTELL ... 2	†C. JOHN CASTELL ... 5
OLIVER G. BARNARD... 3	FREDERICK BROOKER ... Tenor

Conducted by OLIVER G. BARNARD.

\* First peal and first attempt. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal away from tenor.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 6½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON ... Treble	FRANK T. LONG ... 4
GEORGE A. CHARLTON ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 5
FRANK BAILLESS ... 3	JOHN H. BAILLESS... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. BAILLESS.

First peal as conductor. Rung as a farewell to Dr. Cyril Bardsley, the retiring Bishop of Leicester.

NEWTON, PORTHCAWL, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Monday, April 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 extents, with 10 callings.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

WILLIAM SURMAN ... Treble	TREVOR M. RODERICK... 4
ALFRED HANNINGTON... 2	ALFRED E. WILLIAMS... 5
ERNEST STITCH ... 3	ALBERT E. BACON ... Tenor

Conducted by E. STITCH.

Rung half-muffled as a memorial to the Rev. Daniel Fisher, late Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Grangetown, Cardiff, and James E. Partridge, a ringer at this tower, who were laid to rest in the churchyard earlier in the day, and to John Elias, a churchwarden for many years, who died on the previous day.

PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.—On Sunday morning, April 21st, for Princess Elizabeth's birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. H. Curtis 1, S. Greenfield 2, L. Atfield 3, A. V. Corden 4, E. Treagus 5, A. Holden 6, L. Stilwell (conductor) 7, H. J. Doick 8.

SOMERLEYTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being three 720's of Plain Bob, two of Kent and two of Oxford Treble Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*ERNEST A. LONG ... Treble	†GEORGE T. BUSSEY ... 4
WILLIAM R. BARBER ... 2	GODFREY G. WALPOLE ... 5
STANLEY FENN ... 3	DONALD A. LONG ... Tenor

Conducted by GODFREY G. WALPOLE.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal and first attempt.

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three extents of Bob Minor. Tenor 10 cwt.

ALFRED BALLARD... Treble	FRANCIS R. DEACON ... 4
JOHN H. BAILLESS ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 5
CECIL E. CARR ... 3	GEORGE A. NEWTON ... Tenor

Conducted by G. A. NEWTON.

Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. F. Roe and Miss N. Marshall.

WEST WICKHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

**A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent. Tenor 13 cwt.

MISS H. OAKSHETT ... Treble	*DOUGLAS G. BROWN... 4
HUGH MACKINDER ... 2	GEORGE W. FOGDEN... 5
MAXWELL F. OAKSHETT ... 3	ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ... Tenor

Conducted by A. S. RICHARDS.

\* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells since the addition of a treble in June last.

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 six-scores with 10 callings. Tenor 16 cwt.

*GEORGE CORBETT ... Treble	ALFRED S. TOMKINS... 4
*GEORGE ROSS ... 2	*THOMAS COOPER ... 5
JOHN H. THOMAS ... 3	FREDERICK MERRICK ... Tenor

Conducted by J. H. THOMAS.

\* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a farewell peal to Preb. W. N. Potter, who is taking up duties as Vicar of Kingston.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 15, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Residence of W. C. MEDLER,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Comprising seven extents.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY... 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER ... 3-4
ERIC DURRANT ... 5-6	

Conducted by J. N. A. PUMPHREY.

First peal as conductor. First 'spliced' handbell peal by all and for the association.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

The April meeting was held at Shelley on the 13th, when members were present from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Friezland, Holmfirth, Hoylandswaine, Kirkburton, Meltham, Wath and the local company.

At the business meeting, at which the Vicar (the Rev. J. J. Broadhurst) presided, one new member, Mr. E. Pammenter, of Rawmarsh, was elected, and it was decided to hold the annual shield contest in July as usual.

Further ringing followed until 8.15 p.m. in a variety of Plain and Treble Bob Minor methods.

The next meeting will be held at Sandal on Saturday, May 11th.

## MORE ABOUT PROOF.

### FALSENESS IN ODD-BELL METHODS.

In unsymmetrical methods, the rows in the second half of a lead, going backwards, are not produced in the same manner as are the rows in the first half, going forwards, and therefore, unless there is some additional safeguard, internal repetition is not only possible but extremely likely.

Here are the figures of Double Eastern Bob Major, the method to which we referred some weeks ago. If we prick out a lead beginning with 17685432, we shall find that the third row is 78165432, which is the same as the fourteenth row in this lead. We thus have internal repetition, although the lead heads and ends are different. In proving this method we must, therefore, look to see if there are any additional safeguards.

Actually, there are, and so we may be reasonably sure, though the figures are lost, that the peal rung by the Society of Eastern Scholars in 1752 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, was true.

The method is produced by backstroke work only. That is to say, all the internal places are made at hand and back, and are substitutes for the hand and back leading and lying. The regular succession of the nature of the rows is, therefore, not broken. Two even rows are followed by two odd rows throughout the peal, and as a result the rows in the second half leads, with the treble in any position, are of the opposite nature to the rows in the first half leads with the treble in the same position. So long, therefore, as no singles are used, internal falseness which does not show at the lead ends is impossible, and composition and proof by natural course ends can be used as freely as in symmetrical methods.

Further, the lead, which in the above example is false against the plain course, can only occur if the tenors are reversed, and that, of course, would seldom or never happen.

This gives us another safeguard, which, in Treble Bob methods, is of the utmost value (as we shall see later). So long as 1, 7 and 8 do not fall twice into the same relative positions within the plain course, no internal falseness is possible, even when singles are used. And when those three bells do fall twice into the same relative position, if one row is even and the other odd, no internal repetition need be feared when bobs alone are used.

Seven, nine and eleven bell methods on the Plain Principle are usually rung with two hunts, or, as we say in the belfry, with a treble and a bell-in-the-hunt. For some reason or other these methods, apart from Grandsire, have never been very popular with ringers, though some of them are quite excellent and interesting to ring. It may be that they are much more difficult to call than the ordinary Major methods.

Like the plain methods on even numbers of bells, these are symmetrical; but there is an important difference. The axis of symmetry is not between the two blows of the treble's whole pulls before and behind, but between the whole pulls of the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt. Rounds is the end of one lead and 2135476 is the beginning of the next.

Since the leads are symmetrical about the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt, and not about the treble only, it follows that the symmetry is a safeguard against internal falseness only so long as the two hunts are not disturbed. But that, in practice, never happens, and in composition these methods must be treated as if they were unsymmetrical.

In Triples methods of this sort, since the regular succession of the rows is one even and one odd (all the handstrokes being odd and all the backstrokes being even), the rows with the treble in any one position going up are of opposite nature to the rows with the treble in the same position going down, and no internal repetition, which does not show at a lead end, need be feared so long as we do not use singles which alter the regular succession (odd and even) of the rows. That is the reason why in methods like Oxford Bob Triples, Court Bob Triples and the like, in-course singles such as are usually associated with the name of John Holt must always be used.

But Grandsire is one of this group, and there, as everyone knows, we can use ordinary singles without internal falseness. So we can in Union Triples, which, as usually given, does not pretend to be symmetrical in any way. What is the explanation?

It is this. Though the P block of Grandsire is symmetrical about the two hunts, this symmetry avails nothing to avoid internal falseness. In that respect the method is no better off than Union. But in both of them the B block (the three leads produced by three consecutive bobs) is symmetrical about the treble, and when ordinary singles are used this B block is really the true unit of the composition.

One school of composers used to say very hard things about Union as an unsymmetrical method and one with irregular lead ends. If the B block be taken as the plain course, the method is neither unsymmetrical nor are the lead ends irregular. It is true that it is a plain course which consists of only three leads, and in which the working bells do not all do the same work, but since in it the whole hunt and the half hunt fall into all their possible relative positions, it is a perfect plain course for the purposes of composition. John Garthorn, Benjamin Annable and some of the other old composers knew that.

On nine bells the few methods that are rung are 'pure' Caters methods, and there is not much object in ringing any others. The rows are continuously of the same nature unless and until a single is made. It follows that the rows with the treble in any position going up are of the same nature as are those with the treble in the same position going down. The nature of the rows gives us here no safeguard against internal falseness, nor does the symmetry of the method which is about the two hunts.

All we have to depend upon in the case of methods like Double Norwich Caters is the fact that the three big bells are usually fixed in one position—tittums or handstroke—and so long as they are undisturbed they do not fall within a course twice into the same positions relative to the treble.

So far any liability to internal falseness is avoided. But the changes by which these bells are brought in and out of one of the fixed positions are very precarious and must be carefully tested. And it is always necessary to compare the courses in the tittums with those in the handstroke or other positions. Pure Cater methods require very

(Continued on next page.)

### WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

A very successful meeting of this district was held at Fareham on Saturday last and was attended by over thirty members and visitors from Alverstoke, Alresford, Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, North Stoneham, Portsmouth (Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield, Soberton, Wickham and Lewisham.

Ringing took place during the afternoon, and evensong was attended at which the Guild service was conducted by the Vicar of Fareham (the Rev. B. C. Daniell), who also addressed the members. Tea was served at the Rosemary Cafe, and the business meeting held afterwards, presided over by the Vicar, supported by the Master (Mr. G. Williams), general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and district secretary (Mr. F. W. Burnett).

The Very Rev. E. N. Porter-Goff, Provost of Portsmouth, and the Vicar of Fareham were elected honorary members, and also some new ringing members.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Catherington on July 13th and a practice meeting at Curdridge on May 25th.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells and for being with them at the tea and meeting. In reply, he said it was the first time he had been connected with bells and ringers, and he was pleased at his introduction.

Ringing during the day consisted of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise Major. Three young boys from Titchfield, pupils of Mr. L. H. Page, with another member rang two courses of Stedman Triples double-handed.

### PROOF OF ODD-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

careful and thorough proving. But the whole of that part of the composition which is out of course is absolutely free from falseness with that part which is in course.

With the exception of Grandsire and its now obsolete variations, Reverse and Double Grandsire, no eleven-bell methods on the Plain Principle have ever been practised, nor does it seem very likely that any ever will be practised. The general proof of them is the same as that of Triples methods, but the increased number of fixed big bells renders internal falseness very unlikely and in any case easily avoidable.

### RINGING JUBILEES CELEBRATED AT LEWISHAM.

#### SERVED UNDER SIX VICARS.

The peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Lewisham on Saturday last and recorded elsewhere was specially arranged to commemorate 50 years' service at that belfry and church by Messrs. Harry Warnett, sen., and Charles H. Walker.

For two men to be regular service ringers at one tower for 50 years is not by any means a record, but when one has held the office of towerkeeper and captain of the local band for 43 years and the other secretary for about a quarter of a century, it is something which both may justly look back upon with pride.

Mr. Walker, while carrying out the duties of secretary in a most diligent and efficient manner, has never aspired to conducting beyond calling one quarter-peal, being content to leave it in the capable hands of his old friend, and although Mr. Warnett has held the reins at St. Mary's for 43 years, any visiting ringer who is able to do so is almost invariably invited to call a touch.

During 50 years Messrs. Warnett and Walker have served under six vicars and numerous curates, and during that time no hitch has ever occurred between the belfry and the east end of the church.

Mr. Warnett, who reached the age of 77 on March 13th last, called the Original in last Saturday's peal, a fair test of memory for a man seven years over the allotted span. Included in the band were Mr. Warnett's son, Harry, who has been a ringer at Lewisham for 38 years, and Mr. Tom Groombridge, sen., of Chislehurst, with 49 years' ringing to his credit, and still going strong in spite of a recent severe accident.

In addition to his son, one of Mr. Warnett's grandsons (Richard Barley) belongs to the band at St. Mary's, but he is not yet quite up to peal ringing standard.

### CHELMSFORD RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred recently of Mr. John Wood, for many years a member of the Chelmsford Cathedral band. The deceased was well known in central Essex, where he rang many peals varying from Minor to Stedman Cinques.

He was born at Great Waltham, where he began his ringing career, subsequently moving to Boreham and afterwards to Chelmsford, some 25 years ago.

The interment took place at the Borough Cemetery at Chelmsford, when a course of Bob Major was rung on handbells over the grave. Ringers present included Messrs. G. Green, H. Edwards, A. H. Everett, L. J. Clark and H. Warn.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ringers are requested to study the notice columns carefully, as rationing restrictions and other unlooked for changes have made alterations necessary in previously announced arrangements.

Gunner Plumridge, of High Wycombe, whose father is a member of the High Wycombe band, and who was himself a probationer at the tower, was one of the crew of H.M.S. Ajax when that ship took part in the defeat of the Graf Spee. A peal in his honour was rung at High Wycombe on April 17th.

When a peal of Bob Minor was rung at Croft, Leicestershire, on April 13th, as a farewell to the retiring Bishop of Leicester, Mr. J. H. Baileys, who rang his first peal as conductor, 'completed the circle' at this tower.

At St. John's Hospital Chapel, Winchester, on Sunday, April 14th, after a short service, Mr. and Miss Noice gave selections on handbells. In his address the chaplain thanked Mr. and Miss Noice.

On Saturday, April 20th, the first peal on the bells since the addition of a treble in June last was rung at West Wickham, Kent. The local band had hoped to ring it by themselves, and were making good progress in several Minor methods when the war broke out and separated the band. As more of the remaining ringers will shortly be called to assist in the Allied war effort, it was considered advisable to attempt the peal at the first opportunity, and they are grateful for the assistance of two ringers from Hayes and one from Penge, with whom a good peal was scored at the first attempt.

James R. Haworth was born on April 21st, 1821, and James Pettit on April 25th, 1834. Both were very prominent members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and both lived to a great age. Haworth was reputed to have control for many years of almost all the 'scroff' ringing in London. Pettit was the conductor at St. Paul's and called the first peal on the bells.

The anniversaries of three of the longest peals rung by the College Youths fall within this week. On April 22nd, 1922, they rang 21,363 changes of Stedman Caters at Appleton; on April 27th, 1861, they rang 8,550 changes of Stedman Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, and on April 27th, 1868, they rang 15,840 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green.

The peal of Grandsire Triples at Blagdon was rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Margery Smallwood, and to Messrs. George Popnell, Robert G. Knowles and William Short. The conductor called the Original for the first time eleven years ago when he was 17 years old, and he has now called it from every bell.

Several other peals were rung on Saturday, but, we are informed, not one of them for Adolf Hitler's birthday.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of April 12th I notice that reference is made to the falling membership resulting from compulsory military service. In the same issue is a report of the jubilee meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, held at Taunton on Easter Monday, at which meeting an earnest appeal was made for more ringers.

At this same meeting, two members voiced their disagreement with the suggestion that ladies should be encouraged to take up the Exercise. It was stated that the introduction of lady ringers in the past had resulted in a falling-out of many men ringers. Apparently the remainder of the meeting agreed with these remarks, as no one is reported to have answered them.

I can only say that the Exercise is far better off *without* this type of ringer; the man who would rather give up ringing altogether than see a lady in the belfry would be very unpopular in this part of Somerset. It does not require anyone of great intelligence to see for himself the difficulty many towers have in getting people to take interest in the bells, this trouble having been very apparent for many years.

Let me say that the three or four ladies I have met in my campanological rambles were able to handle a bell as well as any man, and in a variety of methods at that. To confirm this, one has only to look up the weekly peal reports in 'The Ringing World.'

Would it be considered unfaithful to the Bath and Wells Association if I, one of its newest members, were to say that I am heartily ashamed of those at our annual meeting who said that 'lady ringers were not wanted'?

W. E. CHALLICE.

Watchet, Somerset.

## RINGER ELECTED CHURCHWARDEN.

At St. Peter's Church, Barton, for evening service on March 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: S. Wood 1, J. Goddard 2, W. Goddard 3, J. Atkinson 4, H. Eastoe 5, J. Chapman 6, A. W. Hoodless (conductor) 7, F. Green 8. Rung as a compliment to Dr. Percy Birtwhistle, an honorary member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, on his being re-elected churchwarden for the 33rd year in succession, also to Mr. H. Eastoe, ringer of the 5th, on his election as churchwarden. The quarter-peal was also a birthday compliment to the 2nd ringer on attaining his 20th birthday.

On Sunday, April 14th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: S. Wood 1, J. Goddard 2, W. Goddard 3, J. Atkinson 4, H. Eastoe 5, O. Duddy 6, J. Chapman 7, A. W. Hoodless (conductor) 8.



## GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. INTERESTING ARRANGEMENT WITH SURREY ASSOCIATION.

### Difficulties in Chertsey District.

Judging by the attendance at the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild at Ayers' Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, the Exercise is able to carry on despite war troubles. Only from one district, Chertsey, were serious difficulties manifest. Mr. J. S. Goldsmith presided, supported by Mr. J. Corbett (Bagshot), hon. treasurer, and Mr. G. L. Grover (East Clandon), hon. secretary.

The hon. treasurer's statement showed receipts amounting to £39 9s. 8d., including £10 10s. from affiliation fees and £23 7s. 9d. in contributions from the districts. The expenditure amounted to £29 7s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £39 18s. 2d.—an increase of £10 2s. 1d. on the year. The Benevolent Fund has a balance of £65 13s. 4d. and the New Cathedral Bells Fund amounts to £35 10s. 6d.

The hon. treasurer said the Guild's balance had increased to £10, due partly to the fact that their delegates had not sent in any expenses for attending the Central Council meeting. The Cathedral Bells Fund had increased by £14, and this included an anonymous donation of £5 received through Mr. Heath (S. Nicolas', Guildford). The meeting approved of the balance on the Cathedral Bell Fund being invested in National Savings Certificates.

In their annual report, the committee stated that there were 122 honorary and 381 ringing members. The total number of subscribing members was higher than last year, but this was due to the increase of honorary members, largely through the efforts of Mr. W. James, of Cobham, and Mr. C. M. Martin, of Bramley. The number of ringing members, however, showed a falling off of 24, 16 of this number being in the Chertsey District. Since the formation of the Guild the Chertsey District had been a source of constant anxiety to the officers, and there had been years when the number of subscribing members had fallen lower than the present total. This year, however, the seriousness of the position was made more apparent by the fact that, after meeting its obligations to the Central Fund, the district was left without a working balance, and unless there was some really strong and immediate revival of interest, the district could not possibly continue in a solvent state.

'A review of the history of the Chertsey District,' continued the report, 'seems to indicate that its handicap has always been that there has not existed consistently within its area a tower which has taken the lead in its activities, and which, by the accomplishments and enthusiasm of its members, has been acknowledged as the centre of the district's life. Fortunately, in each of the other districts there has always been one, if not more, of such centres. Although the committee has in mind that the bells at the main tower of the Chertsey District are unringable and that the Hersham band, probably the most proficient practising band within the area, has, as a band, seceded from the Guild and realises that the formation of a centre of enthusiasm in the Chertsey area is at the moment none too easy a task, the members feel that there are sufficient enthusiastic and efficient ringers in the area to make a strong effort in this direction.'

### COMMITTEE'S APPEAL.

'Quite a number of proficient ringers living in the district are at the moment, from one cause or another, not attached to an active service band, and the committee appeals to all these ringers to unite together in an effort to create a centre around which the life of the district can revolve.'

'The committee is strongly of opinion that any attempt to vitalise the district must emanate from within, and unless some drastic and prompt steps are taken the Guild may be left with no alternative but to liquidate the district and either transfer the towers to other areas or leave the few enthusiasts to continue as unattached members of the Guild.'

The report stated that the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Funds continued to grow steadily, but did not receive the unanimous support of the whole Guild, and a further appeal to the rest of the towers was made.

Referring to the depletion of the number of ringers through the war, the report said that those members who were left in civilian occupations would need to apply every possible ounce of their energy and every possible minute of their spare time to the task of ensuring that a real live organisation is kept in being to form the foundation from which a fresh start may be made after the war.

District meetings, said the report, had disclosed the strong feeling that members of H.M. Forces should retain the privileges of membership without having to pay a subscription, but the committee, being charged with the efficient and solvent working of the Guild, had to point out that this waiving of subscriptions would be at the expense of the general funds of the Guild, and felt sure that members at many towers would wish to be associated with the expression of gratitude more directly than through this channel, and that they would, out of their own pockets, make good to the general fund the subscriptions of members of their own band which would otherwise be remitted.

Twenty-four peals were rung during the year, one of which was on handbells. The tower bell peals were rung in 14 towers in the diocese and two outside. Nine members (a pleasing increase from last year) secured a first peal and one his first as conductor.

In welcoming many new honorary members and thanking the older ones for their continued support, the committee ventured to say that in these difficult times honorary members, incumbents and church officials generally would, in many instances, have to be content either with less frequent service ringing or ringing of perhaps a lower standard at their churches than that to which they have been accustomed, and the committee hoped that all supporters of the Guild would appreciate the difficulties which faced local bands, and that, in spite of any disappointments, they would continue to support their ringers and this organisation, and help to ensure that with the return of less unsettled times there would still be in the Guildford Diocese a live ringing organisation ready and equipped to commence the task of refilling the gaps which the committee feared must inevitably appear.

### RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SURREY ASSOCIATION.

Presenting the annual report, the Chairman said they had been fortunate in getting a larger number of honorary members—particularly through Mr. James (Cobham) and Mr. Martin (Bramley). Ringing members had, however, dropped from 405 to 387. He impressed upon all towers the importance of recruiting new members. Deplored the position in the Chertsey District, the Chairman invited suggestions for the improvement of the district, which, he said, had reached an unfortunate position. With regard to the reciprocal arrangements with the Surrey Association in order to further friendly relations, the Surrey Association had already adopted a resolution that a representative of its Guild should sit on their Executive Committee.

In reply to Mr. F. C. Hagley, Mr. F. E. Hawthorne said they had not many towers in the Chertsey District where they could practise. Within the last fortnight he had been approached by the Vicar of Thames Ditton to arrange for the training of nine learners.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The following officers were elected: President, Bishop of Guildford; vice-presidents, Mr. W. Harrison, Bishop Golding-Bird, Archdeacon Newill and Mr. J. S. Goldsmith; Master, Major J. H. B. Hesse; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Corbett; hon. secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover; hon. auditor, Mr. R. Hasted.

The following new members were elected: Mr. and Mrs. M. Hodgson and Mr. A. J. House (Aldershot), Mr. V. H. Smith (Godalming) and T. M. White (Guildford Cathedral).

On the proposition of Mr. C. Ernest Smith, a reciprocal resolution similar to that proposed by the Surrey Association whereby a representative of that association sits on the Executive of the Guild was carried. Mr. A. Harman was appointed the Guild's representative on the Surrey Association.

### NO SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM SERVING MEMBERS.

There was a considerable discussion on a resolution exempting members from subscriptions while serving in His Majesty's Forces. Eventually the meeting agreed to the following resolution submitted by Mr. G. L. Grover:—

'As a token of appreciation of the services to the country of members of this Guild and other ringers who are serving or who from time to time serve with H.M. Forces, it is resolved that no subscription shall be demanded from: (1) A member who at the date of this meeting is an annual subscribing ringing member; (2) a ringing member elected at or after this meeting and whose usual home address is within the diocese; (3) a ringing member elected at or after this meeting whose usual home address is outside the diocese and who pays a first annual subscription during such time as any such member is serving with H.M. Forces. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the rules contained or implied, any such member shall retain the full privileges of membership.'

Mr. A. C. Hazelden seconded the resolution, which was carried.

It was decided to hold the summer festival at Raunmore, Dorking, on either July 6th or 27th.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Corbett to the general secretary for his work, and a similar compliment was paid to the district secretaries on the proposition of the chairman.

Previous to the meeting there was ringing at the Cathedral Church and at S. Nicolas' Church. The Guild service at S. Nicolas' Church was conducted by the Rector of S. Nicolas' (the Rev. P. R. Lobb), who attended the tea and was thanked for his services.

### SILVER WEDDING.

To celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Wicks, of Wimbledon, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Leonard's, Streatham, on April 14th, for evening service: Miss G. Green 1, E. L. Miles (conductor) 2, C. A. Button 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, T. H. Taffender 6, J. W. Chapman 7, S. Gardner 8. Mr. Wicks was unable to take part owing to A.R.P. duties.

### VETERAN RINGER'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Mr. A. W. Baldwin (late of Fakenham, Norfolk) has rung his first quarter-peal of Stedman at the age of 77 years. This was on Sunday, April 7th, for evening service at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, Cirencester, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): A. W. Baldwin 1, F. J. Lewis, sen. 2, H. L. Cooke 3, F. J. Lewis, jun. 4, H. S. Parsons 5, W. A. Godwin 6, W. H. Hayward (conductor) 7, F. F. Bloxham 8.

## WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

Upwards of sixty members and friends attended the annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held last Saturday at Nuneaton. Various methods were rung until 4.30, when a short service was held in the Lady Chapel of the church, conducted by the Vicar, Canon J. L. White, assisted by the curate, the Rev. T. B. Purves.

In a brief address, Canon White welcomed the members to Nuneaton as fellow-workers in the Church. Ringers, he said, rarely got thanks for their labours and were often grumbled at. He quoted the preface to Miss Dorothy L. Sayers' book, 'The Nine Tailors.' 'From time to time complaints are made about the ringing of church bells. It seems strange that a generation which tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine and the wailing of the jazz band should be so sensitive to the one loud noise that is made to the glory of God.' Personally he felt that a service in church not preceded by the ringing of the bells seemed as strange as being without the choir. 'Bells catch our thoughts and express them for us as nothing else could. May you realise the greatness of your vocation and work together for peace in this troubled world by your inspired ringing, but above all for the glory of God.'

At the close of the service the members adjourned to the Parish Hall for tea, which was prepared and admirably served by the wives of the ringers and the lady ringers attached to the church.

The business meeting was presided over by Canon J. L. White. An apology was received from the president, Archdeacon R. Brook, of Rugby.

The report for 1939 was presented by the secretary (Mrs. D. E. Beamish) and showed a membership of 317, a decrease of 47 compared with 1938. Eight peals were rung on tower bells and one on handbells.

The report, together with the balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £22 6s. 7d., was adopted.

All the officers were re-elected.

Three new members were elected, viz., C. Parker (Stoke), H. L. Terry (Ilmington) and L. Kinchin (Mickleton, Glos.). The two last named were ratified following their election prior to a peal.

Meeting places decided upon for the next three months were Church Lawford (May), Bickenhill (June) and Rugby (July). The question of members of the Forces being relieved of payment of subscriptions was raised, and it was unanimously decided to do this for the duration of the war.

Sympathy for a former secretary of the Guild (Mr. A. Wilkerson, of Weston-super-Mare) was expressed by the meeting on learning of his undergoing an operation upon one of his eyes, which had necessitated his giving up his employment.

The Guild has lost through death three old and respected members, Mr. H. Briggs, of Stoney Stanton, Mr. A. W. Wright, of Stratford-on-Avon, and Mr. A. Bramall, of Rugby. The members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

The Master (Mr. J. H. W. White), in moving a vote of thanks to Canon White for presiding and allowing the use of the bells, said how sorry the members were to learn of his impending departure. The Guild was always made very welcome at Nuneaton, and the bells were always available for meetings and peal attempts.

Canon White, who is going to Bury St. Edmunds, said, in reply, that he had been pleased to do what he could for the welfare of the Guild and wished it God-speed in its work.

The business meeting concluded, handbells were produced and some well-struck touches of Stedman Caters were rung by F. Price 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, F. E. Pervin 5-6, A. Walker 7-8, D. H. Argyle 9-10.

Tunes were also rung by Messrs. C. H. Webb, his son, Arthur, and P. Stone.

Welcome visitors were Mr. J. W. Cotton (hon. secretary, Midland Counties Association, Burton District), Messrs. Curzon and Clayfield, Messrs. F. Price, W. Davies and Michieson, of Aston, and Messrs. A. Walker, H. H. Fearn and C. H. Stanley, of Birmingham.

Affiliated towers represented were Allesley, Bilton, Bulkington, Chilvers Coton, Keresley, Rugby, Stoke-in-Coventry, Wolvey and the local band.

Further ringing on the tower bells was indulged in until 8 o'clock with varying success, followed by further handbell ringing at a nearby hotel.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The April meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Bottesford on Saturday week, when the fine peal of eight bells were made full use of during the afternoon and evening. About 30 members and friends were present from Southwell, Sutton-on-Trent, Sandiacre, Billingborough, Fandon, Hough-on-the-Hill, Folkingham, Newark, Nottingham (St. Mary's and St. Peter's) and the local band. The methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Little Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge, with rounds, etc., for the beginners.

It was decided to hold the May meeting at Attenborough.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kirton for arranging a 'topping' tea at an hour's notice, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells, which were much appreciated.

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

### QUARTERLY MEETING AT ASTON.

A quarterly meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Saturday, April 6th, at the Parish Church, Aston. For many years the tower was looked on as the second headquarters of the Guild, and it was the custom to hold one quarterly meeting there each year, but when the bells became unringable this rule was broken. In 1935 the bells were recast and augmented to a fine peal of 12, so the old order has been revived. About 40 members attended and the bells were kept going in various methods from 3 o'clock.

The Vicar (the Ven. H. McGowan) conducted a short service in the chancel, and in his address cordially welcomed the members to Aston. He referred to the importance and dignity of churchworkers. Whether as churchwardens, sidesmen, lay readers, teachers, choirmen or bell-ringers, they were all part of the whole, and all contributed to the wellbeing of the body of the Church.

An adjournment was then made to the Parish Hall, where tea was kindly provided by the Aston company and full justice was done to it. In these days of food rationing it was remarkable where all the good things came from; ham and green salad, sugar and butter and home-made cakes galore, all willingly and cheerfully prepared and served by the ringers' wives, sisters and sweethearts.

A short business meeting followed, presided over by Vice-President the Ven. H. McGowan in the unavoidable absence of the Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. L. W. Conduct, of Erdington, Maurice Hibbert, now of Sparkhill, and H. Hough, of Worcester. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 6th, and the bi-quarterly meeting at St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral on a Saturday in May convenient to the authorities.

Mr. W. C. Dowding reminded members that the National Police Guild were endeavouring to arrange their annual meeting at Banbury some time in May, and should they be successful in doing so he hoped St. Martin's Guild members would do all they could to make it a success. He was sure all present would be pleased to know that Mr. Harold J. Poole, of Leicester, had now quite recovered and had resumed his duties.

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Councillor Paddon Smith, to the Vicar for the use of the bells and his address, to Mr. W. Davies and the Aston company for making the local arrangements and providing tea, and to the ladies who had so kindly served it, brought the meeting to a close.

The handbells were then brought out and several good touches were brought round. Later a return was made to the tower for further ringing, to be followed by that meeting in another place where the inevitable reminiscences of a former generation connected with Aston ringing were recalled.

For the information of any visiting ringers who may be in Birmingham, the usual Tuesday evening practices at St. Martin's at 7.30 p.m. have now been resumed. All ringers will be welcomed.

## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

### QUARTERLY MEETING OF SOUTHERN BRANCH.

On Saturday a most successful quarterly meeting was held at Horbling, and some 30 ringers attended from a wide area, the following towers being represented: Peterborough, Market Deeping, Deeping St. Nicholas, Bourne, Morton, Edenham, Rippingale, Billingborough, Folkingham, Swineshead, Donington, Bicker, Wigtoft, St. Mary Abbot's, South Kensington, Heckington, Boston, Southwell and Horbling.

The musical ring of six, installed by Messrs. Taylor in 1929, were available during the afternoon and evening, and were kept going to a variety of methods ranging from Plain Bob to London Surprise.

Shortened evensong was conducted by the Vicar at 4.30, followed by the tea and business meeting. The Vicar, who presided, was elected an honorary member of the Southern Branch. It is hoped to continue the holding of these quarterly meetings, and it was decided that the next should be held in July at Colsterworth. The business concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and the service. The tower was again visited and further ringing took place until 8.15.

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**A HEREFORDSHIRE RESTORATION.****WITHINGTON'S RING OF SIX.**

The peal of six bells, with a tenor of 16 cwt., at Withington, near Hereford, has been completely restored and rehung with modern fittings, including ball bearings, in a new massive cast iron frame, by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. The two trebles have been recast and all the bells perfectly tuned. It is notable that the work has been carried out since the outbreak of war in spite of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials and labour.

Some five years ago, after expert examination, the bells were condemned as unsafe and a danger to the tower and spire, and it was decided to cease ringing until funds could be raised for the necessary renovation.

The scheme was in abeyance until last year, when the restoration was made possible by the generosity of one of the churchwardens, Mr. W. G. Farmer, of Withington Court, who has defrayed the entire cost as a memorial to his parents, the late Rev. and Mrs. James Farmer.

The bells were rededicated in the presence of a large congregation by the Bishop of Hereford on Sunday evening, March 31st.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. H. W. J. L. R. Haywood), and the Bishop was assisted by his chaplain (the Rev. Preb. C. H. Hodgson). Mr. Farmer's gift included a memorial tablet, which also was dedicated during the service. The bells were rung during and after the rededication by six members of the local band.

The Bishop, in the course of his sermon, gave an exceptionally interesting outline of the history of bells, which, he said, carried on the function of the old silver trumpets used by the Children of Israel in their wanderings. After referring to the part bells played in the Church, the Bishop said that they had also been used, as were the silver trumpets of old, for the purpose of sounding the alarm. So it had been in many Herefordshire parishes in the past, when the Welsh, who were then our enemies and not our friends, crossed the border, the church bells rang, and women and children, and the treasures of the people, were taken into the strong church tower, while the men prepared to defend their homes.

The Bishop referred also to the beauty of the metalwork of the Withington bells now restored so splendidly, and expressed the gratitude of the ringers and the whole parish to Mr. Farmer for his lavish gift.

After the service, full use was made of the bells up to 9 o'clock by visiting ringers from Kington, Ross, Markwell, Hereford, Lugwardine and Lyonshall, assisted by the whole of the local band.

Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have carried out their task in a most admirable manner in difficult circumstances. The firm were represented at the service by Mr. S. R. Roper, who received the congratulations of everyone. The 'go' was pronounced as perfect and the tuning was considered so good that one ringer remarked that 'the whole peal sounded as if all the bells were cast at one time.'

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

A meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Eastbourne on April 13th. The tower of St. Saviour's was open at 3 o'clock and ringing took place until 4 o'clock, when a service was held conducted by the curate (the Rev. C. G. Balaam), who, in the course of an excellent address, said he wondered if we were really thankful enough for the freedom we enjoyed in this land of ours; freedom to go unhindered into our churches to worship and freedom to go into our towers to ring our bells with no fear of concentration camps. It was when such freedom was taken away that its blessings were appreciated.

After the service the ringers were entertained to tea by Mr. A. Piper, and the Master of the association, Mr. H. R. Butcher, presided at the business meeting which followed.

The association, said the Master, had suffered a very grievous loss by the death of two prominent members, Mr. A. C. Pankhurst, the hon. divisional secretary, a man who carried out his duties ably and conscientiously, and Mr. W. D. Smith, whose death had caused a great loss to the association.

Mr. C. A. Levett was appointed hon. district secretary, and the committee, Messrs. W. Booth, W. Franks and A. R. Miles, were re-elected.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. A. Piper for once again defraying the cost of tea, to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to the curate for his address and to the lady who presided at the harmonium at the service.

The Master closed the meeting by thanking Mr. F. Dallaway for his work as acting secretary till a successor was appointed.

During the afternoon and evening the fine ring of eight at St. Saviour's was heard in various methods.

**NOTICES.**

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The following Saturday afternoon practices have been arranged: April 27th, Boreham; and May 4th, Broomfield; all commencing at 3 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary Cray on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Please support the efforts made on your behalf. St. Mary Cray expects large numbers!—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody cordially invited. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Swithland (6 bells) on April 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Buses from bus station, Belgrave Gate. Please come and enjoy a visit to this beautiful bit of country.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ely Branch.—A meeting will be held at Harston on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service, followed by tea at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. P. G. Ward. All welcome.—C. W. Cook, Dis. Sec., Newton, Cambridge.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The branch annual meeting has been arranged at Burnham, Bucks, on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Guild service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Annual meeting 5.45 p.m. Hitcham bells (6) available afterwards. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at Eynesbury on Saturday, April 27th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton, St. Neots.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next practice meeting will be held at Dagenham on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) from 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who desire it.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Winscombe on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—H. Minifie, Hon. Sec., Royston, Uphill, Somerset.

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**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Liss on Saturday, April 27th. Bells of St. Mary's Church (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. Business meeting follows. Bells available after meeting until 7 p.m.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles St., Petersfield.

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at the Ashton Parish Church on Saturday, April 27th. Bells at 3.30. Meeting 7.—T. Jackson, President.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 5.15 p.m.; preacher, Rev. Percival Gough. Tea in Church Hall at 5.45 p.m., for which there will be a collection. Business meeting to follow. The bells at St. Stephen's, Ealing, 4 to 4.50 p.m., and Christ Church, Ealing, 7.30 to 9 p.m., also available. — C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

**SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.** — The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, April 27th. Tower open 3 o'clock. — I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.** — The next meeting will be held at Barnby Don on Saturday, April 27th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—Ringing at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday, April 27th. Meeting time 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, May 7th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 27th. Ringing at the Cathedral (12), St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter-at-Gowts (6) from 2 p.m. Service at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. Please note that the tea arrangements advertised previously have been cancelled. Will ringers please make their own tea arrangements? The meeting will be held in the Chapter House at the Cathedral at 6.45.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincs.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.** — Northern Division. — A meeting will be held at Witham on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. It is most essential that those requiring tea should notify Mr. A. Evers, 6, Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, not later than Wednesday, May 1st. Tea will only be provided for those who send in their names.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Maulden on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. Please come. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — The half-yearly meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, on Saturday, May 4th. Tower open at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. to those who send in names to Mr. F. G. Bradley, New Road Parade, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, by April 30th. No card, no tea! — W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—A meeting will be held at St. George's, Southwark, on Saturday, May 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea at Lyons, London Bridge, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting in church vestry. Please turn up in full force, as we wish to discuss future activities of the district.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Taunton Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cruch St. Midiall on Saturday, May 4th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. — R. W. Hayward, 24, Fairwater Cottages, Taunton.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The Guild festival will be held at Salisbury on Saturday, May 4th. Annual meeting in the Church House at 2.30 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. P. J. Hayes, Vicar. Tea in the Church House at 5.15 p.m., 1s. each member. Towers available—St. Thomas', St. Martin's (8 bells); St. Paul's, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Wilton, Amesbury (6 bells). Ringers intending to be present should signify their intention to the Secretary by Monday, April 29th, at the latest.—F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kingston Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, on Saturday, May 4th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30 p.m. Teas arranged for all who notify Mr. T. G. Bradley, New Road Parade, Whittle-le-Woods, not later than Wednesday, May 1st. Everybody welcome, but please remember, no card, no tea.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — The annual general meeting will be held at Brighton on Saturday, May 4th. Service at St. Nicholas', with address by the Rev. N. L. Phillips, M.A., M.C., 4.30. Bells of St. Peter's and St. Nicholas' available 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. Tea, followed by business meeting, in St. Nicholas' Hall, 5.15 p.m. Cost of tea 2s. 6d. (1s. to members), payable at the table, but supplied by ticket only on receipt of 1d. stamp by May 1st. Half rail fare (maximum 2s. 6d.) allowed to resident members.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — A meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. A. Ridgway, 11, Shirley Street, Leek, Staffs, not later than Wednesday next. Stone meeting on June 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, 55, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

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**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Hurst, Berks (bells 8), Saturday, May 4th, 5 p.m. All welcome. — W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Newington on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Ringers' service at 4.30, followed by tea in Schoolroom at 1s. per head. Those requiring tea are asked to advise the undersigned not later than May 1st. A good meeting is expected. — G. H. Spice, 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch. — The spring meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. per head, at 4.45 p.m. in room opposite church. Service 6 p.m. Please let me know how many for tea by May 1st.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Ross District. —The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bridstow on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Number for tea by May 1st to W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Desford on Saturday, May 4th. Usual times. Please let me know how many want tea (Blue Bell at 5 p.m.) not later than Friday, May 3rd. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Bi-quarterly meeting for practice, Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, May 4th. Ringing 3 p.m. to dusk. Tea, Central Café, 5.30 p.m., 1s. per head. Numbers by Wednesday, May 1st, please, or make own arrangements. All ringers welcome and all tastes catered for from Rounds to Surprise.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—West Norfolk Branch.—A meeting will be held at Fakenham on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. (don't forget card).—Wm. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Chiddingstone on May 4th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Please notify me for tea, which will be free, by Wednesday, May 1st.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Saturday, May 4th, practice at St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3.15 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Holborn, 6.15 p.m.; Sunday, May 5th, St. Clement Danes, 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, Acting Gen. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Wroughton (bells 6) on Saturday, May 4th, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., when it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend. Visitors will be welcomed.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Woburn on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided for those who notify me by Wednesday, May 1st. All ringers cordially invited. — Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**PEAK DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The first meeting of the year will be held at Ashover on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at a nominal cost, but it is essential to inform Mr. A. H. Bowler, Eastwood View, Ashover, near Chesterfield, not later than Tuesday, April 30th. We shall be glad to see all old friends and any new ones who will help to make the meeting a success.—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Banbury and District Branch.—A meeting will be held at Swalcliffe on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting. Will those who intend to be present and require tea please notify L. J. Malings, Deddington, Oxon, before Tuesday, May 7th?

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday, May 13th. Central Committee meet 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Room. Service, St. Peter's Church, 3.30. Address by Rev. E. V. Fenn. Tea at Angel Hotel 4.15, followed by the business meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send names to general secretary by Monday, May 6th. Honorary and subscribing members free, others 1s. 6d. each. Bells available: St. Giles' (10), St. Edmunds' (8) 11 to 1, All Saints' (8), Holy Sepulchre (8) 1 to 3, St. Peter's 1 to 3.30; after the meeting until 7.30, St. Giles', St. Peter's, All Saints', Holy Sepulchre and Kingsthorpe (6).—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—The 66th annual general meeting will be held in Exeter on Whit-Monday, May 13th. Service at St. Sidwell's, at 12.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. H. Lanyon-Owen (Rector). Dinner at Deller's Café, Bedford Street, at 1 p.m. Admission by ticket only. Members' tickets price 1s., non-members 2s. 6d., must be applied for, with remittance, by May 7th. Business meeting to follow. Towers open for ringing from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., are St. Sidwell's (10), St. Thomas' (8), St. David's (8) and Heavitree (8). Visitors are cordially invited. Tickets may be obtained from Fredk. C. Smale (acting hon. sec.), Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit-Monday, May 13th. Service in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., followed by the annual meeting in the Chapter House. Lunch (members 1s. 6d., non-members 2s. 6d.) will be provided at the Golden Fleece for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, May 8th. A good attendance is requested as the committee's proposals for revision of rules will be put before the meeting. It is hoped that the usual towers will be open for ringing. Full details next week.—L. J. Clark, Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

**BOWDON PARISH CHURCH.**—Practices resumed Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Sunday ringing 10.15 to 10.45 a.m., 6 to 6.30 p.m.—D. Vincent, 6, Stanway Drive, Hale. Tel. Alt. 2333.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The next meeting will be held on May 18th, not May 4th, as arranged. Details later. — C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

#### APARTMENTS.

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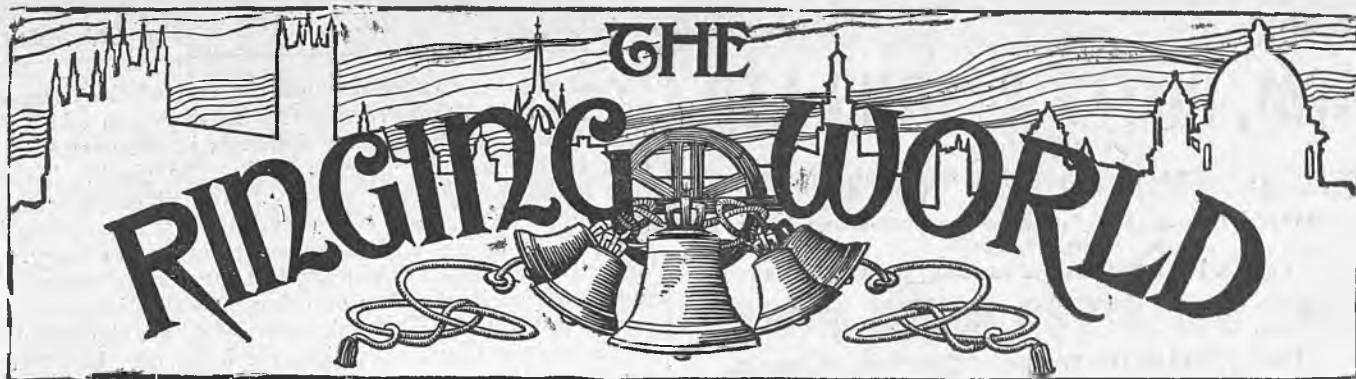


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FRIDAY, MAY 3rd, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

The question of maintaining ringing during war time is wrapped up more closely with man-power even than with lighting restrictions. The 'black-out' may interfere, and in many places has seriously interfered, with operations in the belfry, but lack of ringers will effectively put an end to all efforts to keep the bells of a church going. Every source of recruitment must be utilised to keep up the strength of the personnel, and it is surprising to learn from our correspondence columns that there was some opposition at the annual meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association to encouraging ladies to take up the art and fill the gaps caused by the absence of men on the stern duties of war. There are very few ringers in these days who, we think, would deny to women the place they have taken in the belfries—a place which they gained during the last war, and which they have held with advantage to the Exercise up to the present time.

There are, of course, some few people who still look upon ringing as a job solely for men; who think that, in any case, the belfry is no place for women, but the vast majority of ringers not only admit the value of women in the belfry but welcome them. It is true, as a lady correspondent points out in a letter elsewhere, that they cannot, as a rule, ring the heavy bells, but they can ring the light ones, and some of the ladies are better ringers than a good many men. The opposition to women in the belfry in these days is, we think, largely due to prejudice, and we can hardly imagine any logical reason why the presence of women in a tower should drive men away. What influence women have had in the belfry has been, we are convinced, to raise the standard of conduct, and if there are some people who think that it has lowered the standard of ringing, the fault lies, in the first place, with the instructors and not with the ladies. There are plenty of poor ringers of the other sex, if truth must be told, and it is due to the same cause.

At a time like the present, bands which are likely to suffer from shortage of ringers cannot afford to set their faces against recruiting ladies. Indeed, they should be only too glad to get their help; it may save many a tower from closing down before the war is over, and they should make the most of the opportunities now. It will only add to the task to wait until the company gets to breaking point before tackling it. While there are hands enough to man the ropes is the time to train the women to take the places of the men who are likely to be called up. A band of eight will make half a dozen ladies better ringers in quicker time than three or four men left to make the

(Continued on page 206.)

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best of the raw material when the rest of the company have gone—and there can be few belfries upon which the country will not make some demands in the near future, even if they are not already feeling the pinch. To act now is the safe course, and any tower which neglects to take steps to this end will only have itself to blame if, later on, it is left with insufficient ringers to carry on. Actually there is no time to be lost, and those who would put obstacles in the way of bringing ladies into the belfry, if not standing in their own light, are doing a disservice to the Exercise, which, ere long, may badly need the help which women can give.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

*JOSEPH L. STANIER ... .. Treble	ALFRED S. BAYLEY ... .. 6
E. DENNIS POOLE ... .. 2	WILLIAM SAUNDERS ... .. 7
ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... .. 3	G. LEONARD HEWITT ... .. 8
*THOMAS PRICE ... .. 4	WALTER LAGO ... .. 9
WILLIAM J. CHESTER ... .. 5	PHILIP A. CORBY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

\* First peal of Royal. First peal in the method by all the band, in the county and in the Diocese of Hereford.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

GEORGE B. JACKSON ... .. Treble	WILLIAM PILKINGTON ... .. 5
SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... .. 2	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... .. 6
*MISS ELIZABETH M. STUART 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... .. 7
ERNEST F. BENNETT ... .. 4	*CHARLES GREGORY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE R. NEWTON.

\* First peal in the method.

STEWKLEY, BUCKS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

DORIS E. LIDBETTER ... .. Treble	FREDERICK J. PLUMMER ... .. 5
FREDERICK DICKERS ... .. 2	*REGINALD H. HOWSON ... .. 6
HENRY B. WHITNEY ... .. 3	*EDWIN A. BELSON ... .. 7
*VICTOR W. CONQUEST ... .. 4	JOHN H. CONQUEST ... .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN A. BELSON.

\* First peal in the method.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND THOMAS-OF-CANTERBURY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

WILLIAM CLOVER ... .. Treble	JOHN A. GODFREY ... .. 5
GEORGE MAYERS ... .. 2	PHILIP W. J. FRYER ... .. 6
ROBERT G. FISHER ... .. 3	WALTER R. FARROW ... .. 7
THOMAS E. SPIGHT ... .. 4	HENRY TOOKE ... .. Tenor

Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

The composition is now rung for the first time. Arranged and rung in honour of the 25th anniversary of the wedding of the Rev. and Mrs. Jarvis, of Wymondham.



### HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

#### A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

FRANK VARTY ... ..	...Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... ..	5
ERNEST L. HUMPHRISS ... ..	2	ARTHUR LINTOTT... ..	6
*THOMAS W. HRSKETH ... ..	3	EDWIN C. BIRKETT ... ..	7
*THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... ..	4	PERCIVAL W. CAVE ... ..	Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

\* First peal in the method.

### SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

BRANDON, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

#### A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

*WILLIAM WEBB... ..	...Treble	BASIL D. BUTTRESS ... ..	4
REGINALD C. SHARPE ... ..	2	†ALWYNE L. J. BEALE... ..	5
FREDERICK HURRY ... ..	3	SIDNEY BROWN ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by BASIL D. BUTTRESS.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

ASHBRITTFLE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

#### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

STANLEY N. BRISTOW ... ..	...Treble	JOHN H. MANNING ... ..	4
*D. CHARLES ENTICOTT ... ..	2	FREDERICK ALDERMAN ... ..	5
WALTER STEVENS ... ..	3	†SYDNEY ALDERMAN ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by S. ALDERMAN.

\* First peal 'inside.' † First peal and first attempt. Specially arranged for the wedding of Private D. Parsons, R.A.O.C., and Miss K. Alderman, of Ashbrittle. The bridegroom was a member of the local band before joining H.M. Forces.

STANTON HARCOURT, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

#### A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising one 720 of Oxford Treble Bob and two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 15 cwt.

*THOMAS W. BOND ... ..	...Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... ..	4
JONATHAN HONEY ... ..	2	†CECIL G. CALCUTT ... ..	5
*HARRY P. FLOYD ... ..	3	ALAN R. PINK ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

\* First peal of Minor in more than one method. † First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor on the bells.

STANWICK, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes;

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

#### A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 240 of Stedman and 20 extents each of Plain Bob and Grandsire. Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb. in B.

DONALD L. COCKINGS ... ..	...Treble	WILLIAM G. CALLIS ... ..	3
A. JAMES STUART... ..	2	EDWARD SMART ... ..	4

\*WILLIAM H. GRIGGS... ..

Conducted by D. L. COCKINGS.

\* First peal 'inside.'

COGENHOE, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

#### A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of New Grandsire, Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob, April Day and Old Doubles, and 1,440 Grandsire. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*LESLIE BATTISON ... ..	...Treble	*CYRIL BARRICK ... ..	4
*GEORGE CARE ... ..	2	*RONNIE NOON ... ..	5
*CECIL WHITE ... ..	3	PHILIP JONES ... ..	Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

\* First peal and first attempt. It is just a year since the first five ringers began to learn bellringing. They are all Sunday service ringers at Brafeld.

### THE LATE C. W. O. JENKYN.

MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGE TO EAST GARSTON.

On Wednesday evening, April 17th, a little party of ringers made their seventh pilgrimage to the beautiful old village of East Garston, Berks, and rang Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles in memory of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, who was called home on that date in 1933. No 720 of Minor was rung as in past years, but two of Mr. Jenkyn's boyhood friends, in the persons of Messrs. George and John Woodley, natives of the village, took part. The character of the ringing was good. Those taking part were the Misses S. Davis and P. Hart, with S. C. Davis, W. and R. T. Hibbert and Messrs. Woodley.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT KEGWORTH.

A meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Kegworth on Saturday, April 20th, and was well attended by members from Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Kingston-on-Soar, Loughborough, Lockington, Oaks-in-Charnwood, Shepshed, Thrumpton and Woodhouse Eaves, with welcome visitors from Sawley, Sandiacre, Breaston and Wallesey.

Tea was served at the home of Mr. F. J. Sutton, the local captain.

The Rector (Canon Devereaux) conducted the association order of service, and referred to the scheme for augmenting the existing peal of six bells to complete the octave, giving an historical survey of the present peal. Mr. C. Hutchinson, of Sawley, presided at the organ.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Shepshed on May 25th, and the members were also in favour of combining with the Burton District for a joint meeting at Cole Orton, the date to be arranged later.

Thanks to the Vicar and Mr. and Mrs. Sutton and also to Mr. Hutchinson were heartily carried, following which the bells were made good use of to a wide variety of methods.

### BURTON DISTRICT.

A successful meeting of the Burton District was held at Rolleston-on-Dove in fine weather, and a pleasant time was enjoyed by the thirty or so members and visitors who attended from Burton, Ashby, Measham, Overseale, Netherseale, Duffield, Norton-in-the-Moors, Cheadle, Longton, Kingsley and Tamworth.

At 4.45 the company adjourned to the Church Hall, where they were met by the Rector, the Rev. W. Bagnall, who kindly entertained them to tea.

The Rector welcomed the members to Rolleston and made optimistic reference to the state of the world crisis.

One non-resident life member was elected, Mr. E. Steele, of Longton.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Appleby Magna on May 25th, and it was left to the secretary to try and arrange a joint summer meeting at Cole-Orton.

The meeting closed with the secretary expressing the thanks and appreciation of all present to the Rector for his continued generosity, for the use of the bells and for presiding at the meeting. This was supported by Mr. J. H. Swinfield and carried with applause.

The tower was again visited and the bells kept going in various methods, and some good practice for the assistance of learners was put in.

## TOWER CLOCKS

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## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. STEPHEN'S, COLEMAN STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The church of St. Stephen, Coleman Street, was originally a chapel in the parish of St. Lawrence Jewry, and was incorporated a parish church in the reign of King Edward IV.

It then had three or four bells, for in some statutes drawn up in 1467 the duties of the clerks and sexton in ringing them are carefully defined. The clerks' duties include the following:—

Item: thei shal be redy to mynyster Bokys, vestments Chalyses and all other thyngs necessary to the Curate to the morn masse pste (priest), and to alle other pste of the saide church that is to say . . . to ryngge iij pelys w<sup>t</sup> the lest Bell to the morrow masse pste and ask hym if shal ryngge alle in. And so to do to the Curate or his Debite on sondays and holidays after the gode custom of london.

Item, they shall open the Churche dores in somer att vij of the belle and orden fressh water, wyne, and bredde. And ryng to morn masse i som at v of the belle in wynter at halfe hower be fore vij, so that the masse be sayd at vij.

Item thei shal help the morn masse pste to saye masse in a surpilis and at hys masse dayly. . . . Thei shall be ready to ryng to all man of diuine suise (divine service) at dewe oure assynged of the Curate or his debite, after the use and custom of london the Citie of. And not to ryng the laste pele until the Curate or his debite be pzent.

In the 'Sexton's deutee' it is ordered: 'And he shal Ryngge curfu whan it ys rounge w<sup>t</sup> one bell and call foo help whan it ys rounge w<sup>t</sup> moo (more).'

Before the Reformation there stood in Aldgate the wealthy priory of the Holy Trinity. It possessed several bells and, when the church was pulled down, four of the largest went to St. Dunstan's, Stepney (where probably some of the metal still is), and five small ones were sold to St. Stephen's.

The inventory of the goods and ornaments of the church in the sixth year of the reign of Edward VI. (1552) shows that there were then in the steeple 'V bells and a saunce bell.' They were added to in the following years, but all were destroyed when the church was burnt in the great fire of 1666.

The building was restored by Sir Christopher Wren during the years 1674-81, and it was one of the first of the new churches to have a ringing peal of bells. In 1693 James Bartlet of Whitechapel supplied a ring of eight, of which the treble, second, third, fifth and sixth are still in the tower. John Waylett, a little known founder, recast some of the others. The present clock bell was cast by Antony Bartlet in 1672, and probably was the bell that was used temporarily while the church was being rebuilt.

The first peal on the bells of which there is any record was one of Bob Triples rung by the College Youths on August 21st, 1733. William Laughton was steward in that year, and he probably insisted on his right to call it. It was an old custom among the metropolitan societies that the master and stewards should in turn have the ordering of quarterly peals. Annable had conducted every peal he had taken part in after the first one, and relations between him and Laughton were getting strained. So either he refused to ring, or the band was made up without him.

The next peal on the bells was 5040 Bob Major by the Eastern Scholars in 1742, and a rather curious record of the performance was cut by some one on the lead roof of the church: 'Tuesday, . . . 12 1741 was rung in this steeple by the Society of Eastern Scholars a compleat peal of 5040 Bob Major P. Mainwaring 1, R. Butterworth 2, J. Newell 3, W. Goodman 4, T. Bennett 5, W.

Lovell 6, J. Bradshaw 7, W. S . . . . Tenor. Com-pleated in 3 hours and 10 minutes.'

This account is confirmed by the society's peal book, but close by somebody has scratched: 'This is a lye as sure as ever the performers lived.' Whether it is an echo of some dispute regarding the truth of the peal, or only an idle or spiteful remark by some unknown person, we cannot tell.

In 1747 the Eastern Scholars rang another peal of Bob Major on the bells, and after that there are no recorded peals in the steeple until the early years of the nineteenth century.

It was at St. Stephen's on April 2nd, 1827, that the first peal by the reconstructed St. James' Society was rung. The beginnings of the society went back to the closing years of the eighteenth century. The new church of St. James, Clerkenwell, was consecrated on July 10th, 1792, and in the previous year a ring of eight was erected in the steeple by Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel. The belfry became one of the strongholds of the Cumberland Youths, and among them was a man named John Hints, who lived in the neighbourhood and apparently had charge of the bells.

Neither of the two leading societies would teach beginners, so it was the custom for the steeple keepers at various towers to get together bands of beginners and, for a fee, instruct them in round ringing and the rudiments of change ringing. John Hints had such a band, and, whether he was an exceptionally good teacher, or whether he had more than ordinarily apt pupils, he turned out several good ringers, and formed a band that rang a good many peals in different towers, sometimes with the help of men from other companies.

Most of these peals were unrecorded and are forgotten, but as early as February 7th, 1797, the St. James' Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Edmonton, Hints calling the bobs, and other peals were rung at Clerkenwell, Battersea, Westminster and St. Albans by these people, who at that time called themselves the Westminster Youths.

The company was an informal affair, without regular officers and rules, and after a time it declined, but in 1827 it was revived and, under the title of St. James' Society, took its place as one of the most active companies in London. The meetings were held at Clerkenwell and Coleman Street alternately, and at the latter tower, as I have mentioned, the first peal was rung.

The method was Grandsire Triples and William Atherton called the bobs. Two other men in the band, Joseph Ladley and Thomas Tolladay, were among the most active peal ringers of the day. Ladley had been for long one of the Junior Cumberlands and, when that somewhat disreputable company broke up, he went to the Junior College Youths, with whom at this time and later he rang many peals. He was for some years the leading conductor for those two societies.

Tolladay had also been a Junior College Youth and afterwards a member of the senior society, but when the St. James' Society was founded he threw most of his energies into that company, and it was largely due to him that it became an important body. He called the second peal, which was also Grandsire Triples, at Coleman Street. Grandsire Triples was then the method most rung in London and, out of the first thirty peals by the St. James' Society, all but one were in that method,

(Continued on next page.)

**MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES.****PORTSMOUTH RINGER HONOURED.**

In the Naval Honours List of the 'London Gazette' on Wednesday week appears the following notice referring to Mr. C. L. Guy, one of the ringers at St. Mary's, Portsea, Portsmouth. His many friends will be glad to see it.

Mentioned in dispatches.—Mechanician Cecil L. Guy, H.M.S. Nelson, for outstanding initiative and resource in executing repairs in his ship in very trying conditions after an explosion.

**DUBLIN DATE TOUCH.**

A date touch of Grandsire Doubles (1,940 changes) was rung on the bells of St. George's Parish Church, Dublin, in 1 hour 17 minutes, by members of the local band before Confirmation service on Friday, April 26th: W. McGregor 1, D. McGregor 2, G. G. Lindoff 3, W. Hall 4, F. E. Dukes (conductor) 5, A. Worrell 6, D. McGregor 7, M. Doolan 8. Rung on the front five with 7-6-8 covering. The touch comprised three 480's and one 500 of G. Lindoff's compositions.

**CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.**

(Continued from previous page.)

the exception being Grandsire Caters. Twenty-four were conducted by Tolladay.

Very soon the St. James' Society shifted its headquarters, first to Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, and then to St. Clement Danes. In 1829, however, they rang one more peal at St. Stephen's, and on October 29th, 1838, Tolladay called another peal of Grandsire Triples there for the College Youths. After that the belfry drops out of the history of London ringing.

St. Stephen's bells are very seldom heard nowadays, but a few peals have been rung on them in comparatively recent years. The most interesting are the first peal of London Surprise in the City of London, which was rung on January 14th, 1899, by a band of the Sussex County Association from St. Peter's, Brighton; and the only peal by the Irish Association accomplished outside Ireland, a peal of Bob Major rung on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), 1905.

**A DEVON RESTORATION.****CORNWORTHY BELLS REHUNG.**

The bells of Cornworthy Parish Church, Devon, have just been quarter turned and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The ring of six dates from 1776, and was last overhauled in 1911. The restoration has been made possible largely by the generosity of Mr. Edmund Parnell, who resides in London, but was a native of the village, being the son of a Cornworthy farmer. He gave £100 towards the £280 required. The Totnes Branch of the Devon Guild contributed £5, and the balance, except for £30 which has still to be found, was raised in the village. The chiming apparatus, installed as the Great War memorial of the parish, and the clock face have also been renovated.

The work was dedicated on April 20th by the Rural Dean, the Rev. H. F. Beaumont, Vicar of Stoke Gabriel, and the clergy of adjoining parishes were also present.

In his address the Rural Dean congratulated Cornworthy upon the restoration that had been carried out. They had faced the task of raising a considerable sum of money and that service marked their success. He was sure the example they had given would be something to encourage and cheer other parishes to share in their joy and successful effort.

Speaking of the ringers, the Rural Dean assured them their work was not taken for granted. It was appreciated by the churchpeople generally. He referred to the time and trouble taken, the good fellowship and the comradeship which seemed to mark every ringing festival. Towers in the deaunery had helped, and in this restoration had shown their interest in a practical way.

The Rural Dean added that Cornworthy had done well in restoring the bells, but another thing which now suggested itself was the repair of the tower. Perhaps it was not immediately urgent, but it was likely to involve considerable expense. Such work called for a special effort, but he sincerely urged it for their consideration.

Following the service many ringers from a number of towers tried out the bells. Among them were two lady ringers from St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth. Local towers represented were Dittisham, Dartmouth, Stoke Gabriel and West Alvington. Tea was served in the Schoolroom, and a dance was held there in the evening.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—On April 7th at the Cathedral, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: W. C. Dowding 1, T. H. Reeves 2, G. E. Fearn 3, H. H. Fearn 4, A. Walker (conductor) 5, S. O'C. Holloway 6, F. E. Haynes 7, M. Hibbert 8. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son (Roger Walker) to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Walker. Mr. F. W. Walker is a member of St. Martin's Guild and son of the conductor.

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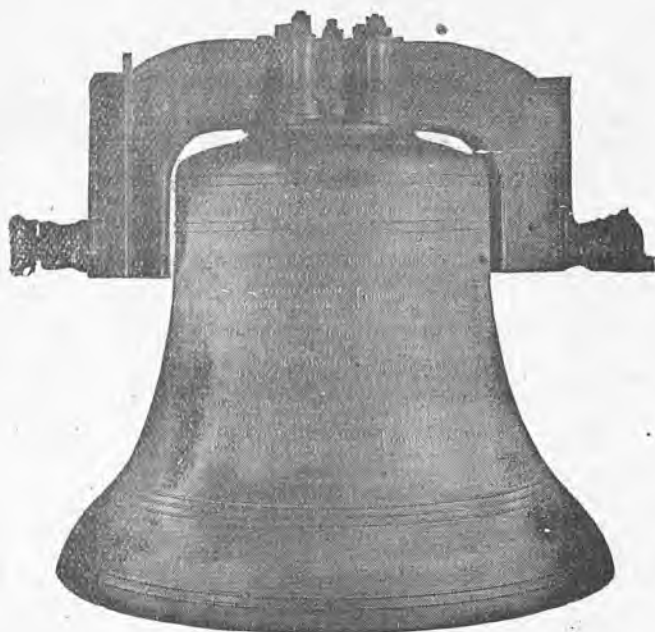
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. George Williams' many friends will join with us in heartily congratulating him on his eighty-third birthday, which occurs next Tuesday. He is still hale and hearty and looks forward to attempting a peal in honour of the event.

Another distinguished and popular ringer, Mr. Albert Walker, celebrates his sixty-fourth birthday to-day.

As will be learnt from our notice columns, the College Youths are considering the possibility of holding a lunch in June. The scheme seems worthy of the support of the members, and whether it will be possible depends on the response sent to Mr. A. B. Peck during the coming week.

The Rev. Malcolm Melville, who was recently ordained, is attached to a church which has no tower bells, so he is doing the next best thing and interesting some of the young people in handbell ringing. He has four interested so far, and some of the time is spent with tune ringing.

Last Sunday was the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal by the Cambridge University Guild. It was one of Bob Triples on handbells, conducted by H. Law James, who rang 5-6. The other ringers were the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey, E. B. James and C. F. Wedmeyer.

Exactly two and a quarter centuries ago yesterday the Norwich Scholars rang the first true peal of any sort ever accomplished. It, too, was Plain Bob Triples and was composed and conducted by John Garthorn.

The Painswick band rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters on May 5th, 1817. They probably thought it was the longest length in the method, but it was not.

The ages of the five ringers who rang the working bells to the peal of Doubles at Cogenhoe on Saturday are 16, 12, 14, 14 and 15 years. The performance was a very meritorious one, as it was only about a twelve-month ago that they began change ringing.

The ringer of the third in the peal at Poolstock, reported in our issue of April 19th, was Alan Carpenter, not Carpentry as printed.

A very hearty welcome has been extended to Mr. F. S. Wilson (late of West Lavington, Midhurst) by the captain and ringers of St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth. When Mr. Wilson retired from the bank four years ago he went to reside at Midhurst and he soon found a church, St. Mary's, Easebourne, that needed help, for the ringers who for many years rang 'stony.' He set to work to instruct the ringers in change ringing, and when he left Grandsire Doubles was regularly rung for services. His work was greatly appreciated and it is satisfactory to know that his efforts were not in vain.

We regret to record that Mr. W. W. Worthington, of Maple Hayes, Lichfield, has sustained a great bereavement by the death on April 25th of his wife, Lady Muriel Worthington. The memorial service was held at Burnt Wood Church, Lichfield, on Monday.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read Mr. Challice's letter in the last issue of 'The Ringing World.' I was present at the annual meeting at Taunton on Easter Monday and heard the appeal made for more ringers.

I do not quite see why lady ringers should cause a falling off in men ringers. Naturally, we cannot ring such heavy bells as men, but we can at least ring the lighter ones and keep the bells ringing until the men come home once more.

I hope the remark Mr. Challice makes, 'apparently the remainder of the meeting agreed with these remarks,' is not true, although I was surprised to find no one took up the challenge.

I may add I have been most cordially received in the many belfries I have entered and have never once noticed anyone give up membership. I quite agree that some lady ringers can handle a bell as well as any man.

Bravo, Mr. Challice, for sticking up for lady ringers in the belfry. Bath, Somerset. (Mrs.) A. EVANS.

## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT EAST DEREHAM.

A meeting of the North Norfolk Branch was held at East Dereham on Saturday, April 20th, when 19 members attended from Attleborough, Buxton, Fornsett, Fakenham, Gressenhall, Norwich, King's Lynn, Paston and Wymondham. The bells were available from 2.30, and various methods were rung from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Major, including Kidlington College Court.

The Vicar conducted the service and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow read the lesson.

Tea was served in the Church House, and at the business meeting which followed, in the absence of the branch chairman Mr. Thurlow occupied the chair, supported by the Vicar (the Rev. L. E. Bauman), Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary), Mr. H. Tooke (branch secretary) and Messrs. W. C. Duffield and G. Mayers.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Paston on Saturday, July 27th.

A collection was made on behalf of the widow of the late Mr. A. G. Warnes, a well-known ringer in Norfolk, and 10s. was raised.

Mr. Golden proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for granting the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for his excellent address; to the organist, and to the ladies for their assistance at the tea.



## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. THE BISHOP OF LONDON BECOMES PATRON Belfries' War-time Needs.

There was a gratifying attendance at the annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild held at Acton on Saturday. Some 80 or 90 members attended, and visitors from Birmingham and Coventry, as well as from neighbouring areas, were present. Acton always gives the association a warm welcome, and this occasion was no exception. The usual service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. P. Gough), the lesson being read by the South and West District vice-president (Mr. J. A. Trollope).

In his address, the Rector gave a cordial welcome to the association, whose members, he said, did their best to carry on a great and honourable service to the Church. The clergy were most grateful for this and any other evidence of voluntary service to the Church. Ringers were in the striking position of giving not only unpaid service, but technical knowledge—it was one of the rare cases of voluntary service being combined with professional knowledge given to God's House. It was a very happy combination indeed. Ringers, he added, enjoyed a great privilege in maintaining their hold on the Christian verities by sending forth in days like these the reminder of God's call to the world, and he hoped they would keep in their hearts the fervent prayer and wish that the peace of God might come again soon among the sons of men.

Tea in the Church Hall was served by ladies of the parish, and afterwards the Rector was thanked for the kindness he had shown in connection with arrangements for the meeting, while the ladies were also thanked for their services.

The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane (president), who was supported by the vice-presidents (Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope), the assistant hon. secretary (Mr. E. C. S. Turner), the Master (Mr. H. Kilby), the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. H. Oram) and the district officers.

On the motion of Mr. W. G. Wilson, the Rector of Acton was elected a life hon. member in gratitude and recognition of his many kindnesses to the association.

The hon. secretary (Mr. C. T. Coles) sent an apology for absence from the meeting. His assistant said Mr. Coles had been present in the tower in the afternoon, but had had to leave early to meet his son, who was serving in the Gloucestershire Regt., and was arriving home on short leave.

Reference was made to the recent death of Mr. C. H. Howard (Braintree), Mr. W. A. Cave (Bristol) and Mr. W. D. Smith (Eastbourne), all old members of the association, and the members stood for a few moments in silence.

### INTEREST OF BISHOP OF LONDON.

The assistant secretary read a letter from the new Bishop of London, who wrote: 'I very gladly accept your invitation that I should become patron of your association. There was a Diocesan Bellringers' Guild in Cheshire with which I was similarly connected, and I am glad to know that your association is also a diocesan guild.'

A letter was also received from the late Bishop, in reply to the association's good wishes on his retirement. He said he had always taken the greatest interest in the society.

In the annual report, which was adopted, reference was made to the war and its effects upon ringing. It pointed out that although the calling up of men was slower than it was during the early days of the Great War, yet it was none the less sure, and it must be realised that, as time went on, the belfries would become more and more depleted. To those who remained would fall the task of filling vacancies. Where the new ringers came from would mainly be governed by local circumstances, but there must be recruitment. An appeal was made to the clergy to assist their ringers in this matter. 'Bells,' said the report, 'will be needed to celebrate the victories to which we all look forward, and to ring for the establishment of peace. Shall we be found wanting?'

During the year 26 ringing members were elected, but against this there had been a considerable loss through deaths, resignations, etc. Thirteen members died during 1939. The membership at the end of the year was 847, a reduction of nine as compared with the previous year.

The peal list showed that 33 peals were rung on tower bells, and 15 on handbells. Twenty-two towers were visited for the successful peals. Four members rang their first peals. The number of members taking part in the peals was 124, four of whom rang their first twelve-bell peals, two their first Surprise peals, and three their first peals of Spiced Surprise, whilst no less than 73 members rang a peal in a new method or on a different number of bells. There were 17 conductors. Mrs. G. W. Fletcher added another to her many brilliant performances by ringing a pair of bells to a handbell peal of London Surprise Major, together with her husband, becoming the first married couple to ring a handbell peal in this intricate method.

The only item of bell restoration work reported was the rehanging of the bells at St. Margaret's, Westminster, which had been carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. The first four bells, together with the sixth and tenor, had been recast, and the whole peal tuned and rehung with modern fittings throughout, including ball bearings and metal headstocks. The greater part of the belfry windows had been boarded up. This work was brought to completion early in 1940.

The retirement of the Bishop of London in September marked the end of a long period of hard work for the Church. It was in 1903 that the Bishop gave his episcopal approval of the association's work by permitting the addition to the then title that of the 'London Diocesan Guild,' and they had never had any cause to regret the step then taken. If they were unable to pay their respects to him in the manner usually adopted by ringers, it was due to forces beyond their control, but they all wished his lordship many years of happy retirement. The new Bishop, Dr. G. F. Fisher, had very kindly consented to become patron of the association.

The report concluded by urging all members to be loyal to their church, their association and their ringing in the difficult days that lay ahead. It would require all their energies if ringing was to survive the terrible ordeal that had come upon the country.

### THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

The balance sheet, presented by the hon. treasurer, contained the first year's results of the financial rearrangement of the association's affairs, by which the entire district balances are carried to the central fund. The North and East District contributed £19 4s. 7d. and the South and West District £6 0s. 4d., and £4 12s. 10d. was also received in interest, making a total of £29 17s. 9d. for the year. The expenditure was £29 5s. 1d., leaving 12s. 8d. to be carried to the general fund, which now amounts to £160 8s. 6d.—The accounts were adopted.

All the officers were re-elected, viz.: President, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane; active vice-presidents, Messrs. G. W. Fletcher and J. Armiger Trollope; Master, Mr. H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram; hon. secretary, Mr. C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. S. Turner; trustees, Messrs. W. H. Oram, C. T. Coles and E. C. S. Turner; auditor, Mr. G. W. Fletcher.

The following new members were elected: Miss S. Varnes, Miss P. Wiggins and D. Lothian (Twickenham), W. Wenban and R. Wenban (Stammore), C. Casemore (Ruislip), R. D. Sinclair (Clapton).

Mr. G. W. Fletcher proposed a resolution that certain portions of the rules relating to the payment of subscriptions should not be insisted upon in the case of members serving in H.M. Forces. Under the rules he said, members who failed to pay their subscriptions had their names deleted from the association's records. He was quite sure members of the Middlesex Association did not wish any member serving with the Forces to have his name deleted if, through that service, he was unable or forgot to pay his subscription. The committee thought it better to bring the matter forward in this way rather than to propose the suspension of the rule.

Mr. J. Herbert asked what had become of the recommendation passed at the annual meeting of the South and West District.

Mr. W. G. Wilson (district assistant secretary) said he brought it before the Central Committee.

Mr. Herbert said it was strongly felt by many people that association funds would be badly depleted if all the members serving in the forces failed to pay their subscriptions, and the recommendation passed at the South and West District meeting was that members in the Forces be 'adopted' by individuals or towers, who would be responsible for the subscriptions. The association funds would thus be kept at their normal level.

Mr. Fletcher said it was a common practice in the North and East District for the subscriptions of all the members of a tower to be paid out of the tower funds, so that the subscriptions of serving members, in those towers, would be paid automatically.

Mr. Herbert said he did not think that was the practice in the South and West District.

Mr. J. A. Trollope pointed out that they could not compel the payment of members subscriptions by other people by passing a resolution.

The motion proposed by Mr. Fletcher was adopted, as was another admitting to membership, for the duration of the war, any ringer serving in the Forces whose permanent address is outside the area of the association, on payment of one annual subscription of 1s. 6d.

It was decided to leave to the Central Committee the question of printing future annual reports during the war, and also to leave to the hon. secretary, in consultation with the committee, the fixing of the place for the next annual meeting.

Mr. G. B. Lucas, of Walthamstow, sent his good wishes to the meeting which, on account of illness, was the first annual meeting of the association since its formation that he had missed.—The meeting reciprocated by sending greetings and good wishes to Mr. Lucas.

A vote of thanks was passed to the incumbents and steeplekeepers of the towers visited during the day, and to the organist of Acton Parish Church for his kindly services.

Mr. G. W. Fletcher also proposed a vote of thanks to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' for his presence. He said there were difficult times ahead for 'The Ringing World' in view of the acute paper shortage, but he felt sure the members of the Middlesex Association would continue to support the paper whatever steps the Editor found it necessary to take.—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith acknowledged Mr. Fletcher's remarks, and referred to the difficulties which the war in Norway had added to the paper trade. It was impossible to say what would happen in the future, but he said he felt he could rely on the continued support of the friends of ringing everywhere.

After the meeting there was handbell ringing by several enthusiasts present on the fine handbells brought by Mr. C. W. Taylor. Ringing took place at Acton and St. Stephen's and Christ Church, Ealing.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, when there was an attendance of about 25 ringers from Eastington, Goole, Hemingbrough, Hatfield, Hessle, Hull, Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Pontefract, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Sheffield and the local company.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, the preacher being the Rev. S. Pirby, Vicar of Eastington, who has recently commenced learning to ring. Tea, in the Manor House Cafe, was followed by the business meeting, over which the Vicar of Howden, the Rev. A. Wing, presided.

The meeting stood in silence for a few moments in memory of four old members of the association who have recently died, viz., Messrs. A. Walker, of Pontefract, G. C. Terry, of Hemingbrough, and J. Sherburn and R. Smith, of Howden.

Mr. E. Bradley, of Sherburn-in-Elmet, was elected Ringing Master, and Messrs. R. B. Smith, H. C. Walters, A. B. Cook, W. Pearson and F. Terry were elected to the District Committee. Messrs. R. B. Smith and H. C. Walters were also elected to the General Committee.

All Saints' Church, Pontefract, was selected as the place for the next meeting in June



HOWDEN PARISH CHURCH.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, etc., to the Vicar of Eastington for his address, to the local company for the arrangements made and to the ladies serving at the tea tables. —In reply, the Vicar gave a cordial welcome to the association to Howden and said he hoped they would come again soon.

Mr. Coggrave, replying for the local ringers, said they were always pleased to see the members of the association at Howden.

A collection taken for the Bell Repairs Fund realised the sum of 14s. 3d.

Further ringing took place in the evening.

Howden Parish Church suffered a disaster in October, 1929, when fire gutted the tower and destroyed all but three of the bells. The church ranks among the finest in Yorkshire, and the tower, which rises to a height of 135ft., dominates the town and countryside. The bells were originally cast by Pack and Chapman at Whitechapel in 1775. At various dates most of them were recast, and the present fine peal came from the Loughborough Foundry.

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT AT RAWMARSH.

A meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, April 20th, when about forty members attended from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's (R.C.), Hands-worth, Rammoor, Felkirk, Doncaster, Eastwood, Wath-on-Deane, Rotherham, Bolsterstone, Chesterfield, Eckington and the local company. Some good striking was heard in various standard and Surprise methods, the bells being in continuous use from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., when a short service was held in the fine old church, conducted by the Rector (Canon F. G. Scovell).

(Continued in next column.)

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College, Oxford, on Wednesday, April 23rd.

Reviewing the society's activities during the previous twelve months, the Master (Mr. P. J. W. Bryan, St. Peter's Hall) said that in spite of the fact that several members had been called up for military service, the society had managed to keep going, and that there were now many useful ringers. Every Wednesday evening there were practices on silenced bells, followed by handbell ringing.

On Saturday afternoons meetings were held in various towers round Oxford, where, in addition to Grandsire and Plain Bob, with the help of one or two local ringers, touches of Stedman and Kent were rung. Due to the large number of towers in Oxford itself, valuable experience was obtained on Sundays, when, after ringing together at St. Mary Magdalene, members dispersed to the other churches to ring with the city ringers.

The Master was agreeably surprised at the high standard of ringing at the first meeting of the Trinity term, which obviously showed that a large amount of practice had been put in by members in their home towers during the vacation. The prospects for the term were, therefore, good, and it was hoped that at least one peal would be rung.

Officials for the coming year were then elected as follows: Master, Mr. J. E. Spice (New College); secretary, Mr. W. L. B. Leese (St. John's College); treasurer, Mr. P. D. Oldham (St. John's College).

Amongst the questions raised at the meeting was whether it would be possible to organise a ringing tour during the summer vacation, but little support was given to this suggestion owing to the many practical difficulties.

### JUBILEES.

Fifty years ago on April 14th, Mr. W. Chalk, of Colchester, rang his first 720 of Minor. In celebration of the jubilee, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes) was rung at St. Peter's Church on Sunday, April 14th, for morning service: G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, W. Rouse (Kirby) 3, F. L. Bumpstead 4, G. M. Rashbrook 5, E. P. Duffield 6, W. Chalk (conductor) 7, V. Kerridge 8.

In the evening Mr. Chalk conducted a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) at All Saints' Church, Maldon, to further celebrate the jubilee: E. Richardson 1, S. Sinnett 2, W. H. Chalk 3, F. Lewis 4, E. Johnson 5, A. South 6, W. Chalk 7, F. Chalk 8.

For evening service at St. Luke's Church, Bromley Common, Kent, on Sunday, April 14th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the completion of the church and as a compliment to Dr. J. H. Yolland, churchwarden at St. Luke's, on the occasion of his golden wedding. The ringers were P. Whitehead 1, Miss H. Oakshett 2, M. F. Oakshett 3, C. Cullen 4, A. Purdom 5, W. Grace 6, J. Lyddiard (conductor) 7, W. Lyddiard 8. All are members of the local band with the exception of the ringer of the 6th, who is a ringer at Bromley Parish Church.

### WEDDING BELLS.

At Hornchurch on Sunday, April 21st, at the Parish Church, the marriage was celebrated of John Edwin Blay and Miss Audrey Evelyn Loughurst Cole. The bridegroom is a very loyal member of the local band and grandson of Mr. John Dale, steeplekeeper and ringer at the above church for 55 years. Touches of Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire and Bob Major were rung by the following: John Dale 1, T. Sparrow 2, G. L. Joyce 3, A. Rolph 4, J. G. Macdougall 5, J. T. Groves 6, J. Cornford 7, F. Freestone 8.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Tea was very kindly provided by the local company in the School-room, and the ladies responsible were congratulated upon their efforts in producing such a generous supply of food in these difficult times.

The business meeting was presided over by the Rector, supported by Mr. George Lewis (vice-president) and Mr. S. F. Palmer (acting hon. district secretary).

In order that members should be given full opportunity for more tower ringing, the agenda was a very short one, nothing of importance beyond the usual votes of thanks being brought forward to cause undue prolongation.

Special mention, however, should be made of the hearty welcome given by the Rector, who expressed his pleasure to the members present for their loyalty in trying to keep the association going. He assured them they could rely on Rawmarsh to provide a meeting place whenever they had difficulties elsewhere.

Mr. Lewis warmly thanked the Rector for all he had done for them that day. He also expressed appreciation to the ladies for their kindness in providing the tea, and to the local company for their usual kind assistance towards the comfort of the visitors.—Mr. Charles Haynes supported the motion.

At the invitation of Mr. A. Gill, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, June 15th.

Further ringing was afterwards indulged in until darkness brought a very enjoyable and successful day to a close.

## TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD'S PEALS. A USEFUL RECORD.

BY THE REV. A. S. ROBERTS.

Until some three or four years ago there was no record of the peals rung for the Truro Diocesan Guild and there was no certainty even about the total, although it was known that not many could have been rung before the beginning of this century, for the Guild was not founded until 1899. When, in 1935, Mr. C. E. Lanxon was elected peals secretary, a new office created by the Guild, he was asked if he would attempt to compile the desired record. With the help of a few others he has gathered together, as far as is known, details of all the peals rung since the Guild's formation. These have been written up by Mr. Lanxon and the Guild must be proud of a valuable possession, for so much progress and activity can be gleaned from this peal book.

The total number of peals rung to the end of 1939 was 132. This number comprises 10 ten-bell peals, 90 on eight bells and 32 on six bells (including one on handbells). These have been rung in 52 towers, and, seeing there are approximately 142 towers in the diocese with five or more bells, there is plenty of scope left yet. All have been rung in Cornwall except three, and it was the enthusiasm of the life members of the Guild in Plymouth that they should ring the first peal for the Guild, which prompted them to bring round a peal of Grandsire Triples at Emmanuel Church on August 21st, 1907, conducted by Mr. G. H. Myers. Eight years had gone by since the founding of the Guild. They were only just in time, for in the October of that year the late Rev. F. E. Robinson went on tour in Cornwall and rang six peals, each one easily a 'first' of some kind. The party included several still very active ringers, viz., Canon G. F. Coleridge, Messrs. A. H. Pulling, G. Williams and C. R. Lilley. In 1927 a peal of Doubles was rung on handbells at Plymstock, and in 1934 one of Cambridge Royal at Yeovil by a band setting out to tour Cornwall.

Tours and individual visiting ringers have done a great deal for ringing in Cornwall, but much local effort has been noticeable also. In 1904 a new ring of eight was installed at Kea and in 1905 Kenwyn bells were recast. Both bands took up change ringing and nine peals of Grandsire were rung at these two towers between 1909 and 1913. During these years the Plymouth men credited the Guild with three peals, one being the first at Truro Cathedral (Grandsire Caters, conducted by Mr. E. W. Marsh) on the new ring and two at St. Germans. The latter of the two at St. Germans was Bob Major in September, 1913, conducted by a young man—William D. James, who, alas, was killed in action in September, 1915. This ended peal ringing for the Guild for no less than 13 years. The Great War seemed a tremendous setback. It needed another tour to awaken enthusiasm and to let Cornish ringers see what they should try to emulate.

The old chapter ended at St. Germans and the new one began there, very ambitiously, with a peal of London Surprise Major in 1926 when Mr. W. H. Fussell took a band to Devon and Cornwall. The visitors rang six peals in Cornwall in five days, and scoring the first peal of Royal (Kent Treble Bob) at Truro Cathedral. The next year resident ringers began in earnest and no less than 13 peals were rung, many with the help of members of the Devon Guild. These successes continued, without a year being missed, up till 1939, when the total reached 132 from 26 at the end of 1926.

Let us now review more closely the towers at which these peals have been rung and also the methods. There are first of all the 10 ten-bell peals. Truro Cathedral can tell the almost complete story of these, for nine of the ten have been rung there, and which comprise the following: Grandsire Caters 5, Stedman Caters 2, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Cambridge Royal 1. But further than this the Cathedral Church of the Diocese can boast, very appropriately, of the highest total of peals rung for the Diocesan Guild, as three peals of Grandsire Triples and one of Bob Major can also be added, making a total of 13.

What of the eight-bell peals? These number 90. They comprise the following methods: Grandsire Triples 45, Stedman Triples 7, Bob Major 5, Kent Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 4, Cambridge 6, Superlative 9, London 5, Bristol 5, and Yorkshire 2. These have been rung at the following towers: Emmanuel, Plymouth 1, and the remaining 89 in Cornwall at Kea 10, Kenwyn 9, Gulval 5, Phillack 5, Truro Cathedral 4, St. Germans 4, St. Enoder 4, Lanivet 4, Helston, Roche, Penzance, Redruth and St. Stephen-in-Brannel 3 each, Camborne, Egloshayle, Ladock, St. Austell, Bodmin, Lanlivery, St. Columb Major, Altarnon, St. Anthony, Lanhydrock, two each; St. Keverne, Fowey, Cardynham, St. Stephen-by-Launceston, Mawgan-in-Pydar, Stokeclimsland, Tuckingmill, St. Dennis and Probus, one each.

The six-bell peals number 32, 27 of Doubles (all Grandsire except one in three methods on handbells) and five of Minor, being four of Plain Bob and one of special interest in seven methods conducted by Mr. A. R. Pink with a band of visitors at St. Mewan in August, 1939. These have been rung in 18 towers as follows: Perranarworthal 8, Perranzabuloe 4, St. Erme, Tuckingmill and Redruth two each, Gwennap, Mabe, Landulph, Manaccan, Kenwyn, Towednack, Probus, Zennor, St. Martin-by-Looe, Gorran, Mullion, Wendron and St. Mewan one each.

It will be seen that it was the tour of 1926 that really seemed to awaken interest and which really made resident Cornish ringers

(Continued in next column.)

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### DEDICATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEE PEAL BOARD.

At the annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at St. Matthias' Church, Burley, on Saturday last, the golden jubilee peal board was unveiled and dedicated by Canon W. M. Askwith, Vicar of Leeds.

Mr. Lofthouse, in introducing Canon Askwith, reminded the ringers that it was the second time he had been with them in connection with their jubilee, and said they were very grateful to him for his continued services. After the dedication the bells were rung by a representative company, which included six of the jubilee peal band.

At 5 o'clock a splendid tea was enjoyed by 22 ringers in the Church Hall.

The business meeting followed, at which Mr. W. H. Senior presided, and members were present from Armley, Batley, Bramley, Bradford, Drighlington, East Ardsley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Rothwell, Sherburn and the local company, as well as Pte. E. Speake, R.A.M.C., of Wolverhampton, now stationed at Leeds.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. W. Barton and seconded by Mr. S. Barron, and, in replying, the Rev. — Busfield regretted that the Vicar had not been able to stay longer, but he was instructed to say that at Burley there would always be a Yorkshire welcome for the society whenever they cared to visit the church, for he knew the ringers were giving service, not 'silent' service, but unobserved service to their churches.

Mr. Senior proposed a vote of thanks to the local company for making the arrangements, and, in seconding it, Canon C. C. Marshall complimented them on the splendid tea they had provided in spite of rationing difficulties and the very poor response from visiting ringers when asked to send in their names.—Mr. Drake, in reply, said he was pleased to see so many turn up, as although 21 letters had been sent by the secretary to the towers, only five answers had been received. He appealed to ringers to consider themselves in duty bound to send in their names for tea.

The secretary's report and balance sheet were read and during the discussion a tribute was paid to the secretary for the able manner in which he had continued to carry out his duties. The report and balance sheet were adopted on the proposition of Mr. W. H. Senior, seconded by Mr. J. Stitson.

The officers for the ensuing year, nominated at the Armley meeting, were elected as follows: President, Mr. J. F. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. T. W. Strangeway, W. H. Senior and L. Barron; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse.

The new president then took over control of the meeting, and thanked the members for their confidence in electing him.

The next meeting is due to be held at Guiseley on May 25th, and members are asked to watch the notice columns of 'The Ringing World.'

## TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous column.)

ambitious to record peals themselves, but several subsequent visitors and tourists have greatly encouraged and helped to sustain local interest. Truro, and the two neighbouring towers of Kea and Kenwyn with a total of 33 peals, may have been a centre of activity and interest, but by no means the only one. Local ringers from Landulph, on the banks of the Tamar, in the extreme east of the county, to Gulval, in the extreme west, have often had a large share in the successes. Indeed, the latter tower was often the scene of a quarter-peal by the local band. This consistency always had a good effect upon the Guild in general. A peal of Doubles by the local band at Manaccan in 1935 shows what a remote tower can do. A visit by members of the Central Council, who were attending the Plymouth meeting in 1932, and further tours by select bands in 1934, 1936 and 1938 have all kept Cornwall in close touch with the greater world of ringing and have given the keener residents opportunities which they would not have otherwise had. But between times it was necessary for a nucleus to keep activities well in hand and so sustain the effort. The necessary records having now been brought up to date, it is hoped that the future will add to them much of real interest and progress.

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## NOTICES.

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.** — Northern Division. — A meeting will be held at Witham on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Maulden on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. Please come. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — The half-yearly meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, on Saturday, May 4th. Tower open at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m.—W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—A meeting will be held at St. George's, Southwark, on Saturday, May 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea at Lyons, London Bridge, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting in church vestry. Please turn up in full force, as we wish to discuss future activities of the district.—I. R. Housden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The Guild festival will be held at Salisbury on Saturday, May 4th. Annual meeting in the Church House at 2.30 p.m. Guild service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. P. J. Hayes, Vicar. Tea in the Church House at 5.15 p.m., 1s. each member. Towers available—St. Thomas', St. Martin's (8 bells); St. Paul's, Britford, Coombe Bissett, Wilton, Amesbury (6 bells).—F. L. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, on Saturday, May 4th. Tower open for ringing at 2.30 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Newington on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Ringers' service at 4.30, followed by tea in Schoolroom at 1s. per head. A good meeting is expected.—G. H. Spice, 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch. — The spring meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. per head, at 4.45 p.m. in room opposite church. Service 6 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Desford on Saturday, May 4th. Usual times. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** — West Norfolk Branch.—A meeting will be held at Fakenham on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—Wm. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — North Bucks Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Woughton (bells 6) on Saturday, May 4th, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., when it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend. Visitors will be welcomed.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Chiddingstone on May 4th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—Alec. E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Bi-quarterly meeting for practice, Halesowen (D.V.), Saturday, May 4th. Ringing 3 p.m. to dusk. Tea, Central Café, 5.30 p.m., 1s. per head. All ringers welcome and all tastes catered for from Rounds to Surprise.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Luton District.—A meeting will be held at Woburn on Saturday, May 4th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**PEAK DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The first meeting of the year will be held at Ashover on Saturday, May 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. We shall be glad to see all old friends and any new ones who will help to make the meeting a success.—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—Business meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, May 7th, at 8 p.m. A suggestion has been made that the society hold a social lunch on Saturday, June 1st, if numbers are sufficient. (Ladies invited.) Please advise Hon. Sec. by Saturday, May 11th, latest. Tickets 3s. 6d.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Banbury and District Branch.—A meeting will be held at Swalcliffe on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting. Will those who intend to be present and require tea please notify L. J. Malings, Deddington, Oxon, before Tuesday, May 7th?

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cary Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Templecombe on Saturday, May 11th. Usual arrangements. Horsington and North Cheriton bells available. Please advise for tea, or bring your own nosebagg.—W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil. Phone North Cadbury 230.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Andover District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Laverstoke on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available from 2.30. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify me by May 8th.—F. S. H. Marle, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches will be held at Christ Church, Southport, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, for which a small charge may be made, at 5 p.m. Please notify Mr. J. Ridyard, 16, Vaughan Road, Birkdale, Southport. After tea, the meeting will be at Emmanuel Church.—S. Forshaw and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. W. Robinson, 49, Bowman Street, Agbrigg, Wakefield, by Wednesday, May 8th. Ringing after business meeting until 8.30 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Sfafton, near Barnsley.



**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Peterborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Maxey and Deeping St. James on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available at Maxey in the afternoon and Deeping St. James in the evening. Tea at the Imperial Cafe, Market Deeping.—W. H. Waldron, Hon. Sec., 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at Chicheley on Saturday, May 11th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Melbourne on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea arranged for all who notify Mr. Charles Davies, Castle Street, Melbourne, not later than Thursday, May 9th. A hearty invitation extended to Loughborough district and to all ringers who care to attend.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Michael, Hawkshead, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Hon. Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulverston.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Whit Sunday, May 12th, at 5.30 p.m. Visitors will be welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The 61st annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, May 13th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., with address by the Rev. H. L. Pike, Rector of Widford, followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Copies of the proposed revised rules have been sent to all towers for distribution to members. Towers open for ringing: Cathedral (12), Great Baddow (8), Boreham (8), Galleywood (8), Great Waltham (8), Widford (8), Writtle (8), Broomfield (6), Danbury (6), Springfield (6) and Little Waltham (6). Lunch at the Golden Fleece after meeting. Members 1s. 6d., non-members 2s. 6d. All requiring same must notify me not later than Thursday, May 9th.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—The 66th annual general meeting will be held in Exeter on Whit-Monday, May 13th. Service at St. Sidwell's, at 12.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. H. Lanyon-Owen (Rector). Dinner at Deller's Café, Bedford Street, at 1 p.m. Admission by ticket only. Members' tickets price 1s., non-members 2s. 6d., must be applied for, with remittance, by May 7th. Business meeting to follow. Towers open for ringing from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., are St. Sidwell's (10), St. Thomas' (8), St. David's (8) and Heavitree (8). Visitors are cordially invited. Tickets may be obtained from Fredk. C. Smale (acting hon. sec.), Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday, May 13th. Central Committee meet 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Room. Service, St. Peter's Church, 3.30. Address by Rev. E. V. Fenn. Tea at Angel Hotel 4.15, followed by the business meeting. Tea will be provided only for those who send names to general secretary by Monday, May 6th. Honorary and subscribing mem-

bers free, others 1s. 6d. each. Bells available: St. Giles' (10), St. Edmunds' (8) 11 to 1, All Saints' (8), Holy Sepulchre (8) 1 to 3, St. Peter's 1 to 3.30; after the meeting until 7.30, St. Giles', St. Peter's, All Saints', Holy Sepulchre and Kingsthorpe (6).—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

**LADIES' GUILD** (Southern District) and **GUILD-FORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Guildford District).—A joint meeting will be held at West Clandon on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that numbers for tea be sent to Mr. G. L. Grover, East Clandon, near Guildford, not later than Wednesday, May 15th. Owing to catering difficulties, please bring your own sugar if you require it.—Miss H. F. Mills and W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Secs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Berks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Abingdon on Saturday, May 18th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Important.—Ringers intending to be present please notify by Wednesday, 15th, latest.—Albert E. Lock, 35, East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Berks.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Huddersfield on Saturday, May 18th. The bells of the Parish Church (10) will be available from 1.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m., Lindley (8), and Almondbury (8), also available from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All three rings available again after the meeting until 9 p.m. General Committee meet at 3 p.m. in the schools. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 6d. per head) at the Princess Cafe at 5 p.m. All requiring same must notify Mr. W. B. Frith, 5, Sufton Street, Birkby, Huddersfield, not later than the first post on Thursday, May 16th. The general meeting will take place in the schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting following service. It is essential that those who require tea should notify me not later than Thursday, May 16th, otherwise no guarantee of tea can be given. Please help by sending your name in early. St. Dunstan's bells (6) also available 2.30 to 4.15, and after meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Deane, Bolton, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Business 4 p.m., to make arrangements for the annual meeting.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

#### HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

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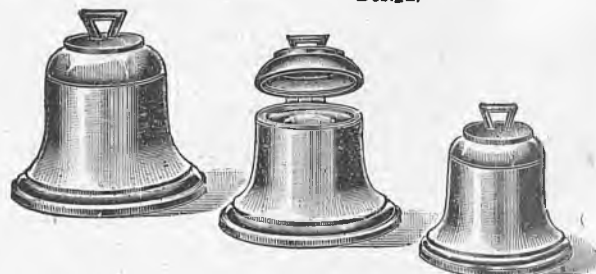
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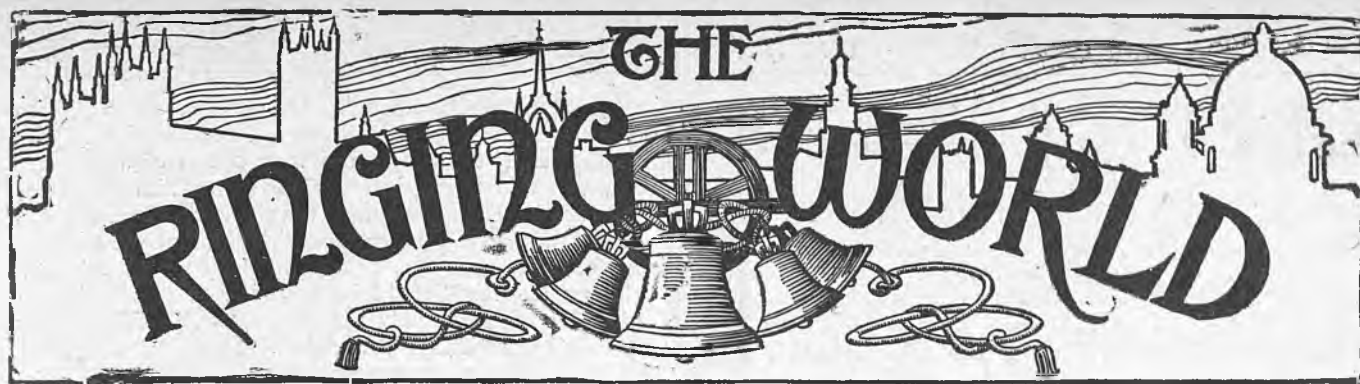
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FRIDAY, MAY 10th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## FIRST STEPS.

Every association whose annual report is now appearing is giving evidence of the strain which the war is already imposing on the man-power of the belfries. In some cases half and more than half of the ringers have already joined the Forces, and ringing is, of course, suffering in consequence. Moreover, the claims of the fighting services have, we imagine, even deeper demands to make than have yet been made, and the belfries will find themselves still more seriously depleted. It is imperatively necessary, therefore, that those responsible for keeping the bells going should at once secure all the available material for filling the gaps, and, having obtained it, devote as much time as is possible, while yet there are experienced ringers left to help, to turning this material to the best use. It is quite certain that in many instances the bells will only be kept going by enlisting the services of ladies, and, at a time when practically everyone is anxious to be useful, there ought to be in every congregation young women ready to come forward and assist in this branch of Church work in their spare time. Those who would keep women out of the belfries find a doughty champion this week in our columns, but his criticism is scarcely helpful in these difficult days, for he offers no alternative to the utilisation of the help of women in those towers from which the men are called away.

What is needed now is not primarily the making of change ringers. The essential object is the provision of ringers enough to keep the bells going on Sundays for the services, and the aim of those who may find it necessary to reorganise their bands should be to produce, first of all, good striking. The progress towards change ringing can be left to look after itself, and will come in its own good time, if only the responsible teachers will exercise patience and be content at first to get good round ringing and to teach their pupils the importance of complete control of the bells. More ringers are spoilt by trying to push them on too fast than by any other means. The anxiety to get recruits on to change ringing is often misplaced, for a slovenly style, once acquired, is extremely difficult to eradicate. Good rounds, as has so often been said, is far better than bad change ringing—it is better both in the interests of the ringers themselves and of the public. To attempt to teach a beginner practical change ringing before he can properly handle a rope or completely control a bell is fatal to the cause of good striking, and in these days, when it may be necessary to have a number of learners all at one time, instructors and their helpers will, we believe, find it best to make

(Continued on page 218.)

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haste slowly. Not that we would for a moment suggest that change ringing should not be attempted. The theoretical side, started at the very outset of a learner's career, will add to his interest and show him that there is far more in his new pursuit than the mere pulling at a rope and making 'a joyful sound,' but until he can pull that rope with time and precision his practical attempts at change ringing should be confined to handbells, out of which he will be likely to get a lot of knowledge and plenty of fun, without the risk of annoying the public and himself becoming a persistently bad striker.

## THE POSTAL RATES.

WHAT YOU MAY SEND FOR A PENNY.

In view of the increase in postal charges, correspondents are reminded that they can send items of news, such as reports of peals, meetings and obituary notices, for 1d., provided they are

(1) Addressed only to

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

Lower Pyrford Road,

Woking, Surrey.

(2) Contain nothing in the nature of a letter.

(3) Are enclosed in an unsealed envelope marked 'News only.'

Notices and letters to the Editor are not admissible at this postal rate, but the name and address (only) of the sender may be included.

If you do send anything by 1d. post, include only items of news; do not say such things as, 'Dear Sir,—Kindly insert the enclosed—'; even 'Yours faithfully' should be excluded.

In any case, if it is sent as news we know you wish it to be inserted, and we quite understand that you are ours faithfully (or truly, if you prefer it).

Do not forget that any departure from the strict regulations renders the package liable to surcharge.

## NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEAK.

On Saturday, in beautiful weather, a successful meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Leak.

It was well attended by 40 ringers from Cheadle, Kingsley, Stoke, Newcastle, Burslem, Hanley, Longton, Draycott, Crewe, Sutton, Maple, Macclesfield, Disley and the local belfry. The bells were set going at 3.30 p.m. and good use was made of them up to 5.15 p.m., when tea was served in the Church Hall. The Vicar (the Rev. K. G. Milward), in welcoming the visitors, said how pleased he was to see new faces, and he hoped to see them again at Leak. He appreciated the work done by his own band under the leadership of Mr. E. Ridgway, who has been a ringer for 49 years.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. S. Churton, to the Vicar for his welcome and for the use of the bells and to the ringers for the splendid tea, was seconded by Mr. T. Hurd, of Burslem, and a vote of thanks to the ladies who had served tea was proposed by Mr. A. D. Steel and seconded by Mr. E. Steele. On behalf of the ladies, Mrs. G. Plant replied.

The ringing was of a high standard and the following methods were rung: Leek Royal, Kent Royal, Bob Royal, Cambridge Royal, Cambridge Major, London Major, Shedden Caters and Grandsire Caters, with rounds for the young ringers.

## ASCENSIONTIDE RINGING.

KILBURN.—At St. Augustine's Church on May 1st (the eve of Ascension Day), for evensong, a quarter-peal of 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: E. M. Atkins (conductor) 1, Miss B. Hart (first quarter-peal in the method) 2, G. Kilbey 3, F. Howson 4, A. Cutler 5, G. A. Parsons 6, H. Kilbey 7, C. W. Nichols 8.

NETHER WINCHENDON, BUCKS.—On Sunday, May 5th, for evening service, 720 Grandsire Doubles: A. Soanes 1, F. J. Orchard 2, L. H. Orchard 3, C. H. Orchard 4, C. E. Wigg (conductor) 5. This was the first 720 on the bells by an entirely local band, and the longest touch by the ringer of the treble. Rung within the octave of Ascension Day to mark that festival.



**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, MOORSIDE,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

FRANK LAWTON ... .. Treble	ISAAC GARTSIDE ... .. 5
HAROLD ARMSTEAD ... .. 2	HAROLD HAMER ... .. 6
FRED DUNKERLEY ... .. 3	IVAN KAY ... .. 7
STEPHEN LL. PARRY ... .. 4	SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by IVAN KAY.

SHERE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 15½ cwt.

FREDERICK OLDROYD ... .. Treble	GEORGE L. GROVER ... .. 5
*WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... .. 2	JAMES R. MACKMAN ... .. 6
SIDNEY BREEZE ... .. 3	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... .. 7
CHARLES HAZELDEN ... .. 4	C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.

\* First peal of Major.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. Treble	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... .. 2	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... .. 6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... .. 3	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7
HARRY HOVERD ... .. 4	Cecil C. MAYNE ... .. Tenor

Composed by H. G. CASHMORE.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

First peal of Spliced Surprise as conductor. This peal contains 2,688 London, 1,056 Bristol and 672 each of Cambridge and Superlative, with 111 changes of method.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH)

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in G.

ERNEST WILSON ... .. Treble	REGINALD WOODYATT ... .. 5
LEONARD C. DOWDESWELL ... .. 2	ALLEN MORGAN ... .. 6
JAMES WOODYATT ... .. 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS ... .. 7
GEORGE E. LARGE ... .. 4	FREDERICK G. YATES ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18½ cwt.

*Miss L. K. BOWLING ... .. Treble	GEORGE W. STEEL ... .. 5
ALFRED SMITH ... .. 2	WILLIAM BARTON ... .. 6
THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY ... .. 3	JOHN AMBLER ... .. 7
CANON C. C. MARSHALL ... .. 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

\* First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of three members of the local company who have recently passed away, Mr. William Child, Mr. Leonard Stokoe and Mr. W. Jackson.

LONDON.—On Sunday, April 28th, for a Confirmation service at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: W. Prockson 1, G. A. Parsons 2, Miss M. Prockson 3, H. W. H. Strickland 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, F. C. Shorter (conductor) 6, E. Murrell 7, R. Vallerine (first quarter-peal) 8.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

A TRANSPOSITION OF DAVIES' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

*Miss E. HARRINGTON ... .. Treble	ARTHUR A. HADLEY ... .. 5
JOHN BEAMS ... .. 2	†GEORGE C. GOODMAN ... .. 6
WILKINS MASSEY ... .. 3	†H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... .. 7
JOHN E. BEAMS ... .. 4	HARRY SCOTCHER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. BEAMS.

\* First peal. † First peal of Triples.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

THORNHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, April 28, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being three extents of Plain Bob and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*HENRY R. SYRETT ... .. Treble	EDWIN A. CRACKNELL ... .. 4
LESLIE FOSTER ... .. 2	VICTOR LOCKWOOD ... .. 5
GEORGE BROWN ... .. 3	SIDNEY W. ARBON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY W. ARBON.

\* First peal.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 5, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents.

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

WILLIAM GORMAN ... .. Treble	WALTER H. DOBBIE ... .. 4
FRANCIS J. CHEAL ... .. 2	ARTHUR G. BOAR ... .. 5
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... .. 3	GEORGE A. NAYLOR ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Gunner R. M. Naylor, R.A., brother of the conductor.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

ADDLESTONE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 30, 1940, in Two Hours,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. E. W. MOREY, WHEATASH ROAD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*E. W. MOREY ... .. 1-2	J. B. HESSEY ... .. 3-4
*E. ARMSTRONG ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by E. ARMSTRONG.

Witness: Mrs. Morey.

\* First peal. First peal of Doubles by all. First peal as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, April 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;**

WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 1-2	EDITH K. FLETCHER ... .. 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... .. 3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 7-8
GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... .. 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by EDITH K. FLETCHER.

First peal of Stedman Caters 'in hand' as conductor.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 81, COUNTY ROAD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Five different callings.

IVOR C. N. BELL ... .. 1-2	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... .. 3-4
DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

First attempt for a peal by Messrs. Bell and Smout, aged 15 and 12 respectively.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

If we were asked to name the steeple most famous in the history of the London Exercise we should probably hesitate between three—St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and St. Bride's, Fleet Street—and if we decided in favour of St. Bride's, we should be able to give good reasons for our verdict.

The church, says Stow, was at first a small thing, but in 1480 William Venor, warden of the Fleet, built a new and large nave and aisles, leaving the old building as the choir. It stood without the city walls but within Temple Bar, and was used for holding courts of law, St. Martin's-le-Grand serving a similar purpose within the walls.

From very early times it must have had at least one heavy bell, for it was one of the four churches appointed to set the time of ringing the curfew. The inventory taken in the reign of Edward VI. of the goods and ornaments of the church is mutilated. We can tell that there was a saunce bell and a ring of bells, but the actual figure is almost obliterated. Probably there were five or six.

St. Bride's was burnt in the fire of 1666, and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren during the years 1670 to 1684, at a cost of £11,430 5s. 11d. It is generally reckoned as one of his most successful designs, and in cost was exceeded only by Christ Church, Newgate Street, and St. Lawrence Jewry, though more money was spent on the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow than on any other.

St. Bride's spire is the highest in the city, and one of the most original in design. It was finished in 1700, and ten years later Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, supplied a ring of ten bells. They were, and still are, a very fine ring, but their importance in the history of ringing is that they gave the London Exercise an opportunity of practising Grandsire Caters, and so led to a great advance in the art.

For some years there already had been ten at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, but they seem to have been very much inferior in quality. It was at St. Bride's that the London Scholars rang the first ten-bell peal ever accomplished—5,040 changes of Grandsire Caters on January 11th, 1717. A board was put up to record it, but was taken down when the church was repaired in 1796 and was not replaced. So all particulars of the band and conductor are lost.

In 1718 the two leading London societies, the College Youths and the London Scholars, gave two trebles to make a ring of twelve. It was not the first ring of twelve in England. York Minster had that number as early as 1655, but they were a very unsatisfactory lot, the tenor being 63 cwt. and the trebles only about 3 cwt. The ring at Cirencester was increased to twelve in 1722, but, though both in that town and in York, a great interest was taken by the citizens in bell ringing, in neither was there a band sufficiently advanced to practise Cinques, and it was the bells of St. Bride's which first made ringing on eleven and twelve bells possible.

They also showed that the limit to which it is possible to increase the number of bells in a ringing peal had been reached. There always have been and, I suppose, there always will be, discussions and disputes as to which is the best number of bells in a ring. Some maintain that in eight you have a complete octave, and whether you

add to it or take from it, the result will be something imperfect and, therefore, musically inferior. Others point out that, be the theory what it may, practical experience proves that the two trebles in a ring of ten give a greater range, more expression, and a larger brilliancy of tone. But few, perhaps, will be found to advocate twelve bells on purely musical grounds, and none to desire further extension.

It is no doubt largely a matter of use and custom. The practised twelve-bell ringer, who has trained his ear



ST. BRIDE'S STEEPLE.

Photo by F. E. Dawe.

to the greater musical range and longer rhythm, finds musical effects in Cinques and Maximus, of which the smaller numbers of bells are incapable, but such men are necessarily few. The ear of the ordinary ringer, and, much more so, the ear of the non-technical and outside listener, does not readily adapt itself to so wide a range. It is not that the number of notes (an octave and a half) is particularly great, but that twelve-bell ringing has to be done in a bar of twenty-four beats, which means a very long drawn-out rhythm. There are also the very real and practical difficulties of getting small bells to speak sufficiently clearly among big bells, and also of accurate striking.

When the London Scholars and the College Youths gave the trebles to St. Bride's they were not thinking of the musical effect of twelve bells or making an offering to the service of the Church. They wanted greater facilities for practising change ringing, and we need not suppose that they disguised from themselves or from other people that they had no other and higher motive. Bell ringing was recognised as an ordinary sport and recreation, and many, perhaps most, of the bells were supplied and hung to serve that purpose. It was quite in accordance with the spirit of the times that the two societies looked on the trebles as their own property, and kept them chained up as long as they could so that other ringers should not have the use of them.

But we need not waste any time in condemning them or pretending that we are so much better than they. Human nature and men's motives are much the same now as they were then, and I think it is true to say that the reason why rings of twelve are being installed in increasing numbers is not altogether because men are really convinced or have proved that they are musically superior to rings of ten, or that they serve the Church and the glory of God better, but because of the fascination that twelve-bell ringing has for some ringers and the laudable desire of such Church authorities as can afford it to have the best and biggest that can be gotten.

As soon as the new bells were added we should have expected that there would be a competition between the College Youths and the London Scholars to see which could ring the first peal of Cinques. It may have been so, but there is no sign of it. The College Youths as yet had rung no peal of any sort, nor does there seem to have

(Continued in next column.)

### THE SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

#### APPEAL TO MEMBERS FOR GREATER SUPPORT.

The annual meeting of the Society of Sherwood Youths was held on Saturday, April 27th, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nottingham. Ringing on the ten bells commenced at 3 p.m., and whilst the attendance of ringing friends from the surrounding districts was most encouraging, that of the members left much to be desired. Perhaps the heavy thunderstorm which developed during the afternoon prevented some from attending. Among the visitors a welcome was given to a member of H.M. Forces, and this opportunity is taken of extending to any others who may be stationed in the district an invitation to attend the meetings of the society.

Ringers and friends were entertained to tea by the society at St. Mary's Institute, after which the business meeting was held, presided over by the Master, Mr. R. Narborough.

All the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, and Mr. Bernard Brown, of St. Mary's tower, was elected a member. A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies who so kindly prepared tea and to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

Mr. F. Salter (St. Peter's, Nottingham) stressed the need for regular meetings if ringing is to be kept going in these difficult times.

Everyone agreed, but this is only possible with the full co-operation of all ringers. Meetings cannot be arranged without some expense and trouble. This can easily be overcome if members will rally round, pay their subscriptions promptly and by their presence give that support and encouragement which makes all the difference to the success of a meeting.

Elston was decided upon for the next meeting on May 18th, a further announcement of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

(Continued from previous column.)

been any such ambition among the men who then composed the society. But times were altering, and it looks as if about this period changes were taking place which transformed the company from a number of men of good social standing into a number of young and energetic ringers, mostly of the artisan and lower middle class. Among them was Benjamin Annable, and it was due to him, more than to any other man, that the College Youths became the most proficient company during the eighteenth century and earned a reputation and prestige which have lasted down to our days.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to announce the death of Canon M. H. Ridgeway, Rector of Tarvin, Chester, and hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild, which took place last Saturday after a brief illness.

Conspicuously displayed by means of small posters outside St. Peter's Church, Dorchester, Dorset, is a 'Notice to H.M. Forces.' It reads: 'If there are any church bellringers among H.M. Forces they will receive a hearty welcome in St. Peter's Belfry on Sunday evenings at 5.30 to 6.30 (ringing for service), Monday evenings at 7.30 to 9.30 (weekly practice). Change ringers, round ringers or learners will receive an equal welcome.'

This is a suggestion which other towers in the neighbourhood of military camps might adopt.

The handbell peal of Doubles rung at Addlestone, Surrey, by three members of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild is an encouraging sign after the disappointment recently expressed with affairs in the district. Two of the ringers rang their first peal on handbells; it was the first peal 'in hand' in the Chertsey District of the Guild, and the first peal the conductor had called. Mr. John Hessey, Ringing Master of the district, rang his 25th peal.

Mr. Robert H. Robinson, of Southsea, has responded to the recent appeal for experienced men and has been accepted in the Royal Naval Patrol Service. His future shore address, to which communications should be sent, is c/o 40, Waldrons Moor, King's Heath, Birmingham.

By ringing 3-4 and conducting a peal of Stedman Caters on handbells, Mrs. Fletcher has added another to her numerous records. She has now called a peal of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, both on handbells and on tower bells.

The peal of Treble Bob at Headingley last Saturday was rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to three lately deceased members of the company. Of them, Mr. William Child had been a member for more than 55 years and Mr. Leonard Stoke for 50 years.

On May 7th, 1792, the Cumberlands rang 5,112 Grandsire Maximus at Southwark, composed and conducted by John Reeves, who considered that Grandsire Royal and Maximus were superior to Plain Bob on ten and twelve bells. On the same date in 1807 Elijah Roberts, who performed so many famous feats on handbells, was born.

To-day is the 163rd anniversary of the peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 10,200 changes, by the Cumberlands at Shoreditch, one of the stages in the historical contest between that society and the College Youths. On the same date two years later, in 1779, the Braughing Youths rang 12,240 changes of Bob Major.

On May 11th, 1903, 14,112 changes of London Surprise Major were rung at King's Norton, composed by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by William Pye. It remains the record length in the method, though a composition, one lead longer, is in existence.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### HALF-YEARLY MEETING AT WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.

A country place, a beautiful afternoon and a friendly tower all helped to make an ideal setting for the half-yearly meeting of the Lancashire Association at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday. The bells were set going at 2.30, and except for a short service and tea were kept in use until black-out. Members from the Blackburn, Bolton, Manchester, Preston and Wigan Branches were present to the number of 40. Although an hour had been allowed for the service, the Vicar (the Rev. M. H. Garner) cut it short, and the ladies were ready with the tea when the ringers left the church. A happy party gathered round the tables, ate the good things provided and talked shop until the Rev. Arthur Scott (president) proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the local ringers for making the association welcome and to the ladies for their help in arranging the tea.

This was responded to by the Vicar, who hoped to welcome the association again in the near future.

The ringing was on the best side for mixed meetings of this description. The seven methods rung ranged from Grandsire to Cambridge, but as the bells were well looked after there was no excuse for bad striking.

## SHIPLAKE RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred recently of Mr. George Cleave, for 37 years a ringer at Shiplake Church, Oxfordshire. He had 14 peals of Triples to his credit; of these he had conducted several, which included one to the memory of King Edward and another on the wedding day of King George VI.

The deceased was of a retiring disposition and loved by all. For over 40 years he laboured with dairy cattle, and those dumb creatures God had bequeathed to his care won his confidence and kindness. For all those years he never knew a day's rest. Yet he would be with the cattle at 5 a.m. on a Sunday morning to enable him to stand in a quarter-peal for morning service.

He was laid to rest by his brother ringers, and the bells pealed out their half-muffled notes. The floral tribute, bell shaped, sent by his colleagues of the belfry, contained a quotation from Gray's Elegy:

If memory o'er his tomb no trophies raise.  
Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:  
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

O. W. P.



## LADIES IN THE BELFRY. TWO SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

MR. LLOYD EXPLAINS.

To the Editor.

Sir.—Mr. Challice is to be commended on his vigorous protest on behalf of lady ringers, but I would remind him that a summarised report is not always the best medium of ascertaining the spirit and trend of a discussion.

The discussion referred to by him failed to produce anything new. Our old friends the 'parsons' and a 'certain type of conductor' were blamed for the falling off in ringers, but the few remarks about lady ringers were not unfriendly.

After remarking that the efforts of ladies in the belfry were welcome and appreciated, I *did* say 'It is also true that ladies have sometimes been responsible for ringers leaving the tower.'

I had in mind the numerous youngsters who have found the call of the opposite sex, and the course of true love, far more enchanting and less exacting than the voice of the ringing instructor and the course of Plain Bob or Grandsire. And how many have wandered in those pleasant groves, to be seen in the belfry no more? Unfortunately the point was too subtle or too crudely put—the latter, I presume.

However, I refute the charge that the Bath and Wells Association is opposed to lady ringers, and I consider that the discussion referred to showed a recognition of the necessity to explore every avenue likely to produce recruits. As for recruitment, the bands must work out their own salvation, and as a start they should build up a tradition of good ringing, progressive outlook, punctuality and real discipline. A slack band is not attractive to a learner, and I agree that the time to build is when a band is strong. W. H. LLOYD.

### PETERSFIELD'S EXPERIENCE.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read the excellent leading article in your last issue entitled 'Ladies in the belfry,' and it is my opinion that unless the advice given is acted upon immediately there will be many silent bells in the near future.

To quote the case of 'man-power' at St. Peter's, Petersfield; one week before war was declared no less than six of our young ringers were called up for military service, which left us with six to maintain service ringing, with no allowance for absence by a member for any reason whatsoever. Luckily, I had realised several months previously that, with compulsory military training, it would become more and more difficult to keep young men, and so mooted the idea of ladies as ringers. Upon the declaration of war, five young ladies were partially trained, and the result has been that only two services in the past seven months have been held without the bells being rung. Without the ladies the bells must have been silent for at least half of the services.

To instructors doubtful of teaching lady ringers, I may say this is my first experience, and that I find them, if anything, rather quicker on the uptake than a good many of the lads I have taught.

Break down the old prejudices, bring the ladies in to maintain ringing, and raise the standard of conduct in the belfry.

CHARLES E. BASSETT.

### A VERY MASCULINE VIEW.

Dear Sir,—I am going to attack your leading article of last week. I have two main points. If in the future the Exercise is to consist of both sexes, I am of the opinion that in a generation or two bell-ringing will be entirely a matter of looking at in museums.

This is why. I myself and many more ringers have been brought up in a hard ringing school where to make mistakes, careless or otherwise, brought forth bellowings enough to make one feel the size of a church mouse, and this is the right way. It is only by strict training that perfection can be obtained.

Now supposing there had been ladies in the belfry at this time of my career, would I have had the face to put in an appearance next week after a particularly bad bit of bashing? Oh! no. That is if the conductor would have dared to raise his voice in the presence of a lady.

Again, the ladies are not trained the same way as us. It just isn't done to yell your head off at them, and all the quiet talking in the world makes no difference to bad striking or bell bashing. And so, with the introduction of ladies exists the strong arm training of to-day and enter laziness and the attendant bad habits.

The belfry is one of the last places where ladies have not intruded to any great extent. It is a good thing for men to get together and do a job without the embarrassment of having to be very polite, make pretty speeches and keep a perpetual smile going all the time; in fact, the whole atmosphere is falsified, particularly after an exhibition of bad striking by a lady member, everybody tries to look as if they are thoroughly enjoying themselves and the striking was perfect. This is the kind of thing that will not build up the future Exercise.

Now for a few points in your article. 'What influence women have had in the belfry has been, we are convinced, to raise the standard of conduct.' The infernal cheek of it! Do you imagine that it is an excellent opportunity for a game of pitch and toss or some such law break? I have seen this remark in your paper before and I am very indignant about it. I have been ringing since 1932 with a good

(Continued in next column.)

## WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

### STEEP BELLS TO BE AUGMENTED.

A quarterly meeting of the Alton and Petersfield District was held at St. Mary's Church, Liss, on Saturday. The total attendance was 30, among those present being Mr. George Williams (Guild Ringing Master), Mr. F. W. Rogers (Guild hon. secretary), the Rev. H. W. Gooch (Rector of Liss), the Rev. E. A. Berrisford (district chairman) and members from Alton, Blackmoor, Bramshott, Hawkley, Liss, North Stoneham, New Alresford, Portsea, Portsmouth (Cathedral), Petersfield, Steep and Southampton. Mr. W. J. Rawlings, of Beckenham, Kent, was also present. The bells were rung in the afternoon and evening to methods ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Bristol Surprise Major.

The Guild's office was said in church at 4.30, at which the Rector officiated, and afterwards tea was provided in the Parish Hall. The district chairman announced with much regret the death of the Rev. T. N. Rathbone-Griffin, for many years district auditor, which was due to an accident while cutting the branches of a tree, from which he fell. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Griffin. His action in sending a wreath to the funeral on the previous Saturday was confirmed.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Rev. T. J. Best (district vice-chairman), Mr. W. Linter (Guild treasurer), Mr. F. S. Bayley and Mr. A. Brownjohn. New members were elected as follows: Alton, Mr. S. J. Tily and Mr. L. G. King; Bramshott, Misses V. Hill, M. Pope and M. Worsdell.

The next quarterly meeting was fixed for July 27th at West Meon.

The meeting received with much pleasure the announcement that Steep bells were to be retuned and augmented to six by adding a new treble. Votes of thanks were accorded the Rector of Liss and the caterers.

## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### FAKENHAM MEETING AFFECTED BY PETROL RATION.

A meeting of the West Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Fakenham on Saturday, May 4th, when about a dozen members attended from Norwich, Swaffham and Attleborough, with members of the local company. Touches of Kent, Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major were rung during the afternoon, and in the evening St. Clement's and Double Court on the back six. The weather was perfect, and the lack of numbers was probably due to the petrol rationing, although a few members might be reminded that there is no tax on cycling at the present moment.

After a very good tea, for which a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. R. Cooke, who made the arrangements, a short business meeting followed, with Mr. J. A. Godfrey, the branch chairman, officiating, supported by Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary) and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (vice-president). Master W. G. Cooke was elected a ringing member, and Mr. A. Potter, of Watton, was elected to the Branch Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the branch at Swaffham on Saturday, June 29th, when it is to be hoped that a good company will meet to enjoy the fine ring of eight bells.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

(Continued from previous column.)

many people in many places. Only once did I see a breach of conduct and that was in a belfry that contained more ladies than I have ever seen before or since at a meeting, so your argument doesn't hold water. It may have done in your young days, but not in ours.

This article on ladies has appeared in your paper several times since 1932, in fact I am inclined to think it is boosted. The above has been difficult for me to write, as I am not much of a ringer myself, but I desire to see the Exercise continuing many a year yet. There is ample opportunity for them to use their energy elsewhere. They have pinched our football and cricket, to say nothing of all-in wrestling. So please leave us one place where men can be men without interruption.

What ho! the pages of criticism next week.

Barking, Essex.

A. HAROLD WARBOYS.

### LADIES' SERVICES WILL BE REQUIRED.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading your leader on the above subject in last week's issue. In my opinion, we shall be glad of the services of the ladies before times become normal again.

Some years ago when I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the North Notts Association, two lady ringers were there and I can assure you, sir, they were a treat to watch for supple movement and accuracy of striking such as I have never yet seen or heard excelled either by male or female. And these same ladies are still doing yeoman service not only in the belfry, but in other organisations of the Church to which they belong.

As bells are now hung on hall bearings most ladies are capable of manipulating them from a physical point of view.

I know men who fight shy of working along with ladies, but this would gradually work off in time.

J. E. WHEELDON.

Milton, Staffs.

## TREBLE BOB AND SURPRISE METHODS.

### INTERNAL FALSENESS.

When we turn to the proof of methods on the Treble Bob Principle the first thing we have to notice is that, in every lead, the treble is four times in each position, twice on its way up, and twice on its way down. There are seven leads in a Major method, and therefore any particular row can occur in any one of twenty-eight positions in a course.

Let us see how we can make sure that in our composition there is no internal falseness which does not reveal itself at the lead ends. We will confine ourselves to symmetrical methods, because no others are practised nowadays.

A.	B.
f. 25134768—	f. 2513476980+
21537486+	2153749608+
d. 12354768+	d. 1235476980—
21345678—	2134567890—
b. 12436587—	b. 1243658709+
12345678+	1234567890+
21436587+	2143658709—
c. 12463857—	c. 1246385079—
21648375—	2164830597+
e. 26143857+	e. 2614385079+

Here we have, first, in Example A, two sections of a Major method, in one of which the treble is hunting down, and, in the other, is hunting up.

For the same reasons that there can be no internal falseness in symmetrical Plain methods if the lead ends are true, we can be sure that in this method, if the lead ends are true, there can be no repetition between rows in the positions of (c) and (d), or (e) and (f), or any other rows which are equidistant from lead head and lead end. The symmetry of the method will settle that, and there is the additional safeguard that the rows in one position are odd and the other even.

But between rows in the positions of (a) and (d), and (b) and (c) the symmetry affords no safeguard, since one is produced from the lead head going forward in a different way to that in which the other is produced from the lead end going backwards.

In addition, in each case all the rows in both positions are of the same nature, either all odd or all even.

It is, therefore, possible for a row to appear in two separate courses, although the lead ends and course ends are different. We need some further safeguard other than symmetry and the nature of the rows, and we find it usually in the positions of the two tenors.

We compare all the even rows in the plain course with the treble in second's place going down, with all the even rows with the treble in second's place going up. If 1, 7, 8 do not fall twice into the same relative positions we need not fear any internal falseness so long as the tenors are not parted. If they do fall twice into the same relative positions we know that for every natural course in the method there is at least another which is false against it.

When we have compared the even rows in a section we need not compare the odd unless we like, for we can be certain that if the even rows show no liability to falseness, neither will the odd; and if the even rows re-

vealed the presence of false course ends, the odd rows will show complementary ones.

Also when, as in the example we have given, all the place making is at backstroke, or when there are hand-stroke places which are arranged symmetrically within the section, we need test only alternate rows of the sections—the first and third of the first half leads against the second and fourth of the second half leads. The second and fourth of the first half leads, and the first and third of the second half leads can then be left to look after themselves.

In our issue of February 23rd we gave rules for working out false course ends. As we said, some people use different rules, but in the long run they all come to a comparison of rows such as we have just described.

Since rows can only be false when the treble is in the same position we need only compare certain sections with each other. For instance, in a Major method we compare the first and last sections of every lead in the plain course, the second and seventh; the third and sixth; and the fourth and fifth. If we do that we can ignore the treble altogether and write out the rows without it.

Now turn to the second example at the head of this article. It gives two sections of a ten bell method, and you will see that it is the same method as the eight bell example. Both, in fact, are Cambridge Surprise.

What we have said about the Major will apply to this with an important difference.

If the lead heads and lead ends are true there can be no falseness between rows in the positions of (c) and (d), or between (e) and (f), for they are protected by the symmetry. Neither can there be any falseness between (a) and (d), or between (b) and (c), for (unlike the equivalent rows in the Major) these rows are of opposite nature, one odd and the other even. It is only in Royal methods where the first and third rows, or the second and fourth rows in a section, are of the same nature that you need fear any internal falseness.

The same thing happens in Minor and that is the reason why every symmetrical Treble Bob Minor method will produce a true 720. We say every one, because the one or two so-called exceptions are not methods according to the usually accepted standards.

### ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

#### PREPONDERANCE OF YOUTH AT HARSTON MEETING.

A good number of ringers turned up at the meeting of the Ely Diocesan Association at Harston on April 27th, a notable visitor being the gentleman with the measuring rod or whatever it is with which he judges weight of tenors. A feature was the preponderance of youth.

The visitors were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. P. G. Ward, who conducted the Guild service and afterwards entertained them to tea at the Vicarage. There was no formal business, but it was decided to hold the next meeting at Stapleford, and six young ringers from Trumpington and one life member from Exning, Suffolk, were elected members of the association.

Mr. Hurry expressed the thanks of all to the Vicar for his kind welcome, and, in reply, the Vicar said how pleased he was to have the association at Harston once again. He would pass on their thanks for the tea to his aunt, Mrs. Ward, a lady greatly interested both in the bells and the ringers.

### ERDINGTON RINGER'S JUBILEE.

Ringers generally and Midland ringers in particular will congratulate Mr. W. J. Meers, of Erdington, on his complete recovery from a serious illness. He is now able to resume ringing, after being three months in a Birmingham hospital and undergoing two severe operations.

This year 'Bill' Meers celebrates his jubilee as a chimera and ringer at Erdington Parish Church. He commenced in 1890 on the tubulars there. In 1904 when the present ring was installed he joined the new band. For many years 'Bill' was Ringing Master, and for the past 20 years he has been an excellent towerkeeper, as anyone who knows the conditions at Erdington will testify.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.****WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Witney on April 20th. Ringing started at 2.30, and service was held in St. Mary's Parish Church, conducted by the Rector of Witney (the Rev. G. F. Sharp). The lesson was read by the branch secretary (Mr. W. Evetts), and an excellent address was given by the Deputy Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg).

Tea was provided at the Fleece Hotel, to which about 43 sat down.

At the business meeting which followed, the branch secretary asked the members to support his proposition that a deputy chairman be appointed in view of the fact that the branch's chairman (the Rev. H. Pickles) was Rural Dean, which made him a very busy man. In putting forward the name of the Rev. G. Bateman, Vicar of Bampton, the secretary said he was a very keen and enthusiastic hon. member and supporter of ringing, and was centrally situated in the Witney Deanery.—The motion was carried unanimously.

The branch chairman (the Rev. H. Pickles), the Guild secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert) and Guild treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) were unable to be present.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country during the past twelve months, the secretary said it was almost impossible to say much in his report of work done in the branch. Members were well aware of the cancellation of the autumn meeting last year owing to the declaration of war almost on the date of the meeting.

The balance sheet was submitted, which showed a balance of £24 6s. 8d. for the year.—This was received and adopted.

In the election of officers for the ensuing year, the Rev. H. Pickles was unanimously re-elected as branch chairman.

Mr. W. Evetts was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and, in thanking the members, he said that he was now entering on his 16th year in that office and was hoping to complete his score of years as their secretary and treasurer. He was himself only three years off his three score years and ten, and felt quite young enough to continue for some years to come.

The members on the Guild Committee were re-elected en bloc, viz., Mr. W. T. Bond, Mr. H. Farmer and Mr. H. Floyd.

Cassington was chosen as the place for the autumn meeting, and the provisional date decided on was September 21st.

The Rev. T. Branker, Vicar of Cassington, was unanimously elected as honorary member in place of the late Vicar, the Rev. L. C. K. Greenway (retired).

A hearty vote of thanks to the deputy chairman, Deputy Master, the Rector of Witney, the organist and those who provided the tea was proposed by the secretary and carried unanimously, and this brought the meeting to a close, when members retraced their steps to the towers at their disposal.

Visitors at the tea included ringers from Abingdon, Faringdon, Swindon, Buckland, Oswestry, Oxford and Dinton, and they also took part in ringing on the grand peal of eight at Witney.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.****ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at St. James, Grimsby, on Saturday, April 20th.

The bells were rung to various methods during the afternoon and evening, and the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon E. Lisle Marsden, who gave a very inspiring address. Mr. H. Rushby presided at the organ.

After the service the members adjourned to the Church House, where, as usual, Mrs. Stowe had a substantial tea ready, 28 sitting down.

The president, the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, presided over the business meeting which followed, and was supported by Canon Marsden. The secretary, in his report, said the last year's membership had been a very favourable one. A few members had been lost, two had passed away and a few had lapsed, but there had been a gain of six. Some members had joined His Majesty's Forces, and it was up to those who were left behind to carry on. The past year had also been noteworthy with regard to Minor ringing, two wonderful peals having been rung at Bigby—104 methods and 125 methods. Very great credit was due to the band and the conductor, Mr. G. Feirn.

All the officers were re-elected, namely: President, the Ven. Archdeacon Parry; secretary, H. Mingay; Ringing Master, J. Bray; Deputy Ringing Master, G. Blanchard; General Committee representative, C. W. Taylor.

It was decided to hold a district meeting at Bigby on June 29th, when the Dean of Lincoln will be the preacher, and a meeting at Burton-on-Stather on July 27th to dedicate a board to commemorate the record peal of Minor. Two boards will probably be dedicated at Louth on August 24th.

Mr. Walker moved a vote of thanks to those who had made the arrangements, and the president one to Canon Marsden for the service and his address and the use of the bells.

Among the towers represented were Bigby, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe, Ulceby, Old Clee, St. Andrews, Grimsby, and the local band. Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell, of Goxhill, and some unattached members were also present.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—A meeting will be held at Swalcliffe on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service 4 o'clock, followed by tea and business meeting.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

—Cary Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Templecombe on Saturday, May 11th. Usual arrangements. Horsington and North Cheriton bells available. —W. A. Osborn, Galhampton, Yeovil. Phone North Cadbury 230.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Andover District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Laverstoke on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available from 2.30. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting follows.—F. S. H. Marle, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A joint meeting of the Wigan and Liverpool Branches will be held at Christ Church, Southport, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, for which a small charge may be made, at 5 p.m. After tea, the meeting will be at Emmanuel Church.—S. Forshaw and G. R. Newton, Branch Secs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Melbourne on Saturday, May 11th. Bells available 3 p.m. A hearty invitation extended to Loughborough district and to all ringers who care to attend.—Wm. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Michael, Hawkshead, on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Hon. Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulverston.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Practice meetings will be held at Shipham (6 bells) on Saturday, May 11th, and Blagdon (8 bells) on June 1st. Bells open 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Practice Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at Highworth on Saturday, May 11th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea 5 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Magnus', London Bridge, on Saturday, May 11th, at 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Whit Sunday, May 12th, at 5.30 p.m. Visitors will be welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The 61st annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, May 13th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., with address by the Rev. H. L. Pike, Rector of Widford, followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Copies of the proposed revised rules have been sent to all towers for distribution to members. Towers open for ringing: Cathedral (12), Great Baddow (8), Boreham (8), Galleywood (8), Great Waltham (8), Widford (8), Writtle (8), Broomfield (6), Danbury (6), Springfield (6) and Little Waltham (6). Lunch at the Golden Fleece after meeting. Members 1s. 6d., non-members 2s. 6d.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—The 66th annual general meeting will be held in Exeter on Whit-Monday, May 13th. Service at St. Sidwell's, at 12.15 p.m. Preacher, the Rev. H. Lanyon-Owen (Rector). Dinner at Deller's Café, Bedford Street, at 1 p.m. Admission by ticket only. Members' tickets price 1s., non-members 2s. 6d., must be applied for, with remittance, by May 7th. Business meeting to follow. Towers open for ringing from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., are St. Sidwell's (10), St. Thomas' (8), St. David's (8) and Heavitree (8). Visitors are cordially invited. Tickets may be obtained from Fredk. C. Smale (acting hon. sec.), Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton, Devon.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Northampton on Whit Monday, May 13th. Central Committee meet 2.45 p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Room. Service, St. Peter's Church, 3.30. Address by Rev. E. V. Fenn. Tea at Angel Hotel 4.15, followed by business meeting. Hon. and subscribing members free, others 1s. 6d. Bells available: St. Giles' (10), St. Edmunds' (8) 11 to 1, All Saints' (8), Holy Sepulchre (8) 1 to 3, St. Peter's 1 to 3.30; after the meeting until 7.30, St. Giles', St. Peter's, All Saints', Holy Sepulchre and Kingsthorpe (6).—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

**HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held on Whit Monday, May 13th, at Hereford. 3.15 p.m., service in Cathedral, with address by Canon J. H. Jordan. 4 p.m., tea at Kerry Arms Hotel, followed by annual general meeting. Following bells will be available: Cathedral (10), All Saints' (8) and S. Nicholas' (8), from 2 to 3.15 and 6.15 to 8 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) to members notifying before May 11th to Rev. E. G. Benson, Burghill Vicarage, Hereford.

**LADIES' GUILD** (Southern District) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Guildford District).—A joint meeting will be held at West Clandon on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that numbers for tea be sent to Mr. G. L. Grover, East Clandon, near Guildford, not later than Wednesday, May 15th. Owing to catering difficulties, please bring your own sugar if you require it.—Miss H. F. Mills and W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Secs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Berks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Abingdon on Saturday, May 18th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Important.—Ringers intending to be present please notify by Wednesday, 15th, latest.—Albert E. Lock, 35, East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Berks.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Huddersfield on Saturday, May 18th. The bells of the Parish Church (10) will be available from 1.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m., Lindley (8), and Almondbury (8), also available from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All three rings available again after the meeting until 9 p.m. General Committee meet at 3 p.m. in the schools. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 6d. per head) at the Princess Cafe at 5 p.m. All requiring same must notify Mr. W. B. Frith, 5, Sufton Street, Birkby, Huddersfield, not later than the first post on Thursday, May 16th. The general meeting will take place in the schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting following service. It is essential that those who require tea should notify me not later than Thursday, May 16th, otherwise no guarantee of tea can be given. Please help by sending your name in early. St. Dunstan's bells (6) also available 2.30 to 4.15, and after meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Deane, Bolton, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Business 4 p.m., to make arrangements for the annual meeting.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southampton District.—Meeting at Diphden on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5.15 for those who notify by May 15th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Burrington on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available from 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. George-in-the-East Church, Cannon Street, E.1, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Those who require tea must advise Mr. J. G. A. Prior, 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2, by Tuesday, 14th inst. Handbells will be available. Penny fare from Aldgate, Mansion House or Monument on buses Nos. 5, 15, 23 or 40, and trams Nos. 65 or 67 (eastbound services).—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Langley Bury, Hunton Bridge.—Meeting Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) open 3.30. Tea 5.30, 1s. 3d. per head. Business meeting after. Ringing till 7.30. Excellent bus service from all parts to church. Those requiring tea must notify me by May 14th, so that arrangements may be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Crawley on Saturday, May 18th. The eight bells will be available from 3 p.m. Cards for tea at 1s. should be sent to Mr. G. Charlton, 2, Albury Parade, Crawley. Your printed tea card in unsealed envelope will only cost 1d.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Gorton Unitarian on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Charminster on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and short business meeting. Dorchester bells (8) available 7 to 9.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 3, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wirral Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bromborough (8 bells) on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards. Please let me know if you are coming.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

**SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM.**—Meeting at Cotgrave, May 18th, 3 p.m. Lewis' bus 2.20 and 2.50 from bus station. All ringers welcome.—I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Nottingham.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting is to take place at Church Lawford, near Rugby, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at the White Lion at 5 o'clock.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Naseby (5 bells) on Saturday, May 18th. Usual arrangements.—H. H. Shrivess, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting has been arranged for May 18th at Northchurch. Bells (8), a good peal, available from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45, followed by tea and meeting. Tea can only be arranged for those who let me know by Tuesday, May 14th. Let us have a good meeting.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Bi-quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, May 18th, at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, Bath Street, Birmingham. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Banstead on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m., and again in the evening until 8.30. Service 5 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, at the Memorial Cafe at 5.30. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. G. Woodiss, 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, by Wednesday, May 22nd. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Tea 4.45, only for those who notify me by Thursday, May 23rd. Everybody welcome. Look up your Minor methods.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**DEVON GUILD.**—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Broadclyst on Saturday, May 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock, 1s. each. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Bands and visitors please notify me by May 18th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kirkham Parish Church on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting at 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Secretary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—Gillingham, St. Mary Magdalene: Sunday ringing, 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.; practices, Thursdays, 7.30 to 9. Rainham, Kent, St. Margaret's: Sunday ringing, mornings 10 to 11; evenings, 5.30 to 6.30; practice, Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9. All ringers, especially members of all branches of H.M. Forces, will be very welcome.—C. H. Spice, Hon. Sec.

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#### SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

**DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.**—On Sunday, April 21st, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples: D. Scott 1, B. Allsop 2, C. Howes (first quarter-peal) 3, H. Taylor 4, H. Gregory 5, B. Allsop 6, G. H. Paulson (conductor) 7, A. Watts 8.

**BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.**—On Sunday, April 21st, for evening, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): F. Jeffery 1, Mrs. J. Bray 2, John Markham (first quarter-peal) 3, A. Tomlinson 4, G. Moody 5, J. Bray (conductor) 6, Philip Barnes 7, E. Brittain 8.

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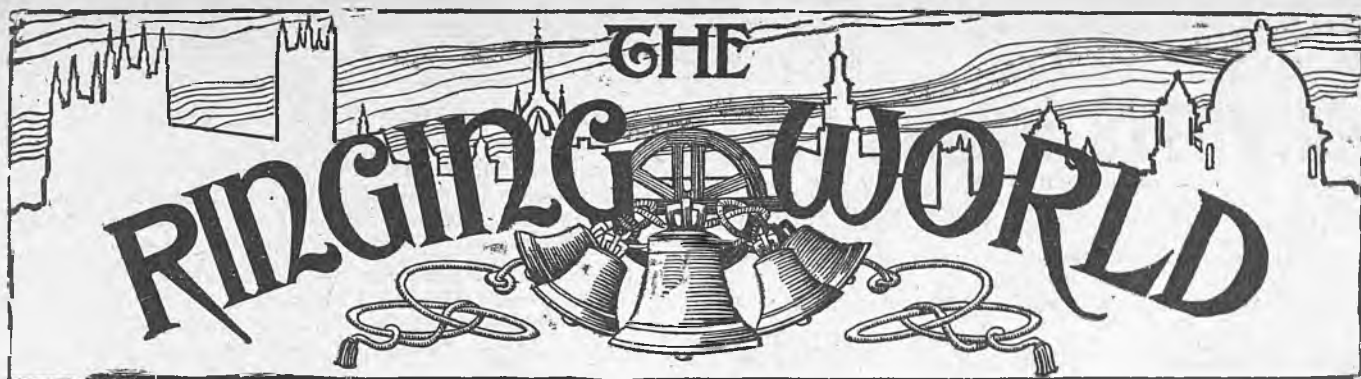
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FRIDAY, MAY 17th, 1940.

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## THE NEW CRISIS.

The developments of the war during the last week or so have suddenly roused the people of this country from the kind of semi-complacency into which they seemed to have drifted through the long months of stagnation which followed the first outbreak of hostilities. The sudden cessation of ringing which took place at the beginning of September, when the uncertainties of the times dictated a policy of 'wait and see,' has been followed by a gradual return to some degree of activity, even though it has perforce been a restricted activity. Now, once again, the anxieties of the moment are causing an enforced restraint upon everything except the work of a united nation for victory, and ringing, like many of the other lesser things of life, must be subjugated to the urgent demands of the moment.

The immediate effect upon ringing, with the cancellation of the Whitsuntide Bank Holiday, was the postponement or abandonment of meetings and of numerous peal attempts. It was, of course, impossible in the circumstances, with the threat of some sudden intense development of the war over this country, to expect that such events should be carried out, and now that, perhaps, the most vital phase of the war is upon us, it may be some time before important ringing gatherings can again be held. Throughout the country the renewed sense of anxiety is giving way to an even grimmer determination, so that, come what may, we shall be prepared. Nothing will stand in the way of united service to the country, and we must expect ringing in the immediate future to suffer to some extent. But while it may not be possible to indulge freely in peal ringing or to hold meetings in vulnerable areas, there is no reason why ringers should not carry on their work if they have a reasonable regard for the new conditions.

Precautions which were at first taken have been somewhat relaxed in recent months, but they should now be renewed, when the bells of the churches are rung. In cities and towns, at any rate, where preparations have been made for air raid warnings to be given, there should be someone on duty outside the church to give immediate notification to the ringers, so that the sound of the bells shall not interfere with the warning to the public. That is one essential safeguard that should be taken, and while the ringing of church bells is still perfectly lawful, ringers, we are sure, will be only too ready to refrain from their activities if the police or other authorities request it, in the interests of public safety. But if proper precautions are taken there is still no rea-

(Continued on page 230.)

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son why the customary service and practice ringing should not take place.

As we have pointed out before, the bells, calling the people to church or reminding them of a service, are an asset in times like these and helping to maintain the public spirit. In town and in village nothing is more missed than the sounds of the bells when they are silenced, and there is good reason in these days to avoid anything that may even indirectly help to produce gloom. There are grave and perhaps dangerous times ahead, but we feel that that is no reason for deserting the belfries. It goes, almost without saying, that ringers will always have full regard for any circumstances that may arise and for public feeling. Indeed, as in the past, the bells, even in these strenuous and uncertain times, may well interpret public feeling, if judiciously used, and there is still opportunity for ringers to play their part. The last thing that should be manifested in any department of life is nervousness or panic, and there is no reason why panic action should be taken to restrict the activities of ringers, so long as good sense is exercised.

## THE POSTAL RATES.

WHAT YOU MAY SEND FOR A PENNY.

In view of the increase in postal charges, correspondents are reminded that they can send items of news, such as reports of peals, meetings and obituary notices, for 1d., provided they are

(1) Addressed only to  
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(2) Contain nothing in the nature of a letter.  
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Notices and letters to the Editor are **not** admissible at this postal rate, but the name and address (only) of the sender may be included.

Any departure from the strict regulations renders the package liable to surcharge.

## ST. DIONIS', BACKCHURCH, LONDON.

LORD MAYOR ATTENDS DEDICATION OF HALL.

The Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs and Lady Mayoress, officiated at the formal opening of the rebuilt Parochial Hall of St. Dionis', Backchurch, London. It stands in the courtyard of St. Dionis', Lime Street, of which church the late vestry was all that remained. It was here in 1937 that the Rector, Canon Tissington Tatlow, welcomed the College Youths, when they restored the memorial stone of Sir Henry Tulse, both Lord Mayor and Master of the society in 1684. This old stone has been again relaid and is a little nearer to the entrance to the hall.

The ceremony was short and simple. Archdeacon Sharpe offered the opening prayers, and the Lord Mayor spoke of the abiding interest felt by the city for its old churches. He said he hoped the hall would prove a lively centre for the furthering of the spiritual and social welfare of those who worked in that part of the city.

The Rector described what had been done and how the sale of All Hallows', Lombard Street, for £330,000 had strengthened their hands in so many ways and had given the now five parishes united in St. Edmund's this beautiful hall. He congratulated the architect, Mr. Tatchell, too, on his restoration of the old 'Wren' features and fittings from the previous hall.

Amongst the other clergy present were Canon Taylor, of St. Bride's, and Canon Ellison, of Cornhill, both well known to ringers, and with the laity were Messrs. A. A. Hughes and E. Alexr. Young, representing the College Youths.

**WATCHET, SOMERSET.**—On Thursday, April 25th, at the Church of St. Decuman, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes: Mrs. I. Binding 1, F. Willicombe 2, W. E. Challice 3, W. Challice 4, T. H. Chidgey (conductor) 5, I. Binding 6.



**TEN BELL PEAL.**

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.  
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in E flat.

FRANK E. DARBY... .. Treble	CHARLES POTHECARY ... .. 6
ROYDEN DAVIES ... .. 2	LEONARD J. FOX ... .. 7
MRS. CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... 3	ARTHUR J. W. HUGHES ... 8
THOMAS G. FOX ... .. 4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 9
HERBERT E. THOMPSON ... 5	GEORGE W. CECIL ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK E. DARBY.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 13 cwt.

EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN. ... Treble	FRANK BENNETT ... .. 5
GEORGE WILLIAMS ... .. 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 6
GEORGE POLLINGER ... .. 3	JAMES H. SHEPHERD ... .. 7
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... 4	A. PATRICK CANNON ... .. Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS

Rung to celebrate Mr. George Williams' 83rd birthday, which fell on the day before.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

HARRY C. JONES ... .. Treble	ROLAND BIGGS ... .. 5
GEORGE MARTIN ... .. 2	PERCY NEWTON ... .. 6
JAMES W. WILKINS ... .. 3	WALTER LEE ... .. 7
*RALPH COLES ... .. 4	HARRY WINGROVE ... .. Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

\* First peal of Double Norwich. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd, who was 77 on that day.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

ST. BRIDES MAJOR, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 42 extents, 10 callings.

Tenor 11 cwt.

DAVID THOMAS ... .. Treble	TREVOR M. RODERICK... .. 4
ERNEST STITCH ... .. 2	ALFRED E. WILLIAMS... .. 5
ALFRED HANNINGTON... .. 3	ALBERT E. BACON ... .. Tenor

Conducted by E. STITCH.

First peal on the bells.

GRIMLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.

JAMES WOODYATT ... .. Treble	GEORGE E. LARGE ... .. 4
ALLEN MORGAN... .. 2	REGINALD WOODYATT... .. 5
WILLIAM RANFORD ... .. 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

A 71st birthday compliment to the ringer of the third.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Tuesday, May 7th, by a newly-formed local band, 720 Bob Minor: P. Hayes 1, N. Fox 2, R. Fox 3, G. Briggs 4, P. Jervis 5, G. G. Graham (conductor) 6. First 720 by ringers of 1, 2, 3 and 4, and first 720 for some years by a local band.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

FELSTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

RONALD SUCKLING ... .. 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL... .. 3-4	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 7-8

ALBERT WIFFEN ... .. 9-10

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	*LEONARD LUCK ... .. 7-8

Composed by J. BARKER.

Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

\* First peal of Major on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 8, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 11 in G.

*EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4
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\*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal of Surprise on handbells. First peal of Surprise on handbells as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, May 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
*THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal in the method on handbells and first attempt.

MAGHULL, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 10, 1940, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT 22, NORTON GROVE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven callings.

Tenor size 15.

THOMAS S. HORRIDGE ... .. 1-2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 3-4
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WILLIAM H. DEACON ... .. 5-6

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

Witness—Hilda Deacon.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****RESIGNATION OF THE SECRETARY.**

The annual meeting of the Sheffield and District Society was held at Eastwood on May 4th, at which members were present from Sheffield (St. Marie's, Ranmoor and Handsworth), Rawmarsh, Whiston, Eckington, Whittington, Rotherham Parish Church and the local belfry. During the afternoon various methods were rung, and afterwards tea, which the local company had provided at short notice, was served in the Church Hall.

The Vicar, the Rev. P. Kennedy, presided over the business meeting, supported by Mr. C. Haynes, and gave the society a hearty welcome.

All the officers were re-elected with the exception of the secretary, Mr. M. E. Wilson, who on account of increased pressure of work had had to resign. Mr. G. Lewis, on behalf of the society, expressed appreciation of the work done by Mr. Wilson, and Mr. G. G. Graham was elected to take his place. Several new members were elected, and then ringing in various methods, including Forward and Original, brought the day to a close.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

For more than sixty years the College Youths held their regular practice meeting at St. Bride's, and their headquarters and the centre of their social life were at The Barley Mow, a tavern which stood just beneath the tower.

The social side of the old societies represents a phase in the life of the Exercise which has almost entirely disappeared. Founded on the inherited traditions of the old guilds, it was immensely strengthened and influenced by the customs of the time.

In the early eighteenth century social clubs were very common and existed in all classes of society. Wherever there was a small group of men who had some interest in common, there was the material for a club. They agreed to meet at stated times at a tavern or coffee house, they had a code of rules to regulate their proceedings, and a scale of fines for breaches of the rules, a chairman was appointed, and the evening was spent in social intercourse, drinking, smoking and sometimes singing. An almost universal rule was that no strangers were ever admitted except on very exceptional occasions, and then by special permission of the chairman and assembled members.

The Barley Mow was a noted house for clubs. Its site is at present covered by a vast new block of offices, but in the corner of it there is still a tavern, only the name has quite recently been changed from The Barley Mow to The Cogers Hall in imitation of a club that once was held there.

The Society of College Youths, on its social side, was like the other clubs, and, like them, it existed for the benefit of its members alone. It was exclusive, and there was no pretence that its members were church workers, or even that their aim was to promote the art of change ringing or the good of the Exercise at large. We have, or profess to have, different ideals to-day, but there can hardly be any doubt that these exclusive and secular ideas were, on the whole, those best fitted to further the interests of change ringing in the eighteenth century. It was only after the changes in social and religious opinion in the nineteenth century that the Exercise was faced with the problem of adjusting itself to new conditions.

We often read and talk of the old ringing societies as if the whole Exercise was organised into societies like the College Youths, and there is a tendency to assume on very feeble evidence that there existed in various places companies with similarly long unbroken corporate existences. The recent claim made for Halesworth is a case in point. We can be fairly sure that from the earliest times, wherever there were bells there were ringers of some sort or other, and to that extent almost every old church can claim to have had an old society of ringers, but fully organised societies like the College Youths were the exception. They existed mainly in those towns where change ringing became popular among the townsmen of better social class as distinct from artisans and farm labourers. Among the members there was usually a proportion who valued the social side more than the ringing side, and when they became the majority the end of the society was not far off. Practically all the eighteenth century ringing societies faded

away in the early nineteenth century because the class of men who had composed their members was no longer attracted to the belfry. The St. Stephen's Society of Bristol survived, but no longer as a company of ringers except in name. The College Youths survived as a ringing company, but shorn of their old social status. The Cumberlands survived and suffered little loss in the changes and chances of the times, because socially they had much less to lose. In the provinces societies like the Union Society of Shrewsbury and the Hertford College Youths lapsed. Those like the Norwich Scholars and the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham that survived do not appear to have been organised as full social clubs like the College Youths, but were companies attached to particular churches, held together by the necessity of having a regular band to do the paid ringing.

There seems to be in the minds of some of its members a vague sort of idea that the Society of College Youths has enjoyed one long prosperous and unbroken career from 1637 to the present day. But, of course, such was in the nature of things impossible. Several times it went through a crisis and came out different from what went in. One such crisis seems to have happened about 1720 which altered the whole character of its members. Before that time it consisted of a number of men of good social class who do not appear to have been very keen about ringing. Afterwards it was a company of very young and very skilful ringers who not only re-established the supremacy of the society on a new basis, but set a new and high standard in method ringing and peal ringing for the whole Exercise.

It may be that the change was more marked and more abrupt in the belfry than in the club room, and that these men had not for some years the same importance at The Barley Mow that they had in St. Bride's steeple. But it is significant that Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, the great Welsh landowner, joined the society in 1717 and William Laughton joined in 1725. The interval is only eight years, but it is certain that Laughton never knew Wynn as a member, nor does he seem to think that the society ever consisted of men any different from himself.

The oldest member of the new band was Peter Merrygarts. He had joined the society in 1711 and was now about 35 years old, a keen ringer, and evidently a man of some standing, for he had been steward in 1718, the year in which the two trebles were given to St. Bride's. William Jackson, who joined in 1717, had some ambitions as a composer. All the rest were under thirty years of age and some not much more than youths. They were William Woodruff and Matthew East, who joined in 1718; William Thompson and Robert Catlin, 1722; John Pearson, 1723; John Ward and Edward Chadwell, 1724; and—the man who was to supply the real driving force, the spirit which was to weld a number of good ringers into one of the best bands in the whole history of ringing—Benjamin Annable, who joined in 1721.

Annable stands out as one of the most distinctive personalities of the Exercise, a born leader of men, and one who did as much as anyone to influence the development of the art of change ringing. The time was ripe for such a man both in the Society of College Youths and in the Exercise at large, but it must have been no easy thing for him, who was not much more than a youth, with no advantages of birth or education, to gain a position of ascendancy in a society like the College Youths,

with its long conservative and aristocratic traditions. It could only have been possible through the weakening of the older elements and in a very real sense the advent of Benjamin Annable marks the close of the old era and the beginning of a new.

On January 19th, 1725, these men rang at St. Bride's the first peal of Grandsire Cinques ever accomplished. It was the first peal by the College Youths (if we except the doubtful performance at St. Sepulchre's in 1689, the memory of which had entirely faded out of the society) and the ninth peal of any sort by any company of which we have any record. Annable was not yet the recognised leader; Matthew East rang the eleventh and called the bobs, and the composition was by Jackson.

The College Youths were not yet strong enough to ring a peal of Cinques entirely by their own members, and two outsiders were brought in for the peal—Robert Carter and Thomas Rowlands — neither of whom was then, or at any time, a member. Why they were not elected members we cannot tell. It may be that, though qualified as ringers, they were not considered eligible socially, or it may be that they were members of the rival Society of London Scholars. We hear no more of either.

William Jackson, as I have said, composed the peal. Annable has always had the credit of introducing the tittum position into Cater and Cinques ringing, but I am inclined to think that there is rather more rhetoric than sober historical fact in what the 'Clavis' says about the matter.

'Caters and Cinques,' say the writers, 'he found in such a rude and chaos-like jumbled state as may be easier conceived than described'; and they point to the composition in the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' as evi-

dence. 'But Mr. Annable threw them into the harmonious tittums, where they still continue and most likely ever will remain.'

Annable was for many years the greatest and the generally accepted authority on composition. His peals of Grandsire Caters were rung and doubtless were decisive factors in establishing the popularity of the tittum position, but it is hardly likely that ringers had to wait until he appeared before they recognised its merits.

In the earliest times of all on six bells composers used the treble as the whole hunt and the second and third as the half and quarter hunts; and when they turned to Triples and Caters they naturally did the same. But between these early attempts and the appearance of Annable there was nearly a quarter of century in which Grandsire Caters was extensively practised by the leading London companies. However much they may have neglected the positions of the big bells they could not have failed sometimes to have got them into the tittums and that would have been enough to show them the musical value of the position. Anyhow Jackson's peal was in the tittums and it is hardly likely he would have got the idea from his younger colleague.

#### WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING.

CALNE, WILTS.—For morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 minutes: F. Walker 1, F. Hacker 2, W. Hacker 3, R. Saye 4, R. Barry 5, H. Burry 6, A. O. Wrintmore (conductor) 7, W. Saye, sen. 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman by all except the conductor. First as conductor. All are Sunday service ringers. Rung as a final touch pending members being called to the Colours.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM.—At the Church of St. Thomas, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Frank Lawton 1, Harold Armstead 2, Clement B. Taylor 3, Fred Mellor 4, John W. Truelove 5, Isaac Gartside 6, Ivan Kay (conductor) 7, James Brooks 8.

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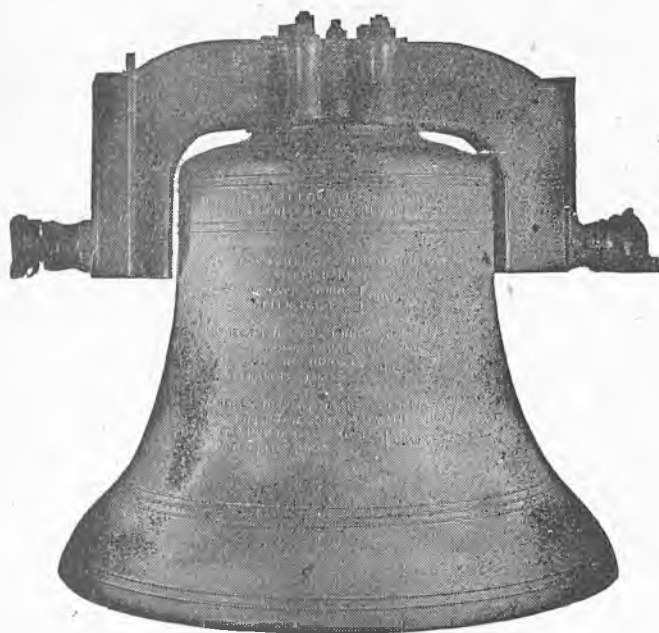
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Heartly congratulations will be extended to Mr. George Williams, the Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, upon calling a peal of Double Norwich Major for his 83rd birthday.

The method was selected because Mr. Williams thought it would bring his peals of Double Norwich up to 200. After he had rung it—with a Surprise band—he found it was his peals of Superlative that were one short of the double century. Well, well, George!

Twice has Hitler prevented Messrs. Tom Coles and Jim Bennett ringing their one thousandth peal. Last September their plans were laid to make it a joint affair, and it would have been a memorable performance for two men to complete their four figure total at the same time. But the outbreak of war stopped it.

Since then the pair have crept up to 999, and last Saturday the 1,000th was to have been attempted at Walthamstow. But again Hitler's interference has put a stop to their ambitions. However, it can wait. Hitler won't always be able to interfere.

At the annual meeting of the Sussex County Association three of the oldest members—Messrs. Edmund Lindup, of Heene, Walter Franks, of Battle, and Charles Tyler, of Henfield—were elected to honorary life membership. Thus has a life-time of loyal service to the association been recognised.

These three men have been part of the backbone of the association for half a century; indeed, the membership of Mr. Tyler, at any rate, goes back to the first days of the association, which was formed in 1885. Mr. Tyler took part in the first peal rung by the association and called the only peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung by the association. This, of course, was on handbells, for Sussex has no twelve-bell tower, and followed handbell peals of Stedman Triples and Caters.

Mr. Walter Frank's services to the association have been mainly in East Sussex and his steadfast services in an area where for years change ringing made little progress, has been a tower of strength to the association.

Mr. 'Ted' Lindup's efforts have been principally at the other end of the county. He filled for years the leadership at Heene and conducted a great many peals.

On Monday last was rung at Wakefield by the Ringers of that place a New Composition Peal of Tripple Bob Triples called Wakefield Delight consisting of 5,040 in 8 Courses Compleat. The same set of Ringers without changing a man or setting a rope began another Peal of Oxford Single Triples in Twelve Courses consisting of 5,040 called Wakefield Surprise. Both these peals consisted 10,080 changes Where performed including the Raising and Settling the Bells in Seven Hours and One Minute, an instance never before Done in Ye Kingdome. What adds to the singularity of this performance is—There were Two Fathers, Five Sons, Five Brothers, Four Cousins, One Uncle, One Nephew yet only eight Persons and only two names.—From 'an old peal book' under date May 12th, 1788.

On May 14th, 1845, John Cox called the first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes. It contained 6,485 changes and was his own composition.

The first peal of Spiced Surprise Major (Cambridge and Superlative) was rung at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, on May 14th, 1924.

May 15th, 1837, was Whit Monday, and on that day Thomas Tolladay called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Fulham, containing 12,096 changes, for the St. James' Society. On the same date in 1894 the then longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was rung at Loughborough. Nathan Pitstow composed and conducted the peal, and John W. Taylor rang the tenor.

The handbell peal at Maghull in Lancashire is the first peal in the parish, as though the church has eight nice toned bells, they are hung dead.

Doncaster ringers invite any ringers serving with the Colours when near the church to enter the belfry or get in touch with the Vicar or vergier.

Despite the cancellation of the Bank Holiday, the annual meeting of the Essex Association was held on Whit Monday, when there was an attendance of fifty members.

## DEATH OF CANON RIDGWAY.

**HON. SECRETARY OF THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

As reported briefly last week, the Rev. Canon M. H. Ridgway, hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild, died on Saturday, May 4th, after a short illness. He was in his 61st year.

Canon Ridgway became secretary three years ago, following the preferment of the Rev. W. R. Ingham to the living of Moreton-in-the-Marsh. He had spent most of his life in the Chester Diocese and was well known as a man of energy and action, and, although not a ringer, these qualities made him an ideal officer of the Guild. Last November the Cathedral paid tribute to his work in the diocese by electing him to the office of Honorary Canon, an honour which gave great satisfaction to his many friends in the county and not least to his fellow members of the Guild.

The funeral took place at Tarvin on Wednesday of last week, when the great company present gave testimony to the high esteem in which he had been held. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service, and the Guild was represented by the Master (Mr. J. W. Milner), Mr. J. W. Clarke and the local band.

The deep sympathy of the Guild is extended to the widow and two sons left in bereavement.



## DEATH OF MR. GEORGE B. LUCAS.

### AN ARDENT MIDDLESEX RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Burnell Lucas, which took place at his home at Walthamstow on Tuesday, May 7th. Mr. Lucas, who was born on June 30th, 1862, was a fine example of that type of ringer whose main object is to do his duty as a service ringer, and his utmost to spread the art of change ringing. From his earliest ringing days he had been well known as a man who would willingly assist in teaching young ringers, and there are many bands in Middlesex and Essex which have, at one time or another, sought and received his assistance.

It was at St. Mary's, Hornsey, that he first became known as a ringer nearly 60 years ago. Later he became a member of the band at All Hallows', Tottenham, when that tower was one of the strongholds of ringing in North-East Middlesex. About 1894 he went to live at Walthamstow and became Ringing Master at St. Saviour's Church, which office he retained until about 1908, from which date for several years he devoted his energies to assisting and ringing at many towers. For a considerable time from 1904 he gave immense assistance at St. George-in-the-East, and amongst those ringers who greatly benefited from his tuition were Messrs. A. W. and C. T. Coles and R. Sanders. Right up to a few months ago he was willing to give his services, and even since the outbreak of war he has helped on occasions at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton.

Particulars of his peals are not available, but he rang a considerable number in many methods, including Stedman Cinques, Superlative and Cambridge Surprise, and he rang the treble to the first peal of Middlesex Surprise Royal at St. Magnus', Thames Street, in 1922. His first peal was rung in 1885 for the Royal Cumberland Society, which he had joined the previous year. This peal was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields and was conducted by the late George Newson. In 1885, too, he rang in the first peal by the All Hallows', Tottenham, Society, which was rung by an entirely local band, including the late Henry A. Barnett (conductor), William Pye English and Joseph Waghorn, sen., and also Joseph Waghorn, jun., who would appear to be the only surviving ringer of this peal. Mr. Lucas rang in many peals during the next three or four years for the St. James' Society and the Waterloo Society, including one of Bob Major in 1887, which was his first as conductor.

In September, 1889, when the Middlesex Association (1889-1897) was formed, Mr. Lucas became one of its staunchest supporters, and was at once elected to the committee of that society. He composed and conducted the first peal, one of Bob Major, rung by this association, on November 1st, 1889, and it was a source of great regret to him that the jubilee of this peal could not be celebrated a few months ago. For this short-lived association he rang 24 peals, conducting 12 of them, and he was a member of the committee during the eight years of its existence. He also represented this society on the Central Council from 1891 to 1896, attending all six meetings held during that period.

In 1897, when the Middlesex County Association was formed, he was again a leading spirit, and was at once elected to the committee, resigning only two years ago, after a total service of nearly 50 years. In 1922 he was elected Ringing Master of the North and East District, but had to resign in 1925, when a nasty accident whilst cycling caused him to give up active ringing for a time. On his recovery he became a regular ringer at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, until the outbreak of war last year. For the Middlesex County Association he rang in 74 peals, of which he conducted 13, and quite a large number of members owe to him their first peals. He was always a regular attendant at association meetings, and was proud to be able to say that he had never missed an annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association except one held three weeks ago during the period of his last illness.

In addition to the societies mentioned above, he was also a member of the Bedford, Essex and Hertford Associations, and at one time was a well-known visitor to meetings in those counties.

His last meeting was one held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on January 6th of the present year, which he left early owing to feeling unwell. A few days later he became seriously ill and never recovered.

The funeral took place on Friday, May 10th, at Queen's Road, Walthamstow, Cemetery, after a service at St. Mary's Church. At this service Canon Oakley, the Vicar, spoke of Mr. Lucas' long service as a ringer and of his sterling qualities. At the graveside, in addition to members of his family, were many ringers, including Messrs. R. Maynard, J. H. Wilkins and H. Rumens (St. Mary's, Walthamstow), G. R. Pye, E. Pye, A. Prior, G. Dawson, J. E. Davis and C. T. Coles (hon. secretary, Middlesex County Association). Amongst a large number of floral tributes were wreaths from the Central Council; the Middlesex County Association; the St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Society; colleagues at Jubilee Wharf, Wapping; Mrs. Ethel Pye (widow of the late Alfred Pye); T. C. Groves (late All Hallows', Tottenham); Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooper; and from his son in Australia.

It is regretted that owing to the great lack of time, and the tense-ness of the national situation, no ringing could be arranged, but this showed no lack of respect to the memory of a much loved man.

**HUGHENDEN.**—For morning service on April 21st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. R. Biggs 1, R. Biggs 2, A. Newton 3, J. W. Wilkins 4, A. G. James 5, E. Timpson 6, P. Newton (conductor) 7, V. Evans 8.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

### THE HARD RINGING SCHOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is surely a bit late in the day and, in any case, entirely the wrong time to take exception to the presence of ladies in the belfry as ringers. We were glad of them in the last war—those of us who were anxious to keep the bells going while the lads were away—and it is more than likely we shall be glad to have them in still greater numbers in the near future. Between 1914 and 1918 ladies saved the situation in many parishes. Without their aid there were numerous places where ringing would entirely have lapsed, but the ladies came to the rescue and many of them stayed on to make excellent ringers.

In passing, may I say one word with regard to Mr. Lloyd's explanation of what transpired at the Bath and Wells Association's meeting. It puts a rather different complexion on what your readers may have been led to think from Mr. Challice's letter. It now seems that it was not the presence of ladies in the tower that was alleged to be the cause of ringers leaving the towers, but the charms of the ladies who are not ringers that have resulted in drawing members of the other sex from the belfry. Ah, me, how well I know it. Courtship and marriage have spoilt many a promising band of ringers, and there can hardly be a tower in the country that at some time or other has not suffered from this cause. The remedy is to bring the ladies into the tower, not to keep them out.

I feel sure Mr. Warboys' letter will have amused your readers. This 'he-man' stuff is funny. I haven't the pleasure of Mr. Warboys' acquaintance, so he must excuse me for saying that when I began to read his letter I pictured him as a gentleman of ripe experience in the most select and exclusive ringing circles, with, may be, a bald head and flowing white beard, and perhaps dim recollections of the spacious days (or nights) at the Whittington and Cat, or the Goose and Grid-iron—both famous in the distant past for their association with ringing. Judge my surprise when reading further to find that Mr. Warboys has been ringing not since 1882, but 1932. Bless my soul, there has been no hard ringing school since 1932. Mr. Warboys doesn't know what a hard ringing school is, although, it seems, it may have been a noisy one. The young people who have come into ringing since the last war have been spoon-fed, wrapped in cotton wool and only taken out after the room has been well aired. As they have grown up, in the ringing sense, their path has been made easy for them. Whether that has been for the good of ringing may be a matter of opinion, but the pampering of the new generation of ringers hasn't been solely for the benefit of the ladies. If their presence has taken away some of the crudities which might otherwise have been displayed in belfries, surely even such a product of a loud shouting school as Mr. Warboys' would not complain. What embarrassment should he find in being polite? Politeness can go hand in hand with firmness and firmness is not synonymous with 'bellowing' or 'yelling your head off.' If that was the kind of thing that happened when Mr. Warboys was learning, either he was a dull pupil, or—well never mind, I won't pursue the point. If I say too much, it may incite the ladies not only to pinch our ringing, as, according to Mr. Warboys, they have pinched our football and cricket, but Mr. Warboys as well.

P. H. BROWN.

### A GREAT PUZZLE.

Sir,—I was very interested in the letters and particularly in your leader on the above subject. That leader, so well put, I greatly admired.

It is one of the great puzzles I still have to solve in the world of ringing that men can object to lady ringers. In my 20 years as a ringer in and around London I have met such men and have tried with and without success to reason with them; and I notice that such objectors are only too glad to ring with the ladies in order to get the touch they want, which shows there is no real objection, but merely a silly fad.

I have had the honour to ring with many ladies (many better ringers than I), and I find I am none the worse for the experience.

If it is not taking up too much valuable space in your paper, may I say that last October business brought me to Carlisle. Now in Cumberland ringing is at a standstill, in fact almost dead. I am now trying to revive the art in the short time I expect to be here, so I shall be glad of any help you may be able to give in appealing to ringers in Cumberland to wake up and get doing.

At St. Stephen's, Carlisle, I found five youngsters trying to ring rounds, and, after being appointed instructor, I have built up a band of eight ladies and eight men and boys. Calling-up has taken four men away, but we are attacking Grandsire Doubles with great enthusiasm.

I would like to extend to all ringers and bands of ringers, who would wish to visit us at any time, a very hearty welcome, particularly to the Ladies' Guild. Our ladies would be glad to see them.

FREDERICK W. ALLEWAY.

Other letters on this subject will be printed next week.

## SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRIGHTON.

### Old Members Honoured.

There was an excellent attendance at the annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association held at Brighton on May 4th. Eighty ringers were present from Chichester, Heene, Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch, Lower Beeding, Warnham, Crawley, Rotherfield, Eastbourne (St. Saviour's, St. Mary's and Christ Church), Balcombe, Cuckfield, Twineham, Hurstpierpoint, Heathfield, Wadhurst, Burgess Hill, Arundel, Hastings (Blacklands and All Saints'), Battle and Brighton (St. Peter's, St. Nicholas' and the Good Shepherd).

Service took place at St. Nicholas' Church, where in the course of his address the Vicar (the Rev. L. N. Phillips, M.A., M.C.) made the point that during the difficult times that were with us, and those to come, which might prove even more exacting, a greater devotion to service in all fields was necessary. No results must be expected either in the service of ringing or of Christianity without constant practice and application. Perseverance was as necessary in one as in the other, and there was no time for casual attendance in either calling. The one must be linked with the other, and ringing was a reminder to others who were unable from some cause to make their attendance at church that the work of the church was still going on. Now was the time to make service acceptable to God, and the ringers could well do this by setting a good example themselves.

The business meeting took place in St. Nicholas' Hall after tea and was presided over by the Master (Mr. H. R. Butcher). He was supported by the hon. general secretary (Mr. S. E. Armstrong), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Stone), the divisional secretaries, the peal secretary and one of the hon. trustees (Mr. F. H. Dallaway). The Master extended a welcome to the visitors, who included Mr. J. T. Rickman, a former Master; Mr. G. Williams, Master, and Mr. F. W. Rogers, general secretary, of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

The Master presented the balance sheet and report for the year.

### SUGGESTED RECRUITMENT OF LADIES.

In their report to the members, the Master and hon. secretary referred to the effect which the events of the past year had had upon ringing and which, they said, may leave serious marks upon the organisation. Although the immediate restrictions placed on the association's activities in September had not continued to be so serious as were at first anticipated, some considerable changes had been experienced. Peal ringing had come almost to a standstill, while meetings, owing to the restriction on lighting, were in many cases impracticable during the winter months. It was suggested that meetings should be held mainly in the summer months at towers where there was no possibility of interference with work of national importance.

The report went on to say: 'As time goes on the question of manning the bells will become an acute one, especially owing to the fact that those called away cannot be adequately replaced when there are restrictions on practices. The problem is a general one, yet one which must be considered by each tower individually according to its particular circumstances. We may, however, offer the suggestion that lady ringers may be recruited in larger numbers. During the last war they proved invaluable in keeping the towers together under most difficult circumstances, so again perhaps they may render service in this respect.'

'Ringers may be assured that, as far as possible, the business of the association will be carried on as usual. It is hoped that all the benefit previously enjoyed will continue, and for this purpose it is necessary to ask for the continued support of every affiliated tower. Fortunately the association's finances are in a condition to meet the strain of whatever may befall in reason.'

Thanks were expressed to all those who have helped, both in giving their support to the affiliated towers and also in the organisation of the divisional meetings, to the clergy and others who have helped with the services, and to the divisional officials for their generous expenditure of time and tact. The year had again taken its toll of members by death, amongst them Mr. F. W. Cripps, of Shoreham, Mr. A. C. Pankhurst, of Eastbourne (hon. secretary of the Eastern Division), Mr. W. Hooker, of Warnham, Mr. W. Hack, of Rotherfield, and Mr. T. Patching, of Lindfield.

### SUBSTANTIAL BALANCE.

The general account showed receipts of £61 11s. 7d., including £57 17s. from subscriptions and £1 16s. 10d. interest transferred from reserve fund. The expenditure was £62 2s. 7d. The strong position of the association is revealed from the balances, viz., £130 14s. 9d. on general account, £50 in the Reserve Fund, £84 10s. 5d. in the Benevolent Fund and £4 11s. 3d. in the Certificate account. During the year the Benevolent Fund received £1 16s. 10d. in interest and £2 14s. 2d. from collections at meetings. Grants amounting to £8 8s. were made from the fund.

The peal secretary reported the ringing of 44 peals during the year, and stated that this was much below the average, owing to the outbreak of war in September, which caused a considerable falling off after that time. The list included one peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, two of Spiced Surprise Major in four methods and three handbell peals of Bob Minor.

(Continued in next column.)

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### REV. C. C. COX ELECTED MASTER.

At the annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild on May 4th, the president (Lord Shaftesbury) said that in spite of war conditions and restrictions, black-outs and the calling of young men to serve their country, the Guild had been able to keep the bells going. It was well that it should be so, for life would be so much drearier without the music of the bells, because there is so much to help and uplift the heart of man, and they are a solace and inspiration to many in this war-stricken world. Let it be known that the message of the bells was as strong as ever. Proceeding, his lordship referred to the retirement of the Master, the Rev. R. H. Gundry, of St. Leonard's, Ringwood, who, he said, had been their leader for so many years. He suggested that they should send him a message of appreciation for all that he had done, and saying how much they regretted that his doctor would not let him go on any longer.—This suggestion was agreed to.

The hon. secretary (the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Kington Magna) presented the statement of accounts, which showed a credit balance of £66 4s. 8d., as compared with £61 6s. last year. He added that since the last meeting they had lost by death a large number of strong supporters, including Canon Fletcher, Archdeacon Okes-Parish, and several of the oldest members, including one of the celebrated band at Marnhull, which had rung together for the past 40 years. They had also lost the first Master of the Guild, the Rev. A. du Boulay Hill (1884-1898).

### EFFECT OF THE WAR.

The Hon. Secretary (Rev. F. Ll. Edwards) referred in his annual report to the war as it affected bells and ringers. He said:—

The year 1939 was rung in with the nation still at peace: it was tolled out in the stress and strain of war. The war, as it affects bells and ringers, has brought two facts into prominence. The first is the spontaneous recognition by the Government of the part fulfilled by the bells in our national life and the value of the ringers' services.

It is well known, though it took some time for some of those in authority, both in Church and State, to discover the exact truth, that in issuing orders for the control of noises, the Ministry of Home Security specifically exempted church bells from the operation of such orders. That is a fact of great significance. The other is that the conditions of this time of war have strikingly demonstrated the practical utility of the Central Council. When doubts and difficulties began to arise in various quarters about the legal position with regard to the ringing of bells, the Council, through its energetic secretary, promptly got into direct communication with the Ministry, with the result that not only were ringers and Church authorities assured that the 'Ministry were anxious that all normal ringing should be continued,' but the Ministry itself issued definite instructions to its Regional Commissioners to the same effect. To the question sometimes asked, what is the use of the Central Council, this evidence alone provides a conclusive answer. At the same time it affords a signal example of the great value of 'The Ringing World' as a ready means of communication in matters affecting the vital interests of the Exercise.

The official recognition thus given to the value of ringers' services makes it all the more imperative that we do our utmost to overcome all difficulties and maintain our church bells in full use—in time of war as in days of peace—to celebrate the Lord's Day and the great festivals of the Church, to proclaim the hours of prayer and praise, to honour God and the King, while by so doing we hold ourselves in readiness to sound forth the glad tidings of victory and peace.

### SUNDAY RINGING MAINTAINED.

It is satisfactory to find that in most quarters in the diocese Sunday ringing has been maintained and Guild meetings held despite the difficulties of the times. In some cases almost whole bands have been called to the colours, and naturally attendances at meetings have on the average been smaller, though the Dorchester Branch achieved a great success in a rally of sixty to its annual meeting.

Peal ringing has quite properly been on a restricted scale, but the 14 peals rung show some interesting features. A peal of Grandsire at (Continued on next page.)

## SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

The Central Council representatives' report was presented by Mr. F. H. Dallaway, who gave a brief summary of the proceedings and emphasised the successful social side of the meeting.

New members were elected as follows: Hon. life members, Messrs. E. Lindup, W. Franks, C. Tyler; non-resident members, Mr. and Mrs. Guy, Portsea; ringing members, Messrs. J. G. Brewer, P. Walder, R. Stewart, C. Woods, D. Palmer and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cross.

The whole of the officers were re-elected, and the meeting expressed its thanks for their services.—The various officers briefly replied.

Under the heading of 'any other business,' the question of an honorarium for the general secretary was put forward and seconded.

The secretary thanked the proposer and seconder for the thought which had prompted the motion, but declined to accept any sum. Nevertheless, the motion was forced, but was lost.

The towers of St. Peter's and St. Nicholas' Churches were open for ringing from 3 p.m. to 8.15, and methods ranged from rounds to Cambridge Royal.

**PEAL RINGING IN SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Wootton Bassett, in which five of the eight taking part rang their first peal and the conductor called his first of Triples, bore signal testimony to the good work done in that district. The peal of Cambridge Surprise at Trowbridge, which was the first of Surprise for half the band, was a most creditable performance. A peal on the great bells of Sherborne Abbey is always a noteworthy event, and that rung on August 7th was rendered all the more so by the fact that the conductor was a lady. And the handbell peal rung at Mere by three members of the North Dorset Branch was quite an historic feature—only the second recorded in the last 45 years! Here again a lady took part, and, as far as we know, Mrs. Coward is the first lady to score a handbell peal for the Guild. The present restriction of facilities for practice in the tower should stimulate interest in the fine art of handbell ringing.

After regretting the loss of members by death and expressing thanks to the hon. members for their support and to the officers for their good work courageously carried on in these difficult days, the hon. secretary said the new edition of the Guild Office had been printed and was enriched by the inclusion of an additional prayer and two fine hymns, for one of which they were indebted to the courtesy of the Winchester Diocesan Guild.

The Master (the Rev. R. H. Gundry), in his report, also referred to war's effects on the activities of the Guild. The loss of the services of members who had joined the Forces, the difficulty of transport owing to restriction of petrol, and the black-out all made things difficult. He hoped, however, that wherever possible ringing might be kept up, even if it was no more than ordinary rounds. "Do you remember the cause for which bells were often used in ancient times?" he asked. "It was to scare away evil spirits: there are a number of these about just now, so do please do what you can to keep ringing going."

The Master also said that last year he suggested it would be nice to have a record of the members who had been ringers for 50 years and of the peals they had rung, but only four members had so far responded. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Hewlett, of Puddletown, who had just retired at 80 years of age after 64 years as ringer.

The following officers were appointed: Master of the Guild, the Rev. C. C. Cox, Lyme Regis; hon. secretary and treasurer, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. Green, Devizes; vice-presidents, the Rev. R. H. Gundry and Canon Peters; auditors, the Rev. R. E. G. Newman and Mr. W. Hinks; members of the committee, Canon Gorringe and Mr. E. Coward. Mr. W. Hewlett, of Piddletown, who has been ringing for 60 years, was elected a life member of the Guild.

On the motion of Mr. S. Hillier, it was agreed that members serving with H.M. Forces should be excused contributions for the duration.

**GRANTS.**

Upon the question of grants, the Master, secretary and Messrs. Phillips and Stewart were appointed as a committee to enquire into the condition of the bells at Swanage, with a view to a grant being made.—It was agreed to offer the Wimborne Branch a donation of one guinea towards their proposal to bind 'The Ringing World' for a period of 25 years, to be presented to Wimborne Minster.—It was decided to inform the incumbent of Wyke Regis that sympathetic consideration would be given to an application for a grant for the bells of his church if they procured additional estimates for the work.

Thanks were accorded to Lord Shaftesbury for presiding, to the Archdeacon of Sarum for the use of the room, and to the incumbents of the parishes in and around Salisbury for the use of their bells, on the motion of Canon E. W. J. Hellins.

At the service held at St. Thomas' Church, the Vicar (the Rev. P. J. Hayes) preached and a new edition of the Guild office was used. The singing of the hymns and National Anthem was led by a brass quartet, consisting of two cornets and two trombones. The lesson was read by the Rev. Dr. Hellins. About 100 members were present. Touches of Triples and Major were rung before and after the service. Tea was subsequently served at the Church House.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****SEVENTEEN TOWERS REPRESENTED AT DISTRICT MEETING.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association took place at Witham on Saturday, May 4th, when 30 ringers attended from the following 17 towers: Witham, Kelvedon, Halstead, Greenstead Green, Earls Colne, Bocking, Braintree, Dunmow, Feering, Springfield, Wanstead, Colchester, Harwich, Maldon, Sible Hedingham Goldhanger and Kirby. A service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. B. E. Payne), and was followed by tea in the Church Hall, the catering being ably undertaken by local ladies.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. H. W. Smith (District Master), of Dunmow. Three new ringing members were elected: Messrs. D. H. Barker, A. Ruffle and J. H. Brett, of Sible Hedingham. Mr. Brown, of Exning, was confirmed a life member of the association.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Felstead, if the bells are available, on July 6th.

The District Master expressed thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome the ringers had received, and also to the ladies for preparing the tea, including Miss Eyre, Mrs. Kidd and Mrs. Harte, who had kindly given some of the provisions.

Several of the members subsequently indulged in handbell ringing, whilst others returned to the tower.

**NOTICES.**

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Huddersfield on Saturday, May 18th. The bells of the Parish Church (40) will be available from 1.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m., Lindley (8), and Almondbury (8), also available from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All three rings available again after the meeting until 9 p.m. General Committee meet at 3 p.m. in the schools. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 6d. per head) at the Princess Cafe at 5 p.m. All requiring same must notify Mr. W. B. Frith, 5, Sufton St., Birkby, Huddersfield. The general meeting will take place in the schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Guildford District).**—A joint meeting will be held at West Clandon on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow.—Miss H. F. Mills and W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Secs.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Berks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Abingdon on Saturday, May 18th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.—Albert E. Lock, 35, East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Berks.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—A meeting will be held at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting following service. St. Dunstan's bells (6) also available 2.30 to 4.15, and after meeting.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Deane, Bolton, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Business 4 p.m., to make arrangements for the annual meeting.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southampton District.—Meeting at Dibden on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 2.30 p.m.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Burrington on Saturday, May 18th. Bells available from 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. George-in-the-East Church, Cannon St. Rd., E.1, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Handbells will be available. Penny fare from Aldgate, Mansion House or Monument on buses Nos. 5, 15, 23 or 40, and trams Nos. 65 or 67 (eastbound services).—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Crawley on Saturday, May 18th. The eight bells will be available from 3 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**SHERWOOD YOUTHS, NOTTINGHAM.**—Meeting at Cotgrave, May 18th, 3 p.m. Lewis' bus 2.20 and 2.50 from bus station. All ringers welcome.—I. B. Thompson, 52, Lace Street, Nottingham.



**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Gorton Unitarian on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wirral Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bromborough (8 bells) on Saturday, May 18th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting is to take place at Church Lawford, near Rugby, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells (6), available during afternoon and evening. Tea at the White Lion at 5 o'clock.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting has been arranged for May 18th at Northchurch. Bells (8), a good peal, available from 3 p.m. Short service at 4.45, followed by tea and meeting. Let us have a good meeting. — W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Saturday, May 18th. Meeting at Langley Bury, Hunton Bridge (6 bells). Bells open from 3.30 till 7.30. Tea, 5.30, Farriers' Arms Tea Rooms. Excellent bus service to church from all parts.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bath Branch —A meeting at Bathford on May 18th. Usual arrangements.—T. T. Woodburn, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** —The next meeting will be held at Headquarters on Tuesday, May 21st, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Banstead on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m., and again in the evening until 8.30. Service 5 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, at the Memorial Cafe at 5.30. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. G. Woodiss, 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, by Wednesday, May 22nd. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Tea 4.45, only for those who notify me by Thursday, May 23rd. Everybody welcome. Look up your Minor methods.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kirkham Parish Church on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting at 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Secretary.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Ives on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Please note, no cards will be sent out, owing to increased postal changes. — H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

**HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, May 25th. Please make an effort to attend and help to encourage the local band, who have just started change ringing. Please notify Mr. C. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, re tea.—J. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., Hawkhurst.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available 3 p.m., meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION** (South Norfolk Branch) **AND THE SUFFOLK GUILD** (Eye District).—A joint meeting will be held at Diss, Norfolk, on Saturday, May 25th. Bells: Diss (8) and Palgrave (8) available afternoon and evening from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. in Diss Church. Preacher: Rev. J. A. Appleton, M.A. Tea and meeting at the Waverley Hotel 5 p.m. Please send number for tea by Wednesday, May 22nd, to Roy Nelthorpe, Wattisfield, near Diss, or Albert G. Harrison, 90, Denmark Street, Diss, Hon. Secs.

**NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Retford on Saturday, May 25th. It is *most* important that I should have cards for tea by May 22nd.—R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Bennington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready at 2.30 p.m.—A. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Balderstone on Saturday, May 25th. A good attendance requested. Everyone welcome. Please note, subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 25th, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Leyton. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained nearby. Handbells available. — C. A. Hughes, 92, Stanley Road, Woodford, E.18.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Joint meeting, both districts. Ruislip, May 25th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea, Church Room, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells 7 to 9 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Secs.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.** — West Dorset Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bradpole on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by meeting.—C. H. Lathey, Hon. Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Luton District.—A special meeting will be held at Toddington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. W. Bottrill, Sow and Pigs Hotel, Toddington (Tel. 214) by Thursday, May 23rd. Learners specially invited.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Loughborough District. — The next meeting will be held at Shepshed on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea, 1s. each, at Charnwood Café, at 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Please notify me by Wednesday previous if you require tea. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—The next meeting will be held at Ottershaw, near Chertsey, on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Tea can only be arranged for those who notify me by Wednesday, May 22nd. All ringers welcome. It is hoped that all who can will turn up.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.



**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at West Coker on Saturday, May 25th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea should give notice early.—F. Farrant, Martock.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Those requiring tea please notify not later than Thursday, May 23rd.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, May 25th. Service at St. Giles' at 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 5 p.m. A moderate charge will be made for tea to non-members. Please bring your own sugar. It is most important that those requiring tea should notify Mr. H. Marcon, 269, Wragby Road, by the Wednesday previous. St. Giles' bells (8) will be available from 2 p.m. and Cathedral (12) after the meeting.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chester Branch.—A meeting will be held at Aldford on Saturday, May 25th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than the previous Thursday. — J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A combined meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge, Bristol Rural and Bristol City branches, will be held at Dursley on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Service 6 p.m. A coach will leave St. Stephen's, Bristol, at 2 p.m. (4/3 per head) provided numbers are sufficient, otherwise buses from Centre at 1 and 3 p.m. It is essential to give notice for coach.—A. Taylor, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wisbech Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wisbech on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (10) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. No arrangements made for tea, but ample facilities available. A good attendance is requested for this, our first war-time meeting.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—A by-meeting will be held at Charing on Saturday, May 25th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 at the Chestnut Tea Rooms, at 1s. 2d. per head. Please drop a card before Thursday, May 23rd, to Mr. Good, The Garden, Charing.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Chippenham Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at St. Paul's, Chippenham, on Saturday, May 25th, at 3 p.m. St. Andrew's also open. Intending visitors notify by the 23rd.—F. W. Merrett, Branch Hon. Sec., 38, Downing Street, Chippenham, Wilts.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Next meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church in North Mimms Park on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at Churchyard Cottage. Post cards will help arrangements. The 2.38 p.m. bus from St. Albans stops at

park gates. Learners, turn up, you will be encouraged. All tastes catered for from Rounds to Surprise.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**DEVON GUILD.**—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Broadclyst on Saturday, May 25th. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock, 1s. each. Bells (8) from 2.30 p.m. Bands and visitors please notify me by May 18th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, June 1st. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Please notify for tea by Wednesday, May 29th.—P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

**LADIES' RINGING GUILD (South Midland District) AND PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD (Daventry Branch).**—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Daventry on Saturday, June 1st. Will those wishing to stay for tea please notify Mrs. Powell, Staver-ton Vicarage, Daventry, by May 28th? No sugar provided. — Miss F. Hart, Weston-by-Welland, Market Harborough.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirby-le-Soken on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea at the Church Hall. Tea can only be provided for those who send in their names to the district secretary by Tuesday morning, May 28th.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Withycombe Raleigh on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 5, 1s. each. Meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Monday, May 27th?—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Stamford-le-Hope on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. It is essential that I shall have numbers for tea by first post Wednesday, May 29th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. F. Seager is now 14, St. Luke's Crescent, Leeds 11.

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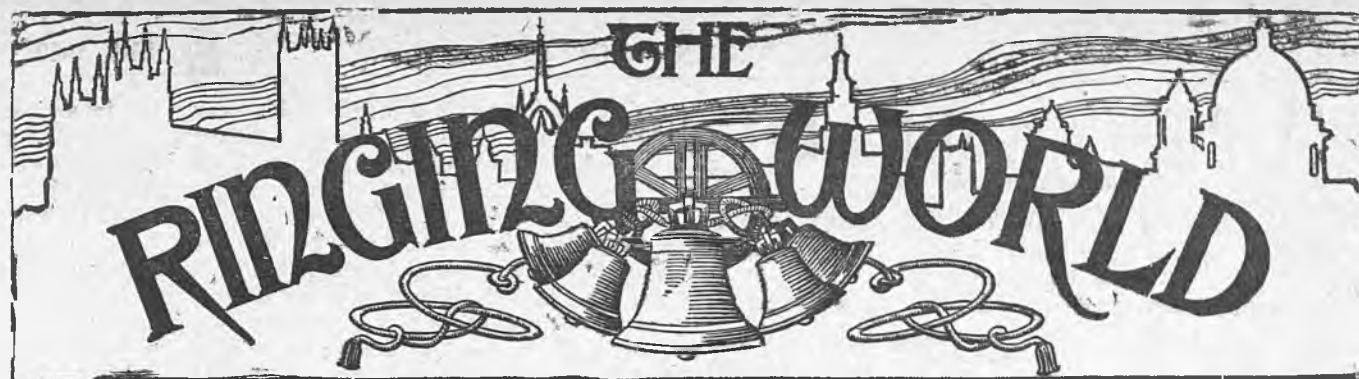
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## MEETINGS—CANCELLED & OTHERWISE

Despite the sudden official cancellation of Bank Holiday, it was found possible to hold at least two important association meetings on Whit Monday, showing how virile is ringing, even in face of great difficulties. Both the Essex Association and the Peterborough Diocesan Guild went on with their prearranged programme and, although the attendance at Chelmsford was much below the usual number, that at Northampton was most encouraging and well up to the average even for peace time. It must have been an anxious decision for the officials to make—whether to go on with the arrangements or to cancel the meeting at such short notice, with little or no opportunity to inform the members. With a Government decision that the holiday was to be abandoned, with all special holiday travelling facilities cut out, it needed courage to decide to proceed with the plans for the meetings, but both these associations are to be congratulated on the result.

It was, perhaps, a good thing that the Central Council had, some weeks ago, decided not to hold the meeting which usually takes place at Whitsun. This gathering, of course, involves much greater preparation than an ordinary association meeting, and representatives have to travel much longer distances, with many commitments on the part of individuals as well as of the Council and the affiliated societies. Cancellation at the last moment, such as would probably have been necessary, would have involved considerable loss, as well as inconvenience to many people. The Whitsuntide development in the war proved once more how unwise it would be to plan anything so considerable as a meeting of the Council in times of great uncertainty like these. A meeting of the Council last week at Cardiff would probably have been, under the circumstances, a fiasco. It was not, of course, intelligent anticipation of coming events that prompted the cancellation of the meeting, but just common sense, that faces facts and realises that where so much preliminary organisation and work are necessary, a great expenditure of time and energy may suddenly come to naught. The affairs of the Central Council can wait, but that is no reason why more localised gatherings, which can easily be cancelled at short notice, should not go on all the while it is possible for them to be held with due regard to the circumstances of the moment.

One other gathering, that was intended as an interesting experiment, has been abandoned. It was hoped by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths to hold a luncheon and purely social fixture on June 1st, but the lack of support makes it necessary to give up the

(Continued on page 242.)

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idea of holding such a meeting this year. Obviously the 'lack of support' is due to the prevailing situation, for at one time there seemed a promise of the idea being well backed and the innovation becoming quite a popular event. No one, however, can feel free to indulge in festivities with the menace of evil things overshadowing the country. There could be no heart in such a gathering, and it is not surprising that there is an enforced abandonment. Under other circumstances the proposal is one which would appeal to a wide circle of ringers—members and friends of the Ancient Society. Years ago, the society used to hold their annual dinner in the summer and go out into the country to enjoy the day. The inauguration, in happier times, of a gathering such as was proposed for next week, but necessarily dropped for the time being, would thus be an interesting revival of a former practice, and would, we feel sure, prove a popular departure among members of the society which, until war conditions enforced it, had no 'day time' gathering of any description.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

SALFORD, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 14, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 3/4 cwt.

FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. Treble	JOHN HASSELL ... .. 5
CHARLES EDWARDS ... .. 2	WILLIAM H. SHUKER ... .. 6
GEORGE A. BELL ... .. 3	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... .. 7
REV. F. F. RIGBY ... .. 4	DAVID VINCENT ... .. Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH

## SIX BELL PEALS.

BERGH APTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Plain Bob,  
and two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

*ALBERT J. WALPOLE ... .. Treble	GODFREY G. WALPOLE ... .. 4
*ROBERT E. LESTER ... .. 2	LIONEL A. LESTER ... .. 5
HERBERT C. BOGGIS ... .. 3	REGINALD H. DRANE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT C. BOGGIS.

\* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a compliment for  
the first birthday of Robert E. Lester's daughter.

DEANE, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of  
Plain Bob.

REV. F. S. H. MARLE ... .. Treble	LESLIE A. TREMEER ... .. 4
CHARLES W. MUNDAY ... .. 2	*ERNEST J. GOWER ... .. 5
RONALD F. KINGHAM ... .. 3	DONALD W. NASH ... .. Tenor

Conducted by DONALD W. NASH.

\* First peal in more than one method. Rung as a farewell to the  
ringer of the 5th, who joined the Royal Engineers on the following  
day.J. A. T.  
TROLLOPE'S

## 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

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## LLANELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

## THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Elli,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

MRS. G. E. PARMENTER ... Treble	T. H. REES ...	4
C. H. HAWKINS ... 2	G. E. PARMENTER ...	5
W. J. COLE ... 3	W. ROBBINGS ...	Tenor

Conducted by W. J. COLE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Dean of St. David's, the Very Rev. Watcyn Morgan, who was interred at Llanelly on May 9th, 1940.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

## THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 20, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

In the Belfry of the Church of All Saints,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

Tenor size 13 in E.

JOCELYN B. GARDINER ... 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS ...	3-4
IVAN B. GARDINER ...	5-6	

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. S. Graham, a member of the local band, to Miss J. Fielding, and of Mr. J. Ashton to Miss N. Fielding, which took place at the church earlier in the afternoon.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

## THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, May 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At Langleydale, New Road,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Three callings.

Tenor size 11 in G.

SELWYN H. DEARDEN ... 1-2	WILLIAM H. DEACON ...	3-4
*JOHN BROWN ...	5-6	

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

\* First peal in hand. A birthday compliment to the son of Norman Heaps.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

## THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 14, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

## A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	† EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	5-6
* WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	† ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	7-8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First handbell peal of Treble Bob. † First handbell peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. The conductor's 250th peal.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

## THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At 4, Fairleigh Terrace,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

* JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER ...	5-6
ALBERT ROUGHT ... 3-4	* ERIC DURRANT ...	7-8

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

\* First handbell peal of Major.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

## THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 16, 1940, in Two Hours,

At 9, Patrick Road,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's each called differently.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 1-2	* ERNEST MORRIS ...	3-4
-----------------------------	---------------------	-----

Ralph Narborough ... 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

\* First handbell peal of Bob Minor.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—On May 12th for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): I. Smith 1, J. Kentish 2, A. Lawrence 3, S. Cull 4, D. Ellingham 5, R. Richardson 6, T. J. Lock 7, H. Nobbs 8, A. R. Lawrence 9, G. Smith 10.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

## THE OLD STYLE AND THE NEW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the letters in 'The Ringing World,' especially that of Mr. A. Harold Warboys. I, like A. H. W., don't think much of myself as a ringer, although it seems I have had a few more years' experience than he has, and I think I know what good striking is. I was taught to handle a rope some 50 years ago in a rather 'hard school' as he says, when language was not always as polite as it might have been, and handling bells, as some were then hung, was a man's job. But surely those good old days (or bad) have long since passed away. The spirit prevailing in the average belfry to-day is, or at least in this part of the country is, more as becomes officers of the Church, as ringers are, or should be.

I have had the privilege of teaching quite a few of both sexes in my half a century of ringing. And, sir, I must say the average lady is an apt pupil. The one snag with lady ringers is that just as they get useful they seem to get caught in the snares of matrimony, and with that their ringing career generally ends.

As to ladies in the belfry. The belfry is surely part of the church and ringing should be taught and carried on in the same way as a choir; strong language is not necessary or required. We are born into the world to help one another along, and if a lady is physically strong and has the necessary intelligence, why should there be any obstacle put in her way of being a worker in that form of church service, especially in these days when bands all over the country are depleted of their men? And don't mothers who have been ringers want their boys to become the same? Has our friend had much experience of lady ringers? In my last peal we had a lady—her first peal and first attempt—and not one false blow did she strike!

WILLIAM WOOD.

Gulval, Penzance.

## A SPIRITED DEFENCE OF THE FAIR SEX.

Dear Sir,—As an old ringer I feel it is time that some of us stood up in defence of ladies in the belfry. I, for one, thought this tomfoolery was a thing of the past. If I remember rightly, it was Mr. Warboys who had a dig at them some years ago.

I am one of those who had the privilege of ringing with one of the first ladies to take up the art, just over 30 years ago, and a jolly fine job she made of it in a very short time. Since then scores of others have come along until their numbers now reach a long way into three figures. We men still get all the ringing we want, but if it were not for some of the ladies turning up we should come poorly off, and among all the ladies I have been privileged to meet in various towers, not 5 per cent. have been so called bell bashers. They are the finest type of ringer in all respects one would wish to meet.

Mr. Warboys tells us he was brought up in a hard ringing school, where, if one made the least mistake, the bellowing one got was enough to frighten you out of your wits. I am afraid I was not lucky enough to get such teaching, and perhaps it is just as well I did not, or I might not now be a ringer. Mind you, at the end of his letter he tells us he is not much of a ringer, which is not very good recommendation for his high school training. Also his saying that if ladies had been there he would not have liked to have to face them again sounds as if this bellowing was not proper belfry language. If it was I fail to see what should stop him from facing them again.

I have not yet found one lady ringer who shed a tear when sharply spoken to after making a trip, but I have heard this phrase used, 'If you had shouted a little louder, I might have heard what you said.'

Mr. Warboys tells us that ladies are not taught in the same way as men are. I ask him why not? What does it matter who is at the end of the rope, man or woman? The bell has to be handled in the same way to be rung properly.

I have taught ringers of both sexes in my time and I teach them all alike. I did not know that there was one way for a man and another for a woman; at any rate, I have only one way of teaching and I have never been ashamed of any of my pupils visiting other towers when I have finished with them.

I should like to ask Mr. Warboys why ringing should be left alone by ladies. I thought the church was built for both sexes, and as the tower is part of the church I see no reason why they should not have the same right to it, providing they are the right type of woman. Again, if he will take the trouble to inspect the congregations in various churches when he attends services, he will find, as I always find, quite 80 per cent. are women. Here again have they not the same right to help to ring the bells for the purpose of calling the people to worship?

Now, Mr. Warboys, war or no war, if there are any ladies who would like to take up the art, now is the time, and when the war is over there will still be ample room for them, and with the addition of them may the Exercise flourish more in the future than in the past. I have two in my band and the tower is large enough for six—twenty if I could get them. Here's to all lady ringers.

G. RADLEY.

Broxbourne.

HAYES, KENT.—For evening service at St. Mary the Virgin's Church on Sunday, March 31st, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Lyddiard 1, F. Keech 2, C. Cullen 3, Miss H. Oakshett 4, D. Brown 5, M. F. Oakshett (conductor) 6.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

As soon as the peal of Grandsire Cinques had been accomplished, Benjamin Annable came to the fore and took his place as the principal composer and conductor in the Society of College Youths. William Jackson dropped out of the peal band, and Matthew East was content to leave the leadership to his younger and more brilliant colleague.

Less than a month after the Cinques, on February 15th, 1725, at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, Annable called his first peal, one of Grandsire Caters, and his own composition. In the Cinques, the bell allotted to him had been the second, but now that he had his choice he rang the ninth, and in the rest of his peals he was not often found far from the heavy end.

Having rung Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Annable and the College Youths next turned their attention to Plain Bob, of which as yet no peal had been accomplished. They did not ring a peal of Grandsire Triples, for they had no composition which suited their purpose. There was, indeed, Garthon's peal, which had been rung a few years before, both in Norwich and in London, and which Annable knew and understood, but it differed widely from the Grandsire Triples they were accustomed to practise. Probably they would have accepted a peal on the three-lead course plan, with ordinary bobs and singles, but in 1725 such a thing had not yet been composed. Another reason was that the false peal in the J.D. and C.M. "Campanalogia" had been rung so many times that the method had got a bad name among the College Youths, and the prejudice against it was so strong that, even after Holt's peals had appeared and had been accepted by the society, no peal of it was rung until 1771, when Annable and his contemporaries were long since dead or had given up active ringing.

Plain Bob is, of course, almost the oldest method in change ringing, and on five and six bells it was, from the first, one of the most widely practised. But though it had been extended to eight bells as early as Stedman's time, the Major had been little rung before 1725, and the Royal probably not at all.

The reason was, if we may believe William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis,' that until Annable showed it was possible to get long touches and peals without parting the tenors, the music appeared to ringers to be a mere jumble and far inferior to that of odd-bell methods.

The matter was, however, not quite so clean cut as Jones thought. Robert Baldwin's peal of Treble Bob Major with the tenors together had been rung before Annable entered a belfry, and it is not at all likely that the Exercise had to wait until 1725 before both the desirability and the possibility of not parting 7-8 in a peal of Major were fully realised. But Annable did compose a peal of Bob Major which set the standard for many years, and was the basis on which all the composition in the method was founded.

There was nothing startlingly original about the peal. It was a logical development of the plan on which all composition had been based, the system of hunts, which in the first place produced the Sixes and made change ringing possible. Still, Annable is fully entitled to the credit of having composed one of the really essential and standard compositions of change ringing.

This peal the College Youths rang on the largest eight bells at St. Bride's, on Monday, April 26th, 1725. They followed it up seven months later with 5,040 changes of Plain Bob Royal, and in the following February with 5,280 changes of Plain Bob Maximus. Thus in thirteen months the band had scored the first peals of Royal, Cinques and Maximus ever rung in any method, and the second peals of Caters and Major. Peal ringing, which had hitherto been a remote possibility, was henceforth an ordinary incident in a ringer's career.

Annable rang the tenor and called the three peals of Plain Bob. The band for the Major consisted of John Ward, Francis Geary, Edmund Chadwell, William Laughton, William Woodrove, Peter Merrygarts and William Thompson. For the Royal, the band was the same, standing in the same order, except that Ward was still at the treble, and the second and third were rung by Robert Catlin and John Hardham. For the Maximus, John Dearmore and Samuel Jeacock were added to the band, and it rather looks as if they were brought into the Society specially for the peal.

In after years there grew up a rather silly legend about these men. 'It was very currently reported,' says Osborn, 'that everyone who rang (in the Maximus) left the church in his own carriage—how far the real truth of this statement extends, I cannot pretend to determine, but I have often heard it remarked that when St. Bride's bells were first put up, and for some years afterwards, Fleet Street was thronged with carriages and gentry who came to hear them ring. Report says that St. Bride's bells were formerly considered one of the greatest novelties of the day.'

However this legend may have arisen, there is not the slightest truth in it, nor any probability. For one thing we may be quite sure that whatever their stations in life may have been, the company did not disperse at once, but, like all ringers then and since, went to the Barley Mow and spent an hour or so among their friends, congratulating themselves and being congratulated on what they had done.

Also we happen to know something about some of these men and what their social status really was. Annable was a baker, Laughton was a watchmaker, Catlin was a carpenter, and Hardham at the time was a lapidary. Geary was a youth seventeen years of age, who, although he came of a good family, certainly did not own a carriage. Ward and Dearmore were afterwards among the Rambling Ringers. They were not 'carriage folk.'

These tales of the wealth and importance of previous ringers seem to have been common at all times during the history of the Exercise. As early as 1733, Laughton makes fun of the sexton at Newington, who told 'sutch damn't unaccountable lyes' about the rich ringers when he was a young man, and how they used to pay their less fortunate colleagues five shillings each when they made up a band for ringing.

But though these men were not aristocrats, they included more than one person, besides Annable, of striking personality. Hardham lived to be the most famous tobacconist that London has ever known. In 'The Ringing World' of December 27th, 1935, I gave a full account of him. Francis Geary entered the navy and rose through successive ranks until, in 1780, he was appointed to command the main British fleet in time of war, and

that when England had admirals of the type of Hawke, Rodney and St. Vincent.

Robert Catlin came of a working-class family, who had lived for some years at Clerkenwell. Thomas Catlin, the carrier, who probably was his grandfather, or great-grandfather, is mentioned in State papers of 1663. Robert was the fifth son and eighth child of Joseph Catlin, who had thirteen children, most of whom died in infancy. He was baptised on November 29th, 1729, and so was only sixteen years old when he took part in the Cinques. He was employed as a carpenter and bell hanger by Samuel Knight, the bell founder, and he made the frames still at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, and St. Saviour's, Southwark. The latter, according to the unimpeachable testimony of Mr. A. A. Hughes, is a most excellent piece of work. When Knight died in 1741 he left his business to Catlin, who carried on for some years as a bell founder. A large number of his bells still hang in towers in various parts of the country.

William Laughton was a very different and a much lesser man than these. We can best describe him as being a very ordinary person, the last sort that one would have expected to be written about two centuries after his death. But he has earned a place in the history of change ringing because he wrote what he supposed was a poem recounting the doings of a number of men, who called themselves the Rambling Ringers, and, through this 'poem' we learn something about the ringers of Annable's day. The amount of real knowledge we get is not much, but we do learn a lot incidentally about Laughton's own character. He quite imagined he was a very fine fellow, far superior to the 'snarling criticks' who

(Continued in next column.)

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### WAR-TIME MEETING AT CANTERBURY.

In spite of the present situation, there was an attendance of some 34 ringers and friends at a meeting of the Canterbury District, held at St. Stephen's Canterbury, on Saturday, May 18th.

Ringling began at St. Stephen's at 3 p.m., and some good practice was put in before the service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. R. Barnes).

Tea was held in the Parish Room and was served by ladies of the St. Stephen's Women's Fellowship.

At the short business meeting afterwards, with the Rector in the chair, Wingham was chosen as the place for the next meeting, and the Rector and the Vicar of St. Dunstan's (the Rev. E. A. Miller) were thanked for the use of their bells.

Reference was made to the passing of Mr. Ernest Slingsby, for many years a most valuable member of the Sturry band, and a very popular attendant at district meetings. The members stood in silence for a few moments to his memory.

A return was then made to the two towers for further ringing, and Grandsire, Stedman, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Double Norwich were rung. Handbells were also in evidence during the evening, a touch of Grandsire Triples being rung, as well as tunes by Messrs. Whitehead and Saunders.

In addition to eleven towers in the district being represented, members came from Tunstall, Bethersden and Headcorn. Mr. P. Hodgkin, of the latter tower, was present 60 years ago at the meeting in the Chapter House of the Cathedral, when the Kent County Association was formed. He is one of few remaining members who were present that day.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

(Continued from previous column.)

disapproved of his goings on, but, as I have said, he was just ordinary. He was destitute of any sense of humour, vain, and, in his cups, inclined to be quarrelsome. He looked on ringing merely as a means of 'diverting' himself, and he had no notion of its higher intellectual appeal.

We should be thankful for the light thrown on the past even by such a thing as Laughton's poem, but what a pity it was not written by Annable or John Holt or John Reeves.

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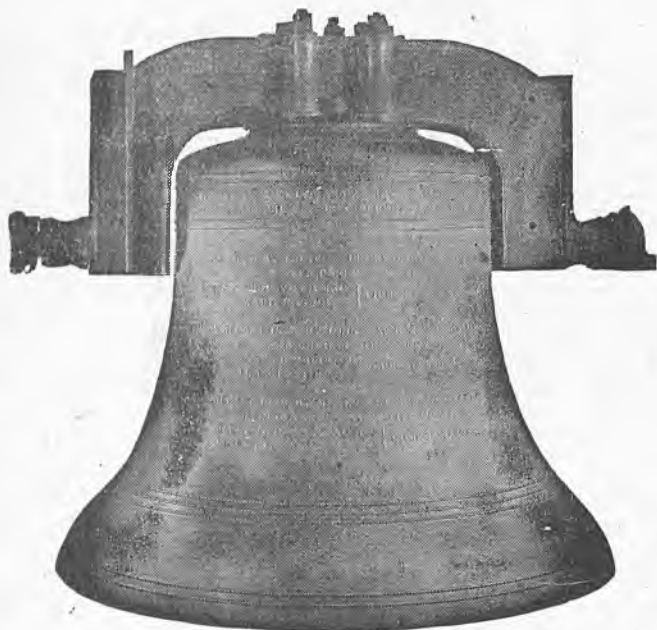
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reached his seventy-fifth birthday last Wednesday.

The handbell peal of Bob Minor at Aughton, Lancashire, on May 12th, was specially arranged for J. Brown, to 'christen' him in handbell ringing. Owing to the international situation, the fourth member of the Walton band was unable to be present to act as witness. The band hope to ring their first of Major 'in hand' before military service temporarily breaks up the company.

The anniversaries of several famous long peals fall in this week. On May 19th, 1777, the College Youths rang 11,080 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch. On May 21st, 1888, 13,054 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Cheltenham, and on the same date in 1923 the College Youths rang 12,675 Stedman Cinques at Southwark.

On May 22nd, 1899, James W. Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor at Kidlington and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Exactly a century earlier, on May 22nd, 1799, the Junior Cumberlands had rung 'the whole peal of tripples on Steadman's principle,' a performance not to be surpassed by any that profess the Magnetic Art. 'This intricate but truly admirable composition was at length acquired by the celebrated Mr. John Noonan, who conducted the above Unparalleled masterpiece of Campanistrian Fame.' Noonan sat in the tower and called from manuscript.

The peal was one of the steps in the long process by which a true peal of Stedman Triples was evolved, and which was consummated on May 18th, 1846, when Henry Johnson called Thurstans' Four-Part for the first time. 'D—— it, Harry, what peal have you been ringing?' asked the excited John Lates, when the band came out of the tower. 'The bells came round with a single!'

As will be seen from our notice columns, three meetings have been cancelled. One is the Chester Diocesan Guild's meeting at Aldford. The others are the Norwich Diocesan Association's meeting at Diss and the Devonshire Guild's meeting at Withycombe Raleigh.

The death of Mr. George Lucas, of Walthamstow, will recall to the ringers who visited Australia in 1934 the kindness of his son in Sydney. He was indefatigable in his efforts to help the tourists make the most of their short stay, and placed his car at their disposal to convey them to many places of interest.

## A LEICESTER WEDDING.

### INTERESTING RINGING CONNECTIONS.

The wedding took place at St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, on Saturday, May 11th, of Mr. Ronald H. W. Hardy, R.A.F., V.R., and Miss Margaret Jean Hatherley, who are both Old Wyggestonians. Mr. Ronald Henry Willson Hardy is the only son of the late T. Henry Hardy, chorister and ringer of St. Margaret's, and Mrs. Lilian A. Hardy (nee Willson), who is also a ringer and took part in the first peal ever rung by a band of ladies—Grandsire Triples at Cubitt Town on July 20th, 1912. The bridegroom's grandfather is Mr. Wm. Willson, of Leicester. The bridesmaids were Miss Daphne Whittle, Miss Lily Cray (friends of the bride) and Miss Delia Brooks (niece of the bridegroom).

The service was fully choral, and the bridal party were escorted through the large congregation by the verger, Mr. Ernest Morris, who many years ago acted as best man at the wedding of the bridegroom's parents. Among the congregation were Mr. Albert H. Ward, of Derby, Mr. W. H. Clarke, representing St. John's, Leicester, where the bridegroom formerly used to ring, and the Misses Margaret L. Morris and Grace Dunkley, representing St. Margaret's ringers.

It was unfortunate that owing to war conditions the bells could not be rung, all arrangements for so doing having to be cancelled at the last moment.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED AT ELEVENTH HOUR.

The general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, advertised to be held at Huddersfield on Saturday last, was cancelled at the eleventh hour, on account of the Chief Constable refusing to allow the bells to be rung. As the general secretary did not receive word to this effect until May 16th, it was impossible to bring it to the notice of all the members.

Permission had, of course, already been given, and all arrangements completed. This veto, therefore, put the local authorities into a difficult position, and they decided to cancel all arrangements and to send word accordingly to all who had sent in their names for tea.

It can readily be understood that, in the light of the present crisis, ringing at a tower in the centre of a busy town is hardly desirable, but it was a pity that the business meeting should not have taken place as arranged.

It has been learnt that several members, unaware that the meeting had been cancelled, met at Huddersfield and were able to ring at Lindley, one of the eight-bell towers advertised, which again supports the official view that the action taken to cancel the business meeting, whilst well meant, was perhaps unduly drastic.

It is hoped, circumstances permitting, to try and arrange the meeting at a later date.



**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****REVISED RULES ADOPTED.****Annual Meeting on Cancelled Holiday.**

Although the Whitsun bank holiday was officially cancelled, the annual meeting of the Essex Association arranged for that day was held at Chelmsford on Whit Monday, when, under the circumstances, an attendance of 45, although naturally much smaller than usual, was not unsatisfactory. Service, held in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., was conducted by the Provost, the Very Rev. W. E. R. Morrow, and the lesson was read by the Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips. The Rev. H. L. Pike, Rector of Widdford, gave the address, his text being 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth.' He said: 'We are living in the midst of chaos and confusion, but it is with confidence and vision that we must look to the future. We can have confidence. We must have the vision of what might be; of what, indeed, can be. A new earth is dependent upon a new conception of what Heaven means, and for that we must have vision. Now, more than ever before, do we need men of vision—men whose eyes are on the future, so that we may have a world of peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. To you ringers I would say, "May it be your opportunity and privilege very soon to ring in a new era of peace."'

The business meeting followed in the Chapter House, the Rev. H. L. Pike taking the chair.

The 61st annual report, presented by the Master, revealed a strong financial position. The balance on the general fund amounts to £241 0s. 4d., of which £149 is invested in Conversion Loan and £60 19s. 11d. in the Post Office Savings Bank. Actually there was a loss on the year of £21 17s. 7d., but £8 13s. 4d. of this represented interest carried to the Bell Restoration Fund, while £22 5s. 4d. of the expenditure was accounted for by the cost of lunch at the last annual meeting. The total expenditure was £75 3s. 7d. The receipts included £44 2s. 8d. balances on the district accounts. The amounts received by the districts in subscriptions were: Northern £12 10s., North-Eastern £7 3s. 6d., North-Western £3 12s. 6d., South-Eastern £11 12s. 6d., South-Western £17 15s. The Bell Restoration Fund has been increased to £79 17s. 9d., by the interest referred to and offertories amounting to £4 5s. 5½d.

**THE MASTER'S REPORT.**

In his report, the Master (Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips) began by saying: 'I very much regret that the work of the association has been curtailed by the fact that war has once more broken out, but hope that every member will do his utmost to keep the bells ringing for divine service in as many towers as possible. The only hope of a real lasting peace is the wholesale return of all peoples to the Christian spirit, and the bells are the best way of calling them to this.'

The membership of the association, the Master pointed out, showed a decrease of 24. The towers at Ingatestone, Langdon Hills and Stanford-le-Hope had been added to those in union, but Ingrave, Leigh-on-Sea and Gestingthorpe had ceased to be in union, so the number remained the same.

The average attendance at district meetings had shown a great falling off and was only 29. The peals rung during the year were as follows: Cambridge Surprise Maximus 1, Cambridge Royal 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Plain Bob Royal 1, Spliced Surprise Major 4, methods 2, Bristol Surprise Major 2, Cambridge Surprise Major 8, Double Norwich Major 6, Kent Treble Bob Major 8, Bob Major 11, Bob Triples 1, Stedman Cinques 1, Erith Little Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Stedman Caters 1, London Surprise Major 4, Superlative Major 6, Yorkshire Surprise Major 2, Cam Treble Bob Major 1, St. Clement's College Bob 1, Stedman Triples 1, Minor 35. On handbells, Bob Major 4.

The peals of Minor consisted of 1 in 34 methods, 1 in 32 methods, 7 in 9 methods, 4 in 5 methods, 6 in 4 methods, 3 in 3 methods, 1 in 2 methods and 10 in 1 method.

Erith Little Bob Royal was rung for the first time by the association and also the following Minor methods: Netherseal, York, Annable's London, and Bourne as one method peals. The peals of Spliced Surprise Major were rung by an entirely resident band for the first time.

Fifteen members rang their first peal and 153 their first in the method. Among the conductors were F. B. Luffkin (20), J. H. Crampion (15), R. Bird (12), L. W. Wiffen (11).

In mentioning the names of the members lost by death the Master said that the late Mr. Alfred Pye was a ringing member for over 50 years, and that the late Mr. J. H. Cheesman and Mr. Challis Winney were members of the band who rang Chelmsford Cathedral bells at the dedication of the peal of twelve on September 27th, 1913. The death of Mr. C. H. Howard was a great loss to the association. He was Master for many years and did much for the benefit of the association. The Master concluded by thanking the district masters and secretaries for their careful and strenuous work, and the general secretary for his conscientious work for the association. He regretted he was not able to devote as much time as he could wish to the association and he was very grateful to all the officers who had done the work.

The Master (Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips), the general secretary and treasurer (Mr. L. J. Clark) and all other officers were re-elected. Several new honorary and ringing members were elected.

(Continued in next column.)

**A VILLAGE MEETING.****GUILDFORD GUILD AND LADIES' JOINT AFFAIR.**

The beautiful Surrey village of West Clandon was seen at its best on Saturday by the forty or more ringers who visited it for a joint meeting of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild and the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. The winding village street, bordered by picturesque cottages standing in well-kept gardens, is on the foot of the North Downs, while the church itself has a rising background of trees which were in all their spring glory, and presented a scene of peace and beauty which made it very difficult to think of the fury let loose by war, in which this country and, indeed, some of the manhood of this village, are fighting.

West Clandon Church and the bells have a long history, and many of the visitors learned for the first time what, perhaps, not all the parishioners know, that for more than 350 years every Sunday two bells are chimed at 9 a.m., a relic of the practice of pre-Reformation days, when the villagers were called to Mass at that hour.

Originally there were three bells in the steeple and a saunce bell, but in 1741 Thomas Lester, of London, installed a ring of six bells, three of which were recast at Whitechapel in 1875. In 1913 the tower and bells were destroyed by fire and were replaced in the following year. Since then two trebles have been added, the money for which was raised by the local ringers. The bells hang in a frame carried on the top of the tower and are housed in a wooden timbered structure. The result is they are very noisy in the surrounding neighbourhood and also in the tower. An experiment is now being tried with 'silencers.' The sound has been modulated, but the visitors last Saturday did not care for the general effect, which makes the bells sound rather mournful.

There was some mixed ringing, typical of meetings, during the afternoon and evening; some of it was excellent, and some wasn't.

The customary service very nearly wasn't held. The Rector (the Rev. M. O. Boyd) is, among other things, a member of the London A.F.S., and he had only just returned from a three days' spell of duty, having, as he frankly admitted, forgotten the service. However, roused by the Guild secretary from a much needed rest, he kindly hurried to the church, conducted the Guild's service, pitched the note for the hymns, and gave an impromptu address, which fitted well with the occasion.

There were more ringers present (as usual) than had notified their intention of attending, and The Bull had a difficulty in seating all who presented themselves for tea. The result was that some of the men had theirs in the bar, but they only had tea to drink like the rest.

The Guildford Guild side of the party did not occupy long over their business meeting. The minutes were taken as read, there were no new members to elect, discussion on any subject was debarred, and the vote of thanks to the Rector and the local band was put in brief, but none the less sincere, terms. And then the men went out into the glorious evening and back to the church.

The ladies spent longer over their affairs; at least, it seemed some time before they got back to the tower. They decided to hold the next meeting of the district at Hersham on June 29th, when they will join forces with the Chertsey District of the Guildford Guild.

The towers represented at the meeting included Aldershot, Hersham, Seale, Epsom (Christ Church), Guildford (Cathedral and S. Nicolas'), Witley, Haslemere, Godalming, Worplesdon and West Clandon, with welcome visitors from Ealing (Middlesex) and West Grinstead (Sussex).

**ESSEX OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.**

(Continued from previous column.)

The meeting considered a redrafted set of rules. The Master explained the effect of the proposed revision. He said they would cause little alteration to the general working of the association, but they were more concise and definite than the existing rules.

Messrs J. Chalk, R. C. Heazel and L. J. Clark spoke in support of the revision, and after questions put by several members had been satisfactorily answered, it was proposed by Mr. R. C. Heazel, seconded by Mr. L. J. Clark and resolved unanimously, 'That the revised rules as circulated to all members be adopted by the association.'

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. G. L. Joyce for preparing the draft of the new rules and to the committee for their work in considering and revising them.

The question of subscriptions payable by members serving in H.M. Forces was considered, and it was decided that no such member's name should be struck off by reason of non-payment, but it was thought that other members at towers to which serving members were attached might wish to continue the payment of their absent colleagues' subscriptions.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Provost for allowing the use of the Cathedral bells and for conducting the service, to the Rev. H. L. Pike for his sermon and for presiding at the meeting, to Mr. F. R. Frye for playing the organ and to the officers of the association for the work during the year.

Lunch followed at the Golden Fleece Hotel, a company of 43 sitting down.

The bells at the Cathedral and various churches in the district were kept going during the day to a variety of methods, although most members had to leave for home earlier than usual owing to the difficulty of travelling at the present time.

## PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT NORTHAMPTON.

#### Successful Gathering Under Difficulties.

The cancelling of the Whit Monday Bank Holiday caused some anxiety to the officials responsible for the arrangements for this meeting. It was decided on Saturday afternoon, when the general secretary was able to get into touch with other officers (by telephone in some cases), that if the meeting was abandoned there would be some confusion, as there was no apparent way in which the members could be notified. Therefore, it was decided, with the catering already ordered and the food probably delivered, that arrangements already made be carried out.

A good meeting was the result. Service was held in St. Peter's Church and the address was given by the Rev. E. V. Fenn, hon. secretary of the Towcester Branch. Tea was served at the Angel Hotel, 126 sitting down, the Master (the Rev. E. S. Powell) presiding. The whole of the officers were re-elected with thanks for past services.

The balance sheet and report were adopted. The report was, under the shadow of war, a very satisfactory one. There are now 70 hon. members, 735 ringing members and 246 non-resident life members, a total of 1,051—an increase of 15 from the previous year. Twenty-five peals only were rung and 20 members rang their first peal. The finances also were sound, with a balance on the year of over £11.

Grants from Belfry Repairs Fund of £7 10s. each to Duston and Newnham were made.

A resolution was passed 'That members serving in His Majesty's Forces be excused payment of subscriptions during the period of their service.'

The five lads from Brafield, who recently rang their first peal, at the first attempt and at the average age of less than 14½ years, were presented with certificates and congratulated by the Master, who also included appreciation of the work put in by Mr. P. Jones, their instructor, who conducted the peal. These boys began ringing a year ago.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Master to the Rev. Chaplin for the service at St. Peter's Church, to the Rev. E. V. Fenn for his address, to the organist and the incumbents of the various churches for the use of their bells, also to the caterer who had made the very best he could out of a difficult situation.

During the day ringing took place on all the rings of bells in Northampton, while Kingsthorpe bells were also available.

## GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

### RINGING IN THE OCHERTSEY DISTRICT.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The sorry plight of the above district does not tend to encourage the district officers in their work, and the root of the trouble seems to be the rank and file of the members, who show nothing but apathy.

When I commenced work for the Winchester Guild in 1902 this district was then part of the Yorktown Branch, which was larger and more scattered. It ran from Thames Ditton to Yateley and travel was not at all easy. There was much to be done if change ringing was to progress, but we set to work in many ways so that difficulties could be overcome. We formed a handbell party and soon rang the first handbell peal in Surrey, then we formed a cycle section and took the handbells with us wherever we went. This enabled us to score the first quarter-peal on the River Thames, to ring touches at local functions, concerts, etc.

By degrees we cultivated interchange of local visits, which led to combined practices, augmented practices and the adoption of the spare unit rota which assisted the bands not so well off, not only in their practices, but also on Sundays. Special quarter-peals were made up for outstanding events with the help of the members, whose turn it was to be spare in their own tower, and this feature became very popular.

Our programme was mapped out every three months and covered all sorts of events, both in and out of the district, and as Ringing Master I was kept very busy, but as the members were keen, it was a pleasure to work hard for my district and so further the work of the Guild.

Congratulations to those who rang a handbell peal of Grandsire Doubles recently at Addlestone, and this takes my mind back 31 years when I called a handbell peal of Grandsire Triples at Chertsey, this being Mr. Hessey's first 'in hand.'

When I left the Hersham and Oatlands district in 1926 both bands were doing well, but shortly after coming to reside in Addlestone I met with an accident which compelled me to cease ringing tower bells, and I deeply deplore the fact that change ringing has slowly but surely declined in this district. Nothing can be done to start a revival at present owing to the war, but it will be a great pity if this general apathy is allowed always to remain in a district where, in the past, some of the finest Sunday service ringing was always maintained.

There is a sad dearth of those prepared to give of service to the Church, and this is no doubt caused by the desire to be up and doing for the many counter-attractions which now exist, but three hours per week is surely not much to ask, seeing the majority now enjoy more leisure hours.

W. SHEPHERD.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. G. B. LUCAS.

On Saturday last a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association was held at St. George-in-the-East, and about 40 members and friends attended, showing the interest and enthusiasm which justify the continuance of such gatherings in spite of the trying conditions of the present day.

The heavy peal of eight was rung to various methods and the bells were kept going as long as available. One lady rang the tenor to a touch, which shows the excellent condition of the bells.

In a short address at the service the Rector (the Rev. R. Bruce Eadie) welcomed the association, and said he was very pleased to see the general secretary of the association present, for it was at St. George's Mr. C. T. Coles learnt to ring.

When the bells were ringing, he said, it satisfied him to know that the sound was bound to be doing some people good, inasmuch as their minds would be taken away from the unsettling events of the present time, apart from the message sent out, which draws attention to the higher things in life. He wished ringers and ringing continued success and stressed the importance that ringers, after calling people to the House of God, should complete their duty and take part in the service.



THE LATE MR. G. B. LUCAS.

An enjoyable tea followed. Those present were reminded that the difficulties of catering were made acute by the fact that less than one half of the company had sent in their names as requested, thereby putting unnecessary additional burden on the people who gave voluntary service to help others.

At the business meeting the death of Mr. G. B. Lucas was regretfully referred to. Mr. Coles said that the deceased had been an example of what a ringer should be—always ready to help others. The speaker owed a great deal to Mr. Lucas, who, when he was acting as instructor at St. George's in the years 1902-05, laid the foundation of his career. The association had suffered a great loss by the passing of one of its earliest members. Details of Mr. Lucas' lifetime work for ringing had appeared in the previous issue of 'The Ringing World.'

The Rector of St. George-in-the-East was unanimously elected an honorary member of the association, and Mr. S. A. Prior, of the local band, was elected a ringing member. Mr. G. W. Fletcher gave a reminder regarding ringing in war time, stressing the importance of keeping within the law and working in the interests of public safety. Mr. J. A. Trollope suggested that a letter of congratulation should be sent to a vice-president of the association, the former Bishop of Willesden, upon his appointment as Bishop of Leicester.

The business meeting closed with due thanks being extended to the Rev. R. Bruce Eadie for conducting the service and the use of the bells and the other helpers who combined their energies to ensure a successful meeting. Handbells were made good use of and the belfry was revisited for more tower bell ringing.

St. George's was one of the churches erected by funds voted by Parliament in the ninth year of Queen Anne. It was designed by Hawkesmoor and Gibbs and consecrated on June 29th, 1729. The bells were cast by Thomas Lester in 1751, partly recast by Thomas Mears in 1820 and thoroughly restored two years ago by Mears & Stainbank.

The first peal in the steeple was one of Bob Major on August 4th, 1752, by the Eastern Scholars, conducted by George Meakins. George Partrick called 5,152 changes of the same method for the Cumberlands in the following October, and in December the Eastern Scholars rang 5,040 Double Bob. In 1753 the London Youths rang peals of Bob Major and Bob Triples, the Cumberlands rang 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major and the College Youths 6,080 of the same method. The latter was the last peal that Benjamin Annable conducted and the last he rang with the society. It was the longest length on the bells.

On June 9th, 1752, William Underwood called a peal of Grandsire Triples for the Eastern Scholars, which probably was the first time that Holt's Ten-Part was rung, although George Partrick is usually given the credit of being the first man to conduct that composition, and although a board still in the belfry claims that the younger George Gross called the first peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells with a band of Cumberlands consisting of four fathers and four sons.

**LADIES MEET AT ST. GEORGE'S, SOUTHWARK.****WAR-TIME CONDITIONS DISCUSSED.**

A successful reunion of the London District of the Ladies' Guild took place on Saturday, May 4th, when the first meeting since war broke out was held at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark. Members and friends attended in very good numbers.

At the business meeting in the church vestry, at which 17 members were present, Mrs. Fletcher proposed three new members: Mrs. Fergusson, Miss Dellar and Miss West, all of St. Albans. Mrs. T. Lock, who made a welcome reappearance after her long absence from the Guild, seconded.

It was considered advisable to have a London tower for the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting of the district, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields was decided upon. In the event of St. Giles' not being available, Mrs. Fletcher offered the use of Edmonton tower, while Mrs. Davis thought that St. John's, Waterloo Road, might be obtained. Mr. W. Hewitt has very kindly invited the ladies to visit St. Margaret's, Westminster, in the evening after this meeting, and as the date will have to be one convenient to him, it has been left open for the time being. Ample notification will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Under the heading of 'Any other business,' some points of view were put forward concerning the future activities of the district. It was finally agreed that the monthly practices at the Borough should be resumed, but the day changed to Thursday instead of Wednesday. The next practice meeting, therefore, will be on Thursday, June 6th, at 7.30 p.m., when members and friends will be very welcome.

In view of this, Mrs. Fletcher was anxious that Sunday service ringing should also be carried on at this tower, and members are invited to volunteer for the duty.

Mrs. Fletcher announced that the annual general meeting of the Guild, which should have been held at Winchester this year, would not take place. No new reports were being drawn up owing to the shortage and expense of paper.

As to the number of Saturday meetings to be held during the war, it is hoped that members will think over this question in order to express their views at the forthcoming annual district meeting. Wednesday afternoon meetings have been temporarily abandoned.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar and Mr. Bagworth concluded the business meeting.

Ringing was varied to suit all comers, and included courses of Superlative and Cambridge rung entirely by the ladies.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.****MEETING AT ST. CHAD'S, BIRMINGHAM.**

St. Martin's Guild held a very successful meeting at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, Birmingham, on Saturday last, May 18th.

Through the kindness of the Father Administrator (Very Rev. Canon J. Roskell), the bells, recently recast by Messrs. Taylor, were available during the afternoon and evening, their beautiful tones being heard in a variety of methods ranging from Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles to Cambridge Surprise and Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The towers represented were St. Martin's, Aston, Handsworth, Smethwick, St. Philip's Anglican Cathedral, Sutton Coldfield, Shirley and Erdington Parish Church, as well as St. Chad's local band.

After the meeting the ringers adjourned to 'another place,' where a convivial gathering concluded the proceedings.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, Ringing Master of the Guild, supervised the day's ringing.

The Cathedral bells are rung each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and all ringers visiting Birmingham are welcomed.

**BURTON RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.**

A short time ago Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Logie, of Burton-on-Trent, celebrated their golden wedding and were the recipients of many congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Logie were married at Holy Trinity Church on April 28th, 1890. On that day the bells at the Old Church and at Winhill rang in honour of the event. A peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, which was conducted by W. Orme, and he and Mr. Jagger, now of Birmingham, are the only survivors of the band. Mr. Jagger and Mr. John Austin, also formerly of Burton, were among the guests at the golden wedding celebration.

Mr. Logie was formerly a ringer at the Parish Church and continued there for nearly 30 years. He was during that time a constant ringer at Winhill and took part in many peals in the Midlands, being a member of the Midland Counties Association and the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford Association.

**NEW VICAR WELCOMED.**

A quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) was rung at St. Peter's Church, Henfield, Sussex, for the evening service on May 5th by the local band as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. Henry De Candole. The ringers were P. S. Bedford (first quarter-peal) 1, E. Rapley (first quarter-peal as conductor) 2, V. Freeman 3, E. Lish (longest length of Bob Major) 4, F. Cruttenden 5, A. E. Baker 6, C. Longhurst 7, G. Payne 8. A touch of 504 Stedman Triples was rung for the induction service on May 1st.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

**NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

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**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chester Branch.—The meeting arranged to take place at Aldford on Saturday, May 25th, is cancelled.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Owing to the international situation the meeting arranged for tomorrow at Diss has been cancelled.—Albert G. Harrison, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Owing to lack of support, the suggested luncheon on June 1st will not take place. Ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry on Saturday, May 25th, 3.30. Business meeting, headquarters, June 4th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Banstead on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m., and again in the evening until 8.30. Service 5 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, at the Memorial Cafe at 5.30. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Everybody welcome. Look up your Minor methods.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kirkham Parish Church on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting at 5.30.—C. Sharples, Branch Secretary.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Ives on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. Please note, no cards will be sent out, owing to increased postal changes.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

**HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, May 25th. Please make an effort to attend and help to encourage the local band, who have just started change ringing.—J. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., Hawkhurst.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available 3 p.m., meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting arranged to be held at Retford on Saturday, May 25th, has been cancelled owing to the war situation.—R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—A by-meeting will be held at Charing on Saturday, May 25th. Tower open 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 at the Chestnut Tea Rooms, at 1s. 2d. per head.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec.



**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Bennington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells ready at 2.30 p.m.—A. Lawrence, Dis. Sec., 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, May 25th, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Leyton. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained nearby. Handbells available. — C. A. Hughes, 92, Stanley Road, Woodford, E.18.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Joint meeting, both districts. Ruislip, May 25th. Bells 3 to 5 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea, Church Room, 5.30 p.m. Pinner bells 7 to 9 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and T. J. Lock, Secs.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—A special meeting will be held at Toddington on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Learners specially invited.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—The next meeting will be held at Ottershaw, near Chertsey, on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. All ringers welcome. It is hoped that all who can will turn up.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at West Coker on Saturday, May 25th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—F. Farrant, Martock.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. Gillling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A combined meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge, Bristol Rural and Bristol City branches, will be held at Dursley on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Service 6 p.m. A coach will leave St. Stephen's, Bristol, at 2 p.m. (4/3 per head) provided numbers are sufficient, otherwise buses from Centre at 1 and 3 p.m. It is essential to give notice for coach.—A. Taylor, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, May 25th. Service at St. Giles' at 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 5 p.m. A moderate charge will be made for tea to non-members. Please bring your own sugar. St. Giles' bells (8) will be available from 2 p.m. and Cathedral (12) after the meeting.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District. — Next meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church in North Mimms Park on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at

Churchyard Cottage. The 2.38 p.m. bus from St. Albans stops at park gates. Learners, turn up, you will be encouraged. All tastes catered for from Rounds to Surprise.—H. J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District. — The next meeting will be held at Shepshed on Saturday, May 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.45. Tea, 1s. each, at Charnwood Café, at 5 p.m., followed by meeting.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wisbech Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wisbech on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (10) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. No arrangements made for tea, but ample facilities available. A good attendance is requested for this, our first war-time meeting.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 25th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Will all those who require tea please send cards to H. Bradley, Station Gatehouse, Norton, Doncaster. — E. Cooper, 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Balderstone on Saturday, May 25th. A good attendance requested. Everyone welcome. Please note, subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, June 1st. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirby-le-Soken on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea at the Church Hall. Tea can only be provided for those who send in their names to the district secretary by Tuesday morning, May 28th.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. It is essential that I shall have numbers for tea by first post Wednesday, May 29th.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Rutland Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Cottesmore on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Please notify for tea to S. H. Towell, 27, West Road, Oakham.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Waltham St. Lawrence (6 bells), Saturday, June 1st, 3 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

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**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—The annual festival will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Please notify me for tea by May 29th. Visitors will be welcomed.—Walter Sear, 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Lincoln District.—The next meeting of the above will be at Caythorpe on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service 4.15 p.m. Bring your own tea and picnic in the fields.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Pytchley (5 bells) on Saturday, June 1st. Usual arrangements. Please notify me if you require tea.—H. Baxter, 21 Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—A meeting will be held at Halsall on Saturday, June 1st. Bells available from 2.30. Tea will be free and, owing to catering difficulties, I ask all intending to be present to notify Mr. A. Maudsley, Post Office, Halsall, near Ormskirk.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Practice at St. Clement Danes, Strand, W.C., on Saturday, June 1st, at 3.15 p.m., and at St. Magnus', London Bridge, at 6.15 p.m. Service ringing at St. Clement's on Sunday, June 2nd at 10 a.m.—O. L. Ashbrook, Acting Gen. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Higham-on-the-Hill. Usual times on Saturday, June 1st. The Rev. P. H. Unwin, Higham Rectory, near Nuneaton, will arrange tea on receipt of your postcard, but please note, no sugar can be provided. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Cheddleton on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mrs. Lawton, The Runde, Ostlers Lane, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, not later than Wednesday. Tea 1s. 3d. each. Stoke meeting June 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Ashwell on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 5 at Bushel and Strike, only for those who notify Miss Brown, Bushel and Strike, Ashwell, by Wednesday, May 29th. Remember we are on rations, so don't forget the postcard.—R. Thos. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock, Herts.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Eaton Socon on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, tea at 5. All ringers welcome. I shall be obliged if all who want tea will let me know by Wednesday, May 29th.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION (Derby District) AND THE PEAK SOCIETY.**—A combined meeting will be held at Darley Dale, near Matlock, on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided at a nominal cost, but to ensure adequate arrangements, names should be sent to Mr. H. E. Taylor, The Hillside, Darley Dale, not later than Tuesday, May 28th.—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec., Peak District.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—The meeting arranged for June 1st at Withycombe Raleigh is cancelled.—R. Brook, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Handsworth on Saturday, June 1st. For tea, please notify Mr. F. Cardwell, 19, Finchwell Road, Sheffield 9. All welcome.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—Practice at the Borough on Thursday, June 6th, at 7.30, and in future at the same time on the first Thursday in every month until further notice.—I. R. Housden.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th, in conjunction with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The eight bells will be available from 3 o'clock. A service will be held, and tea for those who notify Mr. C. Brasier, 3, Monastery Villas, Rotherfield, by Wednesday previous.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccleston Church on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—F. Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Housden is now 25, Cranbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11. Telephone, Wan. 5580.

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#### WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

##### BI-QUARTERLY MEETING AT HALESOWEN.

Glorious weather favoured the bi-quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, the first of its kind, which was held at Halesowen on Saturday, May 4th.

By kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. W. H. Davies, the grand ring of bells was available from 3 p.m. to dusk, and a hearty welcome was extended to the members by the local Ringing Master (Mr. W. H. Webb) and the secretary (Mr. J. H. Cox) on behalf of the Halesowen band.

The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent, separately and spiced, and Cambridge, London, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major, which, together with rounds, etc., provided good practice for all, and kept the popular Branch Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd, busy the whole time seeing that all tastes were gratified.

About 65 members put in an appearance during the afternoon and evening, nearly 40 of whom were able to avail themselves of an excellent tea at the Central Cafe nearby.

The towers represented were Belbroughton, Birmingham (St. Martin's, St. Philip's and St. Chad's), Harborne, King's Norton and Selly Oak, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, Netherton, Stourbridge and Wollaston.

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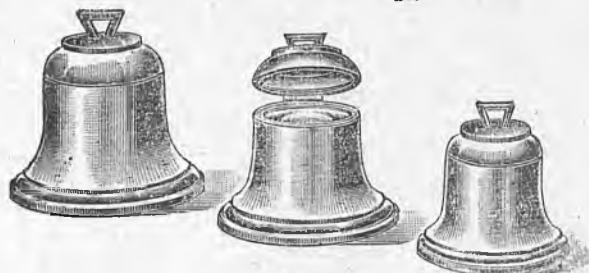
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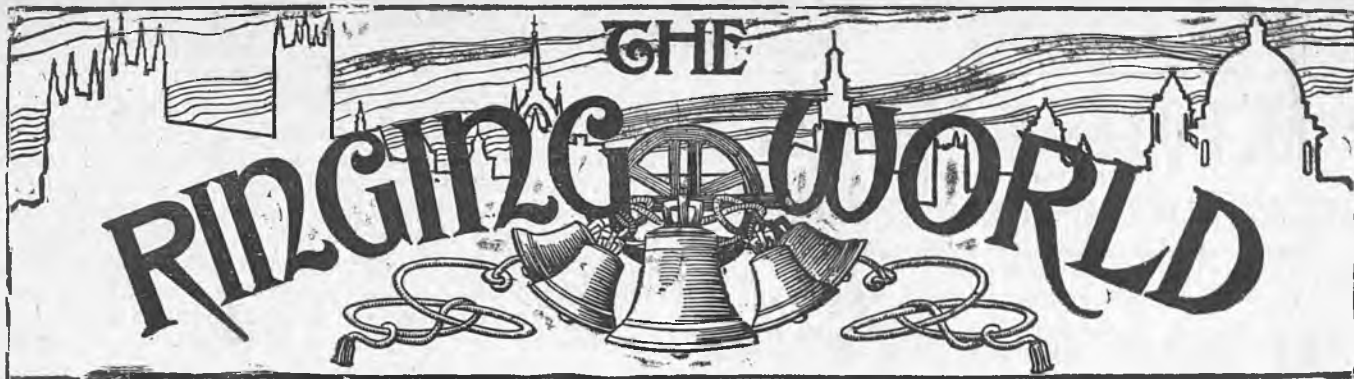
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## WHO IS TO BLAME?

There is often good reason for the complaint of association officials that lack of interest on the part of members not only makes their task difficult but sometimes hardly worth while. Branch secretaries, particularly, often struggle on under great discouragement, and it is not surprising, therefore, if they, in turn, lose heart. Their enthusiasm must be damped by frequent failures on the part of members to back up their efforts; and they cannot always be blamed if they themselves become slack. Apparently a spirit of apathy has crept into the affairs of the Midland Counties Association in Nottinghamshire, and a correspondent this week inquires what is happening in this district. He is disappointed that so few attempts have been made to hold meetings. He is obviously one of the enthusiasts, and we can understand that he feels a sense of disappointment that meetings should be few and far between. On the other hand, the responsible official must have been disappointed at the small response with which his efforts have been met in the district for some time past. Reference to the annual report of the association reveals that in the Nottingham district last year 'only a few members turned up' at the only two meetings that were held. It would seem that the Nottingham district members are themselves partly to blame.

A somewhat similar state of affairs occurred not long ago in the Chesterfield District of the association, where there was a difficulty in obtaining officers to manage the branch. That, perhaps, had an additional cause in the closing down of ringing in the centre of the district, in Chesterfield itself, but the association has, we believe, re-invigorated the branch, and it now appears to be necessary to do something in the Nottingham area to rehabilitate the activities of the association. The times, of course, are difficult and abnormal for any new drive of this kind, but the city of Nottingham has in it a number of keen ringers who should form the nucleus for a determined effort to restore animation.

Nottinghamshire, however, is not an isolated example of apathy. There are many places where district officials are left to carry the burden—are expected to do the 'donkey' work—but where ringers feel no responsibility to do anything to back up their officials' labours. Nothing damps the enthusiasm of a secretary more than to be let down over the meetings he arranges, not for his own amusement, but in the interests of the members. Much is taken for granted by those who do not do the work, and there is a very general feeling among ringers that their presence at a meeting is a matter

(Continued on page 254.)

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purely of their own inclination or convenience. In these days, of course, there may be perfectly good reasons why men cannot attend meetings, and, indeed, why meetings cannot be arranged at all, but when normal conditions prevail ringers owe a duty to their association and an acknowledgment to their officials, and one way in which to discharge the one and express the other is to give their support to the meetings arranged for their pleasure and ringing profit.

It is a constant complaint in many parts of the country that, for the most part, only a very limited section of the members attend district meetings. That these ringers are constant in their support shows, however, that they not only appreciate what is done on their behalf, but that they find attendance at meetings worth while—that, in fact, they get pleasure of various kinds out of such gatherings. That they do so is due to the fact that they, on their part, are prepared to put something into the common stock. We feel that if in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, where there may be seeming cause for complaint of official laxity, members would show a real interest in the meetings, a new spirit would be introduced, and prospects of the future materially improved.

### EIGHT BELL PEAL.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HAROLD CHANT ... .. Treble	SIDNEY BRIGGS ... .. 5
MRS. E. BRADLEY ... .. 2	EDWARD BRADLEY ... .. 6
WILLIE GREEN ... .. 3	ARTHUR GILL ... .. 7
MISS D. M. HAWLEY ... .. 4	DANIEL SMITH ... .. Tenor

Composed by H. CHANT.

Conducted by D. SMITH.

First peal in the method on the bells. First peal in the method as  
conductor. The composition now rung for the first time.

### SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HADDISCOE, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight extents of St. Simon's (four callings), 12 of Plain Bob  
(four callings), 20 of Grandsire (ten callings and Morris' 240).

Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

*GEORGE T. BUSSEY ... .. Treble	*ERNEST W. BROWN ... .. 3
MRS. R. W. BARBER ... .. 2	STANLEY W. GALL ... .. 4

R. WILLIAM BARBER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by R. W. BARBER.

\* First peal of Doubles. First peal on the bells.

STRATTON STRAWLESS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of an extent of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Plain  
Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, St. Clement's and Kent  
Treble Bob. Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD ... Treble	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 4
ERIC DURRANT ... .. 2	WALTER C. MEDLER ... .. 5
F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... .. 3	GEORGE BAILEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

## 'COLLEGE YOUTHS' A History of the Society

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## BRONLLYS, BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

## THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents, 10 callings.

Tenor 7½ cwt.

FREDERICK H. BAILEY ... .. Treble	DAVID H. BENNETT ... .. 4
LESLIE EVANS ... .. 2	ALBERT E. JONES ... .. 5
TREVOR JONES ... .. 3	*WILLIAM DREW ... .. Tenor

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

\* First attempt to ring a peal since July 25th, 1908. Rung in honour of Empire Day, also as a 14th birthday compliment to the treble ringer, he being the youngest member of the Guild to ring a peal.

## SOUTH DAMERHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

## THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

At the Church of St. George,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*LEONARD HARRIS ... .. Treble	*FRANK W. ROMAINE ... .. 4
*FRANK L. HARRIS ... .. 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... .. 5
*JAMES E. FIGGURES ... .. 3	WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. E. CHEATER.

\* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells. Rung at the request of the Vicar of Damerham, the Rev. H. W. Moule.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

## BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

## THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At the Royal Masonic Junior School,

## A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... .. 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ... .. 7-8

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

## STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE.

## THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

At 20, ABERDEEN CRESCENT,

## A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALFRED BARNES ... .. 1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY ... .. 5-6
HAROLD JACKSON ... .. 3-4	PETER LAFLIN ... .. 7-8
WILLIAM JACKSON ... .. 9-10	

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

Witness—Mrs. A. F. Bailey.

Rung as a silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

## VISIT TO GUISELEY.

The weather was perfect and showed to the full the charming surroundings at the May meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, which was held on Saturday at Guiseley.

The bells were rung up soon after 3 p.m., and except for the usual breaks for tea and the business meeting, continued until 8.30 p.m.

The Rector (Archdeacon Lowe) paid a visit to the tower and gave a welcome to the society, and, in reply, the President (Mr. J. F. Harvey) expressed the society's pleasure and thanks. After watching the ringing for a short while, the Rector left to attend evensong.

At the business meeting, which was held in the tower, Mr. J. F. Harvey presided, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Hunslet, Shipley and the local company. Mr. Josh. Woodhead, late of Holbeck, who is approaching his 87th birthday, was present for a short time, enquiring for his old friends. The many friends of Mr. George Titterton (85) will be pleased to know that he has almost recovered from his serious illness and was among those present in the belfry.

The usual vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Lofthouse and seconded by Mr. F. Hutchinson.

The next meeting is due to be held at Hunslet on June 29th, but, owing to the war-time uncertainty, members are asked to watch the notice columns of 'The Ringing World.'

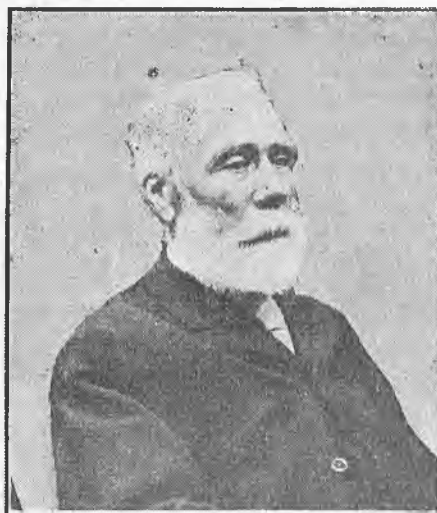
## WOOLWICH BICENTENARY.

## A CHURCH WITH FAMOUS RINGING CONNECTION.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of St. Mary's Church, Woolwich, a peal was arranged for Saturday, May 11th, but owing to the turn taken in the war it had to be cancelled. The following, however, rang a 720 Bob Minor: Miss L. H. Aldridge 1, Miss M. Rawlings 2, C. Cullen 3, R. Johnson 4, J. E. Lyddiard 5, B. W. Aldridge (conductor) 6. It is hoped to record a peal later.

St. Mary's, Woolwich, was a notable ringing centre about the middle of the last century and was made particularly famous by the Banister family. Henry Banister, who died at the age of 87 on June 30th, 1869, was a ringer at Woolwich Parish Church for 60 years, and in 1852 conducted what was almost a family peal of Grandsire Triples. Six of his sons took part and the family stood in order of seniority, the youngest on the treble and the father on the 7th. The tenor was rung by Edward P. West.

Before this, however, this talented family had made ringing history. On February 10th, 1849, five of them, including the father, and with William Banister as composer and conductor, rang at Woolwich one



WILLIAM BANISTER.

(Photograph taken shortly before his death.)

of the earliest peals of Superlative Surprise Major, and then, on October 11th in the same year, 'the same band, after diligent practice and steady perseverance' as the peal board records, rang a peal of London Surprise Major of 5,600 changes. The 'arduous task was completed in 3 hours 27 minutes,' and the peal was again composed and conducted by William Banister. It is also interesting to note that the tenor in both these peals was rung by Edward West. This peal of London was only the second ever rung, the first having been at Norwich in 1835. What is more, no other peal of London was rung until the end of the year 1870.

The first peal on the bells at St. Mary's, Woolwich, was rung on November 13th, 1821, by a Society of Eastern Scholars (which had, as far as we know, no relation to the earlier society of that name), and Henry Banister took part in this peal also.

The best known member of the family was William Banister, who lived to a ripe old age and died some 25 years ago. For many years he was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and took part in most of the twelve-bell peals rung by them in the middle of the nineteenth century. He rang the third to the then longest peal of Stedman Cinques accomplished at Cripplegate in 1851, which beat the peal at Birmingham rung in 1848.

William Banister was employed in Woolwich Arsenal and in 1865 he was transferred to Devonport. The dockyard chapel had a ring of six bells, which he managed to get augmented to eight, and on them he called a peal of Grandsire Triples with a band of young ringers he had taught in six months.

Banister was the author of a text book on change ringing, which was published in 1874, and went through a second edition.

Older members of the Central Council will remember William Banister's visit to the meeting in 1914, when he spoke in reply to the congratulations of Sir Arthur Heywood, the president.

MAPLEDURHAM, OXFORDSHIRE.—On Saturday, May 4th, at the Church of St. Margaret, a half-peal of Grandsire Doubles (2,520 changes): A. Jemmett 1, E. Nash (conductor) 2, J. Eymor 3, P. Aldridge 4, N. Tanner 5, J. Smith 6. A birthday compliment to the wife of the treble ringer and to the conductor. Longest length by all except the conductor.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Peal ringing is not the only interest in the Exercise; probably it is not the most important interest, even if we consider the art as a secular sport and leave out of our consideration the use of the bells in the service of the Church. But peal ringing has an irresistible attraction for every keen and enthusiastic ringer, and it provides a wonderfully good standard by which we can judge an individual, or a company, or the Exercise at large.

When a company is in a healthy state we usually find that peals are rung; when peal ringing is dropped, apathy and decay are not far away. So we may fairly claim that, even if we admit that the sole purpose of ringing is to minister to the services of the Church (and few of us are likely to go so far), peal ringing is necessary to maintain a high standard.

But in peal ringing the number that is rung does not supply the real test of proficiency and progress. Far more important are the variety of the methods and the excellency of the striking. It is in these things that the greatness of Benjamin Annable and the early College Youths is shown. As pioneers of the art of change ringing, they stand far above every other early company, except only the Norwich Scholars.

In judging their records, it would be absurd to compare a list of the peals they rang with those rung by a modern band. They rang Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob where we ring London and Bristol Surprise, but their performances were just as meritorious as ours are—more so, in some respects. What we do to-day has been made possible by what they did then. We have climbed on their shoulders, but we must not boast that we are taller than they.

To compare the quality of the striking in those early days with that of to-day is, of course, well nigh impossible, but we have the testimony of Thomas Hearne, who was a very keen and competent critic, as to its excellency.

A very noticeable thing about these men is that they were not content to keep on ringing peals in the same method. Throughout Annable's career he scarcely ever rang a peal which was not either the first in the method, or the longest in the method, or the first on the bells. It was his aim always to achieve something new, and that is the way progress is made. There is no more illuminating sign of the difference between the development of the art in the second quarter of the eighteenth century and the stagnation and decline of a hundred years later than a comparison of Annable's performance with the interminable and monotonous list of peals of Grandsire Triples rung by Thomas Tolladay and the St. James' Society.

As soon as they had achieved peals in Grandsire Caters and Cinques, and Plain Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, the College Youths turned their attention to Double Bob Major, and they rang the first peal of it on January 14th, 1727. That was not at St. Bride's, but at St. Dunstan's at the other end of Fleet Street. Annable, however, called the first peal of Double Bob Royal at St. Bride's in 1734, and of Maximus at Southwark in 1740. It was at St. Bride's, too, that the College Youths rang the first peals of Double Grandsire Caters (1733) and Cinques (1738). Annable called one and John Cundell the other.

John Cundell was for many years one of the leading men in the Society of College Youths, and challenged

Annable's supremacy both as conductor and heavy bell ringer. He was connected with the theatre, being in later years in charge of the box office at Covent Garden. Elsewhere I have given reasons for believing that he was a lineal descendant of Shakespeare's friend, Henry Condell, the man who collected and published the first folio edition of the plays.

Annable and the early College Youths never rang a peal of Grandsire Triples, but the statement which is sometimes made that they objected to seven-bell ringing which was not all triple changes, has no real foundation in fact. Annable experimented with a number of seven-bell methods with a treble and six working bells, and a peal in one of them, Simon's Triples, was rung at St. Bride's on April 12th, 1732. It is quite a good method, being substantially the same as is now rung as St. Clement's Bob Major, but it is marred by a bell lying still four blows in seventh's at the lead end. Annable also called at St. Bride's the first peals in two Major methods, College Bob Major on January 24th, 1736, and Morning Exercise on December 28th following.

College Bob Major received a certain amount of attention in after years, especially in Yorkshire, and even now a peal is very occasionally rung. Morning Exercise is a Treble Bob method. With the tenors together, it has eight false course ends, and so the peal that Annable called was undoubtedly false. Shipway afterwards claimed to have composed a true peal of it, but he had to part the tenors for the greater part of the peal.

For many years the College Youths were the only company to ring peals at St. Bride's, but in 1749 the Eastern Scholars, with John Blake as conductor and tenor man, rang 6,072 changes of Bob Maximus. 'The Company never before attempted this Peal, and Completed it the first Tryal in 4 hours & 45 minutes.'

John Holt called a peal of Bob Major for the Union Scholars in 1750, which they rang on the front eight, and in the next year one of Grandsire Cinques.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1756, and was buried within the steeple of St. Bride's, where he had rung his first peal, and which was the scene of so many of his exploits. He was fifty-three years old. At the time of his death, the Society of College Youths was torn by a quarrel, which soon afterwards split it into two divergent sections. Annable himself had a large share in that quarrel, nevertheless his services to the society far outweighed any faults. His is the greatest name in the records of the College Youths. To him more than to anyone else they owed the prestige and the leading position they held in the Exercise. The bicentenary of his death is not so very far off, and perhaps when it comes, in happier times than the present, the society will remember him and erect a suitable memorial.

## BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The May meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Sandal on Saturday, when 24 ringers were present from Cawthorne, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rothwell, Waith, Meltham and the local company, and there was one visitor from Notts and another from the Bedfordshire Association.

After the tea, which was served in the Parochial Hall, the business meeting followed, with the Vicar (the Rev. T. Wall) in the chair.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at South Kirkby on June 8th, and the annual shield contest at Silkstone on Saturday, July 13th.

The Vicar was thanked for the use of the bells and for presiding, and the best thanks were given to the local company for the arrangements made and to the ladies for the tea.

The Vicar replied and assured all of a hearty welcome.

Further ringing followed until about 8.15 p.m. in a variety of Plain and Treble Bob Minor methods.

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. WAR-TIME MEETINGS JUSTIFIED.

The decision of the officers of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association not to cancel the joint meeting with the North and East District arranged for May 25th at Ruislip and Pinner was fully justified by the success of the meeting. After ringing at Ruislip in the afternoon, the Vicar (the Rev. G. D. Barnsley) conducted a short service, in the course of which he welcomed the association and spoke of the message of the bells. The service ended with the hymn, 'Ruislip Bells,' accompanied by its composer, Mr. A. W. Owen, organist of St. Martin's, and led by the choirboys.

Over thirty members and friends, including three members of the R.A.F., had tea in the Church Room, with the Vicar and Mr. Owen. The vice-president (Mr. J. A. Trollope) thanked the Vicar and Mr. Owen for their welcome, and Mrs. Stone and her helpers for the excellent tea. Mr. Trollope referred to the present state of the war and to the doubts of the officers whether to continue to arrange meetings as long as possible. So long as members supported them, he thought meetings should be held where practicable, and his opinion was evidently that of the members present. The Vicar and Mr. Owen replied.

The assistant secretary apologised for the absence of the secretary, Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, on A.R.P. duty. Two new members, Mr. H. Harris and Mr. R. Knights, of All Saints', Fulham, were elected.

Several courses were rung on the new peal of handbells brought by Mr. J. Taylor, of Watford, until it was time to go on to Pinner for further ringing, under the direction of Mr. G. Kilby, until dark. Thanks are due to the incumbents and towerkeepers at both churches and to all who helped with the arrangements. The ringing ranged from rounds to Spliced Surprise Major.

### HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.

Despite the fact that the enemy were little more than 50 miles away, the Hawkhurst and District Guild held quite a successful meeting at Wadhurst on Saturday. It was the second meeting ever held in the tower, the Sussex County having held the first in 1901. The heavy going six were raised in peal at 3.30 p.m. and put to good use by ringers who attended from Hawkhurst, Hastings, Hailsham, Eastbourne, Brasted, Lamberhurst, Mayfield, Tunbridge Wells and Uckfield. Methods ranged from Doubles to Cambridge Surprise, and despite the hard work required on the back three bells, the striking was excellent. Members of the local band were able to stand in their first touch of Bob Doubles.

### GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. CHERTSEY DISTRICT.

A highly successful meeting of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Guild was held at Ottershaw on Saturday, and it would have done the critics good to see the spade work that was put in there. The ringing, which began at 3.30, was under the direction of the District Ringing Master, Mr. J. B. Hessey, and several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were brought round by the novices present, who were very keen to take hold.

At 4.15 the Guild service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. D. Hiam-Spring), who extended to the ringers a most cordial welcome. In his address he reminded them that their work in the belfry was very necessary at this time of national stress and that the sound of the bells helped to draw the thoughts of people to higher things.

Tea was served near the church, and was followed by a short business meeting, at which the chair was taken by the District Master. Mr. W. Massey deputised for the secretary, who was unable to be present owing to A.R.P. duties.

Mr. Charman, of Horsell, was elected a ringing member of the Guild. Mr. E. W. Morey, a member of the Executive Committee, gave, for the benefit of those members who had been unable to attend it, a brief account of the Guild's annual meeting. The acting secretary drew attention to the handbell peal rung at Chertsey by three members of the district, and the meeting heartily congratulated the performers.

After having passed the usual votes of thanks, the company returned to the tower, where further ringing took place, ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Kent Minor. One course of the latter method was rung by a band of district members. The bells were then lowered in peal and brought a first rate meeting to a close.

Those present represented the district towers of Horsell, Chertsey, Ottershaw, Esher, Hersham and Chobham, as well as Staines, Ash, Pirbright and Kingston-on-Thames.

The meeting was extremely gratifying in view of the growing feeling in the Guild that the Chertsey District was decaying from apathy. The attendance was not large, but among the members elected were ringers from one tower hitherto entirely outside the Guild. It is hoped that as a result of this revival of interest, further life will be put into the district.

NEWCASTLE.—On Tuesday, May 21st, at the Cathedral, on the light six, a 720 of Bob Minor: Colonel Clutterbuck 1, W. H. Barber 2, C. L. Routledge (conductor) 3, J. Anderson 4, Jack Hedley 5, T. W. Crowe 6. First 720 of Bob Minor for treble and 5th ringers.

# John Taylor & Co.

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.....

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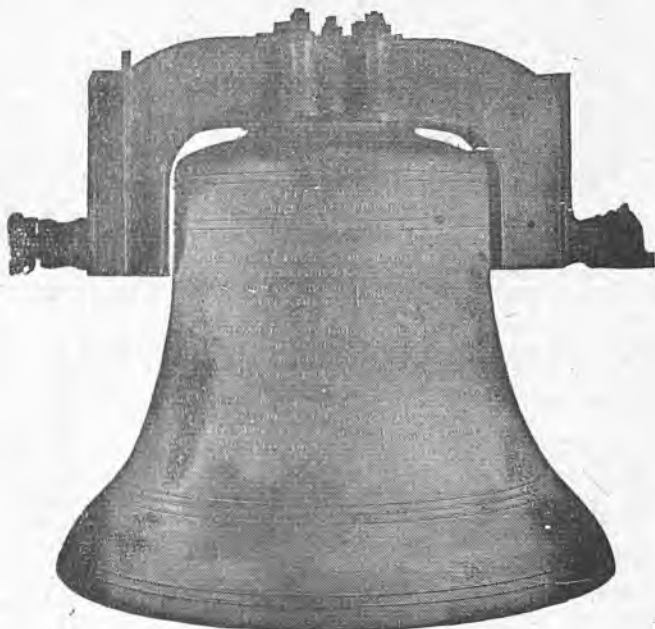
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The secretary of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association regrets the last minute postponement of the meeting arranged for Appleby Magna on May 25th, and offers apologies to the Birmingham ringer who cycled there in vain. The meeting is now rearranged for June 8th, and it is hoped similar circumstances will not arise.

Owing to the crisis, the meeting of the South-Western Branch of the Essex Association, which should have been held at Stanford-le-Hope, has been cancelled.

The record peal of Bristol Surprise Major (15,264 changes) was rung by the Middlesex County Association at Hornchurch in Essex on Whit Monday, May 27th, 1912. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, his brother Bob rang the second, and Ernest the seventh. Four other men, then among the best known of ringers, Isaac G. Shade, John H. Cheesman, Bertram Prewett and Alfred W. Grimes, were in the band. Messrs. Reuben Saunders and George R. Pye are the only two who are still alive.

The first Surprise peal outside England was one of Superlative Surprise Major rung at Bray in Ireland on May 28th, 1901, conducted by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

On the return journey from Ireland on that occasion, the first peal on the sea was rung—a peal of Stedman Caters, conducted by William Short, which was finished as the vessel entered Holyhead harbour.

The Burton-on-Trent men, with William Wakeley as conductor, rang on May 31st, 1886, 5,024 changes of New Cumberland Major, a method by Henry Earle Bulwer, which was called Surprise, but according to the accepted standard is not now included in that class. It is, however, an excellent method and fully merits more attention than it has received.

On May 31st, 1888, the Birmingham men rang 8,888 changes of Stedman Caters on handbells, and on June 1st, 1912, the Surrey men rang 14,031 changes of the same method.

The first peal on the old twelve bells at St. Martin's, Birmingham, was one of Grandsire Cinques rung on June 3rd, 1773. It was the third in the method away from London and the second by a provincial band. John Archer composed and called the peal.

The conductor of the peal at Ewell on May 4th was John Beams, and not John E. Beams.

## THE FIRST PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

### ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC PERFORMANCE.

Last Wednesday, May 28th, was the one hundred and fifty-third anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Caters ever accomplished. It was rung by a band of the 'ancient' Society of College Youths, one of the two separate and independent companies which then called themselves by that name. Two years before they had paid a visit to Norwich, where they heard for the first time Stedman rung on the higher numbers, and on their return to London they had begun to practice Stedman Caters and Stedman Cinques.

Among those who visited East Anglia were William Jones, John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore, the three men who wrote the 'Clavis,' which was published early in 1788. Reeves was one of the greatest composers in the history of change ringing and Blakemore was also a composer, though his merits are difficult to assess nowadays. These two men quarrelled about who should compose and call the peal of Caters, and when it actually was rung Blakemore was not in the band. Neither was Jones, but the board which was erected to record the performance pays him an unusual and fulsome compliment.

'St. John's, Horsleydown. In honour of a most noble performance by the ancient Society of College Youths who on Monday, May 28th, 1787, did ring in an excellent manner the first complete peal of Caters on Stedman's Principle 5,076 changes in 3 hours and 27 mins. May this panel transmit their names to posterity with that of the ingenious Mr. W. Jones on whose abilities his inimitable commentaries so happily concludes with "Here the Cynic and the Panegyrist stop" and join in eulogisms to such distinguished merits: John Reeves 1, John Anderson 2, Daniel Jenkins 3, John Inville 4, Thomas Heap 5, Nathaniel Williamson 6, Allen Grant 7, Christopher Wells 8, William Lowndes 9, Paul Webb 10. Composed and conducted by Mr. John Reeves.'

This board is not now in existence.

The composition has often been said to be false, but is not so. It is, however, on a plan which is now obsolete and somewhat crude. The Ancient Society of College Youths rang it again not many years ago, with Mr. Herbert Langdon as conductor.

9,720	
231456789	
673152489	1, 4, 6, 10
623154789	9
361524978	9, 15
364125	16
365421	16
561234	4, 16

Four times repeated, omitting the first bob, gives 231456978. The whole twice repeated.

Reduced to 5,076 changes by the bobs at 10, 9, and 9 being omitted twice in the first part and always in the last part, and calling the bob at 1 only in the second part.



## RINGERS IN THE PAST.

THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his excellent articles about past ringers, Mr. Trollope often spoils a good case by trying to prove too much. If he were content to say that, in the past, ringers were not so closely connected with the Church, as they should be now, we could all agree. But when he says that there was no pretence that they were church workers, we can only say that it is true, in that the words 'church workers' were not then in use; but this is not what Mr. Trollope means.

From the time the Suffolk Guild started, we had one most efficient district secretary; it was not till a year or two after his death that I heard that he was also a leading Nonconformist. Another active district secretary was (and maybe still is) a leading member of the choir at one church and also a leading ringer at another church in the same town, but some distance away. Irregularities will always exist. But we must not, therefore, like Mr. Trollope, imagine that the irregular is the usual. We need not suppose that in the first half of the twentieth century it was usual for ringers to be Nonconformists, or for men to sing at one church and to ring at another. Nor, because at one time ringers sat lightly to their church practice, are we now to imagine that 'there was no pretence that they were church workers.' Of course they must necessarily have been. That many of them did not ring for services was perhaps true enough (and still is, for some ringers). That there was more chiming than ringing for service was no doubt then true; indeed, it would be hard to say that it is not still true, even in London. No doubt, also, in the past there were many who rang for pleasure rather than for church work. But even of these there are many still in evidence!

Equally wrong is Mr. Trollope's statement that a claim has been made that the Halesworth ringers were once organised like the College Youths. No such claim has ever been made, and I have more than once told him so in private correspondence. I wrote to him that the Halesworth ringers have told me that they are a body of ringers such as exists in most small country towns, and that they have never been anything else. I especially told him that they said they were never like the College Youths. They have a record showing that they were in existence more than two hundred years ago, and have been in existence every year since. They do not claim that this is longer than any other band, only that no other band possesses such unbroken written records. There is a tradition that this goes back to pre-Reformation times, when one, Walpole, was alive. This is borne out by various facts which, owing to the war, I am unable to verify. Until Mr. Trollope (or someone else) does this, he and I must leave them in possession of the Walpole tradition.

This tradition comes from a family which has not only produced a Prime Minister of England, but also one of our own churchwardens, who learned how to ring at Ufford Church.

I have also explained in your columns how Halesworth possesses the oldest written changes in existence (as well as the oldest known body of ringers).

Ufford Rectory.

HERBERT DRAKE.

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT TO HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS.

A meeting was held at Shepshed last Saturday, and in spite of the national crisis, the attendance was well maintained, members being present from Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Oaks-in-Charnwood, Shepshed and Thrumpton, as well as Mr. J. H. Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, Mr. Hartland from Worcestershire, and Second-Lieut. Samson, of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

The Vicar (the Rev. C. O. Worman) conducted the association form of service and gave a very inspiring address on the need for unity of service, especially now in this time of distress. He referred to the call to prayer issued by H.M. the King for the following Sunday.

The meeting was held in the belfry, Mr. G. R. Edwards presiding. The Vicar was elected an honorary member of the association and Mrs. Edwards a ringing member.

A letter was read from the district chairman (Mr. J. H. Grundy) suggesting that the district meetings should be cancelled, but this did not meet with any support, and a resolution was adopted that the meetings should be held where possible.

It was decided to accept the invitation of Mr. Hutchinson to a joint meeting with other districts at Sawley on Saturday, June 15th.

As this meeting will not be in the Loughborough area, it was decided to hold another meeting at Ibstock on the following Saturday, if suitable arrangements can be made, and also to join with the Burton District at Cole Orton on Saturday, July 13th.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for conducting the service, to the organist and blower, and to all who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

**TWICKENHAM.**—On National Prayer Sunday for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Pond 1, G. Bradford 2, Jack Lovell (first quarter-peal inside) 3, E. Morris 4, J. Herbert 5, H. Andrews 6, E. C. S. Turner (conductor) 7, J. Lovell, sen. 8.

## LADIES IN THE BELFRY.

MR. WORBOYS IS ANNOYED WITH 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My last letter addressed to you was intended as a definite attack on your previous article. I see you have adopted your usual procedure of 'pooh-pooh' and left it to a few outsiders to defend your cause. Whether my letter contained anything helpful or not is beside the point. I think I made some direct hits, but, of course, you wouldn't choose to answer them. This was also the case in my last criticism of your article about bells in London.

Well, my answer to the gentlemen who replied to the attack is that they can hold their point of view and I'm holding mine, even if it is in the minority. Or is it? My desire was to show the Editor that all the writings in this paper do not meet with approval; it is unfortunate that there is not another such paper. To Mr. P. H. Brown I would advise him to read the 'Manchester Guardian' so as to learn the difference between criticism and personal sarcasm.

And lastly to the ladies, my opinion is that they look much more ladylike cleaning the brass than hanging on the end of a rope.

The leading article this week is at it again. You remark on the Ancient Society's gathering as 'an interesting experiment.' Sure, because the ladies were invited, and you then go on to mention 'obviously the lack of support is due to the prevailing situation.' Was it? Are you sure this really was the cause of cancelling it? You have written before, urging the Ancient Society to open its ranks to ladies. I am going to suggest that the society has many members capable of managing its affairs without the persuasion and intervention of this paper. The society has in previous years catered for the lady friends and wives of members in a very pleasant manner. I cannot see any advantage in making it an indoor affair. It would be well for every member of the Ancient Society to consider every viewpoint before attempting to alter any customs or traditions now prevailing in this very grand society. A. HAROLD WORBOYS.

Barking, Essex.

P.S.—My views expressed in this or any other letter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of my home tower.

### A FUTILE ATTACK.

Mr. Worboys seems to be very annoyed with us—apparently because we had ignored his letter editorially. Actually the attack was such a futile attempt to kick us that it really wasn't worth noticing, although for the life of us we don't see why Mr. Worboys cannot let us enjoy our own opinion, as he claims to stick to his point of view. We said what we thought; we allowed him to say what he thought, so what has he got to complain about?

Obviously the mention of ladies in the belfry acts upon him as the proverbial red rag to a bull, and any suggestion that ladies may have improved the 'tone' of the belfry is like the shaft of the matador. His indignation was obviously bursting in his first letter when he called us to account for having the 'check' to say that 'what influence women have had in the belfry has been to raise the standard of conduct.' If Mr. Worboys hasn't noticed it, it may be due to one of two causes—either he hasn't lived long enough or he hasn't kept the right company.

By the way, it would be most unfortunate if everybody agreed with all we said—there wouldn't be any Mr. Worboys to try to kick us. But if he wants another such paper as this, he has only to start one—or he could have started one before last Monday. As it is, he must now wait until the war is over.

There is just one other thing. The College Youths themselves (and not 'The Ringing World') proposed to extend the invitation to ladies to attend the now abandoned luncheon. Surely Mr. Worboys is besmirching the judgment of the members when he calls their decision into question. It looks as if it is Mr. Worboys trying to run the society and 'The Ringing World,' rather than this paper trying to exert undue influence on the society. Anyhow, Mr. Worboys, here's our hand. Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

## GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT DURSLEY.

A joint meeting of the Wotton, Bristol City and Bristol Rural Branches was held last Saturday at Dursley, when over 30 members attended, including Mr. J. Austin and ex-Sgt. J. Williams from Gloucester and Mr. S. T. Price from Stonehouse.

Tea at the Queen Anne Hall was followed by the joint business meeting, at which the Vicar of Dursley presided. Mr. T. Harris was elected chairman of the Bristol City Branch, Mr. D. Clift having resigned, and Mr. N. L. Owen was elected secretary of the Wotton Branch in place of Mr. W. J. Smith, who had been called to the Colours.

The General Secretary urged the members to continue holding meetings, even though attendances may prove to be discouraging. Those members who were serving in the Forces would expect it, to ensure that there should be ringing for them when the war was over. The Rev. K. C. Davies supported the appeal. It was decided to continue to hold meetings as usual.

The Vicar conducted the service after the meeting, and Mr. R. C. Gifford (hon. secretary, Rural Branch) presided at the organ.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. Roberts, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Owen for the excellent arrangements.

## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

### A YEAR OF WONDERFUL RECORDS.

There was a very fair attendance of members at the annual meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, held on April 27th, in spite of the restricted transport facilities, although one missed many out-county members and friends. Owing to local difficulties, the usual tea could not be arranged, and so, after ringing at the Cathedral and St. Giles', followed by evensong at the Cathedral, visitors dispersed to the various cafes in the city, gathering again in the beautiful Chapter House, where by kind permission of the Dean of Lincoln the business meeting was held. Unfortunately, through illness, the Dean was unable to be present, and the Ven. Archdeacon H. T. Parry, president of the Northern Branch, took the chair.

The officers were all re-elected, namely, the Very Rev. R. A. Mitchell, Dean of Lincoln, president; Mr. Rupert Richardson, Master; Mr. F. W. Stokes, hon. secretary and treasurer.

It was unanimously decided to have a report printed on the usual lines for the year 1939, and to leave the question of printing one for the current year for consideration at the next annual meeting.

Mr. Rupert Richardson, Master of the Guild, said it was impossible to compare the peal figures with those of the previous year, but that up to the beginning of the war the Guild had a wonderful record. The North Lincolnshire Minor band had rung peals of seven extents comprising 60, 70, 100, 102 and 104 methods, thus bringing the Minor record back to the Lincoln Guild. This had been followed up by a peal of nine extents in 125 methods. Three of the band had also rung a peal of Minor on handbells in 50 methods. Then the young handbell band at Lincoln had rung peals in spliced Major methods, and the Cathedral band had rung a peal in ten spliced Surprise Major methods. He said he was proud to be Master of a Guild capable of putting up such performances. The Master went on to mention that the Chapter House, in which they were now holding their meeting, was virtually the birthplace of the Guild, for it was in that building, on April 29th, 1899, that the Guild was formed by the amalgamation of the four separate societies then existing in the diocese. He appealed to all members to do their utmost to keep ringing alive in their respective towers during the present difficult times.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution allowing members of His Majesty's Forces, who desired to ring peals for the Guild, to become life members of the Guild without payment of the usual subscription.

The Ven. Archdeacon Parry, president of the Northern Branch, in alluding to the record peal of Minor, said that he thought it was very fitting that the peal should have been rung at his own Parish Church at Bigby. He hoped that a peal board commemorating the performance would be dedicated on June 29th, and invited all who could come to visit Bigby on that day, when the Dean of Lincoln had kindly promised to preach.

Although many had to leave for home much earlier than usual, there was a good muster at both the Cathedral and St. Giles' for further ringing in the evening.

### SURREY ASSOCIATION.

#### DISTRICT MEETING AT BANSTEAD.

A successful meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Banstead on Saturday, when 36 members and friends attended from Banstead, Beddington, Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Epsom, Christ Church, Leatherhead, Mitcham (SS. Peter and Paul's), and London.

Ringling began at 3.15 and continued until 5 o'clock, when a short service was conducted by the curate, the Rev. J. S. F. Farrer, in the absence of the Vicar. The curate expressed his regret at being unable to join the meeting at tea.

An excellent tea was served at the Memorial Cafe, where a short business meeting was held, presided over by the District Master, Mr. D. Cooper. Four new members were elected, the Misses M. J. Cox, J. Newington, K. Newington and P. Terry, all of South Croydon.

It was stated that every endeavour would be made to arrange the usual summer meetings, namely, at Rammoor Common, jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild, on July 27th; a ringers' gathering at Leatherhead on Monday, August 5th, if the Bank Holiday is not cancelled; and at Staines and Egham jointly with neighbouring associations towards the end of August. Clapham Park was recommended for the next district meeting on Saturday, September 28th, and Battersea was put forward as an alternative tower if Clapham Park should not be available.

The local National Service authorities had arranged a recruiting parade in the parish, complete with band and loud-speaker cars, and at this point in the proceedings the procession passed the tea-room window, when the lads at the table by the window took the opportunity of cheering the gallant local volunteers as they marched along, dressed in resplendent uniforms. When order was at last restored, votes of thanks were passed to all who had helped to make the meeting a success, especially to Mr. F. G. Woodiss for arranging the tea.

The company then returned to the tower, where further ringing took place, ranging from rounds and call changes to Spliced Surprise Major until 8.45, when the bells were lowered in peal. Some of the ringers put a set of handbells to good use in a secluded part of the church.

## LAXITY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

### WHAT ARE THE M.C.A. DISTRICT OFFICIALS DOING?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some time ago I got interested in bellringing, and as soon as I was qualified I joined the M.C.A., thinking from what I had heard and from reading the rules and objects of the association I had done a good thing. I am not satisfied. There is something wrong in the Nottingham district. I have heard grumbling all round. We are supposed to have monthly meetings, but in 1939 there were not more than two, and in this year, so far, two.

What are the local committee and the district secretary doing? If they cannot do the job, why do they allow themselves to be elected and why are they elected? Why is the district secretary granted an honorarium? He did not turn up at the April meeting at Bottesford, where it was decided to hold the May meeting at Attenborough, but no arrangement for it has been made up to the present.

Are the other members in the Nottingham district satisfied? If not, can't we get together and talk things over with the idea of mending matters? Look in our last annual report and see how much better the other districts are managed.

I understand that for some years past these monthly meetings have been poorly attended and that at many of the meetings, without the assistance of ringers from outside the district, the bells could not have been rung. If we do get going again, will the members give more support? I hope so and encourage the officers.

R.S.V.P.

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### DORCHESTER BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE CARRIED ON.

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Charminster on Saturday week, and, considering the situation, it was very successful, the beautiful weather helping to make the gathering a pleasant one. The Vicar met the ringers as they came to the church and the bells were raised just after 3 p.m. Service was well attended, the Vicar (the Rev. D. B. Eperson) officiating and giving a short address. He welcomed the Guild to the church for the first time, and, referring to the war, asked those present to pray for those who were fighting for us and making the supreme sacrifice.

Following the service, the members were invited by the Vicar and Mrs. Eperson to tea on the Vicarage lawn, which was greatly enjoyed in the lovely sunshine.

Subsequently a short business meeting was held, over which the chairman of the branch (the Rev. A. W. Markby) presided, supported by the Vicar (Canon D. F. Slemek) and the Rev. A. F. Godley. Thirty-five members were present.

Mr. R. Faithfull (Southampton) was elected a life member. An interesting discussion as to future meetings and a motion to carry on was agreed to.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. C. H. Jennings) said they usually catered for one Thursday in the year for those who could not attend on Saturdays. He had been in communication with West Lulworth, and the Vicar had invited them there one Thursday in July.—This offer was accepted with thanks.

The Rector of Stratton invited the branch to his parish, which would enable them also to ring at Bradford Peverell, in August, and the Vicar of Preston (Weymouth) had invited the Guild in September with a ringing practice, also at Upwey.

Thanks were given for the kindness thus extended to the Guild, the Chairman remarking they could leave it to their hon. secretary to make the best arrangements.

A warm welcome was given to all visitors from outside the branch. A comprehensive vote of thanks was carried with acclamation to the Vicar for conducting the service and giving such a helpful address, also to him and Mrs. Eperson for their kind hospitality in providing such a bountiful tea, and also to the W.I. members for their assistance. Thanks were also given to the organist (Mrs. Eperson) and the blower.—The meeting terminated after a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.

The members returned to the tower for further practice, and afterwards visited St. Peter's, Dorchester, where they rang from 7.30 to 9.

The following towers were represented at the meeting: Bradford Peverell, Charminster, Dorchester, Maiden Newton, Preston, Stratton, Sydling, Upwey, Wool and Wyke Regis; the West Dorset Branch by Bearminster and Netherbury; Wimborne Branch by Lytchett Matravers (two lady ringers cycling over 40 miles); North Dorset Branch by the Ringing Master and Manston; members of H.M. Forces stationed in the district, and the branch Deputy Ringing Master (from 'Somewhere in England').

## HANDBELLS AT EVENSONG.

### WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE AT KINGTON MAGNA.

Whit Sunday is observed at Kington Magna, Dorset, as the Sunday School anniversary, when recitations and sacred music are rendered by the scholars at evensong. As the festival fell this year on Coronation Day, two little girls recited sentences referring to the event, which concluded with the words, 'Trumpets were sounded and the Abbey bells rung.' Thereupon four boys with an octave of handbells gave a practical illustration of rounds, firing and Queens.

**TREBLE BOB & INTERNAL FALSENESS.**

DIFFICULTIES OF STUDENTS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I was very glad to read the excellent explanation, published on May 10th, amplifying that given in the issue of February 23rd. In spite of what has been written as to the danger of overdoing it, I do feel that all help should be given to the student to understand. My own difficulties in endeavouring to open the door, 15 years ago, left a lasting impression that text books are, of necessity, written by those with knowledge, who in far too many cases write of facts in terms which leave the reader in the air. It was an understanding of this which led the Editor to publish a series from the pen of a 'Beginner' in 1927; a 'diary' as it were. A naive idea, which was appreciated in some quarters, but which, of course, had many faults.

I pestered all sorts of people in my endeavours and met with every courtesy. But it was not until I was fortunate enough to drag home Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., one evening, that I got the clue I wanted. The point is, that it came by word of mouth, and not from the text books. The result was 'Abridged Proof' in 1928, which, to quote Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, was so bad an exposition of very excellent material that he at first judged it to be pure 'tripe'! The trouble was that fundamentals were hidden by a mass of material, which he cut away. I was handicapped by tradition and the text books. 'Why go backwards, via lead heads to course heads,' he said, 'when you can go forwards to the actual rows with 1-7-8 in like positions?'

It just had not occurred to me, and I had never read the 'Clavis' (and, probably, should not have understood anyway). And so, when I read in 1935 that 'Proof' was to be included in the new Surprise book, I put Mr. Driver's modification into typescript in case the Methods Committee would consider it.

All this by way of showing a student's difficulty. I am not belabouring any point. I am merely offering appreciation of the article of May 10th, but there is one point which I should like to see clarified. It is the paragraph at the bottom of the first column on page 224, where it says that odd rows need not be compared . . . because . . . if even rows show false course ends, the odd rows will show 'complementary' ones. I do not like this word, and my dictionary does not satisfactorily explain why I do not want them. It seems to follow a point I made in my criticism of the original article, but I did not say that, and I should like to see explained the example I then gave. Here it is in full:—

+ 12345678 (a)	Following the instructions appearing on February
+ 21354687	23rd, I get, from the plain course, these pairs of
+ 12534867 (c)	rows: 14263857 and 13254768
+ 21358476	12534867 12643758

From the first pair come the false heads 54263 and/or 46325; from the second pair come 34562 and/or 62345. Now the 'and/ors' are paired 'reflections,' each of the other, and one is not required. But, when proving a peal, can I do without one of each pair?

GEORGE L. JOYCE.

Hornchurch, Essex.

**MACCLESFIELD RINGER'S DEATH.****FIFTY YEARS AT THE PARISH CHURCH.**

The death has occurred at Macclesfield, Cheshire, of Mr. J. Norbury, vergier and ringer at the Parish Church of St. Michael. The funeral took place on Saturday week.

The deceased was a great churchman, and, in addition to being vergier of the Parish Church for many years, was a member of the Bible Class and other church organisations. He was associated with the belfry for a period covering some 50 years and was leader and conductor for a considerable part of this time.

For 25 years or more he was secretary-treasurer of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, and the members of this branch paid fitting tribute on the deeply muffled bells prior to the funeral service, while as the cortege was leaving the church, the muffled bells, which had had a great share of Mr. Norbury's affection, gave a sorrowful farewell. At the graveside officials of the branch rang a course of Grandsire Triples over the open grave, and afterwards a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the now half-muffled bells by G. Bottomley 1, H. Dean 2, J. Tipper 3, A. Worth 4, J. Worth 5, H. Lomas (conductor) 6, W. Gayes 7, C. Morlidge 8.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Parish Church company and from the Chester Diocesan Guild (Macclesfield Branch).

**CORONATION ANNIVERSARY.**

At Taunton on Whit Sunday for evensong and also on the third anniversary of the Coronation of their Majesties the King and Queen, members of St. James' Guild rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. G. Gigg 1, H. H. Walker 2, W. T. Jeanes 3, A. A. Walker 4, F. Morris 5, J. Roy 6, W. G. Gigg (conductor) 7, S. Chaplin 8. First quarter-peal for the treble ringer, who is the son of the conductor.

**BOWDON, CHESHIRE.**—On May 8th, for Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 43 minutes: O. J. Hunt 1, C. Edwards 2, A. J. Brown 3, C. K. Lewis 4, J. Hassell 5, D. Vincent (conductor) 6, Rev. R. D. St. John Smith 7, F. Reynolds 8. After service 336 Double Norwich Major.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

**NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at New Romney on Saturday, June 1st. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirby-le-Soken on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea at the Church Hall.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Practice at Waltham St. Lawrence (6 bells), Saturday, June 1st, 3 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—The annual festival will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Visitors will be welcomed.—Walter Sear, 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Lincoln District.—The next meeting of the above will be at Caythorpe on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service 4.15 p.m. Bring your own tea and picnic in the fields.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—A meeting will be held at Halsall on Saturday, June 1st. Bells available from 2.30.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—Owing to the present acute international situation, the meeting arranged to take place to-morrow, Saturday, June 1st, has been cancelled.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Cheddleton on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Stoke meeting June 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Ashwell on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—R. Thos. Newman, Dis. Sec., 36, Salisbury Road, Baldock, Herts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION** (Derby District) **AND THE PEAK SOCIETY.**—A combined meeting will be held at Darley Dale, near Matlock, on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m.—H. L. Warburton, Hon. Sec., Peak District.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District.—The next practice meeting will be held at St. Cuthbert's Church, Kirkby-in-Furness, on Saturday, June 1st. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulverston.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Handsworth on Saturday, June 1st. All welcome.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**—Special 10-bell practice at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Saturday, June 1st. Ringing from 3 to 4.30 p.m.—Charles R. Raine, Hon. Sec., 21, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Higham-on-the-Hill. Usual times on Saturday, June 1st. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Sunday, June 2nd, at 5.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—London District.—Practice at the Borough on Thursday, June 6th, at 7.30, and in future at the same time on the first Thursday in every month until further notice.—I. R. Housden.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th, in conjunction with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The eight bells will be available from 3 o'clock. A service will be held.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccleston Church on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—F. Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—Northern District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 8th. Bells from 3 p.m. Please send names for tea to Miss R. Bell, 496, Halifax Road, Todmorden, by Tuesday, June 4th. All ringers welcome.—E. Dorice Kelly, 164, Richmond Road, Sheffield 9.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Pensnett, on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards.—John Goodman, 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A joint meeting with the Sussex County Association will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th. Make own arrangements for tea. Everyone welcome at this popular tower.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Kirton Lindsey on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6, tenor 20 cwt.) available from 2.30 to 8.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., for which names need not be sent.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough Branch.—A special deanery meeting will be held at East Haddon (6 bells) on Saturday, June 8th. Please let me have names for tea by June 5th. No sugar provided.—H. H. Shrices, The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—Quarterly meeting at King's Somborne on Saturday, June 8th next. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting in the Village Hall. Those requiring tea must please notify Mr. F. Davis, Winchester Road, King's Somborne, Stockbridge, not later than Wednesday, June 5th.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—The next meeting will be held (D.V.) at Crondall on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Cricketers. Please notify for tea by Tuesday the 4th.—C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, Hants.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Bishopstone on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea 5 p.m. Please advise if possible.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Long Crendon on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) available from 2.45 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Please send a card if you require tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Gibbard, 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bletchley, Bucks.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Kibworth on June 8th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Tea 1s. each at the Newtown Cafe at 5 p.m., for those who notify me by June 6th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Sefton (6 bells) on Saturday, June 8th. Tower open from 2.30 until 9 p.m. Service at 5, followed by the meeting. Owing to local difficulties, it has not so far been found possible to arrange tea. Please do not let this deter you from coming.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Pleaseley on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30, and tea at 5 o'clock to those who notify me by Wednesday, June 5th.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The postponed meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. It is hoped to provide tea, so will all intending to be present notify me by Thursday, June 6th? Visitors welcomed.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at South Kirkby on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. E. Harrison, 154, Barnsley Road, South Kirkby, near Pontefract, not later than June 5th. A hearty welcome is extended to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Macclesfield Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8th, at Gawsworth. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. If tea is required, please notify Mr. E. Bailey, The Warren, Gawsworth, as early as possible.—Jack Tipper, Hon. Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Moreton on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) available from 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Sec., Mill Street, Harlow Common.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Please support Ladies' Guild meeting at Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 8th. For tea, notify Miss Rose A. Bell, 496, Halifax Road, Springside, Todmorden.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.



**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Sutterton on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Cups of tea will be provided at Sutterton Vicarage, but all attending must bring their own food, including sugar. Will all intending to be present please let me know by Tuesday, June 4th?—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, June 15th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be served at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m. Charge, 1s. 6d. per head. All those requiring same must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Deane, near Rotherham, by Wednesday, June 12th, without fail. Business meeting in the Church House immediately after tea. All ringers cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Newdigate on Saturday, June 15th. Service at 4.30, tea afterwards. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. E. Vine, the Village Club, Newdigate, Dorking, as early as possible.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Rettendon on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. So that adequate arrangements can be made for the catering, will all those who require tea please let me know by Wednesday, June 12th, at the latest?—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at All Saints', Ilkley, on Sat., June 15th. Bells (8, tenor 18½ cwt.) available from 1 o'clock. Addingham bells (6) available all evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at Blue Bird Cafe 5 o'clock (1s. 9d.). Names to W. H. Crawshaw, 20, Leicester Crescent, Ilkley, by Thursday, June 13th. Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Ratby and Groby). Bells (8) available during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Rickmansworth (10 bells), Saturday, July 6th. Ringing from 3.30 till 5.30 and 7 till 8. Tea at 5.30.—C. H. Horton, Bushey. City 4270.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Stockport Branch.—Please note that Mr. T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, has taken over the secretarial duties of the branch as the secretary has been called up for military service.

#### DEATH.

**COLE.**—On May 21st, at 48, Lake Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, Clara, beloved wife of Frederick G. Cole, after 11 years of suffering cheerfully borne. Passed peacefully over. 'Promoted.'

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'The Ringing World,'

Lower Pyrford Road,

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##### (2) Contain nothing in the nature of a letter.

##### (3) Are enclosed in an unsealed envelope marked 'News only.'

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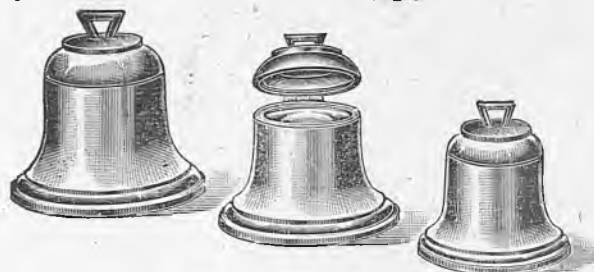
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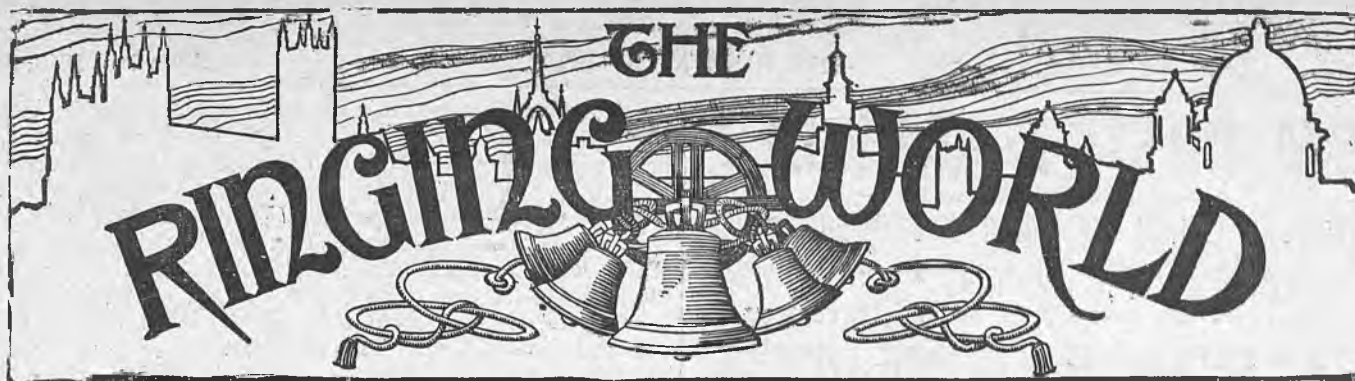
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FRIDAY, JUNE 7th, 1940.

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## MAKE HASTE SLOWLY.

A few timely hints to those who are faced with the instruction of new ringers to fill the gaps in the belfry which are occurring everywhere in these times, appear in an article elsewhere in this issue, and we would like to emphasise them. The teaching of beginners should be no haphazard matter. There should be a definite plan for training new ringers, be they young or old, male or female. One of the greatest mistakes an instructor can make—if he desires to produce good ringers—is to rush his pupils. If there was any secret in the making of the good ringers of the past, about whom we frequently hear so much—although we doubt if there was any larger proportion of good ringers in those bygone generations than there are to-day—it was because they were subject to a painstaking instruction. A beginner was not then allowed, as one not infrequently sees nowadays, to join in ringing rounds by pulling at the backstroke while his instructor manages the sally. The beginner had to be able to control his bell properly before he took any part in open ringing. There are other ways in which new hands are pushed on prematurely besides this example which we have quoted, but the point we want to stress is that, be the need for ringers ever so great, it is a mistake to try to push learners on too quickly. It almost inevitably retards real progress towards the production of the finished ringer in the best sense of the term.

What our correspondent says about confining ringing, in the early stages of the beginner's career, to a small number of bells, is excellent advice. The making of a good striker, which should always be the first aim of an instructor, depends upon developing the 'ear' of the pupil as much as upon the correct handling of the rope. The fewer the number of bells the better chance the ringer has of hearing his own and of judging whether he is too wide or too close. The reason, of course, is not only that there are less bells to listen to, but that they are proportionately further apart, and the bad blow is thus more emphasised. To start a new ringer on eight bells, even if rung at a moderate speed, will more often than not produce only a confused jumble of sound to the beginner, out of which he finds it impossible to distinguish the bell he is ringing. He will be longer in gaining accuracy and confidence in his striking if his instructor tries to teach him on eight bells instead of on five.

Then, too, there is the mistake of attempting too soon to get the beginner into change ringing on tower bells. Far too often one sees instances of young ringers being put into method ringing before they have achieved real command of a bell. That has several drawbacks. In

(Continued on page 266.)

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the first place it is not fair to the beginner himself. Unless he can find his way with some degree of accuracy, he is too much concerned with the technical operation of ringing to be able to concentrate on the method, and the effort to teach him change ringing will have been largely wasted. Then it is not fair to the other ringers, who, while ready to make allowances for failings, are, after all, entitled to some consideration; and, lastly, it is not fair to the public. And this brings us to one of the greatest of all reasons why the beginner should not be allowed to take part in open ringing, and particularly method ringing, until he is master of his bell. As our correspondent points out, there is often insufficient consideration given to the point of view of the public, and it is all the more important, now that nerves may be a bit on edge, that nothing should be done to irritate them further. Until a beginner has reached a fair degree of proficiency, the instructor should be content to wait, and only to put the new hand in open ringing when he can properly command his bell. Patience in this is a virtue. And change ringing, too, should not be begun on open bells. Call changes will enable the beginner to learn to place his bell by holding up or cutting down, but to expect him at the outset to do this at every half-pull and concentrate at the same time on the method is asking too much of him. Obviously the striking must suffer, and so must the public. Change ringing should begin on handbells, and can begin from the moment the pupil enters the belfry, but it should not begin on the tower bells at the expense of the public comfort. Let us be perfectly honest over this. No band has any right to inflict bad ringing on the public, and ringers ought to do all in their power to avoid it. The mere fact that some people may not know the difference between good and bad ringing has nothing to do with it. Most folk who live in the neighbourhood of a church tower, and thus constantly hear the bells, soon become aware of what is good and what is bad in ringing, and it is these people who are the sufferers. In their own interests, however, those who now have to train up new bands—and there are many such—should make good their ground work in every stage before they attempt to pass on to the next. It will prove best in the long run.

### THE SOUNDS OF CHURCH BELLS.

#### AN ESSAY ON THEIR PRODUCTION.

There is probably no sound in the world more familiar to the human ear than that of the church bell. In this country it has become almost a part of the life of the people, and if it does not now take so important a place in marking the day as once it did, it still is one of the 'noises' which the public hear and accept as having a place in the general scheme of things.

But comparatively few there are, even among church bellringers, who are in constant association with these instruments, who know the exact truth as to how their sounds are produced. Of course, everybody is aware that a bell is a mass of metal of a peculiar shape and that when struck it emits a sound as the result of the vibration that is set up. But precisely how those vibrations act and counteract to produce the sound that gives the bell its note and harmonics is a matter of scientific explanation which is not generally known.

The result of all the investigations that have been made into the subject have now been drawn together in a chapter, which forms one of seven essays by Mr. Ll. S. Lloyd, C.B., M.A. (Cantab.), published as a book under the title of 'The Musical Ear'. Each of the seven essays deals with some subject of musical interest and introduces the reader to aspects of acoustics which bear on it. The book is primarily written for musicians and assumes no previous knowledge of science. The relations between acoustics and music have been approached, in the main, from the musical end.

Ringers who like to study more closely this subject of the sounds of church bells will find some interesting revelations as to their production, which will well repay attention.

'The Musical Ear' (Oxford University Press) is published by Sir Humphrey Milford, price 6s. 6d. net.



**EIGHT BELL PEAL.**

OLVESTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, June 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 18½ cwt.

ALBERT M. TYLER ... .. Treble	* ROYSTON G. BRYANT... .. 5
MISS MARGARET PACK ... .. 2	† THOMAS HARRIS... .. 6
MISS NORAH G. WILLIAMS... .. 3	DONALD G. CLIFT ... .. 7
EDWIN H. NASH ... .. 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE ... .. Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

\* First peal of Major. † First peal on eight bells. The first peal of Major on the bells.

**SIX BELL PEAL.**

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* THOMAS W. BOND ... .. Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 4
* JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 2	* CECIL G. CALCUTT ... .. 5
* HARRY P. FLOYD ... .. 3	ALAN R. PINK ... .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

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ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 1-2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... .. 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, June 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,*

AT 27, ANCASTER ROAD,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

* MISS L. KATH. BOWLING ... .. 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON... .. 5-6
PERCY L. JOHNSON ... .. 3-4	MRS. JAMES COTTERELL ... .. 7-8

Composed by JAMES HUNT. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

\* First peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor and to Canon C. C. Marshall.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

LADIES JOIN AT NORTH MIMMS.

Ladies are coming forward to keep the bells going in the St. Albans district of the Hertford County Association, and at the meeting on Saturday week at North Mimms good practice was given to learners, who showed signs of progress and that keen interest which is too often found wanting. The service was conducted by the Vicar, and the secretary (Mr. H. J. Hazell, A.L.C.M.) presided at the organ.

At the business meeting, at which the president (Mr. C. H. Horton) occupied the chair, four new members, three of them ladies, were elected.

The next meeting will be held at Hatfield on June 22nd, if permission can be obtained.

Mr. T. J. Lock referred to the passing of Mr. G. B. Lucas, a life member, who had done a great amount of work for ringing, and there was a short silence, all standing as a tribute of respect.

Mr. A. Day proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and the organist. Ringing ranged from Grandsire to Cambridge Surprise Major.

CANTERBURY.—At St. Alphege's Church on April 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): Vernon J. Benning 1, Frederick G. Brett 2, Randall G. Port 3, Cecil C. Dilnot 4, Peter J. Small (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, Victor J. James 6. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1 and 6.

**NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT MEETINGS.**

THE SECRETARY REPLIES TO CRITICISM.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'R.S.V.P.' I think it would have been much better if he had put his name to his letter. I don't think he was at our annual meeting, or he would have had the opportunity of proposing someone else as secretary. For the last three years the secretary has wished to be relieved of the duties, but has been asked to carry on, no one else having come forward to take his place. I must say that our young friend does not know what has been done in the past in the Nottingham district. It was in the Nottingham district that monthly meetings were first started and not at the expense of the M.C.A. There were not only monthly but weekly meetings, and the arrangements of each meeting were left in the hands of the towerkeeper. If there was any expense, a whip-round was made, the district secretary having nothing to do with it. He was often there and we used to have some happy times together.

If ringers were interested it could be carried on now on the same lines, not leaving it all for the district secretary, thus saving the honorarium and a lot of work. It is all very well when one has a Saturday afternoon free, and I have always had them free—the whole day very often—until these last one or two years. Your correspondent says I did not show up at Bottesford meeting. Perhaps he would not have done so under the circumstances. I was up that morning by 4 a.m. working until 2 p.m. and could not get away, as I had to leave things ready for Sunday night. I arrived home at 2.30 ready for dinner; after that another 1½ hours' work at home, feeding pigs, etc., then a bath and get ready for Bottesford, which is 20 miles by bus. Will 'R.S.V.P.' explain how he would have done it, and then not being sure of a nice lot turning up. On another occasion when I had got a meeting I set out at 9.30 a.m. with a bag of tools, overalls and lunch in pocket, to get a peal of bells in good going order for the members who turned up at 2 p.m. They found me having a wash in the well in the churchyard. But I did not mind that, as the bells went like tops and we had some very good ringing, about 20 turning up. I could mention many more such cases if space would allow. At many meetings we have arranged, only Doubles have been rung.

I have now made up my mind to give up the secretaryship, as I have other duties to look after, and not knowing when I am going to be free. While this terrible war is on it is not a time for ringing, it is time for work and I have plenty of it, which has caused me to be laid up these last three weeks. So if 'R.S.V.P.' has time, let him get a few others together and set out to have a ringing meeting on their own and 'good luck' to them. Let them use their ears and strike clear. I am very sorry to have taken this step, but no one loves to have the bells going more than myself, but it is time I took things a bit steady.

E. C. GOBEY.

**OVER SIXTY YEARS A RINGER.**

'FATHER' OF MALDON BAND.

The death took place on May 18th of Mr. R. S. Hutson, the father of the Maldon bellringers. The deceased, who was 76 years of age, had been a member of the All Saints' band for over 60 years, and for more than 50 years a member of the Essex Association, of which some years ago he was made a life member.

Although he was a regular service ringer, he rang no peals, and his longest length was a date touch in 1882. He was the last of the band that rang in it.

At the funeral, which took place on May 25th, his fellow ringers were represented by Messrs. F. Chalk, W. H. Chalk, H. J. Mansfield, J. D. Buckingham, A. South, J. H. Waldock, Miss A. E. Waldock, E. E. Johnson, S. R. Linnett and S. C. Easter. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Miss A. E. Waldock, J. D. Buckingham, H. J. Mansfield and F. Chalk, and after the funeral the bells were rung fully muffled except that the tenor was open at handstroke.

The deceased was employed by the Maldon Iron Works for 56 years as a machine fitter, and for several years he was foreman of his department. He retired six years ago. His wife died two years ago, but three daughters survive to mourn their loss.

**COVENTRY BELLS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Sunday next, June 9th, is the 57th anniversary of the last peal rung upon the grand old bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, and perhaps the particulars of it will interest some of your readers.

On Saturday, June 9th, 1883, the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, rang in 3 hours 33 minutes a peal of Stedman Caters, 5,063 changes: Henry Bastable 1, Job Joynes 2, Amos Cresser 3, Henry Johnson, sen. 4, John Dunn 5, Thomas Miller 6, John Buffery 7, Francis H. James 8, Henry Johnson, jun. 9, Thomas Reynolds 10. Conducted by Henry Bastable.

Tom Miller is the last survivor of this band and also one of the few living ringers who have rung on Coventry old bells, which were destroyed in 1927.

Henry Johnson, sen., in speaking of this peal, referred to the bells as 'that masterpiece of the founder's art — the ring of ten at Coventry.'

'INTERESTED.'

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The advent of Benjamin Annable had marked a stage in the history of the London Exercise; his death marked another. It was a time when the rivalries and ambitions of leading ringers were breaking up the old societies and forming new companies, and within a few years the London Scholars, the Eastern Scholars, and the Union Scholars either lapsed or fell into a feeble condition which soon ended in extinction. Even the Society of College Youths, so long the foremost company in the land, came very near to dissolution.

But out of the changes there emerged a company which, with the recently formed Society of Cumberland Youths, dominated the London Exercise for the rest of the eighteenth century and ultimately absorbed almost all that was best in the metropolitan ringers.

The company was a band formed out of the most energetic members of the two societies of College Youths and Eastern Scholars. It arose, no doubt, in the first place as an attempt to get together a first-class peal-ringing band, an attempt which was very successful, for the new company was one of the most distinguished in the whole history of change ringing.

They started in 1759 with a peal of Bob Maximus at Southwark; in the following year they rang the first peal of Treble Twelve ever accomplished, and they had many more peals to their credit. They called themselves College Youths, and though they had little or no intercourse with the members of the old company, at the beginning there probably was no intention of starting a new society. But as success came to them and peals multiplied, they were almost compelled to organise themselves and to appoint a master and stewards to carry on their business.

The old body of the College Youths still carried on, but they were sadly weakened by the dissensions and the loss of so many of their more energetic men.

So it came to pass that for thirty years there were two societies of College Youths, and it is indicative of the relative importance of the two that, while the old company was usually styled the ancient Society of College Youths, the newer company was styled the Society of College Youths without any qualification whatever.

For many years the headquarters of the College Youths had been at the Barley Mow, and their regular practice at St. Bride's, but now the ancient society moved to the Barn, which stood in what is now Trafalgar Square, and held their practices at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, leaving St. Bride's to the younger men.

These men, though they met regularly in Fleet Street, liked to go to different belfries for their peal ringing, and it was not until October 19th, 1761, that they rang their first peal at St. Bride's. It was one of Grandsire Cinques, 5,126 changes, and was conducted by George Meakins, who was their principal bob caller. He was one of those who had come from the Eastern Scholars, and most likely it was due to him more than to anyone else that the company had enjoyed so large an amount of prosperity.

The ringer of the seventh was Joseph Monk, who also had come from the Eastern Scholars. In his day he was the leading tenor man of London and, besides other good

performances, he turned Southwark tenor in to the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus ever rung, and the 44 cwt. tenor at Christ Church, Spitalfields, in to 6,080 changes of Treble Bob Major. He edited the last edition of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia,' which was published in 1766. His peal book is now among the valuable manuscripts belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The man who rang the fifth, Thomas Bennett, had a long ringing career in which he took part in many fine performances, and called many peals. At one time or other he was a member of every society in London, a sign of the clash of personal interests and ambitions which was continually re-grouping the members of the different companies.

In 1761 the ancient society was enjoying one of their brief periods of peal ringing activity, and a month or so after the other company had rung their peal they beat it with one of 6,050 changes also of Grandsire Cinques. The conductor was a man called Francis Roberts, who earned some fame by being the first composer to bring Grandsire Caters round at handstroke.

'This,' says the 'Clavis,' 'is so great an improvement in Cater ringing that too much cannot be said in commendation of it or its author, whom, notwithstanding he has been dead for several years, yet his name will be gratefully remembered by every admirer of this pleasant and harmonious improvement.'

The first peal of Grandsire Caters brought round in this way was rung by the ancient Society of College Youths at Fulham on July 17th, 1759, and was conducted by George Partrick. Whether he called a composition of his own or one by Roberts is not known.

Francis Roberts' ringing career was only a short one, but in 1761, he called three peals, the Cinques mentioned above, a peal of Grandsire Caters, and one of Bob Royal. Rather curiously, the Caters was brought round in the then usual way at back stroke.

On March 21st, 1763, George Meakins called for the College Youths at St. Bride's 6,072 changes of Double Grandsire Cinques, which remains the longest length in the method, and, following that, no more peals were rung in the steeple for fifteen years.

The famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was at its height in 1777, and one stage in it was a peal of Treble Bob Maximus, 5,232 changes, at St. Bride's, which temporarily gave the twelve-bell record to the College Youths.

About this time one of the branches of the London Youths contained a number of very skilful ringers who had been got together by William Jones, the man who afterwards wrote the 'Clavis,' and at the time was one of the most influential members of the London Exercise. The headquarters of the society had been at Whitechapel, but now they moved to the centre of the town and were able to hold their practices at St. Bride's, which shows that the College Youths had not sufficient influence in the belfry to keep it entirely to themselves. We know almost nothing about William Jones, but he may have been a man of means, and money bestowed on the steeplekeeper would no doubt unlock a door usually fast closed to other ringers.

Three days after the College Youths had rung the peal of Treble Bob, the London Youths rang one of Bob Maximus. John Reeves rang the treble, William Jones

the second, George Scarsbrook the fourth, Christopher Wells the sixth, and John Canney the ninth. All these men, in different ways, achieved something out of the ordinary. Reeves was one of the cleverest composers the Exercise has ever produced. Wells was the man who first discovered the liability of Treble Bob methods to internal falseness. Canney's beautiful writing can still be seen and admired in the College Youths' peal book. The peal was conducted by Christopher Wells.

Soon afterwards the Society of London Youths (or, rather, this branch of it) was broken up, and Jones took most of the men to the ancient Society of College Youths, which enjoyed a brief period of brilliancy before its final dissolution in 1788. As I have related elsewhere in these notes, there was a contest between the two societies of College Youths to see which could ring the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus with two bobs in each lead. The 'junior' society rang the first at St. Bride's on March 24th, 1784, with John Povey as composer and conductor; and in the following year they rang 5,280 changes of Bob Maximus.

The 'ancient' Society of College Youths came to an end in 1788, and most of the members joined the other branch, which henceforth carried on the traditions and the prestige of the old body. They moved their meeting place to the Barn and held their practices at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and St. Bride's thenceforth ceased to play any important part in the history of ringing. One more peal was rung there in the eighteenth century—5,040 Treble Bob Maximus—by the College Youths in 1798, and after that more than forty years elapsed before the next.

In 1841 the Cumberlands rang a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, and two years later one of Stedman

Cinques. In 1850, the College Youths rang another one of Stedman Cinques. This was composed and conducted by John Cox, and William Banister rang the fourth.

Cox was appointed steeplekeeper at the church and, as he afterwards seceded to the Cumberlands, the belfry fell under the influence of that society, but, so far as my information goes, they rang no peals there.

There is little to say about St. Bride's during the last fifty years. Owing to the proximity of the great newspaper offices and the unsympathetic attitude of the Church authorities, the bells have almost been silent and peals few and far between, but in 1883 the Cumberlands rang in the steeple 5,019 changes of Stedman Cinques, composed and conducted by John Nelms; in 1884 they rang 5,040 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus conducted by George Newson; and in 1886 5,104 changes of Grandsire Cinques conducted by William Baron. They also rang a peal of Grandsire Caters in 1887.

The College Youths, with James Pettit as conductor, rang a peal of Stedman Cinques in 1893 on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. F. E. Dawe. In 1903 the Middlesex County Association rang two peals of Stedman Cinques, one conducted by William Pye, the other by F. G. May, of Bristol.

#### SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — At St. Nicholas' Cathedral on Trinity Sunday, May 19th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,296 changes): G. A. Pickering 1, George Holliday 2, C. L. Routledge 3, John Anderson 4, Jack Hedley 5, E. Wallace 6, W. H. Barber (conductor) 7, J. E. Keen 8, W. J. Davidson 9, L. Ingledew 10.

REIGATE, SURREY. — On Trinity Sunday for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,295 changes): A. R. Bashford 1, G. F. Hoad (conductor) 2, M. A. Northover 3, A. G. Talbot 4, R. A. Tuffin 5, J. H. Judd 6, A. T. Skelton 7, W. Claydon 8, A. B. Peck 9, R. Jenkins 10.

# John Taylor & Co.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

As will be seen from the notices in this issue, it has been deemed advisable to cancel two meetings, viz., that of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild at East Haddon, arranged for June 8th, and that of the Essex Association at Rettendon, arranged for June 15th.

On June 4th, 1919, John William Taylor died at the age of 66. He had for many years been the senior partner in the famous firm of John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, and was also well known as a skilful ringer. He rang Loughborough tenor to the then longest peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, in 1894.

In the year 1762 the parishioners of St. Mary-le-Bow represented to the Bishop that they had in their tenor one of the best bells in the world, but that the others were not equal in quality. They therefore prayed permission to recast them and increase the number to ten. An expert opinion having been given that the tower was sufficiently strong, the faculty was granted, and the new bells, by Lester and Pack, were first rung on King George's birthday, June 4th.

A band of Suffolk ringers, members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, rang at Debenham on June 6th, 1892, Thomas Day's peal of Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes. They rang Oxford; the peal had already been rung to Kent at Mottram in Lancashire. James Motts was the conductor. Mr. Frederick Tillet, who rang the tenor, is still active. He is the only man who has rung a peal with his son and granddaughter in the band.

The length was beaten on June 8th, 1906, by 16,800 changes of Kent at Mottram.

A landmark in method ringing was reached on June 11th, 1927, when at Warnham a peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods spliced was rung for the first time. Mr. A. H. Pulling conducted.

## BELFRY WORDS.

WHAT IS THEIR ORIGIN?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I took up change ringing about two years ago, and a thing that has always puzzled me is how some of the ringing words originated. Belfry words such as Bob, Single, Grandsire, Surprise and Pleasure are in constant use, but few people know how these words came into being. Also why should the names Doubles, Triples, Caters and Cinques be associated with the French words meaning two, three, four and five respectively? It is difficult to see why the French language should have supplied any of the nomenclature for the very English art of change ringing.

CHRISTOPHER T. BROWN.

P.S.—I nearly forgot to ask about 'sally.' Perhaps Mr. Worboys would prefer a more masculine name to be used in the belfry!

[The question raised by Mr. Brown is an extraordinarily interesting one for those versed in philology, but it requires a real expert and a vast amount of research work to answer it satisfactorily, though it is easy enough to guess. It is safe to say that almost all the ringing terms which have come down from early times are ordinary English words used at first in their ordinary meaning so far as the then circumstances permitted; and that in the course of time they gradually crystallised into technical terms. Sometimes a word has two distinct meanings, which now seem to have little in common, but we can be fairly sure that the ultimate root is the same in both. Examples of such words are 'bob' and 'course.' The derivation of 'single' is easy; originally it meant a single change, that is to say a change where all the bells lay still except one pair. Doubles and Triples are double and triple changes, and originally 'Doubles and Triples' on six bells was pretty much the same as what we call Bob Minor. Where 'Caters' and 'Cinques' first came from we will not hazard a guess, nor why a part of the bell rope is called a 'sally.' We may be able to suggest an explanation later.—EDITOR, 'The Ringing World.']

## MR. G. L. JOYCE AND THE SURPRISE BOOK.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was very well pleased with Mr. George L. Joyce's letter in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World.' The explanations and arguments of the article he so warmly praises are some of the explanations and arguments of the new book on Surprise Major, and I hope that he will now realise that the criticisms of his earlier letter were based on insufficient knowledge.

The point he raises is dealt with in the book and no doubt will be dealt with in due course in the articles you are now publishing from time to time. I can answer it only very briefly here.

The section of a method he gives as an example produces four false course ends, viz., Q 62345, R 54263, P 34562, and S 46325. That means that in every method with this section there are four courses which contain rows which are also included in the plain course, and therefore all four false course ends are of equal value in proving peals.

The four false course ends PQRS form a group, and whenever in any method one of the four appears, the other three inevitably appear also.

There are seven other similar groups of four false course ends, but they are of comparatively small importance, as they seldom appear in any method suitable for ringing, and in any case make the composing of a true peal almost impossible.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

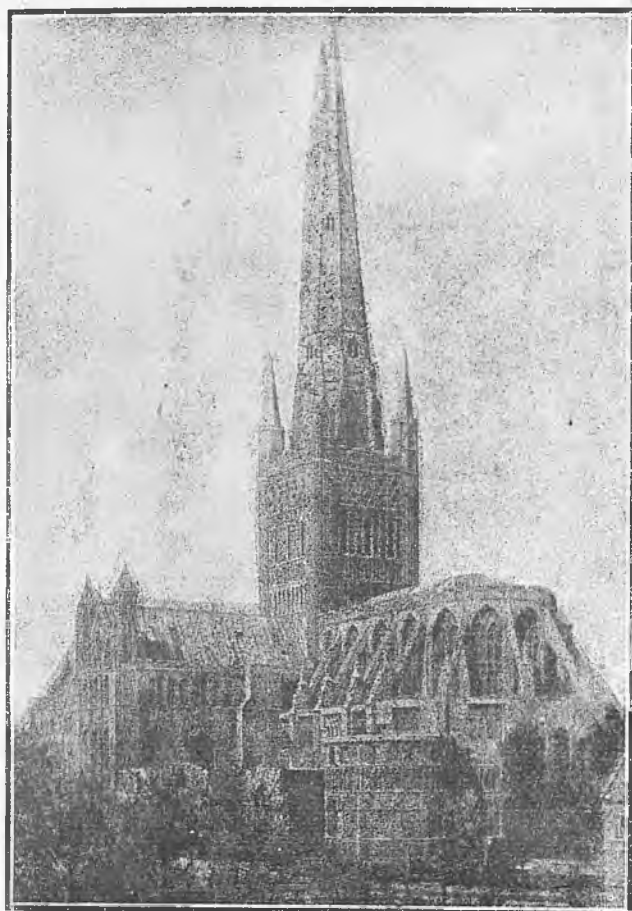


## NORWICH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

BY A. G. G. THURLOW.  
(Precentor of Norwich Cathedral.)

Norwich Cathedral possesses a very interesting ring of five bells, all of mediæval date, except the 3rd, which was recast in 1635. They are tuned to the minor scale, to which reference was made in 'The Ringing World' of February 9th, 1940, and in subsequent issues. Bells 1, 2, 4 and 5 are dedicated to Saints Margaret, Andrew, Katherine and Mary respectively, and the tenor (cast about 1469) in addition bears a prayer for the soul of Robert Brentham, who was a monk here and held the office of gardener in 1451.

We have just discovered the names Saml. Thurston and Jno. Golding scratched inside the tenor.



NORWICH CATHEDRAL.

There is evidence that they were hung for ringing at some time, in the shape of a bell wheel probably of 17th century date in the bell chamber, and in a cross section of the Cathedral dated 1784, though where the ringing chamber could have been is a mystery, unless there was a floor immediately above the tower arches, as at Winchester. For some time it has only been possible to chime three, and the method of chiming has been very unsatisfactory. It seems impossible to consider ringing them to-day, for the great Norman central tower, in which they hang, stands on comparatively slender pillars, and is pierced with so many windows and passages as to render its stability doubtful, crowned, as it is, by a spire 315ft. high; also the ringing chamber floor would have to be about 100ft. from the ground!

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have recently fitted a chiming apparatus, and have carried out the work with their usual efficiency. This was no easy matter. The only satisfactory position for the chiming frame is in the triforium of the Presbytery, and from there the ropes are carried through the triforium roof, outside the north transept clerestory and roof, up a pipe outside the north face of the tower to the level of the bells, then through a hole in the wall to the bells themselves. During this long journey each rope passes over no less than eight pulley wheels, yet the writer can chime each bell with one finger.

While John Thomas was in Norwich, he and the writer inspected two derelict rings of six in the city (with a view to possible rehanging (Continued in next column.)

## COUNTY BELL HISTORIES.

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the church bells in the various counties which are being written up and which you mentioned in your recent article in 'The Ringing World,' your readers may be interested to know that Mr. A. Wright, B.Sc., is doing the bells of Monmouthshire in the 'Archæological Cambrensis,' the journal of the Cambria Archæological Association.

Mr. Wright commenced his articles in the half-yearly report dated December, 1937, and he has not concluded his study. Like Mr. Frederick Sharpe, who is doing the bells of Berkshire, he is dealing with the parishes in alphabetical order, and he states that during the last 33 years he has been investigating the bells of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire and has personally visited every parish and, in most cases, has reached the bells.

Mr. Wright draws some interesting conclusions in his articles. He states that the proportion of pre-Reformation bells in the county is very low. However, there are several early examples of the bell-founders' art, such as Gwernesney, Kemeys Commander, etc., without inscriptions, but undoubtedly by their shapes of the thirteenth century period.

He writes of a bell calling men to work in a colliery.

Abertillery: St. Paul's, Cwnitillery (1892). One bell, 'The bell was first used in the local colliery (sunk over 100 years since) to call the men to work before the advent of a hooter. It was in the colliery storeroom when the church was built 1892, and was placed in the turret at the time.'

Regarding the bells at Monmouth, Mr. Wright says that this ring forms an unbroken ring from Rudhall's foundry and that the seventh is a notable bell.

Until recently at Manchester Cathedral were two bells, 7 and 9, with black letter inscriptions by Rudhalls, 1706. These are now recast, and thus No. 7 at Monmouth is the sole remaining example of Rudhall's black letters. The type employed is unusual, and the first s of the inscription in Missi is inverted.

Of Abergavenny bells he writes very interestingly. He states that at the time of the Dissolution St. John's was the Parish Church, and was then superseded by the Priory Church of St. Mary's. In the Priory Church were, in 1555, four bells weighing 45 cwt. 2 qr., and the parishioners refused to surrender them. Towards the end of the reign of Henry VIII., Edward Gostwick and Edward Watturs, Commissioners of the Court of Augmentations, were requested to inquire into the matter by order of the Lord Chancellor. One Thomas Richard Bourchier, age 90, deposed that the town of Abergavenny bought the bells, and that he himself paid 2s. 4d. towards them; that the Priory never paid a penny towards their purchase; that the town of Abergavenny was not able to pay the whole sum, and that the country helped and made up the rest. On November 24th, 1555, an order was directed to Walter Herbert to make a further inquiry, and he pronounced that the 'bells in tyne out of memorie were taken for, and used always as bells apperteynyngs to the parishes of Abergenie, and not the said late Priorie.'

Mr. Wright's articles are illustrated with photographs and drawings of the inscriptions, and it is hoped that he will bring out his articles in book form so that they may reach a wider public.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

### THE CHURCH BELLS OF CARMARTHEN.

Mr. Thomas himself has done good work among the bells of Carmarthenshire, and on May 17th last 'The Welshman' printed an article by him, in which he gave an interesting account of the great bell of Talley Abbey, which was taken down in 1773 and was supposed to have gone to Exeter, but what really became of it is not known.

Mr. Thomas also gives particulars of the bells of some of the Carmarthen churches with their inscriptions and the legends that are told about them.

### DEATH OF AN OLD EASTBOURNE RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ben Hobbs, who passed away on May 25th and was buried on the following Thursday.

He was born at Waldron in December, 1865, and learned to ring at his native village. About 40 years ago he moved to Eastbourne, and from then until the time of his death he was a member of the St. Saviour's band. He joined the Sussex County Association when it was formed in 1885, and had been a member ever since. He kept no record of his ringing performances, but he had taken part in over 100 peals.

### NORWICH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

in the distant future), and edified the caretaker by chiming Boh Minor, etc., on them. It later transpired that the caretaker strongly suspected that we had just dropped over from Germany, disguised as a bell founder and a clergyman! It would be a typical example of Nazi thoroughness to give their clerical parachutists a preliminary training in change ringing, as well as an example worthy of imitation to the real live clergy over here!

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### THEIR NATURE AND USES.

In every symmetrical Plain method on all numbers of bells (excluding those which have a bell in the hunt) all the possible rows are grouped into a number of mutually exclusive natural courses, which means that every individual row has a definite place in a particular lead and in a particular natural course, and can never come anywhere else. If, therefore, the composer makes sure that he never uses the same part of any natural course twice, he can be certain of the truth of his peal. He can prove his composition by natural course ends, as was explained in our issue of March 1st. In doing so, when he parts the tenors, he must remember that any course can come either forwards or backwards, the handstroke lead ends in one case becoming the backstroke lead heads in the other, and vice versa.

In symmetrical Royal methods on the Treble Bob Principle the natural courses are also mutually exclusive, so long as in every section the two rows with the treble in the same position are of opposite nature.

But in Major methods, on the Treble Bob Principle, the case is different. There the natural courses are not mutually exclusive, and no one of them can exist which does not contain rows which are also included in another natural course. The 40,320 possible rows can in no Treble Bob or Surprise Major method be set down in 180 independent courses or P. Blocks.

If, however, we confine ourselves to the courses in which the tenors are not parted, we shall find that there is a limited number of methods which have mutually exclusive natural courses, and in them, so long as we compose by means of hobs at M, B, W, and R only, we need fear no internal falseness which does not show at the lead ends or in the natural course ends.

These methods are said to have a Clear Proof Scale (C.P.S.), and the only feature which is necessary to ensure it is that 1, 7, 8 shall never within the plain course fall twice into the same relative positions in rows of like nature (both even or both odd).

Such methods are very rare. In the vast majority there are courses which contain rows which are also included in the plain course, and if there are one or more courses which are false against the plain course there is the same number false against every course and in the same ratio.

The first thing, then, when we are composing in any Treble Bob or Surprise Major method, is to see what, if any, courses contain rows which are also included in the plain course.

If, for example, we write out the plain course of Superlative in full, and the two courses which begin with 13246578 and 14326578 respectively, we shall find that the latter contain rows which are included in the plain course, and if we ring the whole of either or both of these courses as well as the plain course our peal will be false.

When we have discovered which courses are false against the plain course, we use their course ends in proving our peals, and we call them the False Course Ends (F.C.E.) of the method.

Just as we may not use the whole of the plain course and the whole of either or both of the courses 32465 and 43265, so, if we ring the whole of any one natural course, we must not use the whole of either or both of the two

courses which bear the same relation to it that 32465 and 43265 do to 23456. In Superlative, for every single course we can use there are two others that we may not use.

In any Treble Bob or Surprise Major method there are sixty natural courses. If the method has a clear proof scale we may use as many of the sixty as we like. But the presence of only one course false against the plain course automatically reduces the number of available full natural courses to thirty. When there are two courses false against the plain course, we might expect that the number of available true courses would be reduced to twenty, but fortunately that does not always happen.

There are sixty possible natural courses in any method, and at the first sight there seems no reason why any one of them should be less likely than any other to be false against the plain course. But actually, owing to the fact that the methods which are practised have Bob Major Lead Ends, their false course ends are almost entirely confined to seven.

These seven fall into two groups, one of five, ABCDE, and one of three, BFG, B being common to both groups.

A	32546	
B	24365	B 24365
C	53624	F 32465
D	46253	G 43265
E	65432	

If we examine a large number of methods most suitable (in all ways) for ringing, we shall find that a few have a clear proof scale, a few have false courses other than those in the above list, but the majority have one or more of these seven, and they have them in one or two very marked ways.

In the first place, B (24365) is the only one which appears by itself, and it is the commonest of them all. Quite a large number of the new Surprise methods which have been rung in recent years have this false course end and no other.

The others all come in pairs. If we get A we also get D; if we get C we also get E; if we get F we also get G.

This occurrence of false course ends in pairs is not peculiar to these six. It happens whenever there are false course ends and whatever they are. It is due to the fact that in the plain course the method produces half its rows by the first half leads going forwards from 2345678, and half by the second half leads going backwards from 2436587; and if there are two even rows in the plain course in which 1, 7, 8 occupy the same relative positions, there will also be two corresponding odd rows where they occupy the same relative positions, and therefore two complementary false course ends which are related to each other as 2436587 and 2345678 are related. B (24365) does, as we have said, appear alone, but that is because it is complementary to itself and appears in both positions. In a similar way 26543 and 25634 are each complementary to itself and appear by themselves.

The relationship of two complementary false course ends is shown by the following formula:—

23456	(x)	32546	A
24365	(y)	42635	
	(z)	46253	D

(x) is a false course end (A).

(y) is produced from 24365 as (x) is produced from 23456.

(Continued on next page.)

## WAR-TIME DEPLETION OF BANDS.

### HOW TO TEACH BEGINNERS.

Now that, owing to the depletion of bands through members being called up to H.M. Forces, the problem of teaching beginners has become a general one, I should like, if you will allow me, to offer one or two suggestions.

The first is that, when there is a lot of beginners, too many of them should never be allowed to ring at once. The outside public have got to be considered, which is a thing far too few ringers take into account. You will find six or more beginners, not one of whom can properly manage a bell, set to ring rounds in an eight-bell tower. It does not give either them or the instructor a chance, and it can be torture to the people living next door. What the instructor should do is to ring as few bells at a time as possible. If you ring five, in place of the whole eight, you can pick your band according to its ability, and you can give the learner a chance of hearing his own bell and knowing for himself if he or she is striking somewhere in the right place. Usually they have not the slightest idea about the matter, and they are usually expected to ring a bell before they are properly instructed in handling it.

When you have got them to ring rounds fairly decently on five, you can go on to six, but if you want to teach a band with the idea of making a good band, and if your material consists of beginners or mostly of beginners, then it is better to leave the eight alone. Never pull the trebles up. Take the ropes off if you think the temptation too strong. Your chances of making a good six-bell band out of raw material are at least twenty times as many as of making a good eight-bell band.

First of all, teach your learner to handle a bell so he can really control it. To do that you must have the clapper tied. There are people who think they can teach a beginner by making him ring when the rest are trying to ring rounds. It can't be done, and time and patience spent with a lashed clapper will repay both learner and instructor.

Finally, let me insist that no band should ever attempt to ring changes until they can ring rounds really well. After that, let them have a good dose of call changes with frequent changes. Meanwhile they should be taught change ringing on handbells and on paper.

X. Y. Z.

### DEATH OF MR. JOHN PRITCHARD.

#### WELL-KNOWN LOUGHBOROUGH BELL-ROPE MAKER.

The death has occurred at Loughborough of Mr. John Pritchard, managing director of the old-established bell-rope making business, whose products are to be found in belfries all over the British Isles. Mr. Pritchard died suddenly on May 1st. He seemed to be in his usual health in the morning and attended at his business. In the afternoon he went into the garden to do some work in the greenhouse and was later seen lying at the coal-house door by a neighbour, who gave the alarm. It was found that Mr. Pritchard had succumbed to a heart attack.

The business of which Mr. Pritchard was the head was established in 1820 by his great-grandfather and since then has become one of the principal tent contracting and rope-making businesses in the country. The present premises of the firm have been in the hands of Mr. Pritchard's family for over 100 years.

Mr. Pritchard was the tent contractor for Kingston Show for over 40 years, and at his premises are pictures depicting the tenting he made for the coming-of-age celebrations of the late Duke of Rutland (then the Marquess of Granby), who died recently, at Belvoir Castle.

Mr. Pritchard was a Freemason and a very keen devotee of bowls. As a boy he was a chorister at Loughborough Parish Church, where the funeral service took place. Mr. Pritchard leaves a widow, but no family.

The business, now John Pritchard (Ropes) Limited, will be carried on as usual.

### ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING AT KIRBY-LE-SOKEN.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Kirby-le-Soken last Saturday, when 18 ringers attended from Harwich, Mistley, Great Holland, Great Bentley, Thorington, Tendring, Dedham and the local tower.

Ringing began at 3 p.m. and lasted until about 8 p.m. A service was held at 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, who gave an interesting little talk on some of his experiences with bells, and people who were always ready to grumble about something. He mentioned an old gentleman who got so annoyed with the bells whenever they rang that he took legal proceedings against the Church authorities, but when the case was heard he proved himself so deaf that the judge could not make him hear anything and so he lost the day.

After the service tea in the Church Hall was provided by the Vicar and the Parochial Church Council.

At the business meeting the Master (Mr. G. Waterman) presided, and five new members were elected, viz., J. Byford-Smith, J. Oxley, J. Oxborough and J. Bartle from Kirby, and A. Marshall from Great Holland.

A letter was read from the Rev. W. A. Parker Mason, Vicar of Ardleigh, inviting the division to hold its next meeting at his church in July. This was accepted with thanks. The Master called the attention of members to their slackness in notifying the secretary of their intention to be present at tea. Notice must be given by the Wednesday before the meeting.

The Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service, and for the splendid tea he and the Church Council had provided. Thanks were also expressed to the organist and the choirboys for their services. The Vicar replied in humorous vein and paid a high tribute to Mr. U. Wildney for all he had done in the belfry and for the Essex Association.

Courses of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on the handbells and then the ringers adjourned to the belfry for more ringing.

### DEATH OF A VETERAN LIVERPOOL RINGER.

It is with much regret that we record the passing of Mr. George Hislop, of Woolton, at the age of 76 years.

Mr. Hislop joined the Lancashire Association in the year 1890 and had therefore been a member for 50 years, for the greater part of which time he belonged to the band at St. Peter's, Woolton, Liverpool. (He had rung 17 peals, his last being on November 19th, 1938.)

At the funeral, which took place on June 1st at Woolton Churchyard, the Rector conducted the service, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave. A half-muffled touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on the tower bells by fellow ringers.

### LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of 59, of Mr. Henry S. Cunnington, which occurred on May 23rd after a long illness.

The deceased had been a regular service ringer at Edenham until illness prevented him from taking part in the belfry. He was a member of the band when there were only five bells in the tower and helped to raise the funds to add a treble in 1908. He rang in the first 720 of Minor on Easter Sunday, 1908. He never had the pleasure of ringing after the bells were increased to eight in 1931. He had not rung a great number of peals, but took part in some of Doubles and a few of Minor. He was a member of the old South Lincolnshire Association until it joined with the other branches to form the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, of which he became a member.

Although Mr. Cunnington was unable to get up the steps to take a rope for the past few years, he always had an interest in listening to the bells when he could do so.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—For evening service a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: E. Hawker 1, Miss L. Keeley 2, J. E. Philbrick 3, C. W. Powell 4, G. H. Whitmore 5, H. G. Keeley 6, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 7, E. Tett 8. Rung for the Whitsun festival, also in celebration of the election of the Vicar, the Rev. C. C. Cox, to the Mastership of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

### FALSE COURSE ENDS

(Continued from previous page.)

(z) is produced by transposing (y) by 24365 and is the complementary FCE (D).

The second important fact is that in the methods most suitable for ringing, the false course ends belong to either one or the other of the two groups. We get ABD, or CE, or ABCDE, or FG, or BFG; but seldom false course ends from both groups. This, as we shall see, makes it comparatively easy to compose true peals. The falseness of Cambridge Surprise is due to the fact that the method is an exception to this rule. Its false course ends are ABDFG.

**NOTICES.**

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough Branch.—The meeting arranged to take place at East Haddon on Saturday, June 8th, has been cancelled.—H. H. Shrides, Hon. Branch Sec.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th, in conjunction with the East Grinstead and District Guild. The eight bells will be available from 3 o'clock. A service will be held.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Eccleston Church on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—F. Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—Northern District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 8th. Bells from 3 p.m. All ringers welcome.—E. Dorice Kelly, 164, Richmond Road, Sheffield 9.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Pensnett, on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards.—John Goodman, 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A joint meeting with the Sussex County Association will be held at Rotherfield on Saturday, June 8th. Make own arrangements for tea. Everyone welcome at this popular tower.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Kirton Lindsey on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6, tenor 20 cwt.) available from 2.30 to 8.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., for which names need not be sent.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—Quarterly meeting at King's Somborne on Saturday, June 8th next. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting in the Village Hall.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—The next meeting will be held (D.V.) at Crondall on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. at the Cricketers.—C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, Hants.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Kibworth on June 8th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Macclesfield Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8th, at Gawsworth. Bells (8) from 3 p.m.—Jack Tipper, Hon. Branch Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Bishopstone on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Tea 5 p.m. Please advise if possible.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Long Crendon on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) available from 2.45 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Please send a card if you require tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Gibbard, 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bletchley, Bucks.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Sefton (6 bells) on Saturday, June 8th. Tower open from 2.30 until 9 p.m. Service at 5, followed by the meeting. Owing to local difficulties, it has not so far been found possible to arrange tea. Please do not let this deter you from coming.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Pleaseley on Saturday, June 8th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock to those who notify.—J. W. England, 49, The Common, South Normanton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The postponed meeting will be held at Appleby Magna on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Visitors welcomed.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at South Kirkby on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A hearty welcome is extended to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Moreton on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (6) available from 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Sec., Mill Street, Harlow Common.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Please support Ladies' Guild meeting at Cross Stone, Todmorden, on Saturday, June 8th.—I. Kay, Branch Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Sutterton on Saturday, June 8th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Cups of tea will be provided at Sutterton Vicarage, but all attending must bring their own food, including sugar.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting will be at Clay Cross (6 bells) on June 15th. Short service 5 p.m. Please arrange for own eatables. Cups of tea will be provided. Postcards to Mr. F. Marshall, 203, Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern Division.—In view of the present situation the meeting at Rettendon on June 15th, has been postponed.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 15th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be served at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m. Charge, 1s. 6d. per head. All those requiring same must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham, by Wednesday, June 12th, without fail. Business meeting in the Church House immediately after tea. All ringers cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Newdigate on Saturday, June 15th. Service at 4.30, tea afterwards. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. E. Vine, the Village Club, Newdigate, Dorking, as early as possible.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at All Saints', Ilkley, on Sat., June 15th. Bells (8, tenor 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt.) available from 1 o'clock. Addingham bells (6) available all evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at Blue Bird Cafe 5 o'clock (1s. 9d.). Names to W. H. Crawshaw, 20, Leicester Crescent, Ilkley, by Thursday, June 13th. Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Next meeting on Saturday, June 15th, at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Ringing from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Acting Southern District Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley (D.V.) on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m., service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and ringing until dusk. Numbers for tea by Wednesday June 12th, please, and help minimise the difficulties of war-time catering.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Stretford, on Saturday, June 15th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, June 18th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—A meeting will be held at Bexley, Kent, on Saturday,

June 22nd. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea (1s. 4d. per head) and business meeting at 5.15. Will all those who require tea, please notify Mr. H. A. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, Kent, not later than Monday, June 17th?—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—Owing to the joint meeting at Lawley being postponed to June 22nd, the next district meeting will be at Ibstock on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. Please notify me if you are expecting to be present. All members and friends cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at All Saints', Pontefract, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. per head, in All Saints' Church House at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. W. Peaker, Wesley House, 53, Northgate, Pontefract, by first post, Thursday, June 20th? Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—H. S. Borley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Ratby and Groby). Bells (8) available during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Stockport Branch.—Please note that Mr. T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, has taken over the secretarial duties of the branch as the secretary has been called up for military service.

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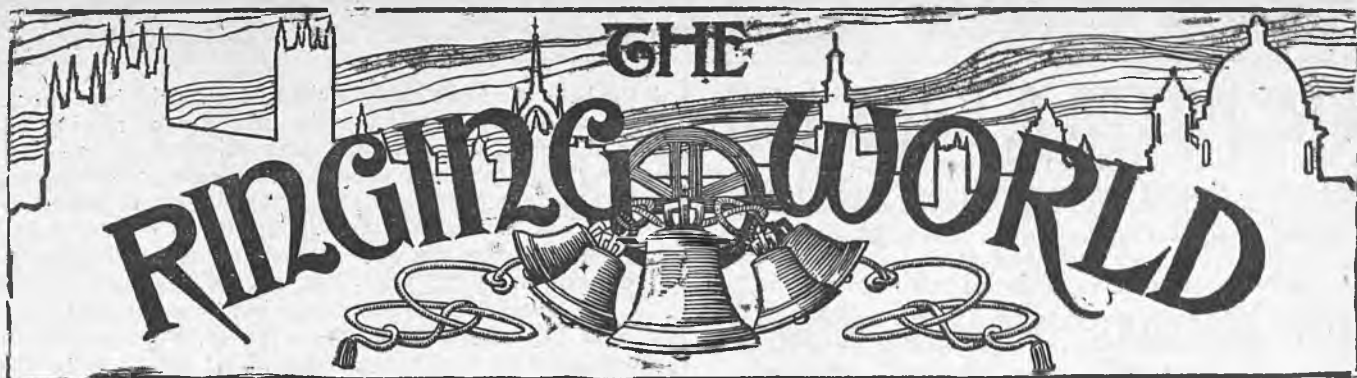
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## THE WORLD'S GREATEST PEAL.

Had circumstances been different, many ringers would have been looking forward to hearing at no distant date the great peal of bells that is to be installed in Liverpool's new Cathedral, but the war has put off this historic event for an indefinite time. The bells, however, are now all in being; and some day will find their home in the massive tower which is rising towards completion. They stand now at the scene of their birth, the Whitechapel Foundry, a testimony to the generosity and forethought of one of Liverpool's sons, and a triumph for the bell founders' art. This peal of bells is the largest ever cast for ringing, surpassing in size anything ever before conceived for the purpose, and offering new scope for the skill of those who will be called upon to ring them. That their use in the new Cathedral is likely to be unduly delayed is a matter of deep regret, not only from the ringers' point of view, but from the point of view of the church itself. The opening of the bells would mark the completion of another great stage in the progress of this vast undertaking, and a year ago the consummation seemed within early reach. Now, however, there can be no certainty when the bells will be hung, and Liverpool must wait for their tones. It is, however, only in the minds of impatient man that disappointment will be felt. After all, the bells are not for a day or a year; they are for the centuries, and this war will cause but a passing delay which, in the light of history, is an infinitesimal portion of time.

But the bells are ready whenever the tower can receive them, and it is a satisfaction to know that this great Cathedral is to be equipped with a peal worthy of the great inspiration that has led to the rise of this wonderful tribute to man's faith in God. The sound of the bells as they can now be heard in the foundry at once fills the listener with a sense of their noble tones—something deeply impressive alike in depth and harmony. What they will sound like when ringing over the city of Liverpool from their lofty tower can only at present be imagined, and many will wait with the keenest anticipation and interest for the day when this massive peal will respond to the hands of ringers. The ringing of them, turning full circle, will, however, be a task for men of wide experience in heavy-bell ringing. As a balanced peal, St. Paul's Cathedral is the heaviest that we have had up to the present. They are no playthings; they are a job for ringers with a training on big bells. But the tenor at Liverpool is a ton heavier than that at St. Paul's, and the eleventh is only about six hundredweight less. Even the small bells—small, that is, in proportion, for the treble is nearly half a ton—will require men of experience to handle them if

(Continued on page 278.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

all the bells are to be rung in changes with the best effect. Those who may later have the privilege of ringing on them may rest assured that everything that the bell hangers' skill can do to ensure their efficient 'go' will be done, but, that notwithstanding, the ringing of them will be work for a trained band. That such a company may be got together in due time is a matter which the Lancashire Association will doubtless well consider.

In the completion of the tower and its equipment there is to be, in addition to the Bartlett peal, a great bourdon bell of fourteen and a half tons. This bell is to be the gift of the generous benefactors who are giving the tower, Lord Vestey and his brother, Sir Edmund Vestey, and there is a desire that this bell shall also be cast in the near future. Its founding was to have taken place at White-chapel, but circumstances arising from the war have made it impossible. By a happy arrangement, however, the work is to be done at Loughborough, so that in the completion of this gigantic bell undertaking, the greatest ever carried out at an English church, the two world-famous firms of Mears and Stainbank and John Taylor and Co., will be associated.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

MANCHESTER, LANCASHIRE.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 5, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, GORTON,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT ... .. Treble	JOHN HASSELL ... .. 5
ALAN J. BROWN ... .. 2	FRANK REYNOLDS ... .. 6
JOCelyn B. GARDINER ... 3	EDWARD F. MAWBY ... .. 7
WILLIAM H. SHUKER ... .. 4	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... Tenor

Composed by C. K. LEWIS. Conducted by F. REYNOLDS.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF W. C. MEDLER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, one of St. Clement's and two of Plain Bob.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 1-2	WALTER C. MEDLER ... .. 3-4
ERIC DURRANT ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by E. DURRANT.

First handbell peal in four methods by all and for the association.

## 5,248 BOB MAJOR.

The composition of the 5,248 Bob Major by Mr. C. K. Lewis, rung, it is believed, for the first time, at Gorton Unitarian Church on June 5th, is as follows:—

23456 5th 4th B H

35264 — 3

42536 S — 3

Seven times repeated, calling last three homes in fourth and eighth parts B.S.B.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

STREATHAM.—At St. Leonard's Church on Sunday, June 9th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: S. Croft (first quarter-peal in the method) 1, C. A. Button 2, E. L. Miles 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 6, J. W. Chapman 7, S. Gardner 8. Rung as a thanksgiving for the evacuation of our troops from Dunkirk.

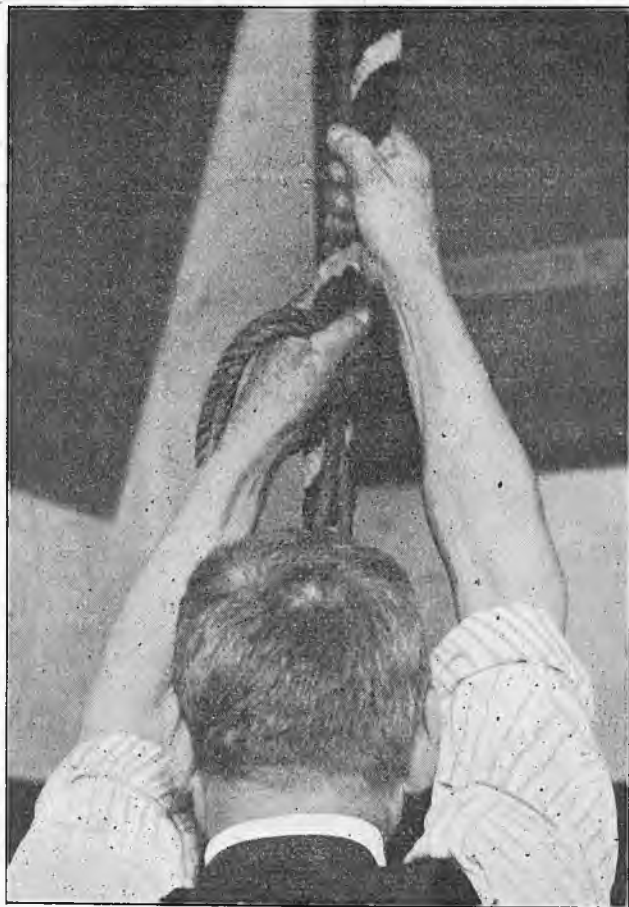
BROUGHTON, STAFFS.—On Saturday, June 8th, on the occasion of a wedding, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1,264 changes: F. Price 1, W. Lycett 2, T. Price 3, W. J. Chester 4, A. M. Hickman 5, T. Tudor 6, E. V. Rodenhurst 7, W. Weatherby (conductor) 8.



**FOR BEGINNERS.****THE RIGHT AND WRONG WAY TO HANDLE A BELL.**

In view of the considerable number of beginners now being introduced into the belfry to fill the gaps caused by the absence of so many ringers on other duties, we propose to publish a series of articles on the elementary stages of ringing. We begin, however, this week with the important first step on how to handle a bell. We hope this series will be appreciated as a complement to the more advanced articles on the science of ringing which we have recently printed.

The writer of an article in our last issue called attention to the necessity, in teaching beginners, of insisting on good ringing before any attempts are made at change ringing. We can go further and say that it is most essential that the beginner should not be allowed to attempt round ringing until he can handle his bell properly.



This photograph, reproduced by courtesy of the Central Council, shows the proper way to hold the rope end and sally at handstroke.

As one goes about the country one sees many 'awkward ringers'—ringers who do not know how to hold their rope correctly, and therefore have not proper control over their bells, with the result that they are indifferent strikers. Indeed, their bad handling may spoil what otherwise would be some perfectly good ringing.

There is a story told of one 'ringing parson,' a notoriously bad striker, who never could handle his bell properly. He once took part in a peal, and his striking, as a result of his bad handling and his lack of 'ear' for his bell, was atrocious. Afterwards, one of the other

ringers was asked how the parson got on, and his reply was, 'Awful. He only made one good blow, and that was when he missed the sally.' That is an example of the way **not** to ring.

The first aim of a beginner should be to hold his rope properly. Both at rope-end (that is, backstroke) and sally (the handstroke), the hands should be raised as high above the head as possible. It gives the best control, and, of course, the longest and, therefore, the most effective pull. Many ringers at handstroke grasp the sally at a spot which does not permit their hands going much above their nose, or even their chin, and their hands go up very little higher at backstroke.

You go into towers and find that all the ropes are low. You can be sure that, unless it happens to have been caused by a sudden spell of dry weather, which has resulted in the ropes stretching badly, it is because the ringers of that tower do not raise their hands high enough in grasping the ropes. The hands should go well above the head at both strokes, and steeplekeepers and those responsible for instructing beginners, should see that ropes are so adjusted that this is made more or less obligatory on the learner. A rope is not too high, if, when the bell is set at handstroke, the bottom of the sally reaches no lower than the ringer's eyes.

And then there is a right and a wrong way of grasping the rope. The hands should always be close together when holding either the rope end or sally. If they are wide apart it means not only an ungainly and slovenly style, but loss of power, because the lower hand cannot 'pull its weight' or, ought we to say, its full distance. Those few extra inches with that one hand make all the difference to effective control.

Then there is the actual grip on the rope. Both the sally and the rope end should, in turn, be gripped with all the fingers of both hands. Often one sees at handstroke the rope grasped only by the thumb and two fingers of the hand holding the rope end, the other fingers being gripped round the tail of the rope, as if the ringer were afraid of dropping it. Do not get into that habit; or, if you have acquired it, get out of it at once.

The ideal way is to hold the end of the rope in the crutch between the thumb and forefinger and let it come on the side of the sally next to the ringer. In that way the fullest possible use can be made of the hand. Indeed, if you ring in many places in the North of England, where there is a tuft, like a short sally, on the end of the rope, you will find any other way both difficult and uncomfortable. Where, however, there is only a double rope at the end, some ringers—and many good ones among them—grasp both the rope end and sally together. But try, if you can, to get the rope end each time under the thumb only. The proper way to hold the rope and sally at handstroke is shown in the accompanying illustration, from the Central Council's helpful little book, 'Hints for Instructors and Beginners,' which contains some of the best advice it is possible to obtain on how to ring a bell.

When the learner starts to ring, he should stand close under the rope with heels almost together, he should pull the rope straight down, keeping his hands close to the body and letting them go as far down as possible. Unless the pull is straight down, and as far as possible, there will be a loss of power.

If the learner gets a good start and acquires a good style, half the preliminary battle is won.

## BELL RINGING IN THE MIDDLE AGES. SOME CIVIC USES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

During the later Middle Ages, and especially during the two centuries just before the Reformation, church bells played a very important part in the ecclesiastical and social life of the people of England. They were rung before the many daily services in the parish and other churches, and at the processions at High Mass. They were knolled for deaths and rung for funerals and obits, and in times of tempest and pestilence. At morning, noontide, and night they marked the beginning and ending of the hours of labour. They sounded the alarm when fire broke out; and they summoned the people when those in authority needed to call a meeting for civil or parochial purposes.

In towns like London, or Norwich, or Bristol, or York, where there were many churches and those close together, there must have been an almost continual sound of bells from early morning to late at night, and we can scarcely wonder that monasteries which were close to parish churches raised objections when, in addition to all this, the ringers began to ring at untimely hours 'without evident necessity' for no reason except their own pleasure and enjoyment.

It was the custom whenever any great person, such as the king, the queen, the prince, or the bishop visited the parish or passed by on his journeys that the bells were rung. This custom has lasted down to modern times, but there was this difference that, whereas now we ring because the intention is to show honour and respect to the visitor, then the ringing was looked upon as a right which the visitor expected as his due, and the omission of which would be noticed and resented; and not only resented, but punished by censure or fine.

John Foxe, the author of the 'Book of Martyrs,' relates that Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, 'passing by the high street of London did not only look and wait for the ringing of bells for a triumph, but took great snuff and did suspend all such churches in London (not only with the steeples and bells, but also with the organs), so many as did not receive his coming with the music of bells.'

Foxe was an extreme Protestant and gives this as an example of the arrogance of the pre-Reformation bishops, but the text of Arundel's order has survived and it is interesting as showing how a man in his position looked on the matter.

'Thomas by the permission of God, etc., to our well beloved Thomas Wilton, our somner sworn, health, grace, and blessing.

'The comeliness of our holy Church of Canterbury over which we bear rule, deserveth and requireth that while we pass through the province of the same our church, having our cross carried before us, every parish church in their times ought and are bounden in token of special reverence that they bear to us, to ring their bells, which notwithstanding, yea, on Tuesday last past, when we betwixt eight and nine of the clock before dinner passed openly on foot as it were through the midst of the City of London with our cross carried before us, divers churches whose names are here beneath noted, showed towards us willingly, though they certainly knew of our coming, unreverence rather than reverence and the duty that they owe to our Church of Canterbury, ringing not at all at our coming. Wherefore we, being very willing to revenge this injury for the honour of our spouse as we are bounden, command you by our authority to put all these churches under our indictment, suspending God's holy organs and instruments of the same, which we also suspend by the tenor of these presents till the ministers of the aforesaid churches be able hereafter to attain of us the benefit of more plentiful grace.'

There is, perhaps, more in this incident than appears on the surface. Arundel was not only Archbishop of Canterbury; he was one of the leading statesmen of the

reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV., and at times held the office of Chancellor. He was a leader of one of the two parties which were bitterly opposed to each other and had many enemies. Perhaps the refusal to ring for him had some political significance.

This incident was by no means unique. Hugh Latimer, in one of his sermons, said that he had heard of a bishop that went on a visitation and when the bishop should have been rung into the town the great bell's clapper was fallen down so that the bishop could not be rung into the town. 'There was a great matter made for this and the chief of the parish were much blamed for it. The bishop was somewhat quick with them and signified that he was much offended.'

The ringing of bells was a recognition of the authority and jurisdiction of the bishop, and this led to many disputes between diocesan bishops and abbeys which claimed exemption from episcopal control.

Such a dispute broke out between the Bishop of Worcester and the Prior of the Cathedral. The bishop claimed that when he made a formal visit to his Cathedral to hold an ordination or to discharge other of his episcopal functions, the bells should be rung in his honour. The prior and the convent refused to do so, apparently because they would not recognise that the bishop had any right to interfere in the arrangements and services of the church.

The matter was referred to the decision of Archbishop Arundel, who directed that when on certain specified occasions the bishop visited the cathedral 'the prior and the convent and their successors for the time being shall ring solemnly against his coming, without all contradiction or any reclaiming hereafter to be made against the same.'

St. Albans Abbey was the most important monastic establishment in England. The abbot was a peer of the realm and owed no allegiance to any bishop. But the Archbishop of Canterbury was the first man in the country after the king, and he claimed the right to be greeted with bell ringing wherever he went in his province.

When Archbishop Henry Chichele, who succeeded Arundel, passed by St. Albans and no bells were rung in his honour a nice point of precedence and etiquette was raised, which led to a long dispute.

The matter was settled by a compromise. The Abbot met the Archbishop and, after discussion, consented of grace and gentleness to pay him all reverence and honour when he passed by, so that it might not be prejudiced to the abbey's exemptions, and nothing was attempted to the violation of its privileges.

The Archbishop had claimed the ringing of bells as reverence due to him 'as well of common custom as of old use,' 'as also being due of everyone being within the compass of our province'; but though the Abbot consented to ring, it was stipulated that 'it might not be taken for duty hereafter.'

All these incidents took place in pre-Reformation days, but the ecclesiastical changes of the sixteenth century made no difference to these ringing customs. Not only the king and royal persons but the bishops also still expected as of right to have the bells rung when they visited any parish. In 1634 the parish of St. Christopher, Stocks, London, was fined 17/4 for not ringing when the bishop went by.

There are many entries in old parish accounts showing that fines were levied for not ringing for the visits of

royal personages, and consequently the large amount of ringing which was done when the king or queen passed by is no sign of loyalty. It is possible to trace practically every journey made by Queen Elizabeth to and from London by the entries in the parish accounts of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields recording the payments to the ringers.

When the bells were not rung an official would place seals on the doors of the offending church and they might not be opened until a fine was paid.

In 1548 the churchwardens of St. Margaret's, Westminster, paid to the 'kings amner when he would have sealed up the church doors at the departure of the King's Majesty, because the bells were not rung,' the sum of two shillings and sixpence.

Henry Machyn, a citizen of London, recorded in his diary, under the date 1563, that 'in the mornynge ther was sett on dyver churche dorres because that he [a harbinger of the queen] said that they dyd not ryng when that the quen went to Grenwyche and that they should not open the chyrche dors tyll that he had a nobell on every churche by the water syde from Tempull bare to the Towre, but he cold gett no thyng yett.'

It was the custom in many parishes to make the clerk responsible for the ringing and if any fine fell on the parish through neglect in the matter he had to bear it.

The last instance that I know of a parish being fined for not ringing when the king went by was at Twickenham in 1647 and the circumstances are rather remarkable. The Civil War was over. Charles I. had been defeated and handed over by the Scots to the English Parliament. He was now a prisoner at Hampton Court, but had obtained permission to visit his younger children

(Continued in next column.)

#### DEATH OF THE REV. C. L. KENNAWAY.

##### A FOUNDER OF THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Charles Lewis Kennaway, which took place at Spettisbury, Dorset, in his 93rd year. Mr. Kennaway was ordained in 1871 and for five years was curate at Canford Magna, Dorset. In 1876 he became Rector of Garboldisham, Norfolk, remaining there until 1914, when he returned to Dorset as Vicar of Tarrant Crawford. This he resigned in 1937, after 66 years of active work for the Church.

Mr. Kennaway was one of the founders of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and in 1903 took part in a 5,000 of Minor on his own bells at Garboldisham. In 1902 he was elected to succeed the late Rev. H. Earle Bulwer as hon. secretary and treasurer of the association, and remained in office until 1913.

Very shortly after election he realised the work involved was far too heavy to add to his many and varied interests in other spheres, but at the urgent desire of the committee he consented to remain the titular head of affairs, and the actual work was undertaken by Mr. Charles E. Borrett. Mr. Kennaway attended all gatherings of the association, and members will recall the urbane and genial atmosphere he radiated at such times—he was a great Christian gentleman and much beloved.

#### AMERICAN ENTHUSIASTS WANT HANDBELLS.

The students at Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A., who have formed a bell-ringers' society, are now anxious to obtain a secondhand set of handbells upon which to practise. Up to the present they have been using bells originally intended for sheep and cows. These they tuned and fitted with wire handles, but, writes Mr. R. W. Putney, the sexton, 'they leave much to be desired.' Any ringer in England who has an octave of handbells for disposal should write to Mr. Putney, whose address is Box 1367, Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the meantime, these American enthusiasts are studying 'Ropesight' and 'Grandsire,' which they have recently added to their ringing library, and they have also received copies of 'Church Bells of the Deanery of Bicester' and 'Church Bells of Berkshire,' kindly sent to them by Mr. Frederick Sharpe.

#### BELL RINGING IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

(Continued from previous column.)

at Syon Park, Isleworth. It was as a closely guarded prisoner that he passed Twickenham; nevertheless the parish was fined because they did not ring in his honour. A few months later he was beheaded outside the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

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## FUTURE USE OF CHURCH BELLS. POSSIBLE OFFICIAL ACTION.

At the moment of going to press we learn that the War Office and the Ministry of Home Security have under consideration the question of the future use of Church bells, and an important announcement may be made almost immediately.

The matter has arisen owing to the latest developments of the war situation, and ringers should watch carefully for official announcements and, of course, observe any instructions that are given.

Up to Tuesday evening no official action had been taken to vary the Noises Order, issued last October, which left the use of Church bells for their customary purposes outside the restrictions.

### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Pte. Kenneth Thacker, assistant hon. secretary of the North Staffordshire and District Association and one of its representatives on the Central Council, was among those safely evacuated from Dunkirk.

The meeting of the Macclesfield Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild, which was to have been held last Saturday at Gawsworth, was cancelled at short notice, owing to bereavement of the Rector (the Rev. A. T. S. Stephens), who was notified that his son had been killed in action.

Lieut. Donald Paddon Smith, elder son of Mr. A. Paddon Smith, vice-president of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, has been promoted captain in the Royal Engineers. Both he and his younger brother Norman are at the moment with the B.E.F. in France.

Mr. F. G. Cole extends his sincere thanks to all the ringing friends who wrote expressing their sympathy in his recent bereavement.

A correspondent recently asked how French words like Caters and Cinques came to be used in so English a thing as change ringing. According to the Oxford Dictionary, in the year 1708 the words Cinques, Quatres, Treys and Duces were used for the numbers on discs and cards.

On June 12th, 1815, the Birmingham men rang 5,040 changes of Grandsire Maximus at St. Martin's. It was the second ever rung and the first outside London. Grandsire on even numbers has been condemned by the Central Council and is not practised to-day, but it had a considerable amount of popularity at one time, especially in Birmingham, where a number of peals of Major, Royal and Maximus were rung.

The first peal of Stedman Caters on handbells was rung on June 14th, 1851, by a band of the College Youths, consisting of John Cox, G. E. Ferris, William Cooter, Matthew Wood and James Dwight, with Cox as conductor. The composition was afterwards found to be false and so the honour of ringing the first true peal in the method went to the Cumberlands, to which society Cox had reverted.

Mr. Albert Walker reminds us that the 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells was rung on May 31st, 1898, not in 1888, as recently stated in Belfry Gossip. 'I was the referee,' writes Mr. Walker, 'and a good peal it was.'

We thank Mr. W. T. Lack, of Great Staughton, for his suggestion. He will see that, by a coincidence, we had already planned to publish a series of articles for beginners, the first of which appears in this issue.

### RINGING IN ALDERSHOT COMMAND.

#### ARMY AUTHORITIES' ACTION.

Owing to an order received by the Vicar of Crondall from Army authorities the previous day that church bells in the Aldershot Command were to cease ringing, the meeting arranged for last Saturday by the Farnham District, Guildford Diocesan Guild, had to be cancelled. Notices were sent out immediately to all district towers and any who had notified their intention to be present, but the district secretary apologises to any ringers who may have visited Crondall and been disappointed. The 'cease ringing' order has not been confirmed and ringing is still taking place at most towers in the Aldershot Command.

### VISIT TO WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY.

Ten members from the All Saints', Isleworth, band, together with ringers and friends from Hersham Parish Church, visited the bell foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank at Whitechapel on Saturday, May 25th.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. A. Hughes, to whom thanks are offered, the visitors were able to see the magnificent peal of bells cast for the new Liverpool Cathedral. They heard the tone of several of them, including the tenor.

There were many other most interesting things to be seen, with years of history behind them, including a handbell lathe over 150 years old.



# LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL'S GREAT PEAL OF BELLS.

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST RING.

### Founders' Splendid Achievement.

The thirteen bells to be hung for ringing in Liverpool Cathedral have all now been cast and tuned, and constitute the greatest peal of bells in the world. The tower in which they will eventually find a home is nearing completion, but the present situation is likely to delay the finishing of the work, and the hoped-for hanging of the bells some time during this year is now, unfortunately, out of the question.

The bells, as our readers know, have been cast at the famous Whitechapel Foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, but soon they will be removed elsewhere. Where they are to be kept in security against possible damage by enemy action has not at the moment been finally settled, but they are a valuable possession, the security of which must obviously be specially safeguarded.

### IN THE FOUNDRY.

Nothing on so large a scale for a ring of bells has ever before been attempted, but the result is a triumph for the bell founder's art. Twelve bells stand on their crowns in one of the shops at the foundry, while the tenor is hung up on a temporary structure in one corner, 'out of the way,' for these bells, ranged round the floor, take up a vast amount of room, even when standing almost lip to lip.

A year ago last December the tenor was cast, and since then, one by one, the peal has been completed, until nearly seventeen tons of copper and tin have been run into their shapes. Now they stand, the finished product, unequalled in the world. And they really are a prodigious peal. The treble is bigger than many present-day tenors, while the tenor, of course, is something which looks altogether too big to be rung by man power. It is almost 5ft. high and has a diameter of 6ft. 4in.

This great bell weighs over 82 cwt., a ton more than the tenor of St. Paul's Cathedral, and half a ton more than Exeter, and is in note A flat. Some further idea of its immense size may be gained from the fact that while it will be well 'tucked-up' in the stock, its wheel will be over 9ft. in diameter.

The addition of a thirteenth bell, a sharp second, will provide a useful peal of eight, with a tenor of just under 25 cwt. in E flat.

In the long history of the Whitechapel Foundry there has been no finer ring of bells turned out in quality, any more than there has been in weight. In the foundry the effect when they are tapped round is not only pleasing and perfect, but, in their deep richness, the bells are solemnly impressive. The tones of the bells when struck individually are bright and pure, with no unpleasant waverings such as sometimes can be heard when critically listening to the hum of a bell. The result when they are rung from the Cathedral tower should be a crowning triumph for the founders. Apart from their tuning, the bells are fine examples of the founder's art, a group of excellent castings whose perfection can be seen right down to the finish of the lettering in the inscriptions, which stand out in clean cut beautifully designed Roman capitals.

The bells are being provided by a bequest of the late Mr. Thomas Bartlett, a Liverpool merchant, who died in 1912, and the gift is recorded on the tenor. The bells will be known as the 'Bartlett peal.'

### NOVEL BELL FRAME.

The great tower which surmounts the Cathedral is now a dominating feature of the city. It is not yet completed, but has risen considerably beyond the stage, 235ft. from the ground, where the bells are to be hung. The tower is being erected by the generosity of Lord Vestey and his brother, Sir Edmund Vestey, and some idea of its massive proportions may be gained from the fact that it will rise to a height of over 300ft. and its internal measurement is 73ft. square.

The bells are to be hung in an entirely novel 'frame.' To carry the great weight of swinging metal, of course, requires a structure of enormous strength, on account of the heavy horizontal and vertical forces that are exerted when the bells are rung. The design and construction of a suitable frame to carry the bells presented a problem partly on account of the unusual span of the tower and partly because of the location. Iron and steel were considered unsuitable, because of the effects of corrosion and the frequent painting which would be necessary. Timber was discarded because of the difficulty of obtaining the necessary large sections sufficiently seasoned. It was therefore decided to use reinforced concrete—an entirely new departure—and, because of the ample space available, to adopt a radial frame, in which each of the 13 bells swings to the centre. This not only successfully distributes the horizontal forces, but has the added advantage of enabling the ropes to fall plumb from the wheels to the ringing chamber below in a perfect circle of minimum diameter.

The reinforced concrete stanchions on which the bells will be carried will form part of one enormous unit extending across the high tower and built up from the floor of the ringing chamber. These stanchions are to be 7ft. in height, and will vary in thickness with the weight of the individual bells they have to carry, from 6in. for the trebles to 12in. for the tenors. They gain lateral support from 'tails,' which,

from the full height of the stanchion, run back 10ft. to nothing. Each, in fact, is a solid wedge carrying the thrust from the bearings to floor. To overcome the poor acoustic properties of concrete, which detract from the effect of the sound in the ringing room, the foundation of the frame is to be placed on insulating material, and the ringing space of the floor below is to be enclosed by wood partitions, making a spacious apartment, but one more convenient and comfortable for the ringers than would be the whole expanse of the great interior of the tower.

The height of the ringing chamber will be 21ft. Over this will be an intervening space of 10ft., while the height from the floor above to the top of the frame will be 7ft., so that the length of rope will be just under 40ft. In the space in the centre of the radial frame a bourdon bell, also the gift of Lord Vestey and his brother, is to be placed. It will be approximately 14½ tons in weight with a diameter of 9ft. 6in., and the note will be D flat.

Owing to circumstances which have arisen from the war, it will not actually be possible to cast the great Bourdon at Whitechapel as was originally intended. Instead, it is to be cast at Loughborough in the works of Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., another world-famous firm of bell founders, but it is satisfactory to note that Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the makers of the Bartlett peal, are to be associated with Messrs. Taylor in the work. It is hoped to cast the Bourdon this summer.

### DETAILS OF THE BELLS.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, we are able to give the following information concerning the Bartlett peal—

**TREBLE.**—Diameter 2ft. 9in., weight 9 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. Note E flat.

Inscription round the shoulder:

Thou art my God and I will Thank Thee  
Thou art my God and I will Praise Thee

In the waist:

The Senior Verger Joseph Henry Harrod named me  
**BEDE**

**SHARP SECOND.**—Diameter 2ft. 10in.; weight 9 cwt. 2 qr. 1 lb.; note D.

Shoulder inscription:

Every day will I give thanks unto Thee

In waist:

The Organist Walter Henry Goss Custard Mus.Bac. F.R.C.O.  
and the Choral Conductor Edgar Cyril Robinson Mus.Bac.  
F.R.C.O. named me

### DAVID

**SECOND.**—Diameter 2ft. 11in.; weight 9 cwt. 3 qr. 14 lb.; note D flat.

Shoulder:

Let the Heavens Rejoice and let the Earth be Glad

Waist:

The Clerk of the Works, Owen Pittaway, and the Foreman,  
William Benjamin Meredith, named me

### PAUL

**THIRD.**—Diameter 3ft.; weight 10 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.; note C.

Shoulder:

Thy way is in the sea and Thy paths in the great waters

Waist:

The Builders Dudley Morrison Norman Morrison William Lionel  
Wade and John Turton named me

### CHAD

**FOURTH.**—Diameter 3ft. 2in.; weight 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.; note B flat.

Shoulder:

Rejoice in the Lord O ye righteous

Waist:

The Architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott Knt. R.A. named me

### GILBERT

**FIFTH.**—Diameter 3ft. 4in.; weight 12 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.; note A flat.

Shoulder:

Ascribe unto the Lord Worship and Power

Waist:

The Secretaries to the Cathedral Committee Horace Milner  
Alderson Smith and Vere Egerton Cotton C.B.E. T.D. named me

### GUTHLAG

**SIXTH.**—Diameter 3ft. 6in.; weight 14 cwt. 0 qr. 2 lb.; note G.

Shoulder:

Be joyful all ye that are true of heart.

Waist:

The Treasurers of the Cathedral Committee Sir Charles Henry  
Morton Knt. and Harold Carleton Walker named me

### MICHAEL

**SEVENTH.**—Diameter 3ft. 10in.; weight 18 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.; note F.

Shoulder:

Sing we merrily unto God our strength

Waist:

The Vice-Chairman of the Cathedral Executive Committee  
Henry Sutton Timmis named me

### NICHOLAS

(Continued on next page.)

## NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT MEETINGS.

### A SUGGESTED REMEDY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I call the attention of your correspondent, R.S.V.P., and other members of the Notts District of the M.C.A. who are interested, to the joint meeting to be held at Sawley on June 22nd (as advertised in this issue).

This tower is actually in the Nottingham District, and no doubt much assistance could be given if only the members who are interested would attend.

It would be an opportunity for them to arrange another meeting, at which the present difficulty could be straightened out, for I feel certain that if a new secretary was elected who was keen and who had the time available to do the work required, the district would again pull its weight in the association.

I do not wish to reflect on what has been done in the past by Mr. Gobey, for I quite realise the amount of work required to run a district of this size.

A. E. ROWLEY.

### THANKS TO MR. GOBEY.

Sir,—I seldom answer anyone who uses a non-de-plume, considering that more often than not they have not the conviction of their criticisms.

With regard to Notts District, I may say the local secretary has thought well to resign owing to now being engaged on work that forbids Saturday afternoons' freedom. All books, registers, etc., are now with me at St. Margaret's, Leicester, and if R.S.V.P. (whoever he may be) is willing to fulfil those duties he accuses the late secretary of neglecting, now is the opportune moment. If he will write to me, I promise to bring his name forward to the local committee and am quite sure his promised energies will be welcomed and esteemed.

May I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Gobey for his good work over many years both as secretary and as conductor of many fine peal performances. In the latter I often had the good fortune to join, and no critics can beat us in our Spliced Treble; Bob peals, however much they try, whether in length or as to striking. The General Committee of the M.C.A. join me in these thanks.

ERNEST MORRIS, Gen. Hon. Sec., M.C.A.

**LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL BELLS**—Cont. from previous page.  
EIGHTH.—Diameter 4ft. 3in.; weight 24 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb.; note E flat.  
Shoulder:

All Thy works praise Thee O Lord

Waist:

The Chairman of the Cathedral Executive Committee Alan Cecil Tod O.B.E. D.L. T.D. named me

MARTIN

NINTH.—Diameter 4ft. 9in.; weight 34 cwt. 0 qr. 11 lb.; note D flat.  
Shoulder:

My Praise is of Thee in the great Congregation

Waist:

The Vice President of the Cathedral Committee Sir Frederick Norton Radcliffe K.C.V.O. LL.D. named me

PETER

TENTH.—Diameter 5ft.; weight 39 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.; note C.  
Shoulder:

O come let us sing unto the Lord

Waist:

The President of the Cathedral Committee Edward George Villiers 17th Earl of Derby K.G. G.C.B. G.C.V.O. C.B. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster and Chancellor of Liverpool University named me

OSWALD

ELEVENTH.—Diameter 5ft. 7in.; weight 55 cwt. 0 qr. 1 lb.; note B flat.  
Shoulder:

Hear my prayer O Lord and let my crying come unto Thee

Waist:

The Very Rev The Dean of Liverpool Frederick William Dwelly M.A. D.D. and the Residentiary Canons The Rev James Stanley Bezzant M.A. B.D. Chancellor The Rev Thomas Arthur Edward Davey M.A. Treasurer The Rt Rev Herbert Gresford Jones M.A. D.D. Bishop of Warrington and the Rev John Thomas Mitchell M.A. B.D. named me

JAMES

TENOR.—Diameter 6ft. 4in.; weight 82 cwt. 0 qr. 11 lb.; note A flat.  
Round the shoulder:

THOU ART THE KING OF GLORY O CHRIST

In the waist on one side:

THOMAS BARTLETT

WHO DIED 4TH SEPT 1912 BY HIS WILL  
LEFT MONEY TO PROVIDE THIS RING OF  
THIRTEEN BELLS WHICH WERE CAST BY  
MEARS & STAINBANK AT WHITECHAPEL  
1938 & 1939

On the other side:

THE LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL  
THE RT REV ALBERT AUGUSTUS DAVID D.D.  
NAMED ME  
EMMANUEL

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

### BRANCH SECRETARY'S LONG SERVICE.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on June 1st, when, despite all the inconveniences the war has brought upon ringers, the attendance was very satisfactory. About 45 members attended from Bradwell, Chicheley, Buckingham, Drayton Parslow, Newport Pagnell, Stoke Goldington and Newton Longville, with visitors from the Peterborough Guild and the Bedford Association.

Ringling took place both before and after the service, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. L. Milne). Tea was served in the Schoolroom, followed by the business meeting, at which the Rev. J. Taylor, chairman of the branch, presided. The secretary (Mr. W. Sear) presented his report on the financial position of the branch, which showed £16 9s. 8d. in hand and £10 invested, making a total of £26 9s. 8d., which was considered very satisfactory.

The Rev. J. P. Taylor was again elected chairman of the branch. Mr. W. Sear asked the meeting to accept his resignation as secretary. They all knew he had intended to resign at the last annual meeting, but by the wish of the members he agreed to carry on for another year, which completed his 25 years in office. Now the time had come for them to accept his resignation, not because he had lost interest, but because he could not devote the necessary time. If he might have the privilege and pleasure, he would propose Mr. R. Howson, of Newport Pagnell, as secretary, as he felt sure that they would have in him a man who would carry on the duties quite as well as the speaker had done. He knew that he was keenly interested, and if only the members would give him their support in the future, as they had always done in the past, the branch would continue to flourish.

The proposition was carried.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert made a special effort to attend, but could not stay to the meeting owing to the train service being very late, but before leaving he addressed the meeting in his usual manner and asked for loyalty to be maintained and for members to attend the annual festival at Oxford.

Votes of thanks to the preacher and the ladies for providing tea concluded the meeting.

## BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### A WARM WELCOME AT SOUTH KIRKBY.

At the June meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at South Kirkby, on Saturday, 14 members were present from Badsworth, Burgwallis, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Wath and the local company. Ringing did not begin until about 3.15 p.m., due no doubt to the fact that everyone was working at top pressure.

At half-past five the ringers were entertained to tea in the Church Rooms as the guests of the parish, and at the business meeting which followed, the Vicar (the Rev. L. Sibellas) took the chair. The usual routine business was soon disposed of, and as the society's contest is to be held in July, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath on Saturday, August 10th.

The secretary thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome and hospitality given. It was a great encouragement, as it was the first time the society had had the pleasure of meeting the Vicar.—The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to welcome the ringers and assured them that they would be welcome at any time. He said he was very interested in bells and hoped some day to add two more in the tower to complete the octave.

Touples of Minor and Triples were rung on the handbells, and it was very pleasing to see Mr. A. Panther, of Wath, take part, as it was the first meeting he had been able to attend since his operation.

Further ringing followed on the tower bells until half-past eight, the methods rung being Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, and Plain and Treble Bob Minor.

The Vicar and his curate spent some time in the tower before and after tea, and showed a keen interest in the ringing. Both have begun to learn how to handle a bell.

## YOUNG RINGERS IN SUSSEX.

### JOINT MEETING AT ROTHERFIELD.

A joint meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Rotherfield on Saturday last, when upwards of 30 members attended. Some very good ringing was heard during the afternoon and evening, and a very pleasing feature was the number of young members who came to ring rounds.

At 6.30 a service was held, at which the Rector (the Rev. H. E. Collins) welcomed the ringers and gave an excellent address. A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to 11s. 2d. A short business meeting was held in the tower, with Mr. F. H. Dallaway in the chair. A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. H. Stalham and carried.

The bells were kept going till after 8 o'clock, the ringing ranging from rounds to Surprise.

## DEATH OF AN OLD LANCASHIRE RINGER.

On June 5th, Samuel Holt, an old member of the Lancashire Association, was laid to rest in Middleton Churchyard. He had joined the association in 1897 and rang 71 peals. At the funeral ringers attended from Oldham, Milnrow, Ashton, Manchester Cathedral and Middleton. Handbells were rung over the grave and the tower bells afterwards to Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples.

**BEN HOBBS.****FAREWELL TO A GOOD COMPANION.**

A short paragraph in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' chronicled the death of Benjamin Hobbs, of Eastbourne. His passing has broken another of the living links with the foundation of the Sussex Association; has made another gap among the friends of my youth. I feel I cannot let him pass on without paying my tribute to one of the stoutest hearts, the sturdiest souls, the kindest hands that ever entered a belfry.

Ben Hobbs was not a great ringer as some people judge great ringers. He was just one of that big and happy company that we call average ringers, caring nothing for high-falutin' methods, content to be just a good ringer of Grandsire and Stedman, of Plain Bob and Treble Bob, modest, reliable—and always a good friend.

The passing of Ben Hobbs recalls a chapter in my ringing career which is full of happy memories. His home was at Waldron, a village in the heart of rural Sussex, and when I first came to know him he lived with his parents and other members of his family in a little wayside cottage a mile and a half, maybe, from the church. Waldron soon after became frequently a Mecca for one or two of us. Fourteen miles we would cycle on a Saturday afternoon over roads built of chalk and Sussex flint. Those were the days before motor-cars or tarred roads, before even pneumatic tyres were in general use on bicycles. It was sometimes heavy going—but always worth it.

We visitors helped to make up the band for peal attempts—always Grandsire and always a failure. The fact was that not one of us knew anything about conducting, the first serious trip was fatal. On some occasions we would ring quite a long time; on most others not so long; but failure never damped our ambition or our enthusiasm, and for us Waldron was always Waldron. The reason for our non-success on one occasion, I remember, was puzzling. The conductor, who was trying to call Parker's Twelve-Part, to make sure he would not forget it, put the calling on a slip of paper which he pinned on the wall—and he constantly referred to it. We tried several times that evening, but were always wrong at what should have been the part-end—the 'landing place' the conductor was able to recognise. We couldn't hold an inquest, because we were all equal in our ignorance, but the next time we met the conductor blandly remarked that he had found the cause of the failure. He had omitted to put down on his paper the last call in the part.

But things like that didn't upset us. It was only another excuse to come again to Waldron, and there was always The Star to welcome us and where we could 'celebrate' our failure. And after The Star, the homes of the ringers to give us that prodigal hospitality which can be found among the villagers in the heart of England. It was to Ben Hobbs' home that I most often went—down those lonely lanes in the stygian darkness of the night, when the eyes of the townsman were useless, but which Ben and his like could traverse with the same sureness as in the broad daylight. We usually went in when everyone else was abed—I rose in the morning when everyone was astir; not late as things go, but what time Ben's mother had already completed her cooking preparations for Sunday's dinner. The pudding was already on and boiling, and there never were such beef steak puddings and luscious cherry tarts as she used to make.

In season, Ben would lead us on cherry or nutting expeditions, and we learned where apples grew, while at Christmas time we joined some of the happy families in their festivities. One Boxing night I well remember we went to Bert Read's house—Bert, by the way, was the local conductor and later married Ben's sister—and we indulged freely in home-made elderberry wine, made more potent by being 'mulled' because the night was cold. On that occasion we had travelled by train, but the station is two and a half miles away from Waldron at the best of times. That night it was a lot further. Not because we had had too much elderberry wine, but because, although we thought we could see the solitary oil lamp of the station in the distance, we did not seem to get any nearer. Some time later we discovered that the light was carried by a countryman finding his way home by the aid of his lantern.

Many amusing experiences befell us at Waldron, and I hope I may not be considered frivolous in writing thus when paying tribute to an old friend, for, could he read this, I am sure he would enjoy recalling some of the events in which he shared in those now distant years, events which made life a lot happier and more carefree than the experiences of to-day.

Ben Hobbs moved to Eastbourne and there later, while I lived in the same town, I met him almost weekly. We rang many peals together, principally of Grandsire and Plain Bob, and, in whatever it was, Ben always pulled his weight, in the best sense of the term. Afterwards our ways parted, and I saw little of him, and as the years passed business claimed more of his attention, for he went into the building trade on his own account—a highly creditable advance from a farm lad such as he was when he first started out in life. But his interest in ringing went on undiminished, and it was only ill-health at the close that kept him out of the belfry.

Nearly the last time I met him was in 1933, when he responded, wholeheartedly as ever, to an invitation to take part in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of my first peal, the band being made up (with one exception) of those with whom I had rung a peal in my first peal ringing year. It recalled the first peal which Ben and I had rung together in July, 1893—a bachelors' peal. Of that com-

(Continued in next column.)

**THE HALESWORTH COMPANY.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The claim made for the Halesworth company was that it is one of the earliest ringing societies in England, and that it celebrated its 400th anniversary last year.

Mr. Drake amplified and embellished this claim with the statement that in the forties of the last century the Charity Commissioners recognised the interest of the ringers in land which is now merged in other charity lands, but which had originally been left as an endowment for the ringers. 'Their words can be read in their report by anyone who has access to a good library,' wrote Mr. Drake. For 200 years the ringers have partaken every year of the 'bred and drynke' left by William Walpole in 1539, and there is a tradition that if they did not the legacy would be lost.

I have had an opportunity of consulting three or four authorities on the Halesworth charities, including a Government blue book published about 100 years ago, which gives a full list of all the charities existing at the time in the county of Suffolk (it mentions the Lavenham endowment for bell ropes).

From these authorities it is quite certain that there is no charity of any sort in Halesworth dating from the early 16th century and no endowment of ringers or ringing.

The clause in William Walpole's will definitely provides for the expenses of his funeral, consisting of money to be paid to the priests, clerks and ringers who took part in the ceremony, as well as for the alms which it was customary on such occasions to bestow on the poor. It does not provide for any endowment of future ringing.

The sum provided was 26s. 8d., which was roughly the amount that a skilled artisan could earn in a month (bell ropes without salices cost 2d. a pound). When the priests and the clerks had had their share, and alms had been distributed to the poor, it is impossible that enough money was left to buy land to provide an endowment for future ringers.

In the interests of historical truth, the claim that 'Halesworth possesses the oldest known body of ringers' cannot be allowed.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

**NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT CHEDDLETON.**

On June 1st in beautiful weather a meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Cheddleton, when the following towers were represented: Stoke, Longton, Hanley, Kingsley, Leek, Norton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cheadle and Brown Edge.

A short service was held in the church, and at the tea which followed, the Vicar (the Rev. W. G. Burgess) gave the ringers a hearty welcome. He said it was a great gain to his ringers to be members of the association, for they were going forward with their ringing and teaching beginners to follow in their footsteps. In these dark days he thought that the association was doing the right thing by holding meetings, for many people are brooding and ringing was bound to cheer them up.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the welcome he had given was proposed by Mr. W. Corfield, of Norton, and seconded by Mr. A. W. Hall, of Cheadle.

Mr. J. E. Wheeldon, of Norton, proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had so well attended to the needs of the tables.

The following methods were rung in the afternoon and evening: Oxford Minor, Kent Minor, Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge Surprise Minor and London Surprise Minor, as well as rounds for the young ringers.

**EIGHTEEN HOURS' EXCURSION.**

On Saturday, May 25th, the Thorington and district ringers visited the Saffron Walden area for their annual outing, calling at Manuden, Clavering, Chrishall, Elmdon (Ickleton, in Cambridge), Little Bury, Wendons Ambo and Newport. Dinner was partaken of at Ickleton and tea at Saffron Walden. The programme was arranged by the conductor of the company (Mr. Alan R. Andrews), with the help of Mr. L. Wright, hon. district secretary of the N.E. Division of the Essex Association, and the arrangements went off very well, to the great satisfaction of all. Amongst the company was the well-known Essex veteran from Great Bentley, Mr. W. J. Novard, who, despite his painful illness last winter, was in great fettle, and often had to lead the younger ones along to ensure punctuality.

Eighteen hours were spent on the excursion, which covered 160 odd miles. During the day the following methods were rung: London, Cambridge, Ipswich, York, Durham and Norwich Surprise, Oxford, Kent, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure and Burnaby Delight, Treble Bob, Court, Double Court, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob and Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Doubles.

**A FAREWELL.**

(Continued from previous column.)

pany, Bert Rann, young Jack Jay, Dick Hoather, Bob Dawe, Ted Merritt and now Ben Hobbs (all well remembered names in Sussex) have gone. Only Alf Turner, who shared in those glorious visits to Waldron, remains, and I am sure that he will join with me in this farewell to one of the last of our good companions of those early years.

J. S. G.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—Next meeting will be at Clay Cross (6 bells) on June 15th. Short service 5 p.m. Please arrange for own eatables. Cups of tea will be provided.—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—In view of the present situation the meeting at Rettendon on June 15th has been postponed.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A combined meeting with the Sheffield and District Society, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 15th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be served at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m. Charge, 1s. 6d. per head. Business meeting in the Church House immediately after tea. All ringers cordially invited.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Newdigate on Saturday, June 15th. Service at 4.30, tea afterwards.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at All Saints', Ilkley, on Sat., June 15th. Bells (8, tenor 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  cwt.) available from 1 o'clock. Addingham bells (6) available all evening. Service at 4.30. Tea at Blue Bird Cafe 5 o'clock (1s. 9d.). Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting on Saturday, June 15th, at St. Mary's, Woolwich. Ringing from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m.—C. M. Meyer, Acting Southern District Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hagley (D.V.) on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m., service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and ringing until dusk.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Stretford, on Saturday, June 15th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Dorset Branch.—The meeting arranged to take place at Motcombe, on the 15th inst., has been cancelled.—Wm. Uphill, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Owing to the joint meeting at Lawley being postponed to June 22nd, the next district meeting will be at Ibstock on Saturday, June 15th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. All members and friends cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Business meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, June 18th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at Bexley, Kent, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea (1s. 4d. per head) and business meeting at 5.15. Will all those who require tea, please notify Mr. H. A. Holden, Church Institute, Bexley, Kent, not later than Monday, June 17th?—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at All Saints', Pontefract, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. per head, in All Saints' Church House at 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. W. Peaker, Wesley House, 53, Northgate, Pontefract, by first post, Thursday, June 20th? Business meeting after tea. All welcome.—H. S. Borley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Stone, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Hodson, 43, Church Street, Stone, Staffs, not later than Monday, owing to catering being difficult?—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—North Midland District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter-at-Gowts, Lincoln, on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (6) will be available from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.45. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but will anyone hoping to attend please let me know in case of cancellation?—A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City and District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Garsington (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4 p.m.—Tea 4.45 p.m. Tea can only be provided for those who send in their names to the district secretary by June 19th.—Miss M. R. Cross, Hon. Sec., The School House, Radley, Abingdon, Berks.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Braunston (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Usual arrangements. No sugar provided. Kindly notify me for tea by Wednesday, June 19th.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.



**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton, Derby, Loughborough and Notts Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Sawley (near Long Eaton) on Saturday, June 22nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Short service 4.30. Tea 1s. each for those who notify Mr. C. Hutchinson, 3, Wilmot Street, New Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts (others make own arrangements), at 5 p.m. All members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, W. Lancaster and A. E. Rowley, Joint Secs.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Ratby and Groby). Bells (8) available during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, June 29th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and ringing. Numbers for tea by Tuesday, June 25th.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, June 29th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual shield six-bell contest will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, July 13th. Open to all. Entrance fee 6s. per band. All entries must reach me not later than June 29th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

#### BIRTH.

**CROOK.**—On June 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Crook, jun., 23, Rawlyn Road, Bolton, Lancs, a son.

#### APARTMENTS.

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**BRIGHTWELL, BERKSHIRE.**—On June 6th, 1940 changes of Doubles, consisting of 240 each of April Day, St. Simon's, Oxford Singles and St. Nicholas', 360 each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob and 280 of Grandsire: F. C. Castell 1, E. V. Naish 2, J. R. Pease 3, O. G. Barnard (conductor) 4, C. J. Castell 5, F. Brooker 6. Arranged as a compliment to the Very Rev. W. R. Inge, K.C.V.O., late Dean of St. Paul's, who is living in retirement in the parish, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

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## COUNTY BELL HISTORIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—One reads with interest and pleasure of what has been and is being done in this side of our art. It is, of course, quite distinct from mere ringing, but ringers would do well and would profit immensely if they would only interest themselves in the subject.

To write up a complete county history is a tremendous task, and I congratulate the writers mentioned in your recent announcements. Much more needs to be done, for there are many counties and dioceses not yet touched, and many others where bell histories already published are now quite out of date.

In the latter instance the late Thomas North's 'Church Bells of Leicestershire'—although an elaborate and fine work—is quite out of date and full of inaccuracies. This man was a cripple who had to rely on other folk for transcriptions and copies of bell inscriptions and legends, marks, stops, etc.; consequently, while the bulk are more or less correct, many are hopelessly wrong.

I have always been interested in this side of our art, and many years ago set about revising and correcting North's 'Leicestershire' up to date. I have personally visited the majority of the towers and have (in MS.) a complete history and inscription of every church bell in Leicester Diocese, right up to date. Some years ago I approached the local Archaeological Society with a view to printing this, but while congratulating me on what they termed 'a colossal work of immense value,' they were unable to undertake publication owing to cost, especially of reproducing the many kinds of stops, crosses, marks and types of lettering which I give. I did, however, give a lecture before the society on the subject. My work covers four large volumes of MS., but it is doubtful if and when it may be published.

While engaged on this work, I formed the desire and ambition to ring a peal of 5,000 changes and over at every church in Leicestershire with five bells and over. Up to the moment I have succeeded in attaining this in 121 towers in the Leicester Diocese, all of which—save one—are in the county. There are only four or five towers now left to conquer and a similar number where the bells are unringable.

ERNEST MORRIS.

## GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### SWINDON BRANCH MEMBERS' APATHY.

On Saturday last a meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Bishopstone, which was poorly attended by members, but a good number of visitors were present from the Oxford and Salisbury Guilds and one visitor from Bath.

The ring of eight bells was available during the afternoon and evening, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold meetings at Brinkworth, Blunsdon and South Marston in July, August and September respectively (D.V.). The Swindon Branch is one of the few which carry on monthly meetings, and the majority of the members show their appreciation by stopping away and leaving everything to the faithful few to carry on.

The secretary writes that he does not arrange towers and teas for his own especial benefit, and it is hoped that this will catch the eye of those members who say, 'Oh, there'll be enough without me.' They should keep open the second Saturday in each month!

## 'THE COLLEGE YOUTHS'

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'This is one of the very few books I have read which seem to me might, with advantage, have been considerably longer.'—*The Dean of St. Paul's*.

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## EFFECT OF BAN ON CHURCH BELLS

Last week we warned our readers that important official action in connection with the ringing of church bells was under consideration by the Army authorities and the Ministry of Home Security. On the day that this information appeared, an Order in Council was made prohibiting entirely the ringing of church bells, except by the military or police, as a notification of the landing of enemy troops by air. The Order has been made and, until the ban is lifted, it has got to be observed, but it will have incalculable effects upon the Exercise and upon the art. For the first time for more than a thousand years no church bell will sound on Sundays in all the land. That in itself is a thing to distress the soul of all who think upon it; who remember all that the church bells have meant to the people of this country through so many centuries. In town and in village the bells have been from time immemorial accepted as part of the life of the people, marking their joys and their sorrows, collectively and individually, but, more than all, in their appeal on Sundays, an invitation and a reminder.

War calls for the sacrifice of much that we cherish, and now the ringing of the church bells on Sunday has to go with the rest. The action that has been taken cannot be questioned; the object of it has been stated by the Ministry of Home Security. There are, however, one or two things about the decision which might well be further explained. For instance, what is the public to do when a bell is rung to notify the landing of enemy troops? We have not yet been told. Is everybody to stay indoors, as when an air-raid warning is sounded? Whatever its purpose, can such a warning be given in time to be of use, and is a church bell, heard, especially when chimed, only within a limited radius, an effective means of sounding the alarm? The ringing of a bell is a job which requires experience, and unless some proper arrangements are in operation everywhere, there are likely to be accidents, broken clock hammers and cracked bells. It is easy to say 'ring the bells when raiders land,' but the carrying out of the order is not so simple as it sounds. To make the best of this means of public warning it would seem desirable that in connection with every tower ringers should be incorporated as members of the Civil Defence Corps and used for the purpose of sounding the alarm. Present members of the corps, unless they are ringers, cannot be taught because there is now no opportunity of doing so—the ban on the sounding of bells prevents it. These and other points naturally occur to those who understand the technicalities of bell ringing, but we are sure there are thousands among

(Continued on page 290.)

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## WHAT RINGERS CAN DO.

(Continued from previous page.)

the ringers of England who are ready to be helpful if the authorities will enlist that help.

But the ban on bells is a stunning blow to ringing, from which, even when the war is over, it will take a long time to recover unless the ringers themselves, here and now, resolve on maintaining their organisations, both local and territorial. The danger is that ringers, always, in the mass, inclined to be apathetic, will just let their interest fade out, without any attempt to meet the trouble by utilising such opportunities as already exist or can be improvised. Because the church bells cannot be rung, it does not mean that the art must die in every tower. The chief source of interest and attraction may be silenced, but there remain other things that may be done. Many new hands will be required when the bells once more are permitted to ring out; they can still be trained in the way to handle a rope and ring by practice with fixed clappers. It isn't much fun, perhaps, to the experienced ringer to pull the ropes and get no sound from the bells above; but it can be a help to the beginner to master ropesight, which is the foundation of change ringing. And then there are the handbells, far too much neglected both in the teaching of beginners and certainly by ringers generally who, if they only realised it, would find handbell ringing a most fascinating hobby. The experienced ringer on tower bells will discover, if he has not already done so, that change ringing on handbells opens up an entirely new field of interest and activity, and an evening's practice will provide not only a pleasant recreation but a refreshing antidote to the cares of the day. There is no time for thinking of things gloomy or otherwise when trying to pilot a pair of bells in any method, and we do urge ringers, now that church bells are under a ban, to direct their energies to change ringing on handbells in order both to retain their interest in the art and to preserve it for happier times.

This risk of loss of individual interest in ringing is also a serious threat to the various associations and guilds throughout the country, and immediate effort should be made to find schemes that will help to maintain the life of these organisations. If committees and officials merely sit down, fold their hands and resign themselves to the virtual extinction of their societies, they will be doing the greatest disservice to the art and the Exercise. They should make plans to give their towers all possible support in maintaining the life of the local bands, and even meetings on a small scale need not be entirely abandoned, if the associations will encourage the teaching of handbell ringing and endeavour to keep alive the social contacts which is one of the chief aims of district meetings. During past months the Ancient Society of College Youths have set an example in this matter. When ringing was not possible in their customary towers, they continued to hold their periodical meetings at headquarters, and while, naturally, they did not attract such large gatherings as when there were church bells to be rung, they found quite a reasonable amount of support. Other associations could do likewise, especially if the arrangements were planned for smaller groups of towers than the average association district. Combined practices on handbells and social intercourse would do a great deal to keep alive the spirit and objects of the associations.

(Continued on next page.)



**SIX BELL PEAL.**

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.  
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, June 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels,  
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*R. W. COLLIS ... .. Treble	FRANK T. LONG ... .. 4
J. EDWARD CLOUGH ... .. 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... .. 5
†FREDERICK WATSON ... .. 3	FRANK K. MEASURES ... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK K. MEASURES.

\* First peal of Bob Minor. † First peal of Bob Minor 'inside.'

**LADIES' GUILD.****NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.**

A goodly number of ringers attended the annual meeting of the Northern District Ladies' Guild at Cross Stones, Todmorden, on Saturday week. Early comers set the bells going just before 3 p.m., and, as more ringers arrived, a variety of methods was enjoyed.

At 5 p.m. a very thirsty company set off for tea in the Schoolroom. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the ladies (and men) for providing such a good tea, especially as everything had had to be carried up a terrific hill to the church.

At the meeting two new members from the Leeds district were elected to the Guild.

All the officers of the district were re-elected, and Queensbury, near Bradford, was chosen for the next annual meeting.

The statement of accounts was read and passed. A report on the district showed that all the meetings for the year had been held and well attended, and that the financial position remained satisfactory.

It was, however, regretted that the increase in postage may have a serious effect on the finances next year, and members are asked to 'do their bit' to help by remembering to send their subscriptions on June 1st each year.

A vote of thanks to the Lancashire Association for their support and to the Rev. H. W. Hodgson for the use of the bells brought the meeting to a close.

Handbells were rung outside the church for part of the evening, and when the temperature had cooled down a few enthusiasts returned to the belfry for a brief ring, which concluded a most enjoyable meeting.

**BEXLEY RINGERS' LOSS.**

By the death of Mrs. M. Taylor, the ringers of St. Mary's, Bexley, Kent, have lost a devoted and generous friend. At all times she was ready to help in any way. Mrs. Taylor, from the time the bells were restored in 1938, took a deep interest in all the activities of the ringers and was delighted to take part in their outing or meetings.

Cremation took place at Golders Green on Saturday, June 8th, and the ashes were interred in St. Mary's Churchyard on Wednesday, the 13th. In the evening a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung half-muffled, those taking part being H. E. Audsley (conductor) 1, Alan Hall 2, J. Wheadon 3, A. Williams 4, H. A. Holden 5, E. H. Oxenham 6, H. Hoverd 7, F. Mitchell 8.

**WHAT RINGERS CAN DO.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Another question which probably a good many of our readers will ask is, 'What of "The Ringing World"?' This curtailment of ringing must of necessity have a serious effect upon the paper, and much depends upon developments in the near future. We feel that now, more than ever, the Exercise needs a journal to enable ringers everywhere to keep in touch, and to knit it together when the time comes for a restoration of church bell ringing. This, however, can only be done with the utmost support which all our readers can give us and the contributions of those who are able to supply matter for our columns, the contents of which will almost certainly have to be remodelled. If our friends will help us in this direction, each feeling that on him depends the future issues of this journal, no effort on our part will be spared to continue a work which we consider to be more essential now than ever. May we ask our readers in this connection to adapt the slogan given in another connection, 'It all depends on me,' realising that we shall need their support to maintain our circulation and their contributions to maintain the interest in our columns?

**FALSE COURSE ENDS AND THE SURPRISE BOOK.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought that Mr. Trollope would be gratified by my letter of May 31st, but it is a pity he thought it necessary to add that arrogant little bit of ambiguity about 'insufficient knowledge.' It can mean two things, perhaps purposely, both derogatory—but both unwisely emphasised.

Where it is read to mean insufficient information as to what the book contains, naturally so, where one has not read the book. But the matter would appear to be obscure to some who have. In 1935 Mr. W. G. Wilson is supposed to have been so honoured, and, of it, he wrote to the effect that the total explanation was less than one-third of a column. In 1940, after nearly four columns of explanations with more to follow, Mr. Trollope says they are 'some of those' in the book! These gentlemen may not be expected to refute what the other has written, but if both statements are true, Mr. Trollope is capable of pouring a quart into a pint pot—truly a worker of miracles.

Where it is intended to imply lack of knowledge on the subject, it is most unfortunate that the article of June 7th (presumably still some of the book) should contain those arguments, and even the formula shown in another way, which were published by me, on pages 164 and 165 of 'The Ringing World' of March 15th, 1929. How peculiar to think that a complete table of these 'related' course-ends should have been posted, amongst others, to the Rev. H. Law James and Mr. Trollope—both then members of the Methods Committee, and closely in touch. Of course, Mr. Trollope will have known of them for the 20 years that he has been familiar with half-lead proof. But the Rev. H. L. James took the trouble to write and tell me that the production of these course-ends was 'impossible from the half-lead alone.' Mr. G. Baker disassociated himself with the suggestion, and told me that he would not be convinced that the transposition of 24365 had anything to do with it. Others laughed at it. But, in 1940, I see for the first time these arguments, together with my pet formula in the form that Mr. A. G. Driver preferred it, coming from the draft of a book which, I believe, is copyrighted by Messrs. Trollope and Turner. What was it Mr. Wilson said—'not a very good advertisement'?

Moreover, it is disgusting to think that the subject can be so messed about. First we are told to write out 112 rows; then not to trouble. That falsity depends 'solely' on 1.7.8 in like positions; then contradiction of the 'solely.' That there is not enough space to treat of certain aspects most useful to the student, but to waste seven lines of explanation as to why we need not include the treble when writing out the rows, and so on.

Well—to the dickens with the book. I have said my say, and have endeavoured to imply all that I think. I have repeatedly written that I consider it a cheek to ask the Council to back, financially, the publication of a 'private' book. To beg associations to guarantee it is worse. But to copyright previously published ideas—!

GEORGE L. JOYCE.

Hornchurch.

**LADIES IN THE BELFRY.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Worboys has surely chosen an unfortunate time for raising this question again, if only in view of the need for economy in paper.

Ladies in the belfry are not an innovation (see my letter of November 13th, 1934). Many hands have included them for years, Clent being no exception, and even were it desirable to exclude them, Mr. Worboys is far too late with his campaign. Ladies are in the Exercise to stay, and more strength to their arms.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

**THE VIEWS OF A HE MAN.**

Dear Sir,—It's all very well you and the other people talking like you do about what good ladies have done and are doing in the belfry, but you know as well as I do, perhaps better, that we really don't want them if we can do without them. Speaking generally, women are a nuisance except in their proper place and doing their proper jobs, which are, I say, to cook dinners, mend clothes, wash floors and such like things. The truth is women have these last years got out of their proper place and they want putting back in it. When I was a young man people used to quote a wise old saying, which ran something like this:—

'A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree,  
The more you beat them the better they be.'

Your correspondents think they will be short of men ringers and dare not say 'No' to the women. It is only pusillanimity on their part. (P.S.—Don't you be afraid. I looked that word up in the dictionary and it's spelt quite all right.)

What I say is more power to Mr. Worboys. I hope he treats his wife and womenfolk in the proper way. I am a brave man, but I think I had better sign myself,

'NEMO.'

LEYTON.—At St. Mary's Parish Church on Sunday, June 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 43 minutes: A. Prior 1, F. W. Housden 2, Mrs. F. W. Housden 3, E. Holman 4, C. A. Hughes 5, G. Dawson 6, E. D. Smith (conductor) 7, A. W. C. Ball 8. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar of Leyton, the Rev. R. Bren, M.A., who is leaving the parish for Wallington, Surrey.

## FOR BEGINNERS.

### HOW CHANGES ARE PRODUCED.

Although an official ban has just been placed on the ringing of church bells, except for the purpose of alarm, there is no reason why the beginner should not, even with the limitations that must now beset him, continue with his practice in order to learn to master his bell. In any event, at the earliest stage of his career he should not be allowed to ring his bell 'open.' It is not until he has thoroughly mastered the handling of it that he should in any case take part in open ringing. Until he has reached a stage at which he can control his bell with competence and ease, and 'set' it at will, his practice should be limited to the use of a bell with its clapper 'lashed,' that is, tied in the centre so that it does not strike against the bell. For the present, of course, only that kind of church bell practice will be possible, but the beginner, if he will pursue it, will improve himself and become efficient in preparation for the time when open ringing can once more take place.

(Concerning this a word of warning is under present circumstances very essential. To avoid the risk of the lashing chafing through and thus giving a false alarm, it is important that a piece of leather or other stout material should be put between the lashing and the edge of the lip of the bell.)

We do not suggest that he should be limited to practising on one bell by himself. If the instructor and two or three others will lend a hand and lash up other bells, so that rounds and changes can be practised by ropesight, so much the better. The others, of course, if they are already practised ringers, may find this kind of thing a little irksome, but if they have keenness and a hope of making a band ready for those happier days to which we all look forward, they should not begrudge the time thus spent, and when they get their beginners on to 'change ringing' they may even find an interest in it themselves.

The first stage after the beginner has thoroughly mastered his bell is to learn to 'place' it in rounds. To use the word 'strike' would, perhaps, be out of place at the moment, while the bells remain dumb, but much can be done by acquiring 'ropesight,' a term which indicates picking out the bell you have to follow and spacing your own at the correct interval after it. The competent instructor, even if he cannot hear the bells, will be able to give his pupil a lot of guidance in this, and will improve the beginner's capacity for subsequent half-pull change ringing by giving him practice in call changes.

The aim of all ringers, of course, should be to acquire the art of change ringing, and, while a beginner is learning to handle a bell, there is no reason why he should not begin to study change ringing in theory—it will greatly add to the interest.

It may be just as well here to explain how changes are produced, for this particular article is meant specially for those who are at quite the beginning of their interest in change ringing.

What is aimed at in producing changes is that in every change every bell shall speak once, and that the next time they speak it is in a different order. Moreover, the order is changed to the greatest extent possible, within certain prescribed limits. No bell moves up or down more than one place at a time, and no bell stops in one

place for more than two changes. Subject to this, the object in producing changes is to change as many pairs of bells as possible. If there are five bells, to change two pairs; if there are six, alternately three pairs and two pairs; if seven bells, three pairs each time; and if eight bells, four pairs and three pairs alternately; and so on. Every pair of bells that is changed must be bells in adjoining places, that is, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6; or 2 and 3, 4 and 5, etc.

When we are ringing, the thing that matters is, of course, the sound of the bells, and the aim of the ringer is to strike his bell exactly at the proper time. When we are explaining or describing the order in which the bells strike we must have some means of setting it down on paper, and so the custom is to use figures. These figures are symbols, and when we write down, say, 12345, on paper, that means that the bells sound in that order. The beginner should always look behind the figures to the sounds they are intended to represent, and when he sees, say, 12345 written down, he should try and imagine he is hearing a ring of five bells.

In this article we are not going into the question of method ringing. We have only tried to explain how changes are formed. Would you like to try an experiment for yourselves? Write down the figures 1.2.3.4.5 to represent five bells, and draw a line under them. Underneath write out changes, by changing two pairs at a time in regular succession, first the two front pairs and then the two back pairs, varying it at the 6th, 16th and every succeeding tenth change by changing, instead of the two back pairs, the front pair and the back pair, leaving the bell in the middle where it is, the succeeding change being, of course, a change of the two front pairs. In addition, at the 14th, 34th and 54th change, make a similar variation—change the front pair and the back pair instead of the two back pairs. You should be able to produce 60 changes before you come back again to 1.2.3.4.5, and it will facilitate your work if you put a line under every tenth change.

Let us give you a start:—

1 2 3 4 5

2 1 4 3 5 change two front pairs.

2 4 1 5 3 change the two back pairs, etc.

4 2 5 1 3

4 5 2 3 1

5 4 3 2 1

4 5 3 1 2 change front and back pairs.

5 4 1 3 2 change two front pairs.

5 1 4 2 3 change two back pairs.

1 5 2 4 3

1 2 5 3 4

When you have written out the 60 changes, draw a line through the track of the figure 1, which represents the treble, and see how regular it is. Then follow the line of either of the other bells and see the effect of the variations in the pairs that are changed.

Later on we hope to be able to tell you something further about how these variations go to make up different methods.

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BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On St. George's Day for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 by A. H. Winch): W. Gowing 1, W. Henley 2, G. J. Berry (first quarter of Major) 3, Miss S. M. S. Fleming 4, P. A. Blamey 5, C. A. Burgess 6, B. O'Neill 7, W. Birmingham 8.

## THE FIRST PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Which is correct, the figures you publish in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' or the figures you published on September 7th, 1928. It is an historic composition and should be handed down in correct form. The figures of peal given in 1928 contains no bobs at 9 or 15. Here is the first part as printed:—

231456789 1 4 6 10 16

365741928 — — — —  
 365271948 — — — —  
 361524978 — — — —  
 364125 — — — —  
 365421 — — — —  
 561234 — — — —

Repeat twice, omit Bob at 1,  
 then two — — — —  
 parts as — — — —  
 shown — — — —

One part  
 with Bob — — — —  
 at — only — — — —  
 then five — — — —  
 parts — — — —

Omit Bob at one in last  
 four parts.

The first three parts the back bells are in the tittums, 978 (except for the first two courses), then one course 897, followed by twenty courses 789. This is the 5,076. The 9,720 is actually a three-part peal as far as I can see.

I have by me the peal in manuscript, which was once the property of the late H. W. Haley.

The above, I think, will interest a good many of your readers.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

[Both sets of figures are correct. It is only a question of which row is taken as the course end in the first two courses. Perhaps the way quoted by Mr. Hunt is the better. — Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

## A WAR-TIME OUTING.

Despite the difficulties caused by the war-time situation, Christ Church, Eastbourne, ringers had their annual outing on Whit Monday as usual. The news that there would be no Bank Holiday almost put 'paid' to it at the last minute, but as only four of the party were affected, it was decided to carry on.

The remaining nineteen, composed of members of their wives and friends, left Eastbourne by coach at 8 a.m., and after a two hours' run through Sussex and Kent, arrived at the little village of Smarden. Here the ring of six, with a tenor 18 cwt., were kept going for an hour in various methods from Grandsire to London, and also rounds for the beginners.

The next stop was Chilham, the village near Canterbury that has the distinction of being the first place in England to be bombed in this war. Fortunately the tower was found to be intact, and for another hour this handy ring of eight were kept going to Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob.

Canterbury was the next call, where an excellent lunch was ready upon the ringers' arrival. Afterwards the party split up to explore the city, according to their various tastes, the Cathedral being the main attraction. Some of the livelier members preferred to make a trip on the river and hired the only two available boats. One ringer found a pair of oars less easy to manage than a bell rope, and his efforts to negotiate his craft under a very low footbridge caused no small amount of hilarity among the crowd which collected to watch the fun.

The time to leave came all too soon, but timetables must be adhered to, and by 4 p.m. the coach was en route for the next tower, Mersham.

This was a new tower for all the band. The bells are a light ring of eight, which could be improved by a visit from a competent bell hanger, but good use was made of them for nearly an hour. Even if the tone was not admired by all, at least it was one more tower in the bag.

After tea in Ashford, the party went on to the last tower, Hawkhurst, where they were welcomed by Mr. J. Powell and other local ringers. The bells were kept on the go until 8.30, and then after slight refreshment the visitors left for home, Eastbourne being reached shortly before 11 p.m. with everyone apparently quite satisfied with their day's outing.

The ringers would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the incumbents for the use of the bells, and also the local secretaries for having everything in readiness.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

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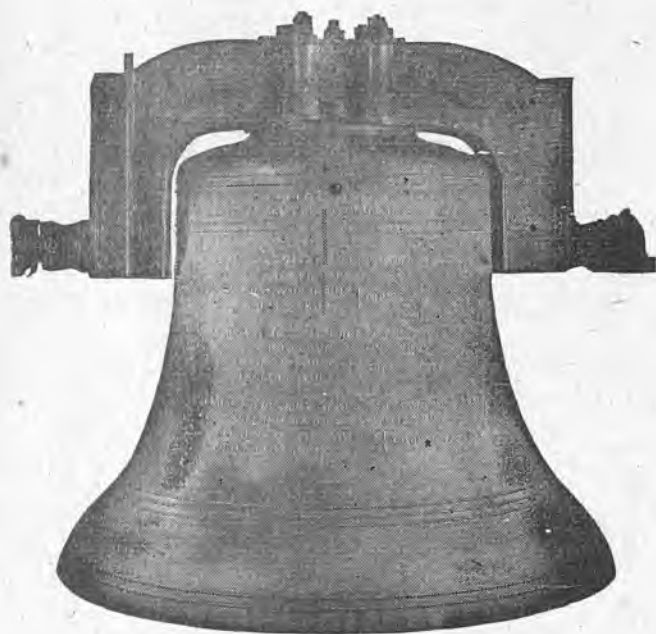
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The peal of Minor rung at Croft in Leicestershire was the twelfth successive peal rung on the occasion of the anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

The board recording the peal of Minor in 104 methods will be dedicated on July 27th at Bigby, not at Burton-on-Stather as reported in our issue of May 10th, but probably two other boards will be dedicated on that day at Burton. The meeting to be held at Louth in August will be an ordinary district meeting.

Last Tuesday was the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, which finally ended as grim a struggle as that in which we are now engaged, and on the same date in 1844 was born Jasper Whitfield Snowdon. Snowdon died in 1885 at the comparatively early age of 41 after a ringing career of little more than ten years, in which he did probably as much for the advancement of change ringing as any man who has ever lived. He wrote several text books, including 'Rope Sight,' 'Treble Bob' and 'Standard Methods,' which, though they were first published more than fifty years ago, are still the best text books we possess.

The first peal by the Midland Counties Association, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at Derby on June 23rd, 1882.

An outstanding peal was achieved at Birmingham on June 24th, 1922, when 5,055 changes of Stedman on thirteen bells (Stedman Sextuples it was called) was rung on handbells in three hours and thirty-five minutes. It was conducted by Mr. Albert Walker, who tells us that he has not yet given up the hope of ringing a peal of Treble Bob Fourteen-in.

Samuel Thomas, of Sheffield, died on June 24th, 1924, at the age of 53, and on the same date in 1808 was held a very famous ringing match at Flixton in Lancashire between the Mottram and the Ashton-under-Lyne bands. A full account of it appeared in 'The Ringing World' of July, 1926.

## CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS.

Owing to the official prohibition of ringing, the following meetings arranged for to-morrow have been cancelled:—

Yorkshire Association, at Pontefract.  
Peterborough Diocesan Guild, at Braunston.  
Royal Cumberland Youths, at Bexley.  
Midland Counties Association, at Sawley.

## DEATH OF MR. GEORGE DENT.

### ESSEX ASSOCIATION'S GREAT LOSS.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. George Dent, the esteemed leader of the ringers at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Harlow Common, Essex, which took place at his home on Wednesday, June 12th, at the age of 76 years.

For over 50 years Mr. Dent had been in business as a grocer and draper. He was churchwarden for a number of years, during which time he had taken a prominent part in getting eight bells at the church, and he and his wife presented the two trebles. His efforts to get together a band of ringers were rewarded, as is shown by their being able to ring all the standard methods up to Bristol Surprise. He was a life member of the Essex Association, was Master of the North-Western Division for a number of years, and representative on the Central Council in 1915 and 1916.

Unfortunately we have no record of the peals he had rung, but they were many and varied.

At the funeral, which took place on Saturday, the Vicar (the Rev. J. O. White) officiated. The service was fully choral and a large number of parishioners attended to mark the esteem in which he was held. The ringers present were Mr. L. Cordell, Mr. W. Wheeler, Mr. S. Clark, Mr. B. Copping, Mr. E. Rochester and Mr. E. Luid (of the local company), Mr. C. Tucker (Marlow), Mr. W. Prior, Mr. I. Cuvill (Stansted), Mr. W. T. Prior (Bishop's Stortford), and Mr. G. Walker (Sawbridgeworth). Owing to short notice and present conditions, many others doubtless were prevented from attending.

It had been arranged to have rung a muffled peal after the interment, but as ringing was not allowed, a whole pull and stand was rung over the grave on handbells by his own company.

Mr. Dent was of a most generous nature, and many will remember his kindness. Among the large number of wreaths and tributes were a floral bell from his own band and a wreath from the ringers at Harlow Parish Church.

## THE HALESWORTH COMPANY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope seems to have a sort of perverse feeling about Halesworth. As I have more than once said in letters to you, and privately to him, no claim has ever been made that there was a society like the College Youths at Halesworth. Still in an article in your columns he repeats this absurd claim, and when I challenge it he does not attempt to support it, but goes off on some misquotation of what I wrote.

I think that most of your readers are grateful to me, for what I described of Halesworth, and they can rely on its being correct, whether Mr. Trollope 'allows' it or not.

HERBERT DRAKE.



**CHURCH BELLS BANNED.****AN UNEXPECTED WAR-TIME ORDER.**

The complete ban which was placed last Thursday on the ringing of church bells came as an unexpected blow to ringers. Some inkling of what might happen was gained by 'The Ringing World' earlier in the week, and the paragraph of warning of things to come was inserted just before going to Press.

Notification had earlier been received in this office that at various places in the Aldershot Command notification had been given that bells were only to be used for signifying the landing of enemy troops by parachute or aeroplane and, as a result, the Editor got into communication with the hon. secretary of the Central Council (Mr. G. W. Fletcher), who visited the Ministry of Home Security on Tuesday.

Consideration of the plan for using church bells as a warning was actually taking place, and the hon. secretary endeavoured to persuade the authorities to adopt a more modified scheme than a complete ban. Unfortunately, the lines suggested by Mr. Fletcher were not followed, and the new Order was issued two days later.

Ringers, disappointed though they are, accept the decision of the Ministry as one of the minor sacrifices that have to be made in the national interests, although the efficacy of what is proposed is still conjectural, for reasons that ringers will know well.

There is, however, one important point that in the interests of the public should be made plain. What is the object of the warning which the bells are to sound? Is it to call certain services to help in rounding up the invaders; is it to tell the people to keep indoors? The public ought to be informed, otherwise they may go rushing out and impede military or other defensive action, to say nothing of the risks they may themselves run.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was the first to give any public intimation of what was to be expected when, addressing the Church Assembly at the new Church House, Westminster, he said that the silencing of church bells at an early date was possible. He warned the clergy that he had been advised by Sir John Anderson, the Home Secretary, that some restriction on the ringing and chiming of bells was to be expected.

The ban has not only put an end to all Sunday service ringing, but it will also, of course, seriously affect meetings of associations, although there is already proof that a meeting can be successful even without ringing. Last Saturday, the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association met at Ilkley, and forty ringers were present. This is an example which other associations may bear in mind when tempted to adopt a defeatist attitude and imagine that it is of no use to hold meetings if the church bells cannot be rung.

**CHURCH BELLS AND WAR ALARMS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—All ringers and thousands of the public will very much deplore the action of the Home Office in ordering our church bells to be silent, thus depriving the Church of their rightful and Christian uses.

With the system of sirens already in use for air raid purposes, one would have thought it possible to have used them as a warning for paratroops by using a distinctive note to that used for air raids.

It is of little avail to use one end of the church in which to ask God's blessing and deliverance from so ruthless an enemy when the authorities do not hesitate to desecrate church property at the other end by using the bells for war purposes, bringing every church possessing a bell under the heading of a military objective.

War or no war, let us keep the church and church property sacred. Maghull, near Liverpool.

S. FLINT.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.****HOW RINGERS MAY HELP.**

It is only natural that ringers should feel disappointed at the newly issued Order, which forbids the use of church bells except as a warning, after the efforts to maintain their use for their chief purpose, that of ringing for service.

This is not the time to express that disappointment or to offer criticism of the Order. Military needs come first and it is the duty of ringers to help the authorities in every possible way to carry out the Order. It may be, however, that a more effective warning may be discovered later.

It is not yet clear how the bells are to be rung as a warning, or who is to give the instructions that they are to be sounded. To make the warning more effective, bells that can be rung should be rung and not chimed, so that the sound may carry as far as possible. It might be well, therefore, to consider some of the difficulties in the case of bells hung for ringing. If the warning is to be sounded quickly, it will be necessary to have always at hand, day and night, at least one person who can ring a bell.

In this connection it may be well if the clergy were warned of the danger of allowing any unauthorised person into the tower. Unfortunately, quite a number of the clergy and most of the local military authorities do not realise the risks to limb or to church property.

There is considerable risk of damage to the bell and the person attempting to ring it if he has no knowledge of ringing, and to ensure that someone is available day and night will require a good deal of local organisation. If under the Order a number of bells are to be rung where they are available, the difficulty of getting ringers together would be insuperable in most cases.

There is a special risk of damage in towers where bells are hung for ringing and there are no organised ringers, as is unfortunately the case in a number of village churches. This fact suggests a useful outlet for the energies of the various associations who cannot carry on with their normal routine. They can help towers which are not in union who have few or no ringers, instructing, if necessary, some of the Local Defence Volunteers to ring a bell at least frame high without danger to themselves or the bells. If this were undertaken, it might be a useful introduction to such towers and benefit the Exercise in the happier times which we ultimately look for.

A word of warning might be given about instruction, if false raid warnings are not to be sounded. A tied clapper should not be used, because there is always the danger of the rope chafing through and allowing the clapper to sound. For instruction, therefore, in handling a bell, the clapper should be taken out. If the organisation of the warning is properly carried out, there will be quite a lot for local bands and for associations to do.

I hope the Central Council will be able to help in clarifying the position and sending out useful suggestions, preferably in co-operation with the authorities, with whom the hon. secretary has been in contact since September 3rd.

In these days ringers have not much time to spare, but even in war time some relaxation is necessary, and I suggest that handbell ringing is a very suitable antidote

(Continued on next page.)

## DEFEAT THE EVIL SPIRITS.

(Continued from previous page.)

to worry. I picture a ringer-parashot, waiting in the tower for orders to sound the tocsin, being joined by two of his fellow-ringers and whiling away the time with some double-handed Minor.

If, as a warning, a number of the bells are to be rung, should they not in accordance with tradition be rung backwards?

'The bells are rung backwards, the drums they are beat.'

Or is this practice merely a Scottish one?

The one thing that is quite clear is that every member of the Exercise should, instead of ringing to drive away evil spirits, do his utmost to defeat the evil spirits, so that he can once again ring the bells without let or hindrance.

E. H. LEWIS.

## COUNTRY VICARS' VIEWS.

### BLACK-OUT CURFEW.

The following two letters appeared in 'The Times' on Monday last:—

Sir,—For some months now the regular ringing of curfew at 8 p.m. in this parish has been altered to the ringing of the same bell at 'black-out' time. It has proved a most useful function for a custom which had lost all meaning. Under the new regulation this will have to stop. It seems a pity that such use should not be allowed to continue.

It is to be hoped that those who are now alone allowed to ring the bells will get some instruction from skilled ringers. It is painfully easy for the uninitiated to pull a bell rope with all the vigour imaginable and yet fail to produce any sound at all. Here it had been arranged for the old fire-call to be used, i.e., the clashing together of the smallest bell with the tenor.—Yours truly,

The Vicarage, Deddington, Oxford.

MAURICE FROST.

### A DANGEROUS THING.

Sir,—The use of church bells as an indication of the approach of invaders may be invaluable. Two points, however, need to be raised.

Only the military or Local Defence Volunteers are to use the bells. Do they know how to? The novice will pull the rope (so easy!). No sound will be heard. He will pull more fiercely. Again no sound. He will pull it frantically, angrily. If lucky, he may produce one very half-hearted boom. One has to learn how to make a church bell speak effectively. If a bell is left 'set,' even the novice will then be able to make the bell speak on pulling its rope, but in doing so he runs the grave risk of wringing his own neck. An uncontrolled bell rope can become a very dangerous thing.

The second point is, why should church bells be used for this new purpose only? By all means let the tolling of a single bell be the official warning, but who would want or expect a peal of five or eight bells to herald the approach of the enemy? For the sake of our spirits, let the peal of church bells still call us to worship. The solemn tolling of one bell can be an ominous warning about parachutists.—Yours faithfully,

Benenden Vicarage, Kent.

V. B. YEARSLEY.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Commenting on the Order, 'The Daily Telegraph' said: 'Home security officials state that it is not intended that an elaborate peal should be rung. All that is needed is the ringing of a small bell which would not demand expert knowledge or practice.'

'Points which would seem to arise are whether the churches are to be kept open day and night, and, if so, who is to be responsible for the protection of the building? If churches are locked up at night, are the military or A.R.P. authorities to have the keys or are vergers to be summoned in an emergency?'

## FIRST PROSECUTION UNDER THE NEW ORDER.

The first case since the Home Office Order silencing church bells was heard at Bradford on Saturday.

William Metcalfe, eighteen-year-old baker's labourer, was arrested under the Defence Regulations for ringing the bells of St. Peter's, Laisterdyke.

He was charged with 'doing an act communicating, or likely to communicate, to the public information falsely purporting to be duly given for purposes connected with the defence of the realm.'

Mr. J. Staples, prosecuting, asked for Metcalfe to be remanded for medical observation. He had no connection with the church.

## RADIO 'BOW BELLS' SILENT.

It is announced that owing to the ban on church bells except as a warning, the B.B.C. discontinued the 'Bow Bells' interval signal. The 'ticking clock' has been substituted.

## A SUCCESSFUL MEETING DESPITE BAN.

### YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION CARRY ON WITHOUT BELLS.

On Saturday last, in spite of the unexpected announcements regarding the ringing of church bells, made by the B.B.C. during the week, a most successful meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Ilkley. It was felt that to cancel the arrangements at the last minute would only lead to confusion, as it would be impossible to notify all the members. Since the meeting was to be held in such a delightful place and the weather had been more or less settled, it was hoped even if the ringing activities of the association had to be restricted, the social side of the work should be carried on. The numbers present more than justified this view. About 30 members attended the service in the church, which was conducted by Canon J. P. Garland, and about 40 sat down to a delightful tea in the Blue Bird Cafe.

At the business meeting, held in the Church Institute, the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson) presided, supported by the association's president, Canon Marshall.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, expressed the disappointment which they all felt at being unable to ring and hear the newly recast peal of bells now at Ilkley. He explained that the latest Government announcement was quite definite and said that while we were precluded from ringing the tower bells, there was no reason why the work of the association should stop. At most of the meetings held during the year, only a small proportion of the members were able to ring on the bells to any extent, and therefore the committee felt that meetings should be held if at all possible, so that the members could be kept together and not lose touch with one another.

Two new members were elected—Miss N. M. Askham, of Headingley, and Miss P. M. Barton, of Pudsey, which is evidence of the extremely encouraging work carried on by the Ladies' Guild. As the chairman remarked, the men will have to look to their laurels, as Miss Barton is only 9 years of age.

In voicing the thanks of the association to the Vicar and churchwardens of Ilkley, to the local company for making the splendid arrangements, and the organist who officiated at the service, Canon Marshall expressed his pleasure at the number present. He was sure everyone had thoroughly enjoyed their outing, even though they were unable to ring on the fine peal of bells. The vote was seconded by Mr. Barton, who hoped the members would support the committee in their endeavour to arrange meetings during these difficult times. In putting the vote to the meeting, the Chairman expressed his pleasure at seeing such an active work being carried on at Ilkley with a tower well equipped with youth. It was, of course, only what one could expect from the home of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, who had done so much for the advancement of change ringing. The fact that there was such a ready response to the appeal for funds for recasting the bells at Ilkley was a symbol of the enthusiasm created in the district.

Mr. W. H. Crawshaw, in replying for the local company, expressed his pleasure at the result of the day's meeting. He said how very sorry he was that the bells were not available, but hoped that the bells would soon be ringing in happier times all over the country and that the association would come again to Ilkley, where they would always have a ready welcome. As regards their recent appeal, he would like to say that they had no difficulty whatever in obtaining the required amount—in fact the fund was over-subscribed. The money was given purely for the bells, which confirmed the chairman's remarks that many would give for the bells when they would not give.

A brief discussion took place on the conduct of the district during the national emergency, and it was felt that if suitable districts could be chosen, the quarterly meetings should be held whenever possible. The next meeting is due in September, and it was proposed that an endeavour should be made to hold it at Tadcaster, where, given a nice day, the members would be able to make the most of the pleasant surroundings.

A collection taken at the tea tables for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised a total of 8s. 1d.

The handbells were then brought forward, and excellent touches were rung of Grandsire Caters, Bob Royal, Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, etc.

The towers represented during the day were Addingham, Armley, Batley, Bramley, Bradford Cathedral, Calverley, Denholme, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Ilkley, Leeds Parish Church, Ossett, Pudsey, Rothwell and Silsden.

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## BIRMINGHAM BELLS AND RINGERS. IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

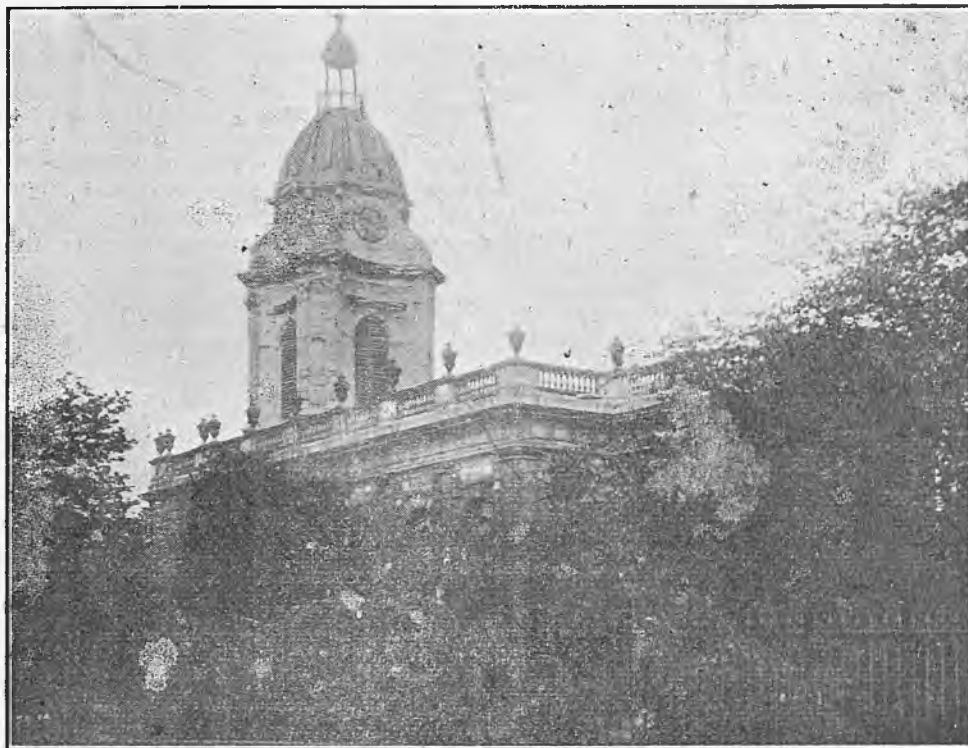
Birmingham in the eighteenth century possessed three churches with rings of bells—St. Martin's, the old parish church; the Chapel of St. John-at-Deritend; and the new Parish Church of St. Philip.

St. Martin's was of ancient foundation, though the church had been altered and rebuilt several times. In 1552 it possessed 'iiij belles 'wt. a clock and a chyme.' In 1682 these were increased to a ring of six, with a tenor of 18 cwt., and later two trebles were added. In

1760 this number had not been increased. In 1775, Pack and Chapman supplied a full octave, and in 1814 two trebles were added.

The bells at all three churches—St. Martin's, St. Philip's, and Aston—have been recast in recent years, and St. John's, Deritend, has been pulled down.

No account of any early ringing in Birmingham has survived, but we can hardly doubt that the town was one of the first in the provinces in which change ringing was practised. The present St. Martin's Guild, following the statement in its peal book, dates its foundation from the year 1755, when the first recorded peal was accomplished; but though it may have been a time of more



ST. PHILIP'S, WHERE THE FIRST RECORDED PEAL IN BIRMINGHAM WAS RUNG.

1758, Lester and Pack, of Whitechapel, supplied a ring of ten with a tenor of 36 cwt., and in 1772 Pack and Chapman added two more to make up the full twelve.

St. John, Deritend, had been founded as far back as 1382, but the church was rebuilt in 1735, the steeple being added in 1762. The eight bells were cast in 1776 by Robert Wells, of Aldbourne.

St. Philip's was a new parish, and the church was erected between 1711 and 1715. The design is said to have been largely copied from St. Paul's Cathedral. Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston, a local founder, supplied first one or two bells, and then in 1727 a full octave. This was replaced in 1750 by a ring of ten with a 29 cwt. tenor by Thomas Lester. At the neighbouring parish of Aston there were bells, and in the late eighteenth century and since, the belfry has played an important part in the history of the Exercise in Birmingham.

When the inventory of the goods and ornaments of the church was made in the year 1552, there were in the steeple 'v belles oon of them broken,' and so late as

active life, it is unlikely that it was other than one of those revivals in spirit and activity which periodically happen in the history of ringing companies, usually as the result of the influx of new members or the inspiration of new leadership.

There does not appear to have been a formal society with a well developed social side such as were the Society of College Youths and the Union Society of Shrewsbury, but it is pretty certain that from at least the closing years of the seventeenth century St. Martin's has possessed a company of ringers, and that an unbroken continuity has existed from the early days of change ringing to the present time. The statement in the peal book has very little authority or historical value.

There had been a change ringing band when the old octave hung in St. Martin's steeple, and quite possibly peals had been rung by them. Joshua Neale, who took part in several later peals, was 39 years old when the new ring was erected. He lived until 1812, when he was in his

(Continued on next page.)

## EARLY PEALS IN BIRMINGHAM.

(Continued from previous page.)

ninety-third year, and used to say that he himself had rung changes on the old bells.

The first recorded peal in the town was 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Philip's on September 16th, 1755. Three men of the name of Thompson (John, Joseph and William), who probably were brothers, rang the front three bells, John Archer rang the fourth, Abraham Fletcher the fifth, Samuel Brooke the sixth, Humphrey Peck the seventh, and Andrew Peake the tenor, with William Smith to help him. No conductor is mentioned, but most likely Peake called the bobs.

From that time onwards there followed a steady succession of performances, but the accounts of many of them are lost, for it was not until 1822 that an official peal book was kept by the society, and the older records had to be collected as best they could, from written or oral information preserved here and there by private individuals.

Birmingham possesses but one eighteenth century peal board in all her belfries; whether there were once others, which have since been destroyed, I am unable to say.

Three years after the Bob Major at St. Philip's, the earliest known peal at St. Martin's was rung. The method was Grandsire Caters, and six of the earlier band took part—John and William Thompson, John Archer, Abraham Fletcher, Humphrey Peck and Andrew Peake. Joseph Neale rang the treble and Thomas Hadley the fifth. Hadley was one of the subscribers to 'The Clavis,' where he is described as 'esq.,' which shows that he was socially in a better position than the rest of the company.

The Grandsire Caters was composed and called by Andrew Peake, who thus takes his place as the first in the long and distinguished line of Birmingham composers and conductors.

Some time after this, Peake left Birmingham, and his connection with the St. Martin's Youths came to an end. He took part in and probably called a peal of Grandsire Triples at Kidderminster in 1765, and afterwards went to live at Shifnal, where he did good work as the first conductor of the Albion Society, a company which achieved some distinction as a peal-ringing band.

During the ten years which followed the Grandsire Caters in 1758, no peal is known to have been rung in Birmingham, but it is difficult to believe that the time was a blank. All the members of the band continued to be active ringers, and the St. Martin's Youths were steadily gaining the reputation of being the leading provincial company next to the Norwich Scholars. A good deal of interest in ringing was taken in the town, which led in 1772 to the ring at St. Martin's being increased to twelve.

On August 29th, 1768, 6,210 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung in 4 hours and 26 minutes. The band included Joseph Neale, Joseph and William Thompson, Samuel Brooke, Thomas Hadley, Abraham Fletcher, Humphrey Peck, John Archer, and John Smith, all of whom had taken part in one or both of the earlier performances. Two new names appear, Phineas Smith and Daniel Veisey, both of whom, and especially Smith, were to be leading members of the society during the coming years.

John Archer had succeeded Andrew Peake as bob caller, and, like him, he called his own composition. The figures are lost, and there must be a doubt whether at the time there was sufficient knowledge of proof to ensure the truth of either peal.

As soon as the two trebles were added to St. Martin's, the company began to practise Grandsire Cinques, and on June 3rd, 1773, they rang 5,324 changes, the third peal in the method achieved outside London, and the second by a provincial band. The first had been rung by the College Youths in 1767 at Cirencester, the second in 1770 by the Cambridge Youths in their own tower.

Five of the older members of the St. Martin's Youths took part in the peal—Veisey, Brooke, Hadley and John and Phineas Smith. Thomas Midlam, who rang the eleventh, was for some years the society's leading heavy-bell man. Two men were needed for the tenor, James Nock and John Miles. Both were afterwards active members of the company, and Miles called several peals.

John Archer was not in the band, and his place as bob caller was taken by Phineas Smith, who for the next ten years was the principal conductor in the company. He, too, called his own composition. What it was like, we have no means of knowing; but we may assume that it was on the lines of the peals of Caters then rung, in long courses with the big bells in the tittums throughout.

Having rung Cinques, the band would naturally next turn their attention to Maximus, but the following peal on the bells was actually one of Bob Royal on November 5th, which probably was a paid ringing day. Seven of the other band took part, and Joseph Neale and John Archer stood in. Smith called from the eighth, and Midlam rang the tenor single handed.

Meanwhile two peals of Grandsire Caters had been scored at St. Philip's, one of 5,040 changes on August 17th, the other of 6,246 changes on October 23rd. Smith called both from the seventh, Robert Peck rang the treble, John Miles the sixth, James Nock the ninth, and Joseph Neale the eighth. Samuel Brook rang the fourth to the six thousand, and in both peals there were two men to the tenor.

One more peal was rung at St. Martin's before the year closed. It was one of Grandsire Triples, and, as the time taken was only two hours and fifty-five minutes, evidently it was on the front or middle eight. Phineas Smith called from the second, a pretty sure indication that the composition was Holt's ten-part. We know from 'The Clavis' that it was 'usual in most parts of the kingdom for the bob caller to ring the observation and call by the position of his own bell,' and it was that book which popularised the plan of calling by the bobs Before.

For nearly three years after these peals we have no record of any performances in Birmingham. No doubt some unsuccessful attempts were made for Maximus, and no doubt there was a good deal of activity among the younger and more energetic members. It was the installation of the new rings at Aston in 1775, and at St. John's, Deritend, in 1776 which gave a great stimulus to peal ringing in the district. At Aston, a band was formed, but the belfry was open to the St. Martin's Youths for peal ringing, and at Deritend the younger members had opportunities which were free from the restrictions imposed by the weight of metal and the vested interests of the older men at St. Martin's and St. Philip's.



**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.**

**NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, June 22nd. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Stone, on Saturday, June 22nd. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. H. Hodson, 43, Church Street, Stone, Staffs.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—North Midland District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter-at-Gowts, Lincoln, on Saturday, June 22nd. Business meeting 3.45. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but will anyone hoping to attend please let me know in case of cancellation?—A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Oxford City and District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Garsington (6 bells) on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m.—Miss M. R. Cross, Hon. Sec., The School House, Radley, Abingdon, Berks.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, June 22nd. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—Owing to the Government order prohibiting the ringing of church bells, it has been found necessary to cancel the quarterly meeting arranged to be held at All Saints', Pontefract, on Saturday, June 22nd.—Horace S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—Owing to the recent order by the Ministry of Home Security, regarding ringing, the meeting at Bexley, Kent, on Saturday, June 22nd, has been cancelled.—George H. Cross.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—Owing to defence regulations, the meeting arranged for Braunston, on Saturday, June 22nd, has been cancelled.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—The joint meeting arranged to be held to-morrow at Sawley has been cancelled.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting, Saturday, June 29th, will be at Anstey (not Rathby and Groby). Committee meet 4 p.m. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, June 29th. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 25th.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, June 29th. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—A meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Bigby on Saturday, June 29th. Service 4.15. The address will be given by the president of the Guild (the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln). During the service a peal board to commemorate the record peal of Minor will be dedicated and unveiled. Tea on Rectory lawn, weather permitting, 5 p.m. Please bring your sugar. Those requiring tea, which will be at a moderate charge, must send their names to the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, Bigby Rectory, Barnetby, not later than Wednesday, June 26th. All ringers welcome.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, July 2nd, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Speldhurst is the place chosen for the next meeting, and Saturday, July 6th, the date. As usual, ringers welcome from anywhere, and special attention paid to learners. Tower open 2.30. Divine service 4.30, followed by tea (at 1s. 3d. per head) and business meeting. Please notify me for tea by Tuesday, July 2nd.—Alec. E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual shield six-bell contest will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, July 13th. Open to all. Entrance fee 6s. per band. All entries must reach me not later than June 29th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Forest Branch.—The annual salmon supper of the South Forest Branch will be held at the Angel Hotel, Ruardean, on Saturday, July 13th. Particulars of price and tickets from William W. T. Scott, The Lawn, Ruardean, Glos. Please send applications before Saturday, June 29th.

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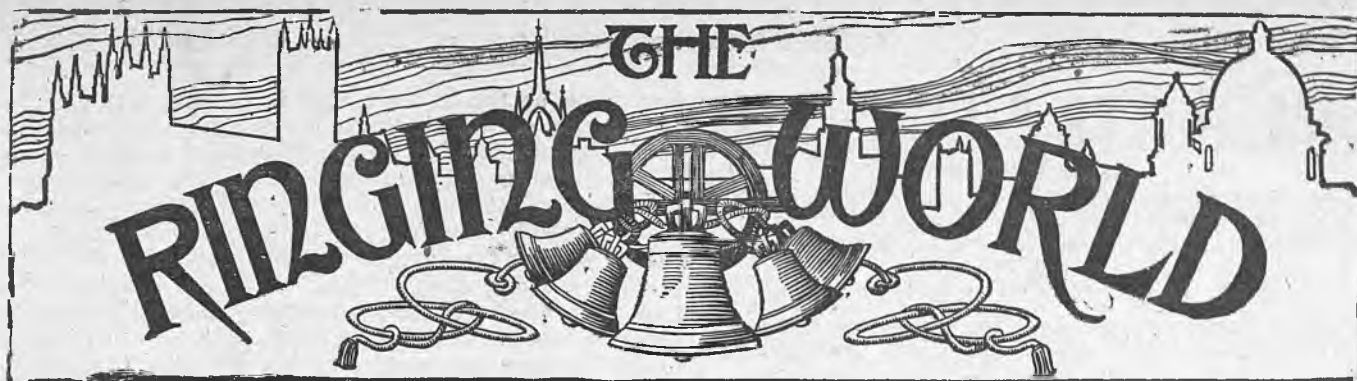
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## COMMENTS AND WARNINGS.

The serious development of the war since last week's article for this column was written has brought the nation face to face with a situation more dangerous than any in its history, and every man and woman has to lend his or her energies to the fight to the utmost limit. In such circumstances it would not have been expected that much attention should be devoted to bell ringing by those who normally share in its delight and the service which it involves, but as far as the ringing of the church bells themselves is concerned, activity in that direction was already settled by the Order restricting their use, so that the sound of the bells was silenced before the full significance of the collapse of France in the war was realised. In the present situation, the ringing of bells for any purpose except that of notifying the church services would have been out of place, and no one would have desired to mock the feeling of public anxiety by any avoidable ringing. But that, as we have said, is a matter that was decided by the Army authorities and the Home Office, who ordered that no church bells should be rung except upon the arrival of enemy air invaders.

Concerning this, it appears still to be uncertain what the exact purpose of the ringing is to be, except to notify that a raid of this kind has taken place in the vicinity. We feel that some further instructions should be given so that the public may know exactly what they are expected to do when the bells are sounded. Unless such instructions are announced, the bells may, perhaps, only cause confusion. Inquiries among members of the Local Volunteer Defence Force go to show that even they have not yet received orders concerning the bells, and it is extremely important, when they have received their instructions, that they should be initiated into the technicality of ringing a bell, that they should know exactly how to get into the belfry and which rope to pull, if there is more than one. This plan of warning which has been adopted needs working out in much further detail and, on the face of it, it seems a pity that the ban was placed on the bells before someone in each area had been taught what to do, for a stranger, knowing nothing about church bell ringing, would be completely at a loss even when he got into the belfry. The best solution is that advocated by the president of the Central Council in the article in our columns last week, that local ringers, where possible, should be brought into the scheme. Where there are none available, the proposal, of course, loses its value until some one or more of the L.V.D.F. can be instructed in what to do. But these men, we imagine, will be more concerned with

(Continued on page 302.)

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rounding up the invaders than in running to the church or routing out the ringers or the verger. If the bells are to be an effective and the one recognised warning, action in this matter ought to be taken quickly. The ringers, we are sure, will only be too keen to render any help they can. Equally important is it that the public should know exactly what they are to do when they hear the sound of the warning church bells. If, as one imagines, they should act as in an air-raid warning, and take shelter or remain indoors, it should be made plain to them; if some other purpose is to be served, they should be told. Some further action on the part of the Ministry of Home Security seems called for, so that the Order may have its full use and effect. In the national interests everyone connected with bells and ringing accepts the directions of the authorities without murmur, but they would like to know that the steps to implement the intentions of the Order have not been overlooked.

### RINGERS SHOULD NOT FORSAKE THEIR ART.

It is impossible at this stage to gauge the ultimate effect which the ban will have on ringing, but with or without the ban, ringers would in these critical days have placed a self-imposed restraint upon their activities. Common sense and decency would, in this hour, apply severe restraint upon church bell ringing, and ringers themselves, where they are not with the Forces, would in any case be directing their energies with the rest of the nation to the immediate task of winning the war. In whatever their sphere, the national claims demand their fullest effort, but that is not to say there should be no relaxation for mind or body. The Government has made it plain that in their scheme for mobilising labour, men and women must have moments of escape from their exacting duties and must have opportunities not only for rest but for recreation. There is good reason, therefore, for suggesting that ringers should not entirely forsake their art. If the bells cannot be rung openly, ringers can still find opportunity to interest beginners—who may be badly wanted in the belfries later on—by teaching them to handle a bell and to make a start with change ringing on handbells. Hundreds of ringers there are, too, who are experienced on church bells but who know little, if anything, of the delights of double-handed handbell ringing, and here, during this enforced silence of the church bells, is their chance to take up a very fascinating pastime. They will find the technique different to change ringing in the tower, but patience and perseverance will open up for them an entirely new aspect of the art, and they will find, as has already been pointed out, that this form of ringing is an excellent mental recreation and an antidote to the cares that may beset them. We do not know for how long the restriction on church bell ringing may last; but if the ban is long drawn out the art is bound to suffer severely unless those who are in a position to carry on maintain their own interest and endeavour to enlist the interest of others—a difficult task, it must be admitted, but one which ought not to be shirked.

### THE FUTURE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

In the meantime we feel we ought to say another word about 'The Ringing World' itself. No one can foresee what lies immediately ahead, and it is just as well to utter a word of warning. In the first place, we invite our readers to send us articles or letters on any subject



relating to ringing. We hope to continue the journal in the interests of the Exercise, but we want ringers to realise that our pages can only be filled if they will provide some of the material. They may have subjects they will like to ventilate; contributions of value which they can make to the art if they will but try; some story of interest which they can pass on. On our part we hope to continue the instructional and historical articles which are now appearing, and provide space for all the news of ringers' activities that may be sent to us—and we believe there are lots of bits of news which correspondents might find, if they will but take the trouble. We hope 'The Ringing World' will continue to appear week by week, but if there are interruptions—and there is no use blinking the fact that there may be—our readers will know it is no fault of ours. Those who buy their copy of the paper through a newsagent should confirm their order to ensure that every number reaches them as and when it is published; those who receive 'The Ringing World' by post from this office can rely upon the copies being regularly sent to them as they appear. We hope sincerely there will be no break in the weekly continuity, but in the face of the threats which overhang our land, it is just as well our readers should be prepared for delays. For something like seventy years ringers have had a newspaper to serve them, to keep them in touch and afford mutual support, encouragement and help in furthering the art we all love. Never during these years has it been so essential that a ringers' journal should continue to exist, if the whole Exercise is not to disintegrate and the art to drift into the depths of neglect. We feel, therefore, we may call on all ringers to give us their full support and to aid us in maintaining the interest and usefulness of the paper.

### MR. G. L. JOYCE AND THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK.

MR. J. A. TROLLOPE STATES SOME FACTS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As you have printed Mr. Joyce's letter, perhaps you will allow me to give, in self defence, a few statements of plain fact.

There was nothing arrogant in my previous letter, either in intention or in fact. I pointed out that Mr. Joyce's criticisms of the new Surprise book were based on insufficient knowledge, and so they were. He has not read the book, he does not know what is in it, and yet he continues to make sarcastic and spiteful remarks about it.

The articles you have recently published were not taken from the book, and no one has said that they were, but the writer dealing with some of the things that the book deals with has, not unnaturally, used similar arguments and explanations, though not the same words.

There is not the slightest truth in the suggestion that I have taken Mr. Joyce's ideas and used them without acknowledgment. I have never read a line of anything Mr. Joyce has written about proof and false course ends. I know, of course, that he published some articles some years ago, but at the time I was not interested in the subject, and since I have deliberately refrained from turning them up, I have no reason to suppose that by so doing I lost anything. So far as the Surprise book is concerned, Mr. Joyce and his articles do not exist. Your article of May 10th, which gives the principles on which any system of proof by half-leads is based, is in substance, though not in words, the same as an article I published in 'The Bell News' as far back as September, 1914.

What Mr. Law James and Mr. George Baker said to Mr. Joyce is no concern of mine. I have never at any time discussed false course ends with Law James, and I am not interested in or influenced by what Mr. Baker has written on the matter.

Neither Mr. Turner nor I have ever claimed any copyright in any ideas about proof, nor dreamt of doing so. The subject is not a very profound one, and a really competent investigator is almost sure to reach certain conclusions.

The Methods Committee wrote the Surprise book for the Central Council as one of a series, which includes the Minor, Triples and Plain Major books. The questions of publication and the financing of the publication are not their business, and if there is any 'cheek' in the matter (the word is Mr. Joyce's), it consists in his butting into matters which do not concern him.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

### HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, June 19, 1940, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6

ERNEST C. S. TURNER... 3-4 EDWIN JENNINGS... 7-8

Composed by J. PAGETT.

Conducted by EDWIN A. BARNETT.

### DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIAN.

TEST CRICKETER AND BELLRINGER.

The death was announced on Saturday at the age of 67 of Mr. M. A. Noble, who was a cricketer of world-fame and a bellringer.

Mr. Noble is generally considered to have been the greatest all-round cricketer ever produced by Australia. He was also regarded as one of the wisest and sternest captains of all time, and those who indulged in the pleasure of choosing teams of past and present cricketers almost unanimously elected him as captain of the team.

He was a batsman of inexhaustible patience who could with his long reach adapt himself to all circumstances, a medium-paced bowler of infinite variety and great accuracy, who was anything but dependent on a new ball, and a magnificent fieldman close to the wicket, more especially at point.

As a young man of slender but elegant physique he played against A. E. Stoddart's team in 1898 and first came to England in J. Darling's side of 1899. He at once established himself as a cricketer of the highest quality, his batting in the Test Match at Manchester and in the second innings of the game at the Oval being remarkable. Thereafter he was in every series of matches, whether in this country or in Australia, an outstanding player at a time which was rich in great names. He played, as an example of a score-sheet of those days, in a Test Match team at Adelaide in 1904 which was composed of V. Trumper, R. A. Duff, C. Hill, S. E. Gregory, M. A. Noble, A. J. Hopkins, W. W. Armstrong, H. Trumble, C. E. McLeod, J. J. Kelly and W. P. Howell, and he himself was first among his peers. He was in England in 1905, considerably helped Australia to beat A. O. Jones' team in 1907-08, and then came as captain to this country in 1909, when Australia won the rubber. In all, in Test Matches against England he scored 1,905 runs with an average of 30.72 and took 115 wickets at an average of 24.78.

In 1895, the late Mr. F. J. Cullum, sen., of Frith, was sent by his firm to Australia and spent a year there. During that time he used to ring at St. Mark's, Darling Point, which then had only six, and the one and only 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor Mr. Cullum ever rang was here and the conductor was M. A. Noble. On one of his visits to England with the Australian team, Mr. Noble, we believe, met the College Youths and rang at St. Paul's Cathedral.

### NORWICH CATHEDRAL BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—When I first took an interest in bells, just fifty years ago, I used very often to attend evensong on Sunday afternoons at Norwich Cathedral, and, before the service, go up into the triforium and chime the sixes on the back three bells, or if there were two of us we would chime the five.

The triforium of the Cathedral is not very far up from the ground, and, of course, is outside the tower, so there had to be about 100ft. of rope and the whole bulk of the massive tower pier between the chimers and the bells. Nevertheless, they chimed quite easily. The ropes were attached to the clappers and one sat down on a stool with a rope in each hand and a foot on a wooden lever for the tenor. I have often wondered how the ropes were brought down from the bells.

I never made any particular inspection of the bells themselves. They were very remote. On Sundays one did not go up to such places, and on weekdays there was a fee of sixpence, but I seem to remember the bells in a frame over on the far side of the bell chamber hung for ringing, but with the wheels removed. There is little doubt that they were rung as late as the middle of the last century. I have heard (or perhaps I have heard of) a man who said he had rung on them. I don't remember particulars. It may have been William Freeman, whom I knew quite well and who rang in the long peal of Stedman Cinques in 1844. There was a ringing floor below the ceiling of the present lantern, which was taken away. I think, when the transepts were thrown open to the choir and other improvements made in the time of Dean Goulbourn. This is all rather hazy recollection and not necessarily correct in detail, but it should not be difficult to find out the facts.

Samuel Thurston, who was a stonemason by trade, was employed at one time on the Cathedral staff. That would account for his name being scratched inside the tenor.

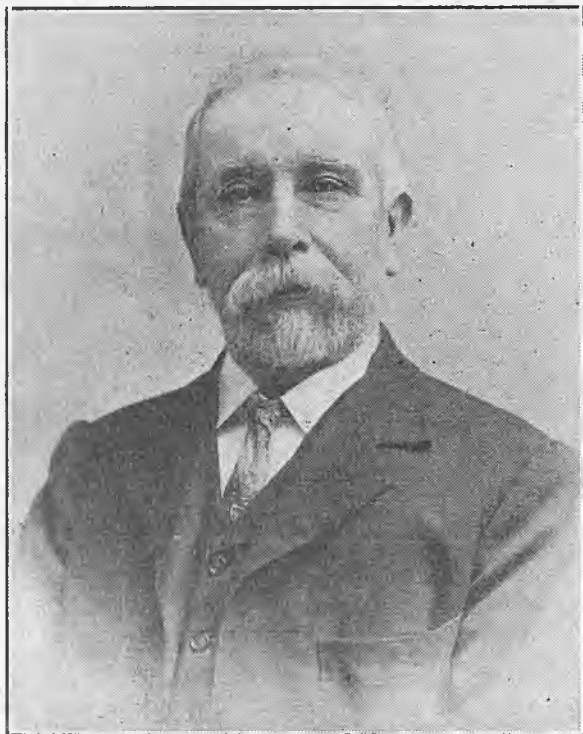
In my time all the rings of six in Norwich were ringable after a fashion, and some of us boys actually rang a peal on the five at St. Peter's, Permountergate. Even the many threes were all hung for ringing and were swung chimed every Sunday, and some were occasionally rung. The last time I was in the city I could hardly get into most of the belfries for the filth on the stairs.

J. A. T.

## A FAMOUS COMPOSER.

To-day is the one hundred and third anniversary of the birth of Henry Dains, which took place on June 29th, 1837, at the little village of Tibenham in Norfolk. His name is fast becoming only a memory and there are now thousands of ringers who probably know little of his very considerable contribution to the art and science of change ringing. His father was a ringer and he himself learnt to ring on the six bells of his native parish.

He migrated to London in early life and in 1872, he joined the Waterloo and St. James' Societies and soon after the Society of Cumberland Youths, with which he was associated during the greater part of his ringing career, and of which he was for many years the hon. secretary.



HENRY DAINS.

Henry Dains' first peal was one of Grandsire Triples, rung in 1873 and conducted by George Newson; and between that time and his death he took part in some 220 peals, which included what were then the standard methods—Grandsire, Stedman, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Superlative and London. The Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob were rung on eight, ten and twelve bells. It is indicative of the opinions of London ringers of half a century ago that no peal of Plain Bob was included in the list.

One of his most notable performances was 13,440 changes of Double Norwich Major at Romford in 1894, at the time the record length in the method. Less than a month earlier the band had attempted the peal at Brentwood, but had lost it just before the end through the breaking of the treble rope. The time taken in the failure was only two minutes less than in the successful peal.

It was as a composer that Henry Dains most distinguished himself and there he earned a place among the leading composers in the whole history of the art. He was especially successful in peals of Treble Bob Major and some of his compositions marked a distinct advance in the science of change ringing. His 5,056 in two equal parts with the 6th the extent in 5-6 placed at the last four course ends of each part was described as a 'gem,' and his 5,024's with the 6th the extent at home at seven, eight, nine and ten course ends, respectively, are models of construction in Treble Bob composition.

Treble Bob was perhaps the method in which Dains most distinguished himself, but it was not the only one. He did good work in Double Norwich, Superlative and London Major and in Stedman Caters.

Henry Dains' reputation has, we fear, suffered unjustly from a somewhat unfortunate habit of his. He would sometimes work out a peal, largely by experimental means, and then put the paper aside, intending to prove the figures fully at some future time. Later on he would come across the paper, and, not realising that he had not proved the peal, publish it, and so a number of false peals over his name got into print and his fame suffered accordingly. It would, however, be very unfair to judge him by this.

(Continued in next column.)

## A TRULY REMARKABLE PEAL.

PROWESS OF THE RINGERS OF FENCHURCH ST. PAUL.

BY X.Y.Z.

In the articles on London Church Bells the writer has referred to many of the long peals rung in bygone years and to many of the famous heavy bell ringers of old time; he has told us of Philemon Mainwaring, and Samuel Muggeridge, and Joseph Monk; but in comparing their performances with those of more recent men like James W. Washbrook and William Pye, he appears to have entirely overlooked a peal which seems to me to be in most ways far more remarkable than any other which has ever been accomplished. I mean the fifteen thousand of Kent Treble Bob Major rung on January 1st, 1929, at St. Paul's, Fenchurch, in Lincolnshire.

At the time the peal was rung it did not attract the amount of attention it deserved. There was, I fear, some local jealousy, and the Lincoln Diocesan Guild did not book it because, so it would seem, some of the band had not paid their subscriptions and were not members. Indeed, though a peal board has been erected in the belfry there was some fear that the performance would have been quite forgotten had not the talented author of 'The Nine Tailors' given an account of it in her book.

That account is fairly full and complete, but it suffers by being mixed up with the history of other matters, such as jewel robberies, murders, floods and so forth, which, though not unimportant in themselves, are hardly germane to the art of change ringing. Readers, therefore, will no doubt welcome an account free from irrelevant details, and in giving it I wish to acknowledge my entire indebtedness to Miss Sayers for all the facts.

The Church of Fenchurch St. Paul is, as all know, one of those magnificent buildings which are the glory of the Fens. It possesses a stately tower 128ft. high, with a noble ring of eight bells, the tenor of which weighs 41 cwt. The bells, a mixed lot, are hung in an old wooden frame, which was repaired in 1887 by Taylor's, who recast three bells and rehung the others.

About 20 years ago the Rector of the parish was the Rev. Theodore Venables, a man who not only took a great deal of pride in his church and bells, but was himself a keen ringer. Most of my readers will be familiar with his famous book, 'An Inquiry into the Mathematical Theory of the In and Out of Course together with Directions for Calling Bells into Rounds, etc.,' as well as his 'Change Ringing for Country Churches,' though for some inexplicable reason a copy of neither is in the Central Council library. Some years ago Mr. Venables resigned the living, and as his name does not appear in the current issue of Crockford, the probabilities are that he is dead.

Encouraged by the Rector, a most skilful and remarkable band had been formed at Fenchurch, and on New Year's Day, 1929, they resolved to attempt a peal of 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major. Why Treble Bob? we may ask. And why fifteen thousand? The answer is that there was a copy of Troyte's book in the parish and that book set the standard and the horizon of the ringers' ambition. It is rather a pity that it was Troyte and not Shipway or Snowden's 'Rope Sight' or even the 'Clavis,' for a talented band like this one was, would have found it just as easy to ring a seventeen thousand of London Surprise as a fifteen thousand of Treble Bob. But so it was.

On the eve of the peal attempt the man who should have rung the second, William Thoday, was taken ill by influenza, an epidemic of which was at the time devastating the parish, but fortunately his place was filled by a certain Peter Wimsey, who happened, apparently for no particular reason, to be the brother of a duke.

The peal was to start at midnight, and during the evening before the band met at the Rectory, and to make sure that they knew what Kent Treble Bob was like, they rang three leads and a double course on the handbells single handed. Then with one of those flashes of brilliant intuition which come only to great minds, the steeplekeeper, John Godfrey, remarked that as Lord Peter Wimsey was to ring the second, and as he was not so tall as William Thoday by a long chalk, it would be necessary to let the tuckings down a goodish bit. With that they all trooped across to the church and up into the belfry, where they pulled the bells up in peal, or at any rate all at the same time.

I have said that this was a remarkable band. It was, but none of them was quite so remarkable as Hezekiah Lavender, the conductor

(Continued on next page.)

## A FAMOUS COMPOSER.

(Continued from previous column.)

Dains represented the Cumberlands on the Central Council from the year of its foundation until his death, and he was an active and well-known member of that body. He was one of the original members of the Methods Committee, and though not one of the most influential members, he took a great deal of interest in its work. He was a member of the Peal Collection Committee and was responsible for the Double Norwich Collection, but he was hardly the best man for such a job and the book cannot be said to be a successful one.

He did a good deal of research work in the British Museum among the older and, at the time, little known ringing books, and published copious extracts from them in 'The Bell News,' and in the many controversies of the time he was one of the keenest protagonists. He was a worthy representative of a school of composers which has largely passed away, but which in its time did most excellent work.

Henry Dains died during the last war at the age of 78, on April 6th, 1916.

**THE END OF A STUPENDOUS FEAT.**

(Continued from previous page.)

and tenor man. In bygone years he had been sexton, but he had got past that. He was old and he was toothless, and now in his eighty-third year he pulled up the two-ton tenor without help. More still, he clattered her up the right way. It was a feat which may fairly be said to be unparalleled in the history of ringing. Samuel Muggeridge could not have done it, nor William Pye. Even the writer of this article doubts whether it would not be beyond his own powers. But to these wonderful men it was so customary a thing that it passed without notice.

How then do I know that he did clapper it up the right way? I don't know really, but I can't believe that such men would have gone for a fifteen thousand with the clappers on the wrong side of the bells; and I do know that they did not turn them. For at that very moment there was up in the bell chamber a man tied to the bell frame. Tied, but not gagged, and with his arms free. He had been a ringer in the tower and knew very well that it is quite an uncomfortable thing to be tied up to a bell frame during a peal. We can hardly doubt that if anyone had come up to turn the clappers he would have called his attention to his plight and asked to be released.

Fortunately he was not released, for if he had been, though it would have saved his life, there would have been no 'Nine Tailors.'

After a few rounds the band dispersed with orders to meet again to ring for the service. Much against his will, the captain allowed them to leave the bells up. It was not, he said, to be taken as a precedent. The stout-hearted old fellow would have made nothing of whisking the tenor up again in an hour or so's time before starting for the peal, but he gave way to the younger men.

The peal began at midnight, every man standing to his own rope, for in Fenchurch St. Paul they did not chop and change, but every man had his own bell and stuck to it. The Rector was not one of the band, but he was in the belfry. He had most thoughtfully provided a large jug of beer, and every now and then when one of the ringers felt that way inclined, he would hand his rope temporarily to Mr. Venables and go and help himself. Lord Peter took the opportunity to have a stroll round the churchyard. Only the tenor man, that great soul, scorned all such relaxation and went on hour after hour, turning in the great tenor and calling the bobs.

The end came at last and fifteen thousand eight hundred and forty changes of Kent Treble Bob Major had been rung in nine hours and fifteen minutes. It really was a stupendous feat. True the College Youths had in 1868 rung the same peal and in three minutes less time, but Bethnal Green tenor weighs 14 cwt. and Fenchurch tenor weighs 41 cwt. Moreover, the ropes at the latter place are 90ft. long

(Continued in next column.)

**NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT STONE.**

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at St. Michael's Church, Stone, on June 22nd, when the following towers were represented: Stoke-on-Trent, Tunstall, Hanley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Longton and Stone. Although the church bells could not be rung on account of the new Order, the time was spent in handbell ringing, and a few were able to ring their first changes on handbells.

A short service was held in the church, conducted by the Rector of Stone, the Rev. H. Lee, who gave an inspiring address. After the service the members, including the Rector and Vicar of Tunstall, the Rev. S. F. Linsley, visited the George Hotel for tea. The landlord of this hotel is a ringer from St. Michael's, Stone. After the 17 members had had a good tea, the Rector welcomed the visitors and remarked that it was unfortunate that the bells could not be rung, but he hoped and prayed that the time was not far distant when the association would carry on with its usual duties.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the welcome he had extended and to the ringers for the tea they had provided was proposed by Mr. C. H. Page and seconded by Mr. T. H. Forster.—Mr. H. Hodson, the leader of the Stone ringers, responded, and Mr. H. Procter, the landlord of the hotel, remarked that it was always a great pleasure to entertain any ringer who came to his hostelry from anywhere.

Mr. E. Steele proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had so ably attended to the needs of the table, and Mrs. W. Buckley responded.

After tea a committee meeting was held, at which the Rev. S. F. Linsley was chairman.

There was a mixed feeling regarding the future, but after careful thought it was proposed by Mr. N. Sargeant 'That we should carry on with the meetings which had been arranged and fixed for the year 1940.' This was seconded by Mr. T. H. Forster.

Mr. A. Thompson, the hon. secretary, remarked that he would shortly be joining the Forces and said the safety of the records books was at the present time a worry to him. The Rev. S. F. Linsley, clerical secretary of the association, offered to place the books in the safe at Christ Church, Tunstall, which was agreed to.

(Continued from previous column.)

and they had put on new ones specially to ring the peal. Truly a wonderful performance!

Stedman Triples is given in Troyte's book, and so, of course, the Fenchurch men rang a peal of it, but it was not a method Mr. Lavender thought much of. How should he? He was the conductor to the band, he always rang the tenor, and had done so for 60 years. What use had such a one for such a method? He was a marvellous man, and, take him on the whole, we shall not see his like again.

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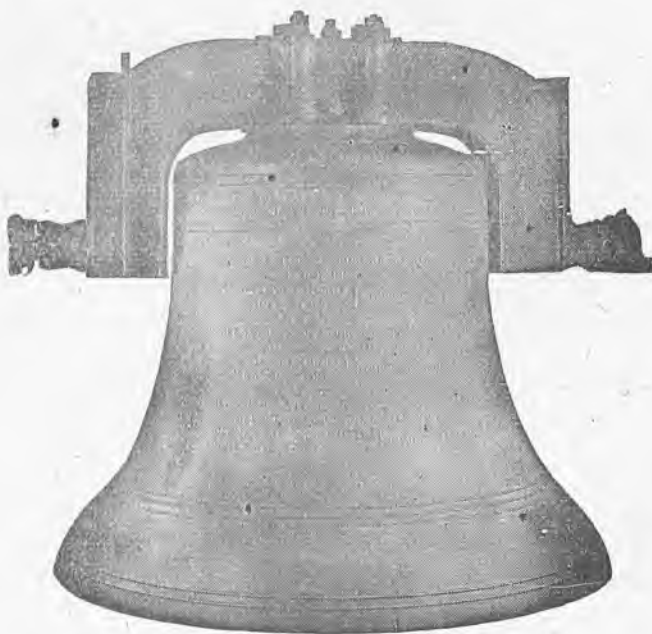
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Bob Pye's many friends will join us in congratulating him on his sixty-eighth birthday, which falls on Sunday next.

The ring of ten bells at Taunton was opened on June 25th, 1885, and what was claimed to be the first peal of Caters in Somerset was rung. It afterwards came to light that the peal was false.

Mr. James Morgan writes that the peal of Bob Major published in our issue of June 14th was called by him on February 7th, 1910. The late Rev. A. T. Beeston rang the fourth.

The old ring of ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, were rung for the last time on June 28th, 1885.

On June 30th, 1833, Elijah Roberts tapped on handbells at Birmingham 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques. Henry Cooper called the bobs and Henry Johnson witnessed the performance.

The first peal of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, Ilkeston Variation, was rung at Ilkeston on June 30th, 1921, conducted by E. C. Gobey. The method is Kent with Oxford Places inserted at certain places to keep the tenors out of the Slow. Mr. Gobey called a similar peal of Royal at Chesterfield in 1922.

For several years the bells remained silent, as it was held by architects that it was not safe to ring them in the lofty steeple. Then in 1927 a generous donor offered to pay the cost of recasting them into a chime of fourteen bells. The scheme met with a great deal of opposition, in which the Central Council took a leading part, but after a hearing by the Consistory Court the faculty was issued and the bells recast.

We are pleased to see that handbell ringing still flourishes at Bushey. We hope other handbell bands will not allow themselves to fall out of practice.

## A RINGERS' REST HOUSE.

AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I, through your columns of 'The Ringing World,' issue a warm invitation to any ringers in His Majesty's Forces who may be stationed in or near Oxford to make use of this address as a ringers' rest house. We have here a set of ten handbells, and doubtless many members of the Forces will be glad of the chance to get in some practice during their spare time, if any.

In passing, might I suggest that this could be done by ringers generally and thus keep the art going during the war?

R. A. POST.

54, Lye Valley, Headington, Oxford.

Many ringers, we feel sure, will be ready to follow Mr. Post's excellent suggestion, and we shall be pleased to publish their names and addresses.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

## ASTON RINGING IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In connection with Mr. Trollope's article on Birmingham ringers and ringing, the following extracts may prove of interest to our Aston friends.

'Leicester Journal,' May 5th, 1792.—'We learn from Hinckley that a subscription has been fet on foot by the gentlemen of that place to defray the recasting of two of the old bells, and purchasing two new ones in addition. A gentleman well known for his mechanical abilities has likewise engaged to fet up an entire new fet of chimes.'

'Leicester Journal,' January 4th, 1893.—'On Friday last was rung at the parish church of Hinckley in this County by the Society of Youths of Afton, near Birmingham, a true and Complete Peal confitting of 5264 changes of Bob Major which was completed in 3 hours and 20 minutes being the first peal ever rung there in that method.'

'Leicester Journal,' May 18th, 1793.—'We learn that on Whit-Monday the St. Peter's Youths of Afton near Birmingham will ring at the parish church of Hinckley, a complete peal of eight bells in the newest method, which is expected to surpass everything of the kind ever heard in that place.'

'Leicester Chronicle,' June 13th, 1793.—'His Majesty's Birthday was celebrated at Hinckley in this County, with every mark of loyalty and attachment. The morning was ushered in with ringing of bells etc. At Ten o'Clock a number of young men assembled with their mufkets at the Nag's Head, from whence they went in procession (accompanied by a select band of music with flags flying) to the church, where being met by the Society of Ringers, they all ascended the tower, and performed Handel's Coronation Anthem in honour of the day, which was followed by three volleys fired from off the Tower. They then returned to the Inn, where an elegant entertainment was provided, several loyal and constitutional songs having been sung, they paraded the town, firing volleys in different parts of it. The day concluded with the utmost harmony.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

P.S.—To assist me in local research, can any Aston ringer inform me (privately) of details of the transfer of the ancient chancel screen from St. Margaret's, Leicester, to Aston, and if it is possible to get a photo or drawing of this?



## THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

### THE UPKEEP OF UNUSED BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It would surely be helpful at this time for steeplekeepers to be given some advice on how to look after the bells during a long period of disuse, and I would respectfully suggest that the opinions of some or all of the leading bellfounders be sought and their suggestions embodied in an article in 'The Ringing World.'

Many of us are familiar with the difficulties to be encountered when visiting towers where the bells, normally in good order, have been silent and unattended, even for only a few months, whilst the effects of years of neglect may be experienced at numerous London churches.

There are certain to be many towers where the bells will be allowed to go to rack and ruin, as there are numerous places where, in normal times, the bells are oiled only because they have begun to go very hard and not because, in such towers, regular attention is regarded as a necessity. In such cases it is probably hopeless to expect that anything will be done to the bells until after the war.

It might perhaps be possible for the Central Council to prepare a leaflet on the care of bells whilst in disuse, which could be circulated by the associations to every tower in the kingdom—even those towers not in union with the associations.

P. A. C.

### REMOVAL OF BELL CLAPPERS.

Sir,—Is it entirely a practicable proposition to take out the clappers of bells, as Mr. Lewis suggested in his article in your last issue? Granted that this is the most effective method of preventing any risk of accident when using the bells for instructional purposes I venture to think there must be hundreds of towers where it would be almost impossible to move the rusted nuts on the clapper bolts of old bells. And if all the bells are wanted for use in this way, what a business it would be to go up and replace a clapper every time, in order to make a bell ready for use as an alarm.

I think the method suggested in your article for beginners of lashing the clapper securely, with a piece of leather inserted between the lashing and the lip of the bell to prevent chafing, would prove equally effective and there would be no risk, if the lashing were inspected before use each time. But best of all, I believe, is the employment of wooden clapper stays, which are bolted to the shaft of the clapper just above the ball and effectually hold it in position in the centre of the bell. They are quickly and easily adjusted. L. W. BUNCE.

### A SILENCE THAT CAN BE FELT.

#### COUNTRY CHURCHWARDEN'S SYMPATHY.

Sir,—I am not a ringer, but I know the ringers of our village church and that is how I know there is a 'Ringing World,' and it is to express my sympathy with the ringers of all this land of ours that I write to you. For years and years, ever since I can remember, and I am not a young man, the ringers at our church have faithfully carried out their duties Sunday by Sunday, ringing twice a day to call us to church and reminding even the careless, who never go to church, that Sunday is a day different from other days; that there is a God and that there are spiritual things which call for man's attention, even if he neglects them. The bells for generations have been such an established institution in our village that their silencing has come as a great blow to us and especially to the ringers, who, I know, love their job—two of them have loved it for more than fifty years. They have enjoyed their Grandsires and their Bob Majors, but they have done more, they have given their services heartily as unto the Lord. But on these last two Sundays our bells have been silent and it has been a silence that could almost be felt. It has struck a blow at our Sunday life such as I should never have thought possible. Even folk who have previously seemed indifferent have spoken about it; and there are those who have said it is a shame that we should have to be without the bells on Sunday, although, of course, they are prepared to admit that if it's going to help beat the enemy, then it is necessary. As I passed up through the village street with cottage gardens aglow with flowers in the sunshine on that first Sunday morning of the silence and realised the reason for it, I felt that war was nearer to us than I had imagined. In our little backwater, war had seemed still a long way away and the boys who had left us had gone on a crusade to a distant land. But now it has made its presence felt even here. For centuries never a Sunday had passed without the sound of the church bells; but the war has changed even that. It has given us a real pang of sorrow this loss of our beloved bells, and old Tom and his companions of the belfry are inconsolable. They have the sympathy of all the villagers here, but we are only typical of scores, ay, hundreds of other villages in this land of ours where they have the same feeling towards the bells, and so I send my sympathy and that of our ringers to all the ringers of England who have been deprived of their bells and of the opportunity of continuing their service to the Church. With them all, we long for the day when our bells may ring out again—for victory and peace.

'A COUNTRY CHURCHWARDEN.'

### RINGERS ON DUTY.

The ringers at St. Mary's, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, have enrolled for duty to assist the Local Volunteer Defence Force. They are taking turns to do duty night and morning in the belfry ready to give the signal by ringing a bell if the watchers on the top of the tower give warning.

### SHOULD CLOCK CHIMES BE STOPPED?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Since the order to stop church bellringing, I have been continually asked why I have not stopped the church clock from striking. It chimes every quarter and strikes the hour, as well as playing hymn tunes at certain times during the day. As one of our ringers remarked to me the other day, 'When it strikes midday we might as well ring a quarter-peal!' The parson told me not to stop the clock striking unless we were ordered to do so, but I should be pleased to know if there is any definite ruling on this matter.

'SEXTON.'

### BARNSELY SOCIETY TO KEEP GOING.

The Barnsley and District Society has had to cancel the annual shield contest, which should have been held at Silkstone, but a meeting has been arranged at Monk Bretton on July 6th, the chief object being to dedicate a board recording two peals rung by members of the society. One was rung fully muffled in memory of those who lost their lives in the explosion at Wharnccliffe Woodmoor Colliery in August, 1936, and the other in honour of the Coronation of their Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth in May, 1937.

It is hoped to arrange other meetings to keep the society going and encourage handbell ringing and the ringing spirit.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

There are indications that some of the associations hope to carry on, even if in limited measure. The Oxford Diocesan Guild's annual meeting is to be held, if all's well, in Oxford on July 30th, and except that there will be no tower-bell ringing, the proceedings will follow the usual course. Business of importance will be brought before the meeting, and it is therefore hoped there will be a good attendance.

St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, hopes to keep interest alive by holding quarterly meetings. The next will be at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, on July 6th. Handbell ringing and a social evening is to follow the business meeting, and it is hoped in this way to assist many young members to become proficient change ringers on handbells.

Two peal boards are to be unveiled at Monk Bretton by the Barnsley and District Society on July 6th.

On the same day a board recording a muffled peal rung in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard is to be dedicated at Great Baddow.

### CANCELLED MEETINGS.

The following meetings have been cancelled:—

TO-MORROW, JUNE 29th:

Lincoln Diocesan Guild, at Bigby.  
Worcestershire Association, at Claines.  
Midland Counties Association, at Anstey.

SATURDAY, JULY 13th:

Barnsley and District Society Shield Contest at Silkstone.

### WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

#### PICNIC TEA AND HANDBELLS.

The Northern Branch met at Hagley on June 15th as arranged, although not in such strength as would have been the case had there been no suspension of ringing on the tower bells.

Three sets of handbells were available and were made good use of, both for change ringing and for tune playing.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Robert Burns, who gave an excellent address, which, judging by the comments afterwards, made a deep impression upon the members.

By kind permission of the Viscount and Viscountess Cobham, a picnic tea followed, in one of the many sequestered beauty spots of Hagley Park, when the members were joined by the Rector, who afterwards presided at the business meeting.

It was decided to hold meetings as usual, but instead of a bi-quarterly meeting it was agreed to hold two meetings, to give increased opportunities for joint handbell practice, in between the usual quarterly meetings, the first to be on a Saturday in July at Wolverley. The next quarterly meeting was fixed for Kinver on September 21st.

The Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector, which was carried unanimously. The Rector replied and hoped to have the pleasure of welcoming the Northern Branch to Hagley at a not far distant date and under happier circumstances, and urged them as churchworkers not to let the present ban on ringing damp their enthusiasm. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Hagley Scouts and their Scoutmaster, Mr. E. M. Ashford, brother of the branch secretary, for the excellent way in which they had arranged the picnic tea and the plentiful supplies of good things provided, after which the meeting closed.

As Hagley Park is private and situated half a mile away from the main road, the members were able to indulge in all the handbell ringing they wanted. This included Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by the young handbell band from Stourbridge St. Thomas, who have only been practising for three months. Grandsire Triples and Caters. Stedman Triples and Bob Major by the more seasoned veterans, and an excellent selection of tunes by the Brierley Hill and Wollaston bands.

## BIRMINGHAM BELLS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

What seems to have been the first peal at Aston was one of Grandsire Triples rung on July 15th, 1776. Phineas Smith called Holt's ten-part from the second, and the band was made up from the regular St. Martin's company.

A fortnight later the first peal was rung at Deritend—5,040 changes of Bob Major. The band included three or four of the older men and one or two new and interesting names. Stephen Hill, who rang the sixth, was a Kidderminster man who earned some amount of distinction by his adaptation of Holt's ten-part, which contains only one single and runs to 5,012 changes. Several attempts were made to get rid of the singles in a peal of Grandsire Triples by shortening the peal to less than 5,040 changes. Hill's attempt, which is given in Shipway's book, is the one which comes nearest success, though George Gross claimed to have composed and called at Edmonton a peal without singles which ran to 5,025 changes. How he did it, and whether it was true or not, we do not know, for the figures are lost.

The man who rang the tenor at Deritend was James Dovey, of Stourbridge. Apart from the peals he rang, nothing, I believe, is known of him, but he must have been a man of some means and standing, since he was able to travel about the country in pursuit of change ringing, and since he was invited to join the College Youths when they went to Shrewsbury to ring the first peal on the new twelve bells at St. Chad's. It may be no more than a coincidence that the Rector of Birmingham, in the year that the ten bells were installed, was Richard Dovey, but it is at least possible that he and James Dovey were father and son or in some other way related.

Many years after the time we are dealing with, Dr. Samuel Lee, who had learnt to ring at Shrewsbury and was then a learned professor at Cambridge, writing to Samuel Lawrence, remarks that 'Mr. Dovey I find is as much as ever in the science,' and he asks Lawrence, 'When you see Mr. Riley or Mr. Dovey, I would thank you to remember me respectfully to them.'

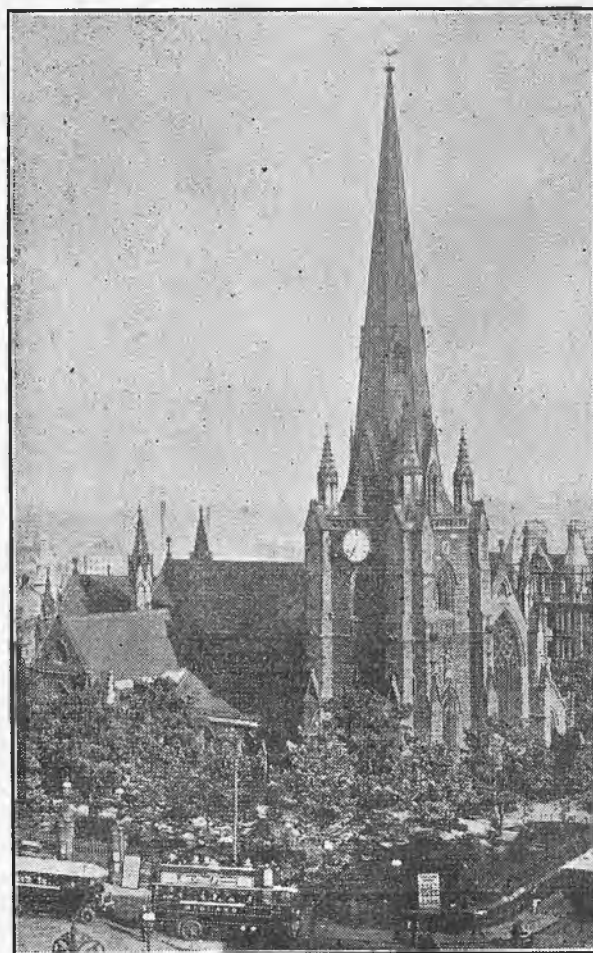
The peal at Deritend was conducted by John Miles, who now took his place as one of the Birmingham bob callers. He also conducted the next peal at Deritend, one of Grandsire Triples in the following September.

The first peal of Bob Maximus at St. Martin's was rung on October 25th, 1779. It was the first in the method accomplished outside London, but the Norwich Scholars a little more than a year before had rung their 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Mancroft. The band at St. Martin's consisted of Joseph Neale, Arasmus Wilson, Richard Newman, Joseph Littlewood, Stephen Hill, Thomas Hadley, Philip Heath, John Bristow, Daniel Veisey, Samuel Green, Phineas Smith, James Dovey and John Miles, the last two ringing the tenor between them. Philip Heath was a Shrewsbury man and a member of the Union Society of that town. The peal was composed and called by Phineas Smith.

The next recorded performance by the St. Martin's Youths was one of Tittum Bob Royal on May 20th, 1780, at St. Michael's, Coventry, the first peal on the bells which had been cast in 1774 by Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel. These were the bells which, in after years, enjoyed so high a reputation and were recast not so long

ago, despite a vigorous attempt by the Central Council to save them. Phineas Smith called the peal, and the band was made up of the regular members of the St. Martin's company, including Stephen Hill.

Two and a half years later, on October 7th, 1782, the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Martin's by a band made up largely by the same men. Samuel Brooke rang the fourth. He was the last of the company who took part in the Bob Major of 1755 to stand in a peal.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, BIRMINGHAM.

John Miles called Bob Major at Bewdley in 1782, and Phineas Smith the same method at King's Norton in 1783, and after that neither seems to have had any particular ambition to conduct peals, although both continued to be active ringers. The next performance at St. Martin's was by a band of young men, none of whom seems to have been a member of the regular company, but more than one of them were to be active peal ringers in the future. The peal was Holt's Ten-part, and was conducted by John Black from the second. Apparently it was the only occasion on which he called a peal. Charles Shuter rang the seventh. Soon after, he took Phineas Smith's place as the leading bob caller in Birmingham.

This performance was the beginning of a period of active peal ringing, and the year 1786 was an eventful one in

the history of the Birmingham Exercise. On February 12th, Charles Shuter called his first peal, one of Grand-sire Triples, at King's Norton, and about the same time Samuel Lawrence became a frequent visitor to Birmingham.

The band which had been formed at Shifnal, with Andrew Peake as conductor, contained several excellent ringers, but by far the most energetic and enthusiastic among them was Lawrence. He was born in the town in 1762, and was a farrier by trade. His family must have been the owners of a very prosperous business, for though, no doubt, he himself worked at the anvil, he had both the means and the leisure to spend visiting the belfries of the neighbouring towns and villages in pursuit of change ringing, to which he was passionately devoted. It was natural that he should journey to Birmingham as often as he could, and both at St. Martin's and at Aston he was so frequent and so welcome a visitor that he was looked on almost as one of the local band. It was at Aston on September 27th, 1784, that he called a peal for the first time—one of Oxford Treble Bob Major. In 1786 he called, at the same church, 6,016 changes of the same method, and when the St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal at Solihull he called 5,184 changes of Bob Major.

At this time the College Youths paid a very famous visit to Birmingham. The party was made up from both the companies into which for thirty years the society had been split, and this visit was part of an attempt to reunite the two sections into one.

The London men arrived in Birmingham towards the end of October, 1786, and on the 24th twelve of them started at St. Martin's for a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. It was a first-class band, made up of some of the best ringers who have ever belonged to the Society of College Youths, including John Povey, who probably was conductor, John Reeves, Robert Patrick, the bell founder, William Lyford, Joseph Holdsworth and Samuel Muggeridge. They rang for two hours, when the tenor clapper broke, and so the peal was lost. Then the St. Martin's men, to show what they could do, went to Aston and rang 5,120 changes of Treble Bob Major. Lawrence rang the tenor and conducted, Phineas Smith the seventh, John Miles the sixth, Daniel Veisey the fifth, William Newman the third, Thomas Hadley the second, and William Kendall the treble. The fourth was rung by a man named John Cox, who does not appear to have taken part in any other peals.

Next day the damage at St. Martin's was put right, and the College Youths made another attempt for the peal. Outside, listening, was a young member of the Aston band, William Hassall by name, and in after years he used to talk of the ringing and say how excellent it was. All went well for nearly three hours and a half, and a peal seemed certain, when Muggeridge set the tenor and went and sat down, saying he was tired and would ring no more. He had been opposed to the fraternisation with the ancient society, and did not like ringing with some of its members, so some of the others in the band thought he had spoilt the peal purposely. A heated altercation ensued, during which William Jones, who had been outside listening, came into the belfry. He had been a prime mover in the scheme of joining the two companies into one, and when he heard what had happened, in his anger and excitement he pulled the treble rope so hard that the bell was thrown over, smash-

(Continued in next column.)

## CALL CHANGES.

DO THEY HELP OR HINDER THE BEGINNER?

By the Rev. Herbert Drake.

When I was taught change ringing by the late Rev. H. Law James, he impressed on me never to ring call changes, as, he said, they only formed bad habits, and especially bad striking. In the greater part of the country the use of call changes is, I know, condemned, but here in East Anglia it is practised; and several times lately I have noticed it advocated in your columns. It may therefore be well to examine this practice, to see if it does good or harm.

Now first it is said that the practice is good for this or that. I have heard it advocated for a good many things, so many indeed that it would be waste of time to enumerate them. As a matter of fact, I have noticed that it is no good for any of them. Moreover, there are other and better ways of attaining the desired end, in every case. Thus I think we may say call changes can do no good.

Why then are they practised? For one thing, because they allow people who do not want to do anything more to do something on the bells. They are a sort of anodyne to prevent real progress. For another thing they allow an instructor to look after several beginners at once. Although tempting, this is a thoroughly bad habit. The rule should be one pupil at a time. This does not mean that there can be only one learner at a time—though this would be the ideal. It means that, while others may be able to look after themselves, the instructor should concentrate on one at a time.

Now for the effect on striking. In good striking you have to place your bell in the row you are about to help to ring, at a certain distance from where it struck last. And the excellence of your striking depends on your judging this exactly. It must not be slovenly executed, nor made a little too short or too long. Now supposing these two places are in two call changes: you know that there will be at least half a dozen rows before there is another call; there is no hurry. If you move a quarter of the right distance, you will have got right by the time you have rung four rows, and this will probably be as much as is expected of you. I do not say that everyone knowingly argues like this, but it is pretty certain that this is what is at the back of one's mind. It certainly is of mine. And it would be difficult to imagine anything more likely to cause bad and slovenly striking. It undoubtedly has had that result in my own case. It will, of course, be said that this need not be so, and would not, where the beginner is properly taught. But, in fact, this is always the result. Perhaps, if one spent more trouble than in teaching proper changes, it might be possible to get call changes well struck. But in that case what is the good of it? Time is saved by teaching properly from the first.

But more important (though never in the mind of the ringer himself) is the effect on the outside listener. When in the tower we are so occupied in the work of ringing that we never stop to think how it sounds to an outsider. We clergy often hear complaints that ringers do not. Some of these seemed very strange to me, especially those of musical persons, but one day I was not able to be in the belfry and had to listen to the others ringing call changes. They were not badly struck—if I had been there, changes would have been rung—but I understood why musical people object to such ringing; nor do I ever want to hear call changes from outside again.

I will try to explain. In other music there is a succession of concords; or of discords which are quickly 'resolved' into concords. But the music of ringing is in a succession of rows. In some of these rows the sound is pleasant; in some it is indifferent; in the rest it is not so pleasant. The succession, however, is so speedy that the latter are not dwelt on, but are practically 'resolved' into the two other kinds. If the first kind predominate, we call it 'good music.' But the essence of it is the speed and rhythm with which the rows follow one another. Therefore, if call changes were at their very best, they would hardly be endurable. It would be like the playing on an instrument, the first note of a tune a number of times, and then the second, and so on. But they never are at their best; for what happens is this. When a good row is called, the melody helps the ear and it is soon rung well. It is no longer good practice, and another call is soon made. On the other hand, if a bad sounding row is called, the very sound makes it difficult, especially for beginners, to pick up the rhythm. As it goes badly, it is long before a call is made, as the caller, to justify himself, wants to get it to go well before he makes another call; the result is that the bad rows always predominate, and call changes always are musically intolerable.

I must admit that this does apply so drastically to numbers over eight. When some of the notes of the octave are duplicated, the ear is not so wearied by the reiteration of a row, especially if the calls are made frequently. But in other cases if call changes are felt necessary by the instructor, they should, for the sake of the ordinary listener, always be practised on silenced bells.

(Continued from previous column.)

ing the stay and ceasing itself, no one paying any attention to the flying rope.

Thus the Birmingham visit, instead of being the means of healing the thirty-year-old schism in the Society of College Youths, proved a decisive factor in the break-up and final disappearance of the ancient branch.



## FOR BEGINNERS.

### A START IN CHANGE RINGING.

When we planned this course of articles for beginners we had no idea that a sudden ban on the ringing of all church bells would fall upon the Exercise, and make 'open' practice out of the question. But the fact that the bells have now to be 'silent' will not, we hope, lead those who have just taken up ringing to abandon their study of the art or to imagine that there is nothing which can be done which is likely to interest them.

Of course, a great deal will depend upon the person who has sought to bring them into the belfry. If he (or she) has initiative and imagination, there is much that can be done to preserve the interest of pupils and to extend their knowledge ready for the time when their services can be fully utilised.

There is the 'silent' practice, to which we referred last week, in which the beginner can obtain mastery of a bell, and a progressive practice by which he can go on to acquire that rope sight so essential to change ringing. Many people, however, find that their first steps in change ringing are easier if they are made on handbells and, with the restrictions now in force, attention should be directed to this kind of tuition as much as possible. Even those who have some skill in change ringing on church bells will find it a pleasant and profitable way of passing an hour to learn to ring a couple of handbells to a simple method, while their new pupil takes one bell, preferably the treble, to begin with.

As this article is specially for the beginner, however, it is to the hunting of a bell in method ringing that we would specially direct attention now. First of all, let it be understood that in change ringing on handbells the bell has got to be used in a particular way. The bell must be struck upward to represent the 'hand stroke' of the church bell (which is the technical term used when the rope is pulled by the sally), and after the handbell has been thus struck it must be kept up momentarily until it is used in the next change, when it is struck downward to represent what is known as 'back stroke' (which, with a church bell, is the stroke when the bell is pulled by the rope end. The two strokes, hand stroke and back stroke, constitute a whole pull.) When the back stroke has been rung, the handbell is kept down until the next hand stroke. These movements need to be well defined actions, for any sort of half-and-half style will quickly put the beginner, and the other ringers, out of their calculations. The actual technique of striking the handbell can best be explained by anyone who has had some experience.

Now let us suppose you have got your handbell party together, with two or three of the older ringers to ring the other bells, and you endeavour to 'hunt' the treble, how are you to set about it? Here are the figures of a lead of Grandsire Doubles, which, if your ringing is to be on five bells, is likely to be the method your instructor will choose:

This is a variant of the figures we asked you to write out and study last week, and if you compare them you will find that they still consist of the changing of two pairs each time, the two front pairs and the two back pairs alternately, with the change made with both the front and back pairs in a different position—actually the

first change in each block of ten rows, instead of the sixth. That block of ten rows is called a lead, because it comprises the complete path of the treble from front to back and back to front.

If you examine the figures you will notice how regularly the treble moves up and down among the other bells—just one place at a time, until it gets behind all the rest, and then back again one place at a time until it leads once more. The other bells make deviations, but throughout the Grandsire method on any number of bells the treble always follows this straight track. Because it has a simpler path, however, it does not mean that the treble is a less important bell than the others. Indeed, it may be said to be the most important of all the bells, for upon it the others base their work, and if the treble goes wrong it is much more likely to put the rest out than if one of the others makes a mistake.

The principle involved in hunting the treble is the basis of all the complicated as well as the simple work which is to be found in method ringing. It is the foundation upon which bells move from place to place among the rest. As we pointed out last week, no bell moves more than one place up or down at a time. It may remain for two blows (or a whole pull) in one position, but when it moves it is always into the adjoining place.

Thus, in plain hunting with the treble, when you start you can move only into 2nd's place; that is, only one other bell can strike in front of you. That bell must be the one that was previously striking immediately after you, the reason being that he, too, can only move a place at a time, and, as he is hunting down, he must change places with the one in front of him. In fact, as far as the treble is concerned, that is what happens every time, while he is hunting up. At the next stroke he will strike after the bell now striking after him, so that if while he is making one stroke he looks for the bell that is coming after him, he will know exactly who to follow at the next stroke. Again, when he strikes in 2nd's place he will have only one bell in front of him, when in 3rd's place there will be two bells, in 4th's three bells, in 5th's four bells. He will, in fact, then be behind them all.

In hunting down he will follow the reverse process, namely, strike next time in front of the one now in front of him. But that is not so easy, and the best thing to do at first may be to count the bells in front. When hunting up you continue to increase the number of the bells in front of you until, in Doubles, all four strike before you do. When you hunt down you begin by having all four in front of you, then you omit the one you are striking over and strike after the other three. Again, omit the two you have struck over, and strike after the other two. Once more, ignore the three you have struck over, leaving only one for your attention, and then, having struck over him, lead with your own bell.

In order to do this accurately, when practice is possible on church bells, you must have perfect command of your bell, and you will find that when hunting up you must hold your bell up a little, and when hunting down, pull it in a little, because in hunting up, the interval between your striking places is longer, and when hunting down it is shorter. Moreover, if you are ringing on a heavy peal of bells you will find you will have to allow just a little more time, that is you will have to hold your bell off a fraction of a second longer when pulling after the bigger bells. It is these little allowances which make all the

(Continued on next page.)

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**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.

—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Blackburn, on Saturday, June 29th. Meeting in the tower at 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—The meeting of the above branch advertised for June 29th is now cancelled. Details and date of next meeting will be announced later.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The Grimsby District meeting, which was to have been held at Bigby on Saturday, June 29th, has been postponed.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—The quarterly meeting at Anstey on June 29th is cancelled. It has been decided to hold a general committee meeting at Leicester on July 6th. Will all members of various district committees and local secretaries please meet at St. Margaret's Church at 3.30 p.m.? Agenda: To transact current business and discuss future plans.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, July 2nd, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—It has been considered advisable to cancel the meeting arranged for July 6th at Rickmansworth, Herts. Will all supporters please note.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—The Rev. J. N. Mallinson, Rector of Speldhurst, intimates that he will be glad to meet members and friends at Speldhurst on Saturday, July 6th, and extends an invitation to the Rectory gardens. Divine service 4.30, followed by tea (George and Dragon, at 1s. 3d. per head), and business meeting to discuss future activities of the district. Please try and attend, and notify me for tea by Tuesday, July 2nd.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Members are invited to attend the dedication on Saturday, July 6th, at 5 p.m., of a peal board at St. Mary's Church, Great Baddow, recording a muffled peal rung in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard, formerly Master of the association. Handbells will be available during the afternoon. Will all those requiring tea please inform Mr. G. Green, of 3, Bell Street, Great Baddow, as soon as possible?—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Quarterly meeting at St. Clement Danes, Strand, in choir vestry, at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, July 6th.—O. L. Ashbrook, Acting Gen. Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, July 6th, at 6.30 p.m. Business meeting, handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, July 6th, when a peal board, recording two peals rung at this tower, will be dedicated by the Vicar. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at nominal fee at 5.15 p.m., followed by short business meeting and handbell ringing. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than July 3rd. A good attendance is hoped for as all are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Forest Branch.—The annual salmon supper of the South Forest Branch will be held at the Angel Hotel, Ruardean, on Saturday, July 13th. Particulars of price and tickets from William W. T. Scott, The Lawn, Ruardean, Glos. Please send applications before Saturday, June 29th.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each to members, 3s. each to non-members. It is earnestly requested that application for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should reach general secretary not later than Tuesday, July 16th, after which date the business will be in the hands of the caterers. Should the abnormal times in which we are living cause the dinner to be cancelled, all moneys sent will be refunded. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

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**FOR BEGINNERS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

difference between good and bad striking, as you will learn when you do open ringing. In the meantime, try and apply it by ropesight if you are able to practise change ringing on 'lashed' bells.

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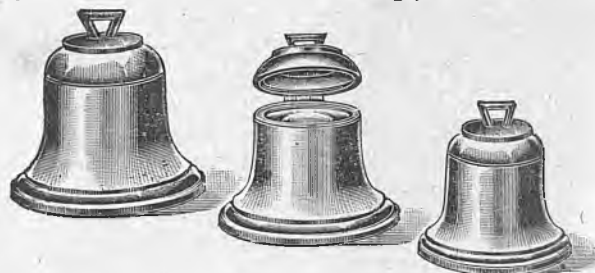
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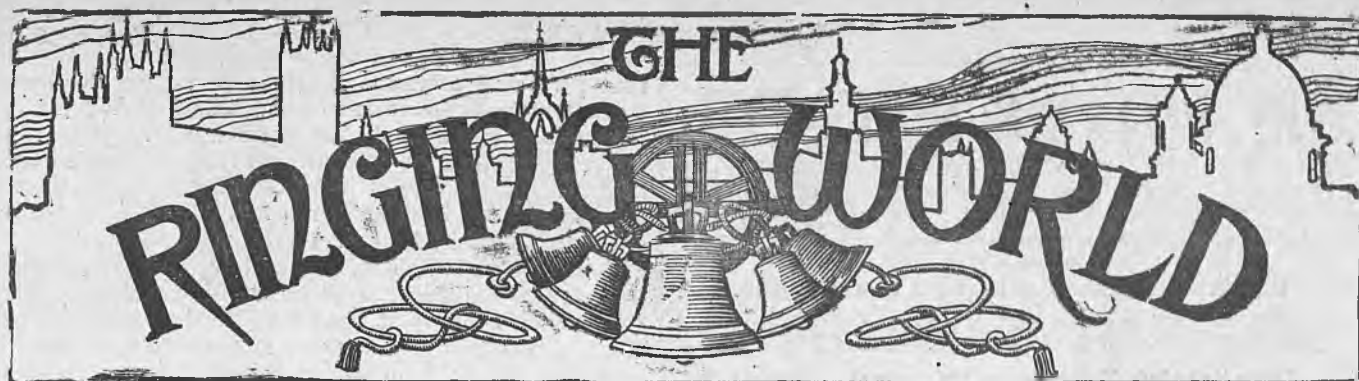
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FRIDAY, JULY 5th, 1940.

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## THE SILENCE.

We publish this week the terms of the Order, under which the ringing of church bells is banned by the Minister of Home Security, except under the instructions of a competent military or police authority. They will be read with interest, and to some extent with wonder as to the extent to which the Order will serve the purpose for which it has been created. That the restriction has been imposed in the interests of national security no one will question, but many people are beginning to ask themselves why, if one bell is to be rung to notify the presence of a raiding enemy, the full peal cannot be used to call folk to church on Sunday. No one quarrels with the decision of the authorities, but it would be interesting to know the reason for this. It may be that the difference between ringing the single bell and ringing a peal of bells was not fully realised when the decision was taken. Obviously no one with a practical knowledge of bells was consulted before the plans were settled, and it would seem that when the hon. secretary of the Central Council got into touch with the Ministry of Home Security the matter had gone too far for modification. We have received numerous letters asking if it is not possible for something to be done to get the Order revised, but, much as we may dislike it and whatever our views as to its real usefulness, we do not think the time is opportune to make representations on the subject. The moment is too serious, the demands upon the department too great to waste energies upon a matter of this sort. The Order was drafted with the best intentions, and it must stand, with all the disappointment it brings to ringers, until the time arrives that the safety of our country and our freedom is assured. When that time comes, even though the war may not be entirely ended, we can return to the bells, and they will be rung with all the greater pride and joy.

In the meantime there is a duty imposed upon ringers to see that the upkeep of the bells is not neglected. It is impossible at this juncture, of course, to say how long church bells will remain in this enforced silence, but all the while they have to continue unringed there will be a tendency, we are afraid, to neglect them. Everyone knows how quickly neglected machinery can become dilapidated machinery, and so it is with bells. All too frequently ringers find that indifference leads to neglect of the valuable instruments placed in their charge; and if this can happen in normal times, how much more likely is it to occur in a period when ringers are debarred from using the bells? It is essential, therefore, that full care should be taken of them in their inactivity; indeed, it is the duty of the responsible ringer in each tower to see

(Continued on page 314.)

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that periodical attention is given to all the details laid down for the preservation of the bells and their fittings, if they are to be ready for use when the proper time arrives. Because the bells are not rung, it does not mean that the frame does not need attention, or that the bearings should not be kept lubricated. With all machinery which it is desired to preserve, 'maintenance' work goes on whether it is in use or idle, and bells must be treated for this purpose as pieces of machinery. Valuable advice upon what should be done to maintain bells in effective repair is contained in an article immediately following, supplied, for the benefit of our readers, by the head of the Whitechapel Foundry. If these instructions are faithfully carried out there will be no fear of the state of the bells deteriorating during their compulsory idleness, an idleness which, the more one contemplates it, the less useful it appears. Despite the idleness of the bells, however, there should be no idleness on the part of the steeplekeeper in safeguarding the future of the bells.

## THE CARE OF CHURCH BELLS.

### WHAT TO DO DURING THE BAN.

By A. A. HUGHES.

It is just as important that church bells should now receive the same regular attention that they ought to have had when in full use.

In a very large number of towers one sees printed cards of instruction hanging in the ringing chamber, and these instructions ought practically all to be carried out regularly, even though the bells are not in use. The most important items are:—

**Frames.**—The regular testing of all bolts in the fittings, framework and supporting beams, and this is of particular importance in cases where the bell frame, beams and headstocks are of timber.

**Gun-metal bearings.**—See that they are well charged with a suitable lubricant, such as a mixture of tallow and castor oil.

**Ball bearings.**—These will run for a number of years before re-charging becomes necessary, but in cases of doubt, err on the right side and see that they are filled, BUT ONLY WITH A BALL-BEARING GREASE.

**Ball-bearing pulleys.**—See that the grease caps are charged and that sufficient is forced into the ball races in order to obviate any risk of rust.

**Plain-bearing pulleys.**—See that the spindles are well greased.

**Clapper joints.**—Where greasers are fitted, see that they are charged and screwed up. In the case of the old 'bawdrick' type, see that the leather liners are thickly greased. It will be necessary to remove the clappers for this purpose, but ALWAYS replace spring washers, cotter pins or wire fastenings if you do not wish to run the risk of a clapper falling out.

**All ironwork.**—Do not wait until it is corroded with rust before having it painted. Steel and wrought iron require much more frequent painting than cast iron.

**Tightening headstock bolts.**—It ought by now to be well known that these bolts or straps should be screwed up methodically. All should be tightened evenly, i.e., each nut should be given half a turn at a time until all are tight. Where lock nuts are fitted, the lock nut must be loosened before the lower one is tightened. The lock nuts should then be screwed down tight, the under nuts being held with another spanner to ensure a perfect lock.

**Clapper-staple centre bolts** are frequently fitted with a castle nut and cotter pin. The cotter pin must first be removed, and replaced after the tightening.

**Belfry.**—Have the floor cleaned up periodically, especially between the bottom timbers and the walls.

**Additional attention advisable at all times.**—Give your belfry a 'spring clean' once a year, i.e., clean down the framework and fittings, and do not allow grease from the bearings to accumulate on the soundbow of the bells. An annual 'wire-brush up' will prevent bells from corroding.

There are some towers which get all the above attentions, and I am afraid that, if they were faithfully applied to all towers, bell hangers would wonder what had become of repair work.



## CALL CHANGES.

### THEY SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE.

In themselves call changes are not very desirable things. To the change ringer they are monotonous and boring to the last degree, both to ring and to listen to, and he will not easily consent to practise them save from a sense of duty and for the sake of other people.

It would, however, be a mistake to deny that they have their uses. It is incorrect to say that the outside public notices any particular difference between change ringing and call changes, provided the quality of the striking is equal. And it is absurd to say that call change ringing produces bad striking. It may be accompanied, and often is, by bad striking, but so is change ringing. The late Mr. Law James' opinions were almost always interesting, but he said many things which will not bear any serious proof, and those that knew him best would not perhaps put judgment in the matter of striking as his strongest feature.

From the point of view of the outside listener and judging bells as instruments used in the service of the Church, we may say definitely that good call changes are better than bad or indifferent change ringing. Few even of those who most dislike ringing the stuff will deny that. Which is better for their immediate purposes—the record of Bow Bells which the B.B.C. used until recently or the change ringing that some bands served up on the wireless?

If the object of ringing was solely to sound the bells for the outside public, it is safe to say that in the majority of towers call changes would be preferable to method ringing. To us of the Exercise ringing has other reasons and inducements, and those reasons and inducements are better met by indifferently struck change ringing than by first-class 'stoneyness.' But indifferently struck change ringing falls a long way short of satisfying the competent ringer. He wants good striking and, if he is wise, he will realise that he can use stoneyness in his endeavour to set a higher standard of striking for his method ringing.

### THE CAUSES OF BAD STRIKING.

For what are the causes of bad striking? They are many and as a rule they are easily definable.

First of all, of course, there is the fact that in the case of beginners, and especially of a band of beginners, skill and efficiency are only won by degrees through practice and after failure. How long a band must go on being more or less of a nuisance to the outside public before they can ring so that people like to hear them instead of uttering curses not loud but deep, depends on the band, on the instructor, and perhaps on the tolerance of the public. There must be such a period when all the band are learners, but it can be shortened to a minimum if the instructor and the learners go the right way to work.

The ideal band of ringers is not a collection of individuals, but a unit, and really good striking is only produced when all the band, hands and ears and minds are working as one in perfect unison. It is the whole that matters, not the individual. Twelve first-class ringers who can ring Stedman Cinques gathered together from here and there will not make as good a band as twelve average Stedman Cinques ringers who are accustomed to ring as a band Sunday by Sunday. You can pick eight good oarsmen and put them into a boat, but they will not win the race unless the individuals are trained into a crew. There was a famous and popular woman novelist of a past generation who gave in one of her books a most thrilling description of a university boat race. Her hero rowed for (if we remember rightly) Oxford, and Oxford won. The crew put up a magnificent fight. All rowed fast, but none so fast as the hero did! You can imagine what a shout of delight went up when this passage was read for the first time.

There have been some ringers, and we fear there still are, who think they can stand out as the leading man in the band in the same way that this hero did.

### TRAINING THE INDIVIDUAL.

Now, before you can make eight good ringers into a first-class band you must have the individuals to work on, and the whole won't be first class unless the individuals are properly trained. Before the beginner is trained as the member of a whole he must be trained as an individual. Before his ears and hands and mind can work in unison with the ears and hands and minds of the other ringers they must be in unison with each other. A really competent ringer does not look with his eyes to see which rope to follow and then wait to hear with his ears whether the bell strikes in the right place. All his faculties work together at the same time. He knows when he pulls his rope exactly where his bell is going to strike. If we wanted to indulge in paradoxes we should say that he hears with his eyes as well as his ears, and sees with his ears as well as his hands.

Before a man can reach that stage of proficiency he must be trained or, better still—far better still—he must train himself. And what hinders his progress?

First of all some men have no sense of rhythm or very little, and in all it is present in varying degrees. If you have no sense of rhythm you will never be able to strike well except by accident, but if you have it in only a little degree you can develop it, but you can only do so by taking pains. That is what so few people do. They imagine that ringing a method consists of going through a course, or a touch, or a peal of it without missing a dodge or forgetting to make a place, and they look on good striking as a quality, very desirable no doubt, which will come by itself, somehow, if only you don't bother about it.

Actually, however, good striking is the most important thing in method ringing. To ring the method properly you must put your bell *exactly* in (say) sixth's place, not just somewhere between the bells in fifth's and seventh's. Any average person with opportunities for practice can ring Cambridge Surprise or Stedman Triples, but it takes a first-class trained man to strike Kent Treble Bob as it should and can be struck.

And what hinders a man from being a first-class trained ringer? Chiefly the fact that neither he nor his instructor goes the right way to work. They don't put first things first. They put them second and often enough not anywhere.

The first thing, the first essential, is that the man should be master of his bell. That, you will say, is a platitude or a truism, but is it? There are multitudes of ringers who ring peals and yet have never mastered the art of ringing a bell. They can pull it all right and put it somewhere in its place, but they never get to that stage where they and the bell are one. Put them on to an odd struck bell and you will soon find it out; whereas the man who really is master of a bell rings an odd struck bell just as he would any other bell and puts it dead true in its right place, hardly noticing that the bell is odd struck.

The second hindrance to progress is that beginners try to get on too fast, or are pushed on too fast by their instructors. They attempt to ring rounds before they can handle a bell, and to ring changes before they can ring rounds. When their full attention is taken up with catching the sally, how can they listen to the bell? When they are fully occupied in finding out which rope they should pull after, how can they tell where their bell is striking? And when the time comes that they can find their way fairly well among the ropes they take their striking for granted and usually would be hurt and offended if someone told them it could be vastly improved.

### WHERE CALL CHANGES HELP.

Here is where call changes can be very useful. The beginner, who has learnt to ring rounds properly, has only learnt how to strike his bell over one other bell and at one regular pull. Call change ringing will vary the bells he is striking over, and it will vary the pull he has to make, holding up now and cutting down now; but the alterations he is called upon to make are made at so slow a rate that he has time to see the effect of each as he does it and to know whether he is doing it ill or well. His attention is not taken up by the mental effort required by method ringing, and as each change is rung several times he can judge whether he is putting his bell where he should put it, and alter his pull accordingly, not slide from one bad blow to another bad blow.

Striking, they tell us, is not so good as it used to be. No, it never was. Perhaps some even of the marvellous striking of the old West Country round ringers was really a fable. But it is certain that there was a time when popularity of ringing to the ringer as well as to the outsider depended on good striking, where now it depends for the ringer on method ringing. There was a lot of abuse about the old prize ringing, and no one would wish to see it back again even if it were possible, but in one thing at least those old ringers did put first things first.

A letter on East Anglian ringing will be found on page 318.

### YOUNG RINGER'S REMARKABLE ESCAPE.

#### FLIGHT THROUGH SWARM OF ENEMY PLANES.

Flight-Sergt. William Henry Jennings, a Wyke Regis ringer and son of Mr. C. H. Jennings, hon. secretary of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, is safely back in this country after an exciting adventure in France. He was serving in an R.A.F. squadron in the Rheims sector, and there was no news of him from the time the big German push started. They came under a rain of bombs and machine-gun fire and when life became very unhealthy at their aerodrome they went back to another station.

At one time Flight-Sergt. Jennings and other men in his squadron were billeted in a farmhouse, the occupants of which were advised to leave. These people gathered up their personal belongings and were put into the biggest farm waggon. Five minutes after they had left the farmhouse it was reduced to a smouldering heap of ruins.

In a letter home Flight-Sergt. Jennings wrote: 'I haven't got out of my breeks for three days and three nights. We had been bombed out of two 'dromes. When the farm people I was billeted with left we were left in charge of the cows. Unfortunately the house was knocked down, but I managed to save my old kit bag.'

He told pitiful tales of the plight of French refugees, many of whom were victims of Nazi fury. 'I picked up one poor woman who was struck down, to give her a drink, and did what I could for her, but she died in my arms.'

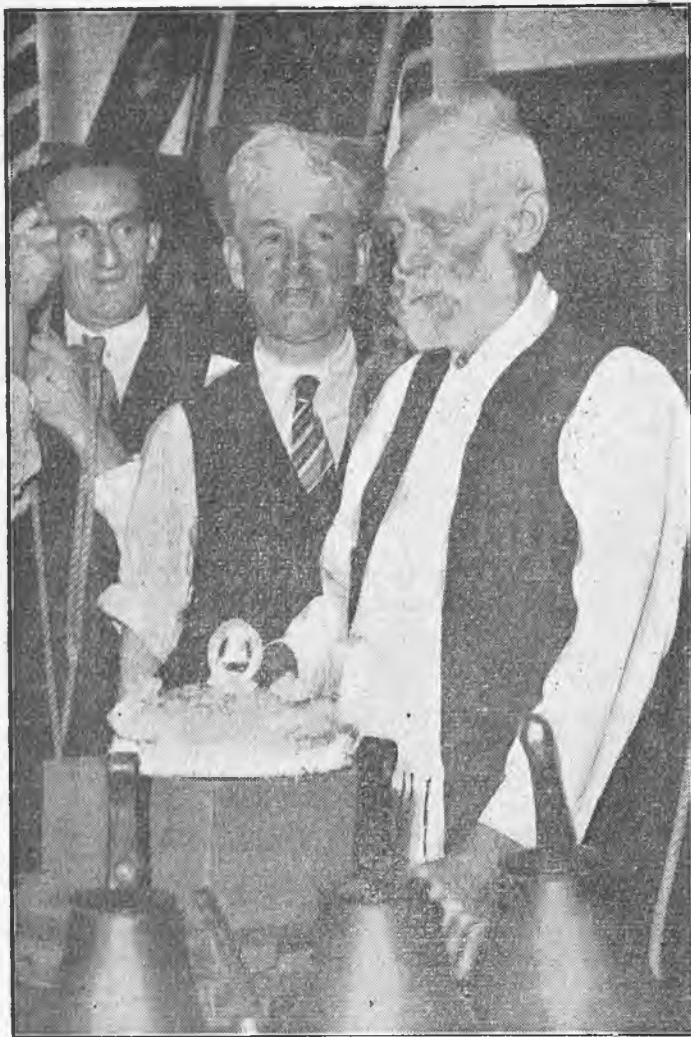
'How we came out of that inferno alive I don't know. It was just sheer good luck that three of us managed to get a British machine and jumped into it in our shirt sleeves. There was a swarm of German machines around us, but we managed to shake them off and flew back to England. None of us had had any sleep for a week. It was almost as bad as in the winter, when we had to sleep under our machines in the snow.'

**HODNET, SHROPSHIRE.**—On Thursday, June 13th, on the occasion of a wedding, 1,200 Doubles (240 Reverse Canterbury, 240 Plain Bob, 720 Grandairs): T. Gregory 1, F. Leech 2, W. Lycett 3, E. Gregory 4, E. V. Rodenhurst (conductor) 5, C. Hayes 6. Longest touch in three methods for all except ringers of 3rd and 5th.

## AN AUSTRALIAN PIONEER.

### MEMORIAL TO JOHN M. GUEST.

Mr. J. M. Guest, to whom a memorial has been placed in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, according to information received by Mr. W. T. Elson, was one of the pioneers of ringing in Australia. He was a native of Stafford, and migrated to Melbourne from New Zealand in 1882. He associated himself with the ringers at St. James' Cathedral, where there was then a peal of six bells. Mr. Guest agitated for the



JOHN MOTTRAM GUEST.

In St. Paul's Cathedral Belfry, Melbourne, on his 88th birthday.

addition of two trebles; the ringers themselves started the subscription list and eventually the new bells were added in 1885.

But a peal has never been rung on these bells, which, as six, were erected in 1853. St. James' Cathedral then stood in Little Collins Street. When the new Cathedral of St. Paul was completed, St. James' was taken down and removed to another site, to serve as a Parish Church. In its re-erection the strength of the tower suffered and it has never since been possible, for fear of accident, to ring the bells. When the English visitors were there in 1934 they found them 'clocked.'

Even the first arrival of the bells in 1853, while the Cathedral stood on its original site, created a problem. The bells had been cast by Mears (the tenor being 13 cwt. 17 lb.) and shipped to Melbourne, where a local firm was given the order to hang them. But at the point where the bells were to be erected the tower is octagonal in shape, and, from their inexperience, the local contractors found themselves in considerable difficulty.

Then one day there appeared upon the scene Charles Craing, a ringer from England. But for his help probably the bells would never have been hung for ringing at all, and there is no knowing when or how the job would have been finished. Even with Craing's help, it was only a crude job. In the end a three-decker frame was built, nearly all of wood, but with the fifth in an iron frame, and in places the tower had to be cut away to allow the bells to swing.

It was at this tower that John Mottram Guest first became acquainted with the ringers of Melbourne, few in numbers, but keen, although they knew very little about change ringing. Guest's advent gave a great stimulus to their activities; he became their leader and inspired the addition to the bells.

At his own house he taught them change ringing on handbells, called their first touches, including the first of over a thousand changes in September, 1883, and their first date touch in 1884.

With the coming of the new Cathedral of St. Paul, a ring of twelve bells, and an additional semi-tone to make a light eight, was opened on November 15th, 1889, and Mr. Guest was made leader of the ringers, an office he held for something over forty years, and relinquished only three years before his death, which took place in 1933 at the advanced age of 89.

Mr. Guest's efforts kept the band at St. Paul's together despite the great difficulties that attend the task in the distant places of the world. He kept the company going with the few men on the spot and the occasional arrivals from England. Guest did not visit Sydney with the band that rang the first peal in Australia in 1890, neither did he take part in the visit to Hobart, Tasmania, in the same year (December 29th and 31st), when two peals of Grandsire Triples were rung.

But while the other members of the Victorian Society were away on this excursion, Guest got a band together in Melbourne and called Holt's Ten-Part on the front eight at St. Paul's Cathedral. This was on January 1st, 1891. It proves, at any rate, that at that time Melbourne was well off for ringers and not entirely devoid of conductors, for four peals were rung by the Victorian Society within twelve months and they were called by four different men.

The only other peal in which Guest took part, of which we can find a record, was one of Grandsire Triples in 1925, when, at the age of 81, he rang the sixth of the back eight at the Cathedral.

John Mottram Guest died in 1933 after a ringing career which extended over nearly 70 years.

When the English ringers were in Melbourne and made their three attempts for a peal at St. Paul's, one attempt came to grief partly because some outsiders found their way up into the ringing chamber. Mr. William Fussell said afterwards, 'I'll bet old John Guest had some way of preventing this sort of thing when they went for peals in his day.' So he searched in the black cavity behind the door at the bottom of the spiral stone stairway that leads to the ringing chamber. And, sure enough, in the darkest corner he found a rusty iron bar that exactly fitted between the door and the face of one of the steps and effectually secured the entrance, to which there were duplicate keys. It was one of the things that helped to ensure the success which attended the efforts of the band who, on Armistice Day, 1934, rang the first twelve-bell peal outside the British Isles.

### PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—To all members and friends of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild I would like you to give this message.

Owing to the Home Office Order, I am sorry I have decided to cancel the proposed and arranged meeting, which was to have been held at Easton Maudit on July 13th.

If it is possible I shall try to arrange a meeting at a convenient centre, where we could get together for a while, and maybe use handbells in place of tower bells.

We have enjoyed some happy gatherings together and we must not lose touch with one another through the stoppage of service ringing, etc. Please write to me if you have any ideas, and don't forget the Guild still exists and needs your continued interest until we can unite to offer our thanks and praise once again.

30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

A. BIGLEY, Branch Sec.

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**THE LATE MR. M. A. NOBLE.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your article in last Friday's issue of 'The Ringing World' awakened many memories of M. A. Noble's first visit to England, and the following may be of interest. Mr. Noble had not been in England long when a letter appeared in 'Bell News' under the signature of W. Shanton, of Melbourne, stating that Noble was a ringer and suggesting that some ringing might be arranged for him. I immediately wrote to him at the County Ground, Bristol, and gave a programme available for any Sunday preceding a London cricket engagement; it was to meet him at his hotel, visit St. Paul's in the afternoon, visit my place for tea, and go to Fulham in the evening.

We met, and at St. Paul's the secretary said, 'I have written to you at the Oval.' Noble said, 'I shall not get that until to-morrow. I am sorry I cannot make any arrangements.'

While at St. Paul's he saw Great Paul and the library, the view of the nave, etc., from the cross gallery, and also the 12 bells in motion and the ringing—but, as a six-bell ringer, he did not take part, and he did not at any time meet the College Youths officially.

We went on to Fulham in the evening for a quarter of Major. The fifth rope broke, so that was that! I do not think he did any ringing in London beyond that, nor in any of his subsequent visits.

I managed much the same programme for Ernest Behan when he first came over, and I called his first peal (Grandsire Caters). By the way, I had a letter from him this week. He has been many months in hospital with a smashed ankle and is (or was on April 27th) just getting about on crutches. He wished to be very kindly remembered to the tourists, whom he held in high regard. He tells me a tablet has been put up in Melbourne Cathedral in memory of J. M. Guest.

WILLIAM T. ELSON.

59, Purser's Cross Road, S.W.6.

**IN NOTTINGHAM.**

Dear Sir,—When M. A. Noble was over in England (I think in 1903-04), after a match at Trent Bridge he came up to St. Peter's belfry, Nottingham, and rang some Bob Minor with us, and very well, too. Afterwards we adjourned to his hotel, where we had some hand-bell ringing, etc. (don't forget the etc.). I forget if H. R. Cobbin was present or not, but if not then I am the only survivor of the ringers present that evening.

W. E. WHITE.

Colgrave.

**DAVENTRY RINGERS' WEDDING.**

A wedding of considerable interest to the Daventry Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild took place on June 29th at Willoughby Parish Church, Warwickshire, between Mr. George Hancock and Miss Nancy Hall. Mr. Hancock is one of the best known and most popular members of the branch, to which Miss Hall, as a ringer, is a comparative newcomer. Both are ringers and members of the choir at their Parish Church.

The service, which was fully choral, was taken by the Rev. E. D. Rennison, Vicar of Willoughby. The bride was attended by three bridesmaids, and Mr. Fred Hancock acted as best man. A reception was held at the Village Hall, at which many relations and friends were present. A telegram of good wishes was received from the South Midland Branch of the Ladies' Guild, of which the bride is a member, and among the many presents was one from the Daventry Branch, consisting of cutlery and a case of fruit spoons and forks. Needless to say, it was a great disappointment to all concerned that the church bells could not be rung for the occasion, but a six-score of Grandsire Doubles was rung on handbells at the reception by Mr. Fred Hancock 1-2, Rev. E. S. Powell 3-4, Mrs. E. S. Powell 5-6.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancock will continue to live in Willoughby, and the hearty good wishes of all their friends go with them into the future.

**DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR E. MORGAN.****EX-MASTER OF THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur E. Morgan, of Newport, Monmouthshire, which occurred on June 25th after a long illness. At the funeral, which took place on Saturday last at Newport Cemetery, the Rev. C. G. R. Lewis, the treasurer of the association, officiated, and the hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Jones, was also present.

Mr. Morgan, who learnt to handle a bell at All Saints', Newport, rang his first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on November 1st, 1905, and his first peal of Grandsire Triples on November 22nd, 1906. Stedman Triples was his favourite method, of which he made a great study. He was a very good conductor and was more than usually clever in correcting mistakes at the earliest possible moment.

He conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples on All Saints' bells, which was the first peal for all excepting the ringer of the treble, J. W. Jones, and the ringer of the 6th, C. R. Lilley. He rang altogether about 25 peals, including each of the four standard methods. For several years he was most regular, ringing for the morning and evening services. He was Master of the association in 1909.

**John Taylor & Co.****LOUGHBOROUGH.**

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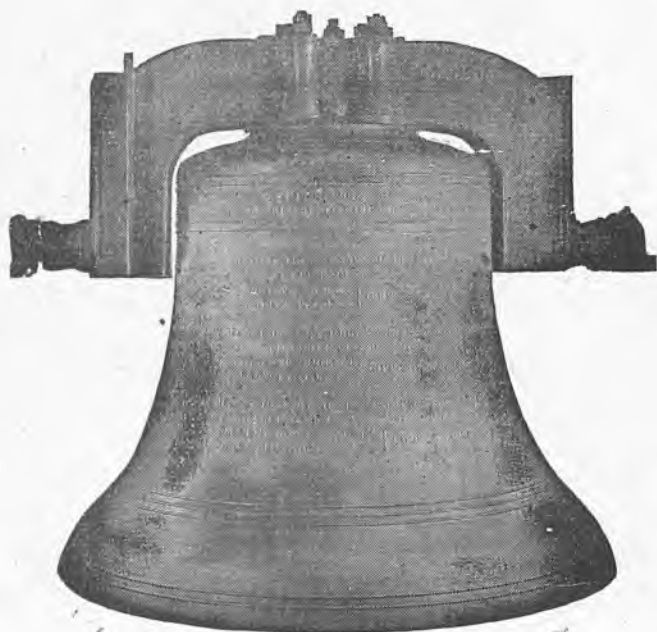
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Rupert Richardson asks us to add Glyn Garth to the list of places where ringers serving in the Forces will be welcome at any time. Two Aldershot ringers, Messrs. Jack Bragg and Tom Denyer, are safely back in England after evacuation from France.

The Rev. Ivor J. Richards has returned safely to this country after his experiences with the troops in France. He will be remembered as a keen ringer and Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association in 1937.

The many friends made some years ago in different parts of the country by the late Mr. Arthur E. Morgan, of All Saints', Newport, will regret to hear of his passing away.

The first peal of Grandsire Cinques ever rung on handbells was accomplished on July 2nd, 1886, at Birmingham, by the now defunct Birmingham Amalgamated Society. John Carter conducted from 3-4 and Mr. Tom Miller rang 5-6.

The Cumberlands rang the first peal (one of Grandsire Caters) at All Saints', Poplar, on July 3rd, 1823.

To-day is the sixteenth anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Cinques at Exeter Cathedral. It was rung by the St. Martin's, Birmingham, band, Mr. Albert Walker conducted and there were two to the tenor.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major (6,000 changes) at St. Giles', Norwich, on July 6th, 1832.

One hundred and eighty-nine years ago next Sunday John Holt called his Original for the first time.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE. SERIOUS SUDDEN ILLNESS.

We regret to say that Mr. James George is seriously ill at 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, Bucks. He left Birmingham to visit old friends at Wolverton on June 19th, but three hours after his arrival he had a sudden seizure and he has lost the use of his left leg. He has, of course, been confined to bed ever since and is suffering much pain. Happily he is in the care of capable hands and his hosts of friends throughout the country, while sympathising with him deeply in his illness, will hope to hear of a speedy improvement in his condition. Mr. George is 86 years of age.

## RAMPTON BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—July 1st marked the date two years ago when we launched our appeal for £471 for our five bells. We have paid off £361 and have £6 12s. balance for our fifth bell, which will now have to be our peace effort.

May I remind all ringers of our 2,000 bell books then sent out and ask the prayers and sympathy of all ringers as we battle on to pay off the remaining £110 at present owing.

The hostilities, together with the refusal to allow the recasting of one bell, increased our expenses by well over £100 and were together the direct cause of our being unable to complete the peal by September last. Any donations may be sent to me direct.

Rampton Rectory, Cambridge.

THOMAS L. HAVERS.

## EAST ANGLIAN RINGING. WHAT CALL CHANGES HAVE DONE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Since when, may I ask, has the use of call changes been condemned in the greater part of the country, and since when has the ringing in East Anglia been inferior to anywhere else, because of the use of call changes?

The Rev. Herbert Drake is obviously after starting another of his nonsensical arguments, as he did about rows and changes some time ago.

Unfortunately, what he has to say is not borne out by facts. He would be very wide of the mark to say East Anglian ringing is below standard, either in quality or in striking; in fact, if the results which have been achieved in East Anglia are the results of starting on call changes, then Mr. Drake has got his argument the wrong way round.

As far as striking is concerned, I always remember the Helmingham ringers visiting our tower on one of their outings when a wedding was in progress, with the organ playing. The organ blower is in the ringing chamber and it is almost impossible to hear the bells when the organ is going. The course of London which the Helmingham men were ringing as bride and groom left the church was, to say the least, awful, but in the middle of it the organist finished and the difference in the striking was astounding. In a couple of changes it changed from poor to almost perfect, and it was obvious those East Anglian ringers knew the meaning of good striking.

As far as the musical effect of call changes is concerned, I think anyone would sooner hear good call changes, however monotonous they may be, rather than hear Stedman rung with Mr. Drake or anyone else a couple of sixes behind with their work.

I do not profess to be an expert instructor, but I know that in ringing you have to walk before you can run, and, judging by the results achieved in East Anglia, call changes is as good a way as any of achieving that.

J. E. BAILEY.

P.S.—Can someone enlighten me as to the real reason why East Anglian ringers do not like odd bell ringing?



## THE CHURCH BELLS BAN.

### TERMS OF THE ORDER.

The Order (No. 1042 of 1940), under which Sir John Anderson, Minister of Home Security, has prohibited the use of bells except for specific purposes, was published last week. It will be seen from the provisions printed below that it bans even the tolling of a bell for a funeral—a practice that has never before been interrupted in this country since bells were introduced a thousand years ago.

It will be observed, also, that the signal, whatever its purpose so far as the public are concerned, is only to be made in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's Forces or the chief officer of police for the area, to indicate that members of an enemy force are landing or attempting to land or have landed from the air.

What the public are to do or not to do when they hear the signal we still do not know. If it is to be of any use, the public should at once be informed, but it looks as if waiting for the instructions of a commissioned officer or the chief officer of police will, in any case, add to the delay which has already been pointed out as likely to occur.

We who are interested in bells want to see this alarm signal made effective, and if it is to be so, some further information is a matter of urgency.

The following are the terms of the Order:—

1. No person shall, in any area in Great Britain, sound any church bell or cause or permit any church bell to be sounded, except for the purpose of making a signal, in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's forces or the chief officer of police for the area, to indicate that members of an enemy force are landing or attempting to land or have landed from the air.

2. In this Order the expression 'church bell' includes the bell of any church, chapel or other place of public worship ordinarily used or intended for summoning persons to public worship or for any like purpose and any bell ordinarily used or intended for tolling at a cemetery.

3. This Order may be cited as the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1940.

## DEATH OF MR. THOMAS WEEKS.

### CAPTAIN OF SOUTHBROOM TOWER.

The death of Mr. Thomas Weeks, of Devizes, took place on Monday of last week, after only a few days' serious illness, although he had been in failing health for the last three months, and unable to ring at St. James' Church, Southbroom, for several Sundays (before the restrictions were placed on bellringing). He had been a ringer at St. James' for nearly 40 years, and was elected captain on the death of his father-in-law, Mr. H. Brownlee West, in 1932. He leaves a widow, who is an honorary member of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Guild, and two sons and a daughter. Both sons are ringers in the tower, the elder (Mr. A. T. Weeks) being also vice-chairman of the Devizes Branch of the Guild.

The late Mr. T. Weeks had only rung in a few peals, in his own tower, but was most conscientious in all he undertook, and had taught many young men to ring.

The funeral at Southbroom last Friday was attended by several of the Devizes ringers and others representing the Devizes Branch. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Sidney Hillier.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### COMMITTEE MEET AT ARMLEY.

In place of the usual monthly meeting, the committee of the Leeds and District Society met at Armley last Saturday.

Handbells were brought into use while the members arrived from their various districts.

After the secretary had expressed his views with regard to war-time meetings, a general discussion took place on the policy of holding monthly meetings, and also what to introduce in place of tower-bell ringing.

It was decided to hold a meeting at Drighlington on Saturday, July 27th, at 6 p.m., to which all towers were asked to send a member to hear and debate the committee's recommendations.

It is hoped that a visit to Tong Hall will be included in the evening's proceedings. The village of Tong is reached by a short walk across fields from Drighlington and will be remembered by some as the home of the late Mr. George Bolland.

## HENRY DAINS AND M. A. NOBLE.

### MR. EDWIN BARNETT'S RECOLLECTIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in three things in this week's 'Ringing World.' The late Mr. Henry Dains, the late M. A. Noble and the striking of church clocks.

The article on the late Henry Dains revived memories of, if not his last peal, his last but one. He rang, I believe, a peal of London at Edmonton about this time, but whether before or after I am unable to remember.

At any rate, it was at Southwark on September 7th, and I believe the year was 1912, that we met for a Cumberland peal of Stedman Cinques. Henry Dains was not in the band, but came along to hear the start. The late John W. Barker, of Bedford, did not show up, so after waiting Mr. Dains was roped in. He was very tottery and I remember my father and I speculating on his ability to 'stick it.' However, he did and rang well. He remarked afterwards that he always had an ambition to ring a peal there to complete the twelve-bell towers in London except St. Paul's. This peal was the late Mr. J. D. Matthews' first peal of Cinques as conductor.

One result of his research at the British Museum mentioned in your article and perhaps not generally known was the alteration in the title of the Cumberlands some perhaps 60 years ago. Until then they were the 'Society of Cumberland Youths,' but from some discovery he made there they were afterwards known as the Society of 'Royal' Cumberland Youths. This was told me by the late Mr. Edwin Gibbs, a most interesting man with a wonderful memory, for many years a ringer at St. Paul's, whom I used to visit on Sundays when he was bedridden in a nursing home here. In his early days he was a 'Cumberland' and he took part in the first peal in which the society used their new title.

With regard to Mr. M. A. Noble, we gain some knowledge of his ringing activities from a letter from the secretary of St. Mark's, Darling Point, ringers, which appeared in the 'Bell News' for February 21st, 1891, which gives an account of their doings for the previous nine months.

The writer, Mr. A. B. Joyner, commences by saying that in March, 1890, he taught M. A. Noble and J. Waterman to handle a bell, with the result that by August, 1891, they 'were able to ring Doubles well, even going so far as to ring six-scores of Grandsire Doubles.' He goes on to say, 'On October 2nd we rang five six-scores of Grandsire Doubles and for the first time two plain courses of Grandsire Minor.' He gives the names of those taking part, M. A. Noble ringing the third. He then states 'they had an addition to their band in the person of Mr. W. Clements, from Devonshire, England, who had previously rung Grandsire Triples.' Apparently their ambition was to ring a 720 of Grandsire Minor, and the question arose who should conduct it, so he says, 'A. Macartney was chosen for the purpose and he succeeded by assiduous study in proving his ability to do the work.' They made two unsuccessful attempts on December 10th, again on Christmas Day, and again on Boxing morning. They were, however, determined to start the new year well, as they rang it after the midnight service, starting at 12.25 a.m. and finishing at 12.54 a.m. The band was J. Waterman 1, T. Joiner 2, M. A. Noble 3, A. B. Joyner 4, A. Macartney (conductor) 5, W. Clements 6. This band must have made good progress to be ringing Treble Bob at the time of Mr. Cullum's visit three years afterwards. No doubt he was of great assistance, as at that time Mr. Cullum was almost as prominent in the Exercise as a conductor as his son is to-day.

The point 'Sexton' raises regarding the striking of public clocks has been a prominent one in my mind since the outbreak of war. During the last one positions were reversed, public clocks were not allowed to strike, but you could ring to your heart's content (in daylight).

When the order came that ringing must cease I stopped our church clock from striking. That the striking of a public clock would be of assistance to anyone I personally proved two years ago.

I was spending a holiday in Hampshire, 10 miles from Portsmouth. The last two not being on a bus route, one had to walk. I have the greatest difficulty in seeing my way in the dark, and, thinking it would be moonlight for my walk home, I attended Portsea practice, but there was no moon as I expected. It was a straight road to my destination, but I got off it. After wandering about for nearly two hours trying to find it and wondering what on earth I should do, as there was no one about to help me, the village church clock struck midnight and from this I was able to get my bearings.

E. BARNETT.

## HANDBELL RINGING FOR CHURCH SERVICES.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The All Saints', Isleworth, band of ringers, which consists mainly of many young members (boys and girls), has resolved to keep itself together at all costs during this war period.

Since the enforced silence of the church bells, we have adopted the plan of ringing handbells, in the west end of the church, before the Sunday morning and evening services.

The church authorities are in full agreement, and the effort is greatly appreciated both by them and the congregation.

We are holding a regular handbell practice in the tower on Fridays at 7.30 p.m., to which visiting ringers will be welcome.

I have quoted the above, as it might be an idea which could be adopted by many other local bands.

O. L. A.

## RINGING IN BIRMINGHAM. IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In supporting the visit of the College Youths to Birmingham in the year 1786, William Jones had another motive besides an attempt to reunite the two companies. The 'Clavis,' on which he and John Reeves had been working for several years, was now nearly ready, and he was anxious to get as much support for it as possible. He could not hope to obtain methods and compositions from Birmingham, as he had done the year before from Norwich, but he could look for subscribers, and there he was successful. Several Birmingham men subscribed to the book, including John Cox, Thomas Hadley, Thomas Midlam, and Phineas Smith. There were also a Mr. Francis, a Mr. Parsons and a Mr. Slater, the last-named probably being the conductor at Walsall. Samuel Brook took as many as six copies, and James Dovey, Samuel Lawrence and James Nock, who by this time was living at Shrewsbury, were also among the subscribers. The book received a good deal of support from other towns in the Midlands, notably Shrewsbury and Wenlock.

A further result of the College Youths' visit was that Samuel Lawrence went to London for a while and lived at Chelsea. We can hardly doubt that his reason for so doing was to obtain greater opportunities for practising change ringing. He had heard the College Youths at St. Martin's, and he could see how much more skilful they were than the local band. His ambition was to be one of them, and he was successful in his ambition. Before he went up to London, he stood in four more peals with the St. Martin's Youths. On November 26th he rang the tenor and called 6,218 changes of Bob Major at Deritend, the next day 6,570 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at St. Martin's, and a week after that 8,027 changes. Charles Shuter called both peals of Caters from the ninth, Lawrence rang the seventh, and the younger St. Martin's men made up the band. Two men were needed at the tenor in the six-thousand and three in the eight-thousand, which seems to show that Samuel Muggeridge had some justification for saying he could not complete the peal of Maximus single-handed.

Just before the close of the year the same men went to Warwick and rang the first peal on the ten bells there. The method was Grandsire Caters, and the bobs were called by John Mackenzie.

During the next six years no peals are known to have been rung at St. Martin's, but in 1787 Shuter rang the tenor and called two peals of Bob Major at St. Philip's, and John Mackenzie called one 6,074 at Aston.

On February 16th, 1789, an excellent performance was accomplished at Aston, where 14,224 changes of Bob Major were rung in 8 hours and 45 minutes. Charles Shuter called the peal from the tenor, and the band was made up of William Martin, William Brooke, John Mackenzie, John Haycock, John Black, William Cotton and William Bennett.

The band no doubt thought they had rung a record length, but actually it had been exceeded twice in previous years, once in 1739, when Philemon Mainwaring turned West Ham tenor in to 15,120 changes, and again, more recently, on January 4th, 1784, at Oldham, where 14,480 changes had been rung, composed and conducted by Thomas Kay. It is likely that the Birmingham men were influenced by the recently published 'Clavis,' and

did not believe that the West Ham peal had been accomplished, and it is possible that they knew nothing about the Oldham performance. There was, however, a tradition that they intended to ring 15,120 changes, but that Shuter found his task at the tenor rather more than he could manage, and so shortened the peal. This he could easily do, for, though it is said to have been his own composition, we may reasonably suppose he was calling an ordinary three-part 5,040, adding three bobs with the tenor in 5th's to each course. He could omit to part the tenors in the last four courses.

The peal is a rather striking confirmation of Jasper Snowden's theory that there is (or at any rate was) a tendency to ring long peals at a quicker rate than short ones. The time taken was 8 hours and 45 minutes, which is 27.09 changes a minute. A little more than a year before, Shuter had rung the tenor to a six-thousand, also of Bob Major, when the rate was 25.01 a minute. The rate was almost the same when other men were at the tenor. Lawrence rang the bell to a six-thousand of Treble Bob at 25.28, Miles to a five-thousand at 25.47, and Midlam to a five thousand of Bob Major at 25.50. When the fifteen thousand mark was passed on the bells, the rate was 26.90.

There had been a local company at Aston apparently from soon after the bells were opened in 1775, and towards the end of the century, under the leadership of Joshua Short, they became an active peal-ringing band. Short, who was born in 1765, was a farmer of Witton, a hamlet two or three miles to the north-east of Aston, and he must have been a very powerful and energetic man. One of the company was John Noonan, a shoemaker, who afterwards found his way up to London, where he joined the Junior Cumberlands Society and became a leading ringer, composer and conductor. Whether he rang any peals before he left Birmingham we do not know, for the records of almost all the performances by the Aston men have perished. We know they scored many of Bob Major, and on July 30th, 1792, one of Grandsire Major, 7,552 changes.

They determined to beat the long length the St. Martin's Youths had rung in their tower. They had rung 10,080 changes in 1788, and, after having a sort of rehearsal by ringing 10,192 in 1792, they started for a fifteen-thousand on October 1st in the following year. When they had rung fifteen thousand changes, Joshua Short, who was calling from the tenor, turned to William Hassall at the seventh, and asked him if he was willing to go on for a twenty-thousand; but Hassall's hands were getting sore, and he thought enough had been done, so the bells were brought round at 15,360 changes.

It was an excellent performance and remained the longest length in any method until 1868, when the College Youths rang 15,840 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green; and the longest length of Bob Major until June 3rd, 1933, when the Hertford County Association rang 18,144 changes at Bennington. Aston tenor weighed 21 cwt., Bethnal Green tenor weighs 14 cwt., and Bennington tenor weighs 13 cwt.

Meanwhile, Samuel Lawrence had returned to the Midlands from Chelsea. However great might have been the attraction of London ringing, he had family and financial interests in Shifnal that could not be neglected. During his association with the College Youths he had taken part in the first peal of Stedman Cinques, which was rung at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1788, and when

he returned home he introduced the method to his Birmingham friends with the result that on October 25th, 1790, the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London was rung at St. Philip's. Charles Shuter conducted from the treble, and the other ropes were taken by William Martin, Joseph Littlewood, William Bennett, William Cotton, Daniel Viesey, Alexander Saunders, Phineas Smith, Samuel Lawrence and Robert Farmer. The peal is said to have been rung at the first attempt.

What composition Shuter called, we do not know, but probably, though he is said to have composed it himself, it was a variation of one of the two in the 'Clavis,' the number of changes, 5,292, being easily obtained.

This was the beginning of the long association of the St. Martin's Youths with Stedman. The Norwich Scholars had first extended and practised the method, but its popularity among the more skilful bands during the nineteenth century and since was due to the London men in the first instance, and then, and in even greater degree, to the ringers and composers of Birmingham.

The failure of the College Youths in 1786 had left the first peal of Treble Twelve at St. Martin's still to be rung. This was accomplished on April 8th, 1793, when Charles Shuter rang the tenor single handed and called 6,000 changes. The band were all regular members of the St. Martin's company, and they had no help from outside ringers such as James Dovey, Samuel Lawrence and Philip Heath, as was the case with the Plain Bob Maximus, the Stedman Caters, and others of their most notable performances.

It was Shuter's last peal and the last peal in the eighteenth century that the St. Martin's men rang as a company. In the following year some of the younger members, with one or two new men, rang 8,000 changes of Grandsire Major at St. John's, Deritend. Silas Fielding called the bobs, and the second was rung by Benjamin Pugh, who afterwards, during a long life, was one of the most prominent of the Birmingham ringers.

In 1798, John Miles reappeared as a conductor, and called a peal of Oxford Treble Bob at Aston, and in the very last year of the century we get the first notice of a man who afterwards earned a certain amount of fame as ringer, composer and conductor. Joseph Riley was a native of Burton-on-Trent, and an upholsterer by trade. He seems to have been of rather a roving disposition, and at different times lived in several different towns. In 1800, he was at Birmingham, and on March 2nd he called at Aston Holt's Original from the treble. In the following September he went with a band of the St. Martin's Youths to his native town and repeated the performance at the parish church of St. Modwen there.

Joseph Riley was thus the fifth man to call the Original and ring at the same time. William Dixon called it once or twice at Norwich in 1752; Charles Baron called it at Saffron Walden in 1753 and again in 1754; James Bartlett called it at St. Giles-in-the-Fields in 1791 and several times afterwards; and the elder George Gross called it at Watford in 1798. In Mr. Morris' History, John Bowtell is said to have called it at Cambridge in 1797, but that is a mistake. Bowtell never called a peal of any sort.

The great days of the St. Martin's Youths did not really dawn until the nineteenth century, but during the eighteenth they were steadily gaining the leading position in the Exercise they have held for so long and so continuously.

## MY FIRST PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

It was many years ago and things have altered a goodish bit since then. We lived down in the country and my old dad had brought me up to London for my first visit to town. In those days there were no railway trains, and as we couldn't afford an aeroplane, we came up by the waggon which used to deliver a load of straw every Saturday from our village to the Haymarket.

When we got down we went and had sausages and mash for breakfast at a coffee stall, and my father asked the man in charge the way to the Goose and Gridiron. 'Which Goose and Gridiron?' says the man. 'Didn't know there was more than one,' says my dad, 'but the one I mean is on the left-hand side of the street, and they've got a barmaid there with ginger hair what wears a pink blouse.' 'Oh, that one,' says the man, 'that's over Southwark way. A matter of five miles or so from here.' 'Five miles!' says my father. 'That's a goodish step for a young chap like this. I think, Jack,' he says to me, 'we'd better have a taxi.'

So we got a taxi and drove down the Strand and Fleet Street. Things have altered a goodish bit since those days. The houses were all made of wood and hung out over the street, with mappoles and things like that sticking out of them. And the men were going about in sedan chairs and the women in crinolines. It was my first visit to London and you can imagine how excited I was, especially when we passed over London Bridge and saw the great river full of Spanish galleons and triremes with dozens of scaplanes circling above and smart little motor boats darting here and there among larger craft.

The taxi put us down outside a comfortable looking pub on the Surrey side, and when we went into the four-ale bar, we saw a big man sitting in the corner with a pint of beer in front of him and a frown on his face, studying a paper.

My father walked across to him, and 'Morning, Ben,' he said. The man did not look up, but only grunted, so my father said again, 'Morning Ben. Morning, Mr. Annable.' With that the other raised his head and when he saw my dad he got on to his feet. 'Sorry, Tom,' he said. 'I didn't see who it was. I was in a bit of a maze.' 'What's up?' says my father. 'Make the potman switch off that wireless so we can hear ourselves speak,' says Mr. Annable, 'and I'll tell you.—It's like this. I've a peal on here this afternoon and that blasted fool of a Laughton's let me down again. He's been on the oil for a couple of days, and he's as drunk as an owl. So I'm one short. Two, in fact, for old Fabian Stedman's got the gout and he can't ring. Look here,' he says to my father, 'you'll have to stand in, Tom.' 'Don't mind if I do,' says my dad. 'Who have you got?' 'What sort of a band is it?' 'Oh, pretty fair,' says Mr. Annable. 'Middling. Let's see,' and he looked at his paper, 'I've got Bill Shipway, and John Garthorn and Jim Washbrook, and Harry Haley, and Jasper Snowdon, and Harry Johnson from Birmingham, and Albert Walker and Bill Pye and young Turner. Fairish. Might be worse. But I'm still one short.' 'What about Jack Holt?' says my father. 'Holt?' says Mr. Annable scornful like. 'Do you think I'm going to have that worm in my band? Not much! But,' says he, turning to me, 'what about this youngster.'

My father looked a bit dubious. 'Jack,' he says to me, 'do you think you could ring a peal of Stedman Cinques?' Now I had never rung any Stedman Cinques in those days and I was of a modest and unassuming nature. So I began to say that, though I fully appreciated the great honour which had been conferred on me, yet under the circumstances I thought—I got so far when Mr. Annable interrupted me. 'What's he talking about?' he asked my father. 'He says he thinks—' began my dad, when Mr. Annable interrupted again. 'Thinks!' he said. 'Look here, my lad,' and he took me by the shoulders and held me in front of him. 'Look here, my lad! When I was a boy, boys didn't think. They were told what they had to do and they *did* it. See?' 'Yes, sir,' said I, humble and modest like. 'When I tell you to ring Stedman Cinques, you'll ring Stedman Cinques. See?' says he. 'Yes, sir,' says I, still humble and modest. 'When I tell you to dodge in 8-9, you'll *dodge* in 8-9. See?' says he, and 'Yes, sir,' says I. 'And when I tell you to go in quick, you'll go in quick. And lively. See?' says he. 'Yes, sir,' says I once again. 'Well,' says he, 'that's that,' and he gently pushed me away. 'And now, Tom,' says he to my father, 'we've got a couple of hours before the others turn up. So we'll have a pint of mulled sack apiece.'

Oh, yes, we got the peal all right, and a very good peal it was.

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**PROOF.****MORE ABOUT FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

In every Treble Bob or Surprise Major method with the tenors together there are sixty full natural courses, and on the face of things there would seem to be no particular reason why any one of the sixty should be more liable to be false against the plain course than any other. But actually in those methods which are most suitable for practice in the steeple, the falseness against the plain course is almost entirely confined to seven courses.

As we pointed out in our article of June 7th, these seven fall into two groups, and in addition there are two other similar groups which, although not of equal practical value, should be examined with them.

A 32546	B 24365	B 24365
B 24365	F 32465	H 45236
C 53624	G 43265	I 32654
D 46253		J 63542
E 65432	B 24365	K 56423
	Y 54326	
	Z 64352	

These four groups of False Course Ends have several marked characteristics, all of which are very important in settling the question whether or no a true peal is possible in a particular method.

1. One false course end, B, is common to all four groups, and the other false course ends in each group consist of one or two pairs of complementary false course ends. (See article of June 7th.) A and D, C and E, F and G, H and I, J and K, and Y and Z are complementary; if one of them appears in a method, the other automatically appears also.

2. Each of the groups is cyclical. If we start with B and transpose it by 42635, we get A. A transposed by 42635 gives C. Continuing the process, we get E, and then D. In all the five members of the group the bells are in the same coursing order. As F is produced from B, so is G from F, and B from G. Similarly, the two other groups are cyclical.

3. In every one of these false course ends, one bell and only one is in its home position. There are sixteen rows in which this quality can appear, and there are thirteen different false course ends in the four groups. The missing three are L 26543, O 25634 and 23456, each of which is complementary to itself and stands outside any group.

These sixteen false course ends are each in reciprocal relationship to 23456. For instance, as 32546 is to 23456, so is 23456 to 32546, and as a consequence the courses based on them are also in reciprocal relationship. If, for instance, the second lead of the course 24365 contains rows which are also included in the sixth lead of the plain course, then the second row of the plain course will contain rows which are also included in the sixth lead of the course 24365. The reciprocal relationship confines the liability to falseness to the two courses.

4. Each of the four groups is a cyclical group based on 24365. If alongside each we set down a similar cyclical

group based on 23456, we find one very important fact.

23456	B 24365
42635	A 32546
64523	C 53624
56342	E 65432
35264	D 46253

Suppose all the five courses ABCDE are false against the plain course. That means that for every full course we use in our peal there are five other courses which we are automatically debarred from using in full. But when we work out the false course ends of the above group we find that all share each other's false course ends. The five that are false against 23456 are the same five that are false against 42635, and each of the other three. So that, instead of considering that we have five courses false against every one we use, we may consider one block of five as false against another block of five.

There are twelve available rows with the 6th at home. Set these down in two columns, in one of which each row bears the same relationship to a row in the other columns, as 32546 does to 23456. Then transpose each of the twelve rows cyclically by 42635, and you will have the sixty course ends grouped into fives, any one group from one column being false against the corresponding group from the other column and against no other course.

A1 23456	A2 32546
42635	53624
64523	65432
56342	46253
35264	24365

B1 42356	B2 24536
C1 34256	C2 43526
D1 54326	D2 45236
E1 35426	E2 53246
F1 52436	F2 25346

When we are composing with full natural courses in a method which has the ABCDE false course ends, we may use all or any of the courses from one group, but not one from the alternative group. We may use B1, but not B2, or B2 but not B1; C1 but not C2, or C2 but not C1.

In a similar way, in methods which have the false course ends BFG we can set the sixty courses down in ten groups of true courses and ten groups of courses false against them.

In both the above instances it is possible to join together by bobs a sufficient number of courses from the true group to make a peal.

In methods which have the false course ends BHIJK, we can just as easily set down the sixty course ends in six true groups and six false groups, but, although we have thirty true courses to work with, they are such that a sufficient number cannot be joined together by bobs, and these methods are generally valueless.

We have never come across a method with BYZ false course ends, and in any case, although there are thirty true courses, it seems doubtful if a peal in full natural courses would be possible.

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**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—The annual general meeting has been abandoned. Members are reminded that subscriptions became due on July 1st, and to save postage, members are asked to forward their subscriptions to the district secretaries without waiting to be written to.—Edith K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—It has been decided to hold a general committee meeting at Leicester on July 6th. Will all members of various district committees and local secretaries please meet at St. Margaret's Church at 3.30 p.m.? Agenda: To transact current business and discuss future plans.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—The Rev. J. N. Mallinson, Rector of Speldhurst, intimates that he will be glad to meet members and friends at Speldhurst on Saturday, July 6th, and extends an invitation to the Rectory gardens. Divine service 4.30, followed by tea (George and Dragon, at 1s. 3d. per head), and business meeting to discuss future activities of the district. Please try and attend.—Alec. E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Members are invited to attend the dedication on Saturday, July 6th, at 5 p.m., of a peal board at St. Mary's Church, Great Baddow, recording a muffled peal rung in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard, formerly Master of the association. Handbells will be available during the afternoon.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, July 6th, at 6.30 p.m. Business meeting, handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, July 6th, when a peal board, recording two peals rung at this tower, will be dedicated by the Vicar. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at nominal fee at 5.15 p.m., followed by short business meeting and handbell ringing. A good attendance is hoped for as all are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The meeting arranged at Peckleton on July 6th is cancelled. Watch your 'Ringing World' for details of the next meeting.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, Leicester.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting arranged for to-morrow (July 6th) at Christchurch has been cancelled, owing to the national emergency regulations and the fact that many members are fully engaged on work of national importance. The question of the future holding of dis-

trict meetings is being left to the respective secretaries to decide, in the light of local considerations. If they can be arranged, it is hoped that handbell ringing will be encouraged in the place of the usual tower bells.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., G. Williams, Master.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Forest Branch.—The annual salmon supper of the South Forest Branch will be held at the Angel Hotel, Ruardean, on Saturday, July 13th. Particulars of price and tickets from William W. T. Scott, The Lawn, Ruardean, Glos.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The meeting arranged for Turners Hill on July 13th has been cancelled. The committee would like all members' views on future policy. Please drop me a card as soon as possible.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Halewood on Saturday, July 13th. Handbells from 3 o'clock until 4.30 and after tea. It is hoped to hold a short service, followed by the business meeting. An effort will be made to provide tea for those only who send notice to Mr. J. Robinson, 3, Rock Hill Road, Woolton, near Liverpool. Please turn up in good numbers. There will be plenty of handbells for all who wish to try their skill in this fascinating art.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Isham on Saturday, July 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Handbells before and after. Tea will be provided for those who notify me by Tuesday, July 9th. Bring your own sugar.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Next meeting at headquarters on Tuesday, July 16th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each to members, 3s. each to non-members. It is earnestly requested that application for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should reach general secretary not later than Tuesday, July 16th, after which date the business will be in the hands of the caterers. Should the abnormal times in which we are living cause the dinner to be cancelled, all moneys sent will be refunded. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The meeting at Cheadle has been cancelled.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**HANDBELLS WANTED.**

WANTED, Second-hand set of handbells, eight. — Write, stating price, to Rev. F. S. Ford, St. James' Vicarage, Teignmouth, Devon.

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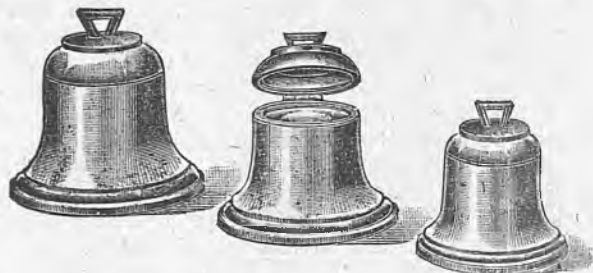
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## THE PEALS ANALYSIS.

The peals analysis tables for the year 1939 have just been made available for publication. The delay in their appearance has been unavoidable, for the members of the responsible committee of the Central Council, like other people, have now more urgent calls upon their time, but the many ringers who are interested in these statistics will welcome their publication, although six months have elapsed since the close of the period which they cover. The Exercise owes a debt of gratitude to the committee for carrying on their useful work year after year, and few people realise the painstaking care with which the figures are compiled. The preparation of the analysis is one of the duties which those who undertake the task have to carry on with systematic assiduity throughout the year and, in normal times, it takes up a great deal of the committee's leisure. Without hesitation it can be said that the Analysis Committee give more time to their work than any other committee of the Council. Their labours have provided a standing record of the progress of the art through more than thirty years, since the time when the work was taken over, after having been carried on privately for nearly twenty years by Messrs. G. F. Attree and George Baker, of Brighton. Thus for something like half a century there has been a regular and particularly careful analysis of the peals that have been rung, and these details remain as a matter of recorded history which ringers of the future may consult. If for no other reason, the work of the Analysis Committee is worth doing, but there is, in the results which they publish, always an interest for a large section of ringers.

The tables which we print to-day cannot very well be compared with past years, but if the war had not come upon us there is fair reason for thinking that 1939 would have proved almost, if not quite, as good a year for peals as 1938. Up to the end of August, 1,246 peals had been rung against exactly 1,300 in the same period of the previous year, and it would have been easily possible for the balance of 54 to have been made up before the end of December. One has only to examine the comparative figures to see how the monthly totals go up and down, and fifty peals could quite well have been balanced in a single month. Thus judged, 1939 was showing excellent promise. Actually, the year ended with only 1,338 peals, against 2,035 in the preceding twelve months, 92 peals only having been rung from September to December. There is little purpose in attempting to compare details between the two years, but it is noteworthy that, despite the general advance that has been

(Continued on page 326.)

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made in method ringing, there is still revealed an exceedingly large proportion of peals rung on five and six bells in one method only. The present, perhaps, is not the time to stress the point that ringers ought to attempt to reach a higher standard in this respect, for there is now little opportunity to do so, although, where handbell ringing is seriously taken up, something might be done in anticipation of the time when church bell ringing may again be possible. Looking back, however, there does appear to have been a lack of enterprise on the part of many ringers. One association, for instance, out of eighteen peals of Minor and Doubles, rang only four peals in two methods, and all the rest in one method only. There may, of course, be good reason for this, but it seems to show that there is room for much improvement. One gratifying feature of the analysis, however, is shown in the increase in the number of handbell peals rung. There were 105, as against 91 in 1938. It may be hoped that, with the present prohibition upon church bell ringing, handbell ringing will increase vastly in popularity, and that interest in it will not only be maintained during war time, but will continue to grow when ringing once more comes into its own.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, June 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

IN THE PARVUS OF ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,

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Tenor size 15 in C.

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SELWYN H. DEARDEN ...	5-6		

Conducted by WILLIAM H. DEACON.

Witness—Sydney Flint.

The first peal on the bells and the first 'in hand' in the parish.  
The band would like to thank Mr. Flint for the use of the bells.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ...	7-8

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

\* 50th peal on handbells.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to historic records of ringing in Birmingham district given in last issue, can Mr. Trollope tell me how he reconciles the length 6,218 Bob Major at Deritend and 6,074 at Aston in this method? My sole reason for asking this is that while searching for local data (quite apart from ringing) I have unearthed the record of a long peal of Caters and a peal of Royal at York Minster. These, from my limited knowledge gained during two years' sojourn in that city, were unknown or lost sight of.

Neither of these records (from a Midlands newspaper of the period) seem to conform to the method as regards number of changes, and I don't want Mr. Trollope to 'pull this to pieces' in his typical manner when dealing with history, and say 'This is impossible and cannot be allowed.' It is here in cold print. I know full well that old composers used to depart from the method to get a certain number of changes (especially so with 'date' touches) and also to get up rounds—like Lockwood's Single in Kent Treble Bob Major to bring round his 9,000 which was rung at Quorn, Leicestershire.

I have discovered a lot of hitherto unknown peal records, written in the quaint and 'flowery' language of the period, and shall be pleased to forward same for publication if you, sir, will give me the necessary space.

ERNEST MORRIS.



## THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to your interesting leading article, 'Comments and Warnings,' I am of opinion that the authorities concerned with silencing church bells have acted in the best interests of the community, especially in view, as you point out, of the serious development of the war since the Order came into effect.

As far as we are concerned at St. Martin's, Birmingham, we have had no communication up to the present as to the procedure to be adopted or by whom the bells are to be rung. I take it that when this does happen it is really intended, when there are several bells, to chime or toll two or more, and not attempt to ring the bells in the orthodox manner as we ringers understand it. Of course, there is a risk, even with chiming, to the inexperienced, and this is where ringers whose circumstances permit can assist the authorities by volunteering to carry out these duties and so prevent possible damage to the bells and fittings.

While tower bells are silenced it is for ringers to take advantage of learning handbell ringing, and as one who, previous to the last war, was unable to ring a pair of bells, I can write with experience. Wherever possible the services of experienced double-handed ringers should be obtained and an endeavour made to master the art of ringing two handbells in changes. This reminds me of an excellent booklet on double-handed change ringing prepared at the request of the Central Council, written by Mr. Chris. Woolley, one of the foremost handbell and tower bell ringers in the Exercise. No doubt had times been normal this booklet would have been available, and I suggest that the Standing Committee of the Council should take the earliest opportunity, in conjunction with the author, to get this handy and useful booklet published, either as a whole or by weekly articles in 'The Ringing World.'

If I may give advice to those who are anxious to learn double-handed change ringing, I would suggest starting with Major or Triples (in plain methods), with, if possible, three experienced double-handed ringers. Learn first to ring each pair correctly in a plain course before attempting touches. This will give valuable experience in learning how to 'part your hands' as the two bells traverse through their various positions from coursing one another, or with two, three or more bells in between. Especially is it necessary to keep eye and ear on your course bells.

Even-bell methods may be the best for the learner to start with, but there is very little in it. Incidentally, we in Birmingham meet each Tuesday evening, 7.30 to 9 p.m., in a room at The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, where ringers who have little previous knowledge are having good practice with the more experienced handbell ringers, which augurs well for the future in Birmingham and district. We shall be very happy to welcome visitors interested.

With regard to the latter part of your article, 'The future of "The Ringing World,"' it is up to every one of us to assist the Editor by providing some useful material which will help to keep the paper going and to be of benefit and interest to the ringing exercise.

ALBERT WALKER.

## THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As Mr. Edwin Barnett states in the last issue of 'The Ringing World,' it was mainly due to Henry Dains that the Cumberlands added the word Royal to their title. He was supported by Henry S. Thomas, of Battersea, who tried to get its use officially recognised. In this he was unsuccessful, which, no doubt, is the reason why the title adopted was The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, and not The Royal Society of Cumberland Youths.

I have always thought that the change was a mistake and it is a great pity it ever was made. There is more than a touch of snobbery about it, and it may suggest the totally unwarranted idea that the society has, or has had in the past, some royal patronage. The only excuse for the word is that the Duke of Cumberland, from whom the society took its name, was the second son of George II. So far as the younger son of a reigning king is royal he, of course, was royal, but there was nothing much about him to make anyone proud of having anything to do with him. He was a German soldier with a German soldier's outlook on things. History knows him chiefly for his ruthless suppression of the Scottish Highlands after the rising of 1745, from which he gained his unenviable title of 'The Butcher.' He had no personal contact with the Cumberlands' Society, and no sentiment for bells.

If I had any influence with the Cumberlands I would get them to remove the word Royal from their title as well as the sub-title they use—'late the London Scholars'—which calmly states an untruth, for they never were the London Scholars.

The title of the society for 150 years was the Society of Cumberland Youths. It is historical and quite sufficient. The society would do well to use it and nothing more.

'HISTORICUS.'

STONE, STAFFS.—At St. Michael's Church on Sunday, June 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): \*L. Buckley 1, H. Hodson 2, J. Moulson 3, C. Templeton 4, H. Buckley 5, J. Head 6, A. Rowley (conductor) 7, \*H. Proctor 8. \*First quarter-peal. Rung as a compliment to Mr. C. Mathews, who had completed 50 years' service in the choir and also reached his 70th birthday on the same day.

## CALL CHANGES AND GOOD STRIKING

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—After an absence from the columns of 'The Ringing World' for nearly twelve months, I should like to comment upon some of the very interesting subjects which ringers are raising in recent issues.

First of all, striking and call changes. The article on page 315 of this week's issue is one of the best I have yet read on the causes of bad striking, and I would like to add one important tip. That is, try and make one's body and rope feel in absolute unison. Be as supple as possible, and *bend* with the rope. So often one sees ringers who could be quite good handlers, but mar their efforts by their absolute rigid stance. Instead of pulling the rope with a straight downward action, they appear to be pushing outwards, as if the rope was a stiff piece of wire. In ringing a heavy bell the above advice is absolutely essential, with the addition that it is most helpful to cultivate the habit of shortening and lengthening, as the case may be, one's tail end when doing a dodge and coming from the back to the front. With one or two exceptions (and these men of exceptional strength), I have never seen a really good heavy bell ringer who did not automatically do this every time it was necessary. Our first class 'light weight' heavy bell men usually do this to excellent advantage, as if they didn't they would be unable to ring and strike the weight of metal which they do.

Regarding call changes. I have rung with a large number of call change companies, but I have never come across but very few where the striking was up to that high standard which one is led to believe does exist in call change companies. Invariably one thing spoils them. Their tenor ringer is usually too slow at handstroke or backstroke (or both sometimes!). Mind you, in Devonshire, amongst six-bell companies, I have heard absolute perfect striking, but on light rings. Usually amongst call change ringers, where they are all 'old hands,' the striking was excellent, but where youth predominated, then there was the same carelessness as is displayed in many change ringing companies.

Regarding the future of 'The Ringing World,' I hope as many ringers as possible will contribute some article or bring up some controversial subject, as now is the opportunity to discuss matters which in normal times would be regarded as a waste of space. It would be a thousand pities if the paper had to cease, so it's up to everyone now to support you, Mr. Editor, in keeping people in touch with one another.

In conclusion, for the time being, I should like to send all good wishes for the future to my friends and acquaintances all over the country, and hope that when we do pull through these difficult days we shall all meet again in the belfry somewhere. I shall be very pleased to hear from anyone at my address, though expect to be called up very soon now.

A. PATRICK CANNON.

99, Cranbury Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

## ADVANTAGES OF CALL CHANGES FOR BEGINNERS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The Rev. Herbert Drake in your issue of June 28th asks, 'Do call changes help or hinder the beginner?' and goes on to argue that because, in his opinion, they are musically hardly endurable to outside listeners, they should not be rung.

In my humble opinion this does not answer the question. When learning to ring we are told, among other things, to listen for the sound of the bell we are pulling. It is, I think, in the use of our ears that call changes can be of great assistance. Both the sight of the ropes and the sound produced by change ringing are to the beginner a jumble, which he often despairs in his attempts to unravel. But if he can be helped by a good dose of call changes, which, after all, are only a variation of rounds, he will hear clearly the effect produced by his attempts to pull after bells of varying weights and will thus obtain experience of the greatest importance to him when he can handle his bell sufficiently well to begin his efforts at change ringing on the tower bells.

Call changes on silent bells would be of little help, for what does it matter which rope we pull after when we cannot hear the result of our efforts.

As for call changes for service ringing, is it not far better to have well-struck call changes than the hopeless banging about which so often results from a beginner's efforts, and is surely preferable to allowing the bells to remain silent.

Do the public really realise the difference between call changes and change ringing? I think not, as I have often been congratulated upon good ringing, which has, in fact, been merely Churchyard Bob or whatever you may like to call it.

I hope no one will get the impression from this letter that I am a call change enthusiast.

Chelmsford.

L. J. CLARK.

## THE REV. H. DRAKE'S REPLY.

The Rev. Herbert Drake's reply to our article last week will appear in our next issue.

## RINGING IN THE MIDLANDS. DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Not only in Birmingham itself, but also in the neighbouring towns and villages, there were during the closing years of the eighteenth century, considerable ringing activity and a number of good bands, and, as there was a fair amount of intercourse between them, they reacted on each other and by emulation and to a certain extent co-operation did much to encourage peal ringing.

At Stourbridge was a company called the Chapel Youths, from the fact that St. Thomas' Church was originally a chapel of ease to the ancient Parish Church of Oldswinford. These men, on October 12th, 1775, rang at Walsall 'single handed the first true peal of Bob Major in 3 hours and 10 minutes to the Great Satisfaction of the Inhabitants.' The bells, a new ring by Rudhall, had just been opened by several bands from Birmingham and elsewhere.

Two years earlier, on November 8th, 1773, the society rang at their home tower 'a quarter-peal of Bob Majors, 10,080 changes, in six hours twenty minutes.' Samuel Green conducted and James Dovey rang the tenor, Dovey evidently was the leading man in the company, and he called 6,608 changes of Bob Major in 1774 and 5,088 changes of Treble Bob in 1778.

The Chapel Youths probably had other performances to their credit. In a letter to 'The Ringing World' of December 11th, 1931, Mr. A. J. Skelding informed us that their records survived until recent times, but the book has been lost sight of.

The most notable among the Stourbridge ringers besides James Dovey was a man named Thomas Edwards, the earliest of the long line of famous composers who have arisen in the Birmingham district.

He was the first man to produce a peal of Stedman Triples which we definitely know to have been true. It was rung in 1803 at St. Mary Abbots by the Kensington men, who also rang a peal of Grandsire Triples by him with a call—bob, single or double—at every lead end. The 6,608 of Bob Major which Dovey called was obviously the extent of the method with the tenors together and without bobs. Such a peal could then have been produced only by an exceptionally clever man. John Reeves had composed one which was rung by the London Youths as early as 1766, but until the 'Clavis' appeared in 1788 it is hardly likely that his compositions were known in the Midlands, and it is more probable that the Stourbridge peal was by Edwards. He does not appear to have stood himself in any peals, and we look in vain for his name among the local records. The Stedman Triples is said to have been composed in the year 1792.

At Oswestry there was a company called the Anacreontic Society, which was typical of a number of societies that existed in the eighteenth century. Founded probably as a ringing company by leading townsmen (it included three or four clergymen and three or four army officers), it existed very largely as an ordinary social club, 'a band of jolly fellows who met together at the George Inn and used to discuss the topics of the day.'

The society rang at least one peal—Holt's ten-part of Grandsire Triples on March 3rd, 1785, conducted by Robert Salter. The seventh was rung by Baldwyn Lloyd,

a clergyman, probably the brother or relative of Robert Lloyd, of Shrewsbury, who was an honorary member of the club, as also were Richard Cross and several of the Shrewsbury men, as well as Samuel Lawrence and others from the surrounding district.

Similar in its constitution to the Anacreontic Society, but much more important was the Union Society of Shrewsbury. As early as 1701 Abraham Rudhall had supplied ten bells with a tenor of 28 cwt. to St. Chad's in that town, and ringing was a popular pastime among the better-class parishioners and townsmen, so much so that, for their convenience, a new belfry floor was erected within the arches of the central tower, notwithstanding the disfigurement it caused to the interior of the building. Such a thing was not uncommon at the time.

A similar gallery was removed from the west end of Shrewsbury Abbey Church in 1814, since when the bells apparently have never been rung, but by that time ringing had ceased to be practised by 'respectable' persons.

There are several important churches in England where belfry floors, put up in the eighteenth century for the convenience of ringers, have since been removed to improve the internal appearance of the building. Notable instances are Hereford and Norwich Cathedrals, Merton College and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. (I do not know when the original floors in the two cathedrals were erected.)

On January 14th, 1714, the Union Society was founded at Shrewsbury for the practice of change ringing and incidentally as a social club. It was composed of good-class townsmen, and on its social side was so great a success that it attracted many men who had little interest in the art of ringing. A rule had to be passed that 'no townsman be admitted into the company of this club but by a member of the same, which member shall first obtain the master's consent and pay sixpence for him at his entrance into the room to be annexed to and expended with the club members.'

The annual feast was the great event of the year, and, as was the case with the St. Stephen's Society of Bristol and the Hertford College Youths, it became an excuse for many of the leading men of the town and district to meet together once a year and enjoy a good dinner. A list is preserved of fifty-two members who were present at the feast in 1795. One or two can be identified as practical ringers, and others, no doubt, were also ringers, but the majority were there to enjoy themselves for that evening, and any other excuse would have served just as well as ringing.

Among them was Sir William Pulteney, baronet, and Member of Parliament for the borough. He was a very important person, reputed to be the wealthiest commoner of the day, who, when he died, was buried in Westminster Abbey and left behind him a funded estate amounting to the then enormous sum of nearly two million pounds.

One of the society's engraved dinner tickets is preserved in the British Museum. It is dated June 27th, 1808. The meeting place was the Talbot Inn, and the time half-past two in the afternoon. They began their festivities early in those days, and kept them up for many hours.

But there was also in the society a genuine and enthusiastic interest in the art of change ringing. 'In 1796,' says a man writing in 1828, 'respectable gentle-

men of the town considered it no ignoble amusement to join in a peal. The society consisted almost exclusively of the local gentry and leading merchants and traders.'

Fourteen Shrewsbury men were subscribers to the 'Clavis' in 1788, including Thomas Groves, the warner to the society, Robert and Thomas Lloyd and Charles Clark, whose names appear in the 1795 list, Philip Heath who, as we have seen, rang in the first peal of Maximus at Birmingham, and Richard Cross, for many years the conductor to the society.

In 1776, Pack and Chapman hung a new ring of eight in St. Mary's steeple. They were opened on March 4th, and on the afternoon of the same day a peal of Grand-sire Triples was rung on them.

On October 16th, 1781, the vestry of Shrewsbury Abbey Church resolved 'that the two trebbles should be recast with the addition of two to make ten bells, of which the Union Society have agreed to pay forty pounds.' This was altered on November 29th to 'The parish allows £40 towards the rehangings and purchasing two bells and the Union Society agree to pay all additional expenses.' The two new bells, however, were never supplied.

Early in the year 1788 several cracks were noticed in the north-west pier of the central tower of St. Chad's, and, as they gradually increased in size, they caused some alarm, and some holders of pews in the vicinity refused to use them. The churchwardens were inclined to make light of the matter, but after a while they sought an opinion from Thomas Telford, so well known in later years as a distinguished engineer.

Telford inspected the building and reported that the structure was in a very dangerous condition. Owing to the digging of graves near the north-west pillar, the

main support of the tower was endangered, and the whole north side of the nave likely to collapse. He recommended the pulling down of the tower without any delay.

To the vestry this report seemed a gross exaggeration. The tower had stood for some hundreds of years; why should it not continue to stand? As for the cracks, they had been there, so people said, as long as men could remember.

Then a certain stone-mason made a suggestion. He proposed that the defective stones in the lower part of the faulty pier should be cut away and replaced by new stones. He was entrusted with the work and put his men to it, no one apparently thinking it might be necessary to shore up the building during the operation, even supposing such a thing had been possible.

Meanwhile services were held as usual in the church with crowded congregations. The Union Society had arranged to attempt a peal, but, on the day, Richard Cross, who had some fears for the safety of the tower, stayed at home, and the other ringers meeting short had to abandon the attempt.

The next day the sexton went up into the belfry to ring a knell. He noticed that the floor was covered by particles of mortar, and as soon as he began to pull the tenor up a 'shower of stones descended and a cloud of dust. In panic, he let go the rope and took himself out of the church as quickly as he could, carrying off the service books and as much of the furniture as his alarm would allow him to collect.

At four o'clock the next morning a man in the neighbourhood heard the clock chime, and as he turned his eyes towards the steeple the whole fabric collapsed in ruin.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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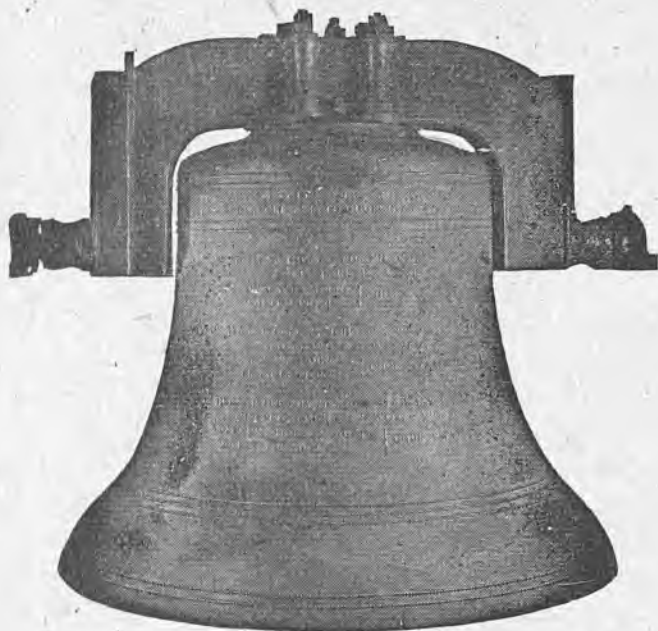
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to record the death at Hersham, Surrey, of Mr. Alfred Woodrow. He was one of the original members of Hersham band when the bells were installed in the new tower, and for many years rendered loyal service to the band. The funeral took place on Tuesday.

The death is announced of Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton, of Quex Park, Thanet. He was a collateral descendant of John Powell Powell, the man who built the Waterloo Tower in his park and hung the ring of twelve bells there. Major Powell-Cotton had been a great traveller and hunter, and a splendid collection of stuffed animals and birds, all of them shot by himself or Mrs. Powell, exists at Quex Park. The bells in the tower have always been well cared for, and visiting ringers have always readily been granted permission to attempt peals.

One of the earliest recorded peals was rung on July 8th, 1734, when 'the whole peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes,' was rung in 3 hours and 10 minutes at St. Laurence's, Reading. The expression 'whole peal' may usually in these old records be taken to mean the false composition in the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanologia.'

On the same date in 1750 John Holt called 5,040 changes of Double Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster, for the Union Scholars.

On July 8th, 1817, James Barham, then 91 years old, took part in a touch of Treble Bob Major at Leeds in Kent. He died on January 14th, 1818.

William Sottanstill, of Sowerby, the author of a book on change ringing, was born on July 9th, 1800.

A notable handbell peal was performed on July 10th, 1917, when four members of the Society of College Youths rang Carter's odd bob composition of Stedman Triples non-conducted.

The first peal of Erin Caters was rung at North Shields on July 12th, 1909, conducted by Mr. W. H. Barber.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

Following upon the news which we received last week of the serious illness of Mr. James George came information that he had been removed from 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, where he had been staying, to Northampton General Hospital. There it was found necessary to amputate his left leg. The latest report of his condition is that he is as comfortable as can be expected.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LIBRARY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As I have been called upon to rejoin the Royal Artillery in the near future, I have handed over the sales department of the Central Council Library to the Rev. E. S. Powell, Staverton Vicarage, Daventry. At the request of the officers of the Council he has very kindly undertaken this work and has a supply of publications.

The library itself has been put into store, and I regret that the loan of books will not be possible for the present. I should be glad if those who have books and to whom I have not written would return them to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

W. H. J. HOOTON, Hon. Librarian.

Homefield, Bilton Grange, Rugby.

## THE LATE CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—A tablet to the memory of the late C. F. Winney is to be placed in the ringing chamber at the Church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, London, by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, M.A. As Mr. Winney was a ringer at St. Clement's for more than 60 years, it was considered a fitting place for this memorial. No doubt there are many friends up and down the country who would be desirous of associating themselves with the commemoration of this illustrious ringer. A small committee has been formed, consisting of Messrs. G. N. Price and E. A. Young, the Master, treasurer and secretary of the society, by whom donations will be thankfully received.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

## THE LATE M. A. NOBLE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I say that on the occasion of Mr. M. A. Noble's visit to Nottingham for the Test Match, mentioned by Mr. White, I had the honour of being one of those who rang with him. He rather discounted his ringing ability, but knocked off Kent Treble Bob Major as well as the best of us. Afterwards he joined us at our headquarters and indulged in handbell ringing till closing time. A splendid fellow in every way—ringing as well as cricket has lost one who was very proficient in the art, and I am sure all lovers of cricket of Mr. Noble's day will regret that he has heard his last 'That's all.'

Having mentioned St. Peter's, Nottingham, may I say that although the tower bells are now stopped by the military authorities, the band meets every Sunday 10.15 to 10.45 a.m. and 6 to 6.30 p.m., and also Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9, for handbell ringing. Any ringers now in the Services who happen to be staying in our city are heartily invited to join us, as well as any other ringers.

Nottingham.

H. R. COBBIN.



**LORD MOTTISTONE & SILENT BELLS.****APPEAL FOR RAISING THE BAN.**

In the House of Lords, on Wednesday week, Lord Mottistone made an eloquent appeal for the raising of the ban now placed on the ringing of church bells. In a speech in which he moved that his Majesty's Government should take action forthwith to increase the offensive power and equipment of the citizens of this country, he said that the problem of the invasion of England should be approached not with the idea of hiding behind tank traps and barbed wire but with the spirit of fighting adventure—(hear, hear)—determined to apply common sense to the problem.

After condemning the defeatist spirit and urging the greater expansion of the L.D.V., he continued: We must abandon altogether the faint-hearted policy wherever it was found. What folly was this to tell our people not to ring the bells, because bellringing must be kept for some particular occasion. Who was the timid soul who suggested that? The sound of the bells of Westminster Abbey heartened everyone. He had reason to believe that the Minister for Home Security had said that the obvious thing to do if the War Office wanted to use the bells was to use one single bell. Restore the carillons. Let England hear again the bells. As had been proved not far across the Channel, the troglodytes were doomed. The people who sought safety by digging deeper and deeper were doomed to extinction. Why not be joyous, and meet death with a smile if it must come?

Lord Croft, Under-Secretary of State for War, in the course of his reply to the debate, said he would convey Lord Mottistone's suggestion in regard to the bells to the Minister of Home Security.

**BAN EXTENDED TO NORTHERN IRELAND.**

It has been announced that church bells in Northern Ireland must not be rung for any purpose except in accordance with directions given by an officer of His Majesty's Forces or a District Inspector of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, as a signal that enemy forces were attempting to land or were approaching.

**THE EXERCISE AND 'THE RINGING WORLD.'****WAR-TIME SUPPORT ESSENTIAL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I appeal to the members of the Exercise to continue to support 'The Ringing World' during these troublous times. It is our intention to carry on with the fortnightly meetings, and our members who are now scattered about the country either in H.M. Forces or otherwise will be able to ascertain through your notice columns the exact date of these meetings. Two country members present at our last meeting were enabled to enjoy a pleasant meeting with touches of Stedman Caters, etc., on the handbells through this medium. If change ringing is to survive, our ringing paper must be kept alive.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

**SILENT PRACTICE ON CHURCH BELLS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—I should like to make the suggestion that towers with more than six bells should take six clappers out, and continue to keep the bands together that way. We at Newcastle-under-Lyme are going to do this and leave four bells to be rung if necessary.

A. THOMPSON.

**PLEASANT MEMORIES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your issue of July 5th, 1940, Mr. W. T. Elson mentions the name of Mr. Ernest Behan, of Australia. When Mr. Behan first visited this country he sent a notice to 'The Bell News' (I think it was) that he would like a pull somewhere while in England. Mr. Arthur Dean at once wrote to say that Ashted and Leatherhead would be at his disposal any time, with ringers to oblige. Mr. Behan paid us a visit one Sunday. It was lovely weather, we had some good ringing, and, needless to say, a happy time. My best wishes for Mr. Behan's recovery.

JOHN HOYLE.

Ashted, Surrey.

**CHURCH TOWERS AS OBSERVATION POSTS.**

In the July issue of the 'Guildford Diocesan Gazette,' the Bishop of Guildford refers to the silencing of church bells and the use of towers as observation posts. He says: 'It will obviously be the desire as well as the duty of the clergy in the parishes to carry out the Government's orders. As to the use of church towers, it will be useful also to reprint the following words. The Secretary of State for War has made the following communication: "In the existing conditions of possible invasion the use of church towers as sites for observation posts would be of considerable military value, since many such towers would be ideal for use as observation posts for Local Defence Volunteers and others in obtaining early information of the arrival of enemy parachutists or troop-carrying aircraft. There would definitely be no question of using these towers as sites for machine guns or other weapons. The only equipment which it might be necessary to use would consist of telescopes and signalling devices."

'As to church bells, it will be a real deprivation not to ring them for summoning the services, but this must be faced in support of those who have the great responsibility for the defence of the people. It may perhaps be useful to add, in view of doubts which have been expressed as to the difficulties that might ensue from the ringing of the bells by persons without adequate skill and knowledge, that in some of our parishes a person or persons with the requisite knowledge and skill have been enrolled in the Local Defence Force for this purpose.'

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****GENERAL COMMITTEE MEET AT LEICESTER.**

A very successful and well-attended meeting of the General Committee of the Midland Counties Association took place last Saturday at Leicester. Owing to the cancellation of all ringing and the consequent postponement of all ringing meetings, the general officers thought it wise to hold a committee meeting to clear up current matters and discuss future plans. Each of the association's centres was represented except Chesterfield, from which distance and transport debarred attendance, members being present from Burton, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham.

The meeting took place in St. Margaret's choir vestry, and in the absence of the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert), who sent an apology and letter of good wishes, the vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) took the chair, supported by the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. E. White) and secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris).

The secretary pointed out that several of the honorary members had not paid their subscriptions this year, and after discussion it was suggested that each local secretary should do his utmost by personal appeal to retain their interest and support. In the matter of increased postage costs, each local secretary was asked to assist by cutting down as much as possible and as circumstances would permit without interfering with the work of his district. The recent resignation of the Nottingham district secretary was discussed, and in accordance with rules the committee appointed Mr. Fred A. Salter to this position until the next local annual meeting, Mr. Salter agreeing to do the work.

Regarding the association's future plans, a long discussion on the various and extremely difficult points of 'carrying on' was held, most of those present joining in with suggestions for and against. Under existing arrangements Newark was chosen for the next general quarterly meeting in September, but this, of course, may have to be left over owing to present ban on ringing. Ultimately it was decided to leave matters as they are for two months, when the officers would decide if a meeting was possible, and where.

There is no reason, however, why local branches should not hold meetings for social intercourse, handbell ringing, etc., as and when they find it convenient or possible.

The general secretary appeals to all who have not paid their annual subscriptions to do so *at once*, and to leaders of companies to urge all their members to do likewise.

Due notice will be given as soon as future meetings can be arranged.

**BELLS ABROAD.**

A correspondent writes: 'In these days there are many ringers serving in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy, and these men (especially those in the latter service) call at foreign ports all over the world. A lot of these ports have peals of bells, and it would be of great interest to all ringers who are sailors if you would publish in your columns a list of the towers fitted with bells hung for ringing in ports abroad. It would be a great joy to a sailor who had not touched a bell rope for many months to know that there was a chance for him to have a pull when he goes ashore in a foreign land. Such a list would, I am sure, also be of interest to ringers in general.'

Unfortunately there are very few ports abroad where ringers, now serving on the seas, are likely to be able to obtain any ringing.

Melbourne and Sydney in Australia, Hobart in Tasmania, Christchurch in New Zealand, and Victoria and Vancouver on the Pacific Coast of Canada are the only ports we are aware of where the opportunity of ringing is at all probable, and we are unable at this time to say whether ringing is being carried on at all of these places. There are also bells in Boston, U.S.A., but it is very unlikely that they are now rung.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'



## TOWER BELL PEALS OF MINOR &amp; DOUBLES, 1939.

Association.	MINOR							Total.	DOUBLES							Total.	Grand Total of Peals
	a-125	7	6	5	4	3	2		12	7	6	5	4	3	2		
Anc. Soc. Col. Y.							1	1								1	1
Bath and Wells							1	2								3	18
Bedfordshire	a1	7						12		1	1	1				3	15
Chester Diocesan	b10	6		1	5	2	7	31								2	33
Devonshire Guild								5							1	9	10
Dur. and Newc'le	a1	2		1				5								2	5
Ely Diocesan		3		1				7								2	9
Essex Association	c2	9		4	7	2	1	35								35	35
Glos. & Bristol						1		1		1				2	1	4	5
Guildford Guild							2	3						1	1	2	5
Hereford Dio.							4	4		3	1	2	3	2	13	24	28
Hertford County	d2	3						4									9
Irish Association																1	1
Kent County	e1							5								1	13
Lancashire		1	3		1	2	1	8								1	9
Lincoln Diocesan	f12	5		1				22						1	2	3	25
Llandaff & Mon.								3								1	4
Middlesex County		1						1									2
Midland Counties		2	1	2	3	8	6	22		2	1				3	6	28
North Notts.	g2							8									8
North Staffs.							1	2									3
North Wales								1								1	2
Norwich Diocesan	h3	3		1	1	3	1	12		2		1	2			5	17
Oxford Diocesan		10			4	1	4	19		1						6	26
Peterborough Dio.		2				1	1	8					2		2	5	17
St. Martin's, Birm.								1									1
Salisbury Dio.								2								1	4
Shropshire Assoc.		1	1					3								1	10
Stafford Arch.								4								4	5
Soc. Roy. Cum. Y.	i1	2						3									3
Suffolk Guild		3			8	3	3	15			1	1				2	17
Surrey Assoc.								1									1
Sussex Assoc.	j2	3		2				5						3	2	5	17
Swansea & Brecon								2								4	6
Truro Diocesan		1						1									1
Warwickshire Gd.								2								1	3
Winc'r. & P'm'th					1		1	5								1	8
Worcester & Dis.		3			1		1	5								1	6
Yorkshire Assoc.		3	8	1	1		3	19									19
Unaffiliated								3									3
Non-Association		1				2		3								1	4
TOTAL	40	78	6	12	31	36	10	317	1	7	1	5	6	5	21	123	440

a-12 methods. b-one in 57, one in 46, one in 39, two in 29, one in 20, one in 17, one in 14, one in 10, and one in 9 methods. c-one in 34, and one in 32 methods. d-two in 14 methods. e-8 methods. f-one in 125, one in 104, one in 102, one in 100, one in 70, one in 60, one in 30, one in 21, two in 14, one in 9, and 1 in 8 methods. g-one in 14, and one in 10 methods. h-one in 12, and two in 8 methods. i-one in 30 methods. j-one in 10, and one in 9 methods. k-one in 20, one in 17, and one in 14 methods.

## HANDBELL PEALS, 1939.

Association.	CINQUES			ROYAL			CATERS			MAJOR			TRIPLES			MINOR	DOUBLES	TOTAL
	Stedman	All Methods	ditto	London Surprise	Bristol Surprise	Spliced Surprise	Kent Treble Bob	Oxford Treble Bob	Spliced p'n Methods	Double Norwich	Plain Bob	Well'n. Ct. Lit. Bob	Little Bob	Stedman	Grandsire	Minor	Doubles	
1 Bath & Wells																		1
2 Cam. Univ. Gld.																		1
3 Chester Dio.		a1	e1					1	1		2					j1	n1	8
4 Durham & Newc'le																		2
5 Ely Diocesan																		1
6 Essex County																		4
7 Guildford Guild																1		1
8 Hertford Co.																1		9
9 Kent County		b2			4	h1					8				1	j2	o1	14
10 Lancashire Assoc.																j1		1
11 Lincoln Dio.		c1	f1					11		8		1		2	m1			15
12 Middlesex Assoc.				1				2		3	1	4	1	j1				15
13 Midland Counties														3	j4	p2		9
14 Norwich Diocesan															j3			3
15 St. Martin's, Birm.	1	g2																3
16 Salisbury Guild																q1		1
17 Stafford Arch.																j1		1
18 Sussex County																j3		3
19 Warwickshire G'd								1										1
20 Yorkshire Assoc.		d1								9								10
21 Non-Association																	j2	2
																		105

(Notes to this table are in the next column.)

## THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

## INTERESTING FACTS ON THE YEAR'S PEAL RINGING.

The following is the report of the Peals Analysis and Records Committee for the year 1939:—

Owing to the outbreak of war, peal ringing on tower bells practically ceased in September, and it is, therefore, not possible to give comparative figures which would be any guide as to the progress or otherwise of peal ringing. Up to the end of August, the total tower-bell peals amounted to 1,175, which was considerably less than up to the same period in 1938. The total in that year was 1,300, so it would seem that had circumstances remained normal, there would still have been a considerable drop in peals.

The following table shows how the year's total of tower-bell peals is made up:—

Maximus	16
Cinques	32
Royal	44
Caters	61
Major	454
Triples	186
Minor	317
Doubles	123

On handbells peals increased by 14 and comparative figures are given below:—

	1938	1939
Maximus	1	
Cinques	3	1
Royal	9	5
Caters	7	4
Major	36	60
Triples	11	10
Minor	17	18
Doubles	7	7

As will be seen, the increase was in peals of Major, there being five more Surprise peals and the rest various plain methods.

## ASSOCIATIONS.

One association only reached 100 peals, viz., the Essex Association. Next in order come the Kent County with 98 and the Midland Counties with 94.

## NEW METHODS.

- 5,056 Queensbury Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, January 19th.  
 5,088 Pinner Surprise Major, by the Middlesex County Association, January 28th.  
 5,056 Zetland Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, February 4th.  
 5,024 Bedford Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, February 9th.  
 5,280 York Surprise Maximus, by the Suffolk Guild, February 11th.  
 5,040 Erith Little Bob Royal, by the Essex Association, February 11th.  
 5,020 Checkendon Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, March 4th.  
 5,060 Northrepps Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, March 11th.  
 5,024 Napsbury Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, April 1st.  
 5,024 Goudhurst Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, April 27th.  
 5,056 Double Coslany Court Major, by the Middlesex Association, May 13th.  
 5,056 Wallasey Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, May 20th.  
 5,056 Cheltenham Bob Major, by the Kent County Association, June 16th.  
 5,152 Fulbeck Bob Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, June 24th.  
 5,008 Spliced Plain Bob, Fulbeck Bob, Double Bob and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, July 1st.  
 5,056 Tring Surprise Major, by the Hertford County Association, July 15th.  
 5,008 Gonville Bob Major, by the Chester Guild, August 5th.  
 5,152 Airedale Surprise Major, by the Yorkshire Association, August 5th.  
 5,000 Winton Court Bob Royal, by the Norwich Diocesan Association, August 7th.  
 5,072 Spliced Kent. Oxford and Granta Treble Bob Major, by the Chester Guild, August 12th.  
 5,040 Spliced Stedman and Erin Triples, by the Hertford County Association, August 26th.

(Continued on next page.)

## NOTES TO HANDBELL PEALS.

a-Oxford Treble Bob. b-Plain Bob. c-Little Bob and Gainsboro' Little Bob. d-Plain Bob. e-Stedman. f-Stedman. g-Erin (1), Stedman (1). h-London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. i-Six methods: Original, Reverse, Double, and Gainsboro' Bob, Little Bob, and Plain Bob. j-One method. k-Seven methods. m-Fifty methods. n-One method. o-Two methods. p-One in 1 and one in 2 methods. q-Four methods.

## ANALYSIS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(Continued from previous page.)

### HANDBELLS.

5,060 Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob Royal, by the Lincoln Guild, October 17th.

5,040 Wellington Little Court Bob Major, by the Middlesex County Association, October 31st.

5,040 Spliced Original, Reverse, Double, Gainsborough, Little and Plain Bob Major, by the Lincoln Guild, December 29th.

### GENERAL.

The outstanding performances of the year were the peals of Minor by the Lincoln Guild in 100, 102, 104 and 125 methods, the last named a length of 6,480 changes. These created a record. The same Guild also accomplished a peal of Minor 'in hand' in 50 methods. The Chester Guild rang a peal of Surprise Minor 7,200 changes in 10 methods. This was the longest length rung during the year.

The following are the number of peals rung during each month in 1939 and 1938:—

	1939	1938		1939	1938
January	137	165	July	139	138
February	144	189	August	153	164
March	147	140	September	2	162
April	188	188	October	16	166
May	192	158	November	23	173
June	146	158	December	51	234

### FOOTNOTES.

The number of ringers who have scored their first peal is 354. The number who rang their first peal in a different method or method on a different number of bells is 1,017. Ringers of their first peal inside number 41; away from the tenor 8; Maximus 6; Cinques 3; Royal 17; Caters 17; Major 93; Triples 27; Minor 81; Doubles 18; on twelve bells 17; ten 40; eight 43; six 1; Surprise 19; in hand 37; in method in hand 32. New conductors number 52; conductors in new methods number 118.

Other footnotes show that 27 were the first on the bells; 94 the first in the method on the bells; and 9 since restoration or augmentation. Ten peals were rung for royal birthdays; 29 for church festivals and dedications; 65 for weddings (including silver and golden); welcome and farewell 43; muffled and half-muffled 35; anniversaries 27; Empire Day 3; Armistice Day 3.

We give below the number of peals rung in each of representative years since 1881, the total for the whole period being 73,981:—

1881	...	156	1921	...	1,632
1898	...	1,002	1932	...	2,199
1905	...	1,519	1934	...	1,784
1913	...	2,359	1937	...	1,863
1917 (war year)	...	130	1938	...	2,035
1919	...	1,048	1939	...	1,338

(Signed) G. L. GROVER.  
GEORGE R. PYE.  
CHARLES DEAN.  
WALTER AYRE.  
EDITH K. FLETCHER.

### THE LATE MR. W. A. CAVE'S PEALS.

The following is the list of peals rung by the late Mr. W. A. Cave, of Bristol, as far as can be ascertained:—

	Rung	Conducted
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	...	5
Cambridge Surprise Royal	...	40
Cambridge Surprise Major	...	50
Stedman Cinques	...	20
Stedman Caters	...	85
Stedman Triples	...	67
London Surprise Major	...	15
Clifton Surprise Royal	...	2
Bristol Surprise Major	...	7
Superlative Surprise Major	...	7
Double Norwich Major	...	40
Forward Major	...	1
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	...	1
Kent Treble Bob Royal	...	3
Kent Treble Bob Major	...	4
Grandsire Cinques	...	2
Grandsire Caters	...	11
Grandsire Triples	...	8
Plain Bob Maximus	...	1
Plain Bob Royal	...	2
Plain Bob Major	...	4
Spliced Plain and Little Bob	...	1

Total ... 376 165

The non-conducted peals in which he took part were one each of Cambridge Surprise Major, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples, and his peals on handbells (included in the total) were Stedman Caters 1, Grandsire Cinques 1, which he conducted, and Grandsire Caters 2. The Stedman Caters included a 7,023, which he conducted.

The peals were rung for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association 253, Bath and Wells Diocesan Association 65, Salisbury Diocesan Guild 33, Winchester Diocesan Guild 11, Ancient Society of College Youths 4, Devonshire Guild 3, Lancashire Association 2, and St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, Essex, Llandaff, Truro and non-association 1 each.

## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

### FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

In these days when practice on the tower bells is denied us, bands can spend time very pleasantly and profitably with the handbells, ringing them single-handed. In this way they can learn new methods and more difficult ones than they have been accustomed to ring on the tower bells. Also very useful work can be done in teaching beginners. Single-handed ringing should not be despised. It has its uses, and it is by no means so tame as some men think it is.

But when we talk of handbell ringing we usually mean double-handed ringing, which has a fascination all its own and is in most respects quite different from single-handed ringing. In our issues of Oct. 20th and Nov. 17th and 24th we printed some articles on the subject by Mr. Christopher Woolley, which we strongly recommend to the attention of those who wish to take up this branch of the art. Meanwhile, in response to requests from some of our friends, we will say a few words about the fundamentals of the matter.

There are two things that you should get into your head clearly at the start. One of them is that it is not much good learning (say) a course of Grandsire Triples by heart as you would a tune. That is by no means a difficult thing to do, and as a matter of fact very many people do ring handbells in this fashion. You will quite often come across a band, especially a young band, who will ring a course of Grandsire Triples or Bob Major and ring it respectably well. They think they are double-handed handbell ringers, but actually they scarcely know the beginnings of the art. Call a bob or even get them to ring a course on eight bells not tuned in the major scale, and you will soon find it out. Whether they recognise it or not, whether they admit it or not, they ring by ear and by the tune, not by the method.

The second thing is that you must realise from the start that you have to ring not two separate bells, each with its own work, like the works of two tower bells, but you have a pair of bells which work in combination with each other and help each other.

When we learn a method for practice on tower bells, if we are wise, we draw out a skeleton course and study that. A skeleton course is a line drawn along the path of one of the bells in the plain course, showing clearly the work the bell has to do. It can be drawn without figures, but the best plan is that of the Diagrams in Snowden's 'Standard Methods,' a book, by the way, which every ringer should possess. When we learn, say, Double Norwich Major, we turn to the Diagrams and we get the 'blue line' thoroughly into our minds and our memories, so that when we start to ring the method in the tower we have a mental chart of the work we must do. If we want to ring two handbells to a method, we must go through a similar process. We shall, of course, attempt at first one of the simpler methods—Grandsire or Plain Bob—but we use the blue line just the same.

But here is the difference between single-handed or tower-bell ringing and double-handed ringing. In double-handed ringing you must not consider that you have two separate bells, both ringing the same method (that is, the same blue line), but in different leads; you must consider that you have two blue lines working in combination, and it is the combination you must study.

It will pay you to take a little trouble in this matter and study it with pencil and paper.



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**LADIES' GUILD.**—The annual general meeting has been abandoned. Members are reminded that subscriptions became due on July 1st, and to save postage, members are asked to forward their subscriptions to the district secretaries without waiting to be written to.—Edith K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—South Forest Branch.—The annual salmon supper of the South Forest Branch will be held at the Angel Hotel, Ruardean, on Saturday, July 13th. Particulars of price and tickets from William W. T. Scott, The Lawn, Ruardean, Glos.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The meeting arranged for Turners Hill on July 13th has been cancelled. The committee would like all members' views on future policy. Please drop me a card as soon as possible.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Halewood on Saturday, July 13th. Handbells from 3 o'clock until 4.30 and after tea. It is hoped to hold a short service, followed by the business meeting. An effort will be made to provide tea for those only who send notice to Mr. J. Robinson, 3, Rock Hill Road, Woolton, near Liverpool. Please turn up in good numbers. There will be plenty of handbells for all who wish to try their skill in this fascinating art.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Isham on Saturday, July 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Handbells before and after.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, on Tuesday, July 16th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the business meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The July quarterly meeting will be held at Monk's Kirby on Saturday, July 20th. Business meeting 6 p.m. at the Denbigh Arms. Social evening to follow. A good attendance is requested.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each to members, 3s. each to non-members. It is earnestly requested that application for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should reach general secretary not later than Tuesday, July 16th, after which date the business will be in the hands of the caterers. Should the abnormal times in which we are living cause the dinner to be cancelled, all moneys sent will be refunded. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The meeting at Cheadle has been cancelled.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**HANDBELLS WANTED.**

WANTED, Second-hand set of handbells, eight. — Write, stating price, to Rev. F. S. Ford, St. James' Vicarage, Teignmouth, Devon.

**APARTMENTS.**

**LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES.**—Superior board-residence or bed and breakfast; 2 minutes sea, tennis courts, bowling green and park. — Mrs. Brown, Avonholm, 24, Queen's Road. Telephone 6965.

**LANGLEY MARISH, BUCKS.**—On Sunday, May 5th, for Confirmation service by the Bishop of Buckingham, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: G. H. Gutteridge 1, Sgt. A. Ford (Grenadier Guards) 2, C. A. Burgess 3, B. O'Neill 4, W. Henley 5, G. Gilbert 6.

**ABERAVON, GLAM.**—At a practice meeting, when only eight ringers were left, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) was rung: D. Thomas (first attempt for a quarter-peal) 1, T. M. Roderick 2, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 3, E. Stitch 4, H. Boyce 5, A. W. Wright 6, A. Hannington 7, A. E. Bacon 8.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

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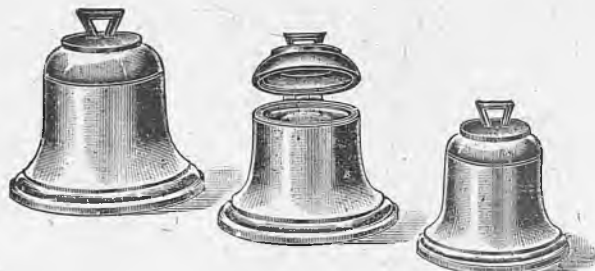
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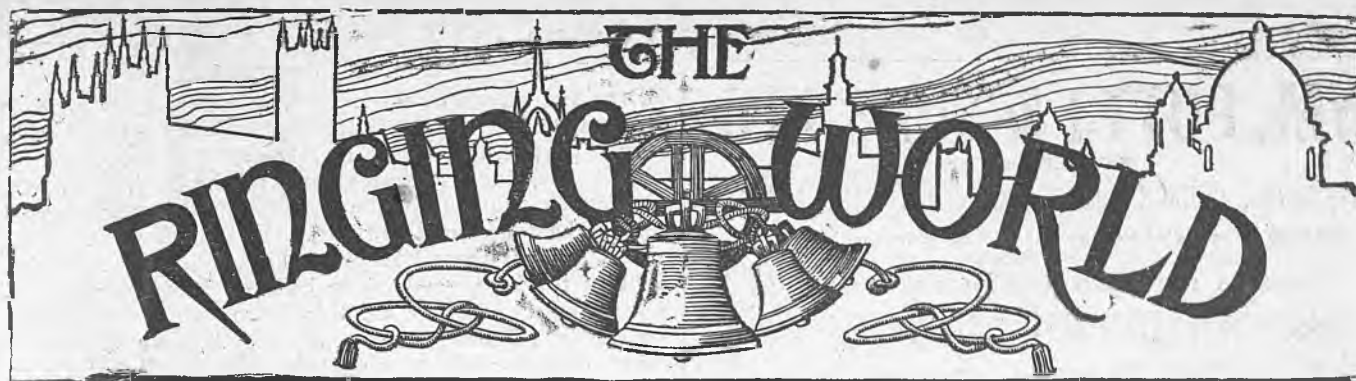
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FRIDAY, JULY 19th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## 'LET ENGLAND HEAR THE BELLS AGAIN.'

The determination of the committee of the Yorkshire Association that, as far as possible, the life of the organisation shall be carried on as usual in these difficult times, will, we think, be applauded by the majority of the members. To other associations, hesitating whether or not to 'pull down the blinds' for the duration of the war, it should prove an incentive to keep going. The defeatist attitude can descend to other things than the actual war itself; indeed, it is the one thing against which the ordinary citizen must guard more than any other. To accept the spirit of defeat in the small things which affect our lives would prove an insidious step towards taking the same outlook in regard to the much more important and vital issues that confront us. Do not let us think, because the actual ringing of church bells is stopped for the time being, that all is at an end with regard to our art. Rather should we face the position with stouter hearts and a grimmer determination to maintain the spirit of co-operation and mutual encouragement. Associations *can* carry on successfully even without having church bells to ring, as our columns continue to show, and the faint-hearted and the 'all-is-lost' brigade should take courage from what is being done in various parts of the country to continue the work of the ringing organisations, restricted, as it perforce must be, despite the handicaps of the moment.

Moreover, is there not something encouraging in the speech of Lord Mottistone in the House of Lords, from which we quoted extracts last week? Here is a responsible member of the Legislature asking the Government to allow the church bells to ring again. It was a stirring appeal and, coming from such a source, may well lead to some modification of the complete ban which is now imposed. 'What folly was this to tell our people not to ring the bells?' he asked. 'Who was the timid soul who suggested that?' he pressed, and added, 'Let England hear again the bells. Why not be joyous, and meet death with a smile if it must come?' That was spoken like the Englishman that he is; and we think many beside ringers will applaud the sentiment which Lord Mottistone expressed. Ringers naturally want the bells to sound again, and so do many members of the public. Actually there need be no confusion between the ringing of the bells for service and an invasion alarm, if the intention of the Ministry of Home Security is to have only one bell rung when the invaders arrive.

But Lord Mottistone's appeal goes deeper than that. The church bells are part of the life and the tradition of this country, and their cheering sounds would help to

(Continued on page 338.)

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enliven the spirits of the people, help to remind them in times when it is more important than ever that they should be reminded, not merely of the fact that the Church continues an active force in the land, but of the even wider truth that the Christian faith still prevails among the people of this nation, the faith for whose principles, express them how you will, we are determined to fight to the bitter end. The bells on Sundays would be a regular reminder of all this nation stands and fights for in this stupendous struggle, and they would recall to those who are giving themselves without stint to the country's cause—and thus, perhaps, are hardly able to distinguish Sunday from any other day of the week—the faith which is the foundation of all our hopes, our endeavours and our ultimate aims. We do not think that this is putting too high a value on the service which the bells might render if they were free to do so; and we believe that Lord Mottistone was interpreting the feelings of a large majority of the people when he said, 'Let England hear the bells again.' When they do, nothing, we are convinced, will give them greater cheer or pleasure. And after all, as Lord Mottistone said, let us 'meet death with a smile if it must come.' That is the spirit that has made Britain what it is; and that is the spirit that will carry us to victory in this great struggle.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 4, 1940, in One Hour and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores.

BERNARD BROWN ... 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH ... 3-4

KENNETH NARBOROUGH ... 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

First peal and first attempt by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 9, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

\*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

†CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4 | THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

\* First peal in the method on handbells. † First peal in the method.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 11, 1940, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*EDWARD COWPERTHWAIT 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 3-4

†CERIL CROSTHWAITE ... 5-6

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

\* First peal. † First peal on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 12, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

\*EDWIN H. LEWIS ... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

\* First peal in the method on handbells.



## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE RECOMMEND DISTRICTS TO CARRY ON.

### Annual Report to be Published.

A special war emergency meeting of the General Committee of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, on Saturday, July 6th, when the following members were present: Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A. (in the chair), Messrs. L. W. G. Morris (general secretary), S. F. Palmer (treasurer), W. Barton (peal secretary), G. Lewis, F. Cryer, E. Hudson, H. S. Morley, E. Bradley, R. B. Smith, F. W. Dale, F. Rayment, F. W. Dixon, T. W. Strangeway and H. Armitage. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. Ewbank, D. Smith, J. Ambler, A. Staveley and P. J. Johnson. The President announced that recent developments in the war situation, and in particular the Home Office ban on the ringing of church bells, automatically rendered it necessary for ringing organisations to recast their procedure, and the purpose of that meeting was to review their position in the light of the present situation.

A long discussion then took place on the Home Office ban on the ringing of church bells, and whilst the committee agreed that, as matters stood, ringers in general had no say in the question, it was pointed out that in view of the fact that much damage could be done both to person and property by a non-ringer trying to ring a bell without any supervision, and that arrangements for carrying into effect the ringing of church bells for the purpose of warning the public of the arrival of parachutists would appear to be ambiguous, it was urged that the ringing organisations could, and no doubt would be only too glad to co-operate with the military authorities in this matter.

Mr. L. W. G. Morris moved, and Mr. W. Barton seconded that the president be instructed to communicate with the president of the Central Council relative to these important questions and to ask for as complete information as was available.

The next matter under discussion was the question of continuing to hold meetings during the emergency. The committee were unanimous that district meetings should be held wherever possible, and eventually the following resolution, drafted by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, was adopted on the motion of the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. S. Morley: 'That in the opinion of this meeting, it is inadvisable to discontinue all meetings of the association, and district secretaries are asked to arrange as far as possible to hold meetings in their district in order to carry on the business of the association, and that while such meetings must necessarily be more of a social character, with perhaps handbell ringing, it may in addition be found most instructive to ask some competent person to give a simple lecture or exposition on conducting or other matters.'

A discussion followed regarding general meetings. It was agreed not to hold the September general meeting, and that the next general meeting shall be the annual general meeting in January, 1941. The committee, however, in pursuance of their agreed policy of doing all possible to maintain the life of the association during these difficult times, unanimously decided to adopt the following motion, proposed by Mr. W. Barton, seconded by Mr. G. Lewis, that 'in view of the fact that the Snowdon Dinner was postponed for the duration of the war, a tea and social evening be held in Leeds on Saturday, October 5th, for any members who liked to come, and that the arrangements be left in the hands of the usual Leeds Sub-Committee.'

The committee then discussed the publication of the annual report. It was pointed out that the report was and must be considered a vital necessity in the welfare of the association, and it was moved by Mr. E. Hudson, seconded by Mr. S. F. Palmer and carried nem con, that the annual report be published, and, in order that it may be as up to date as possible, the district secretaries be asked to get in all available matter and details, especially relating to members in their districts serving with H.M. Forces.

The treasurer drew attention to the fact that authority had been given empowering the four principal officers and the district secretaries to purchase suitable bags or cases for their official use, and asked that this matter be attended to forthwith, as prices would rise rapidly, and that it was desirable that all accounts in connection with this matter should pass through the same year's accounts.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the General Committee in Leeds on December 7th.

## BELLS ABROAD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest the article, 'Bells Abroad.' A few weeks back my husband, who is serving in the Royal Navy, wrote, 'I have put two more tenors in the bag. During the week previous to December 17th I pulled up the tenor at St. Mary's, Greyville, Durban, where there are ten bells, tenor 18 cwt. 25 lb., 47in. diameter; and on Sunday, December 17th, I rang the tenor to call changes at St. Paul's, Durban, tenor 10 cwt. 19 lb. in G sharp, 37in. diameter, eight bells.'

He was very interested to find that the Vicar of St. Mary's knew the Rev. Percy Woodward, who is a brother of Mr. H. C. Woodward, tower secretary at Lyonshall, Herefordshire.

Kington, Herefordshire.

ELSIE C. CHANDLER.

## HAMPSHIRE CHURCH BURNT DOWN BELLS DESTROYED.

Ringers, and particularly those who know Hampshire, will regret to hear that the Church of All Saints, Dibden, has been totally destroyed by fire. The bells, which were hung in a wooden frame, crashed to the floor when the fire reached the tower. Only the walls of the church and tower remain standing.

Dibden, anciently 'Depedene,' is situated on the eastern outskirts of the New Forest, and the church was built on a slight eminence, in beautiful woodland scenery.

A church has existed on the site from Saxon times, and is mentioned in Domesday in 1080. The church was built of flint in the early English style and the main portion of the building dated from that period. The tower, which was constructed of Portland stone, was erected in 1884 and contained a ring of eight bells, with a tenor of 10½ cwt. They were provided by public subscription in 1887 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's Jubilee. They were considered by experts to be a fair 'Warner' peal.

The first peal on the bells was rung on May 18th, 1891. It was Bob Major, conducted by the late Henry White, of Basingstoke. The last peal, also Bob Major, was rung on May 13th, 1939, conducted by R. A. Reed.

Altogether 21 peals have been rung at Dibden in the following methods: Grandsire Triples 7, Stedman Triples 3, Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Superlative Surprise 3, Cambridge Surprise 1, London Surprise 2, Bristol Surprise 1. The conductors of the peals have been G. Williams 11, K. Hart 2, G. R. Pye 2, W. A. Cave, G. Preston, H. W. Wilkes, O. Sippetts, H. White and R. A. Reed one each. Mr. George Williams took part in all the peals except the first and the last, and these, curiously enough, were his compositions.

The Rev. G. T. Tritton has been Rector of Dibden since 1925 and chairman of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild since 1928. Mr. Tritton is a great friend of ringers and Dibden bells were always available for Guild meetings and peals. The sympathy of all ringers will go out to the Rector and the parishioners of Dibden in the loss of their church. Mr. Tritton hopes to be able completely to restore the church and bells and has started a fund for this object. Donations will be gratefully received and may be sent direct to him or to Mr. G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants, hon. secretary of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS.

To the Editor.

'Dear Sir,—It would seem from Mr. Ernest Morris' letter that he finds fault with me because 'when dealing with history' in my 'usual manner' I 'pull a statement to pieces,' although 'it is in cold print,' and say, 'This is impossible and cannot be allowed.' No doubt there is some truth in the charge, but on the whole I take it as a compliment and not as a reproach. The duty of any man who tries to write history is, first to collect his material, then to test its truth by all means available, and then to arrange it and present it to his readers in the best way he can. Merely to copy scraps of information from older books and manuscripts and to reproduce them uncritically is not writing history.

Mr. Morris refers to the not infrequent instances where in old records the number of changes given for peals are such as cannot be produced by the ordinary work of the method, and he appears to suggest that we should infer that the composers, for one reason or another, have departed from the method. That is not the conclusion I should come to. I should be much more inclined to suppose that the men who wrote out the reports made mistakes. It certainly was so in the two instances he quoted from my account of Birmingham ringing. The number of changes rung at Deritend in 1786 was 6,128, not 6,218. There the mistake was mine (or the printer's). The length of the peals rung at Aston in 1787 I copied correctly from a hundred-year-old manuscript, but I do not doubt that the writer had made a mistake, though I did not notice it when I copied it. In a similar way it is pretty sure that the writers of the records referred to by Mr. Morris made mistakes.

The College Youths' peal book says that on January 6th, 1785, the society rang 5,113 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, but I do not believe that they did ring that number.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

## AN EARLY SHREWSBURY PEAL.

Sir,—Supplementing Mr. Trollope's interesting reference to Shrewsbury, the following extract might interest your readers as being one of the earliest peals at St. Mary's Church there.

1777. 'On Tuesday, Feb. 25, a true and compleat peal of ten thousand and eighty changes of Bob Major, 8 in. (which continued 7 hours and 4 minutes) was rung on the new peal of 8 bells at St. Mary's in Shrewsbury by 8 of the Society of Change Ringers in that town, and in their first attempt for the fame. The order of the Bobs for carrying the above performance were composed by W. D. Crofts of Nottingham—and the above peal of Bells were lately cast by Messrs. Pack and Co. of White Chappel, London, and are remarkably tuneable.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

## CHANGE RINGING IN SHREWSBURY.

### A DISTINGUISHED OLD SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

No attempt was made to rebuild St. Chad's Church after its collapse in 1788; such a thing was not in accordance with the ideas of the times, even if it had been possible; and after some delay the present church was erected on an entirely new site.

The fall of the tower had caused the destruction of Rudhall's bells, and a scheme was set on foot, largely through the influence of the Union Society, to provide the new church with a heavy ring of twelve. A committee was formed with Thomas Powell as chairman. He was a wagon proprietor and a member of the Union Society. Sir William Pulteney gave £150, Richard Cross gave two guineas, and Robert Lloyd two guineas. Altogether £1000 was subscribed, to which was added £600, the value of the old bells.

Thomas Mears was given the order for the new ring, and, after paying for the bells, frame, ropes, and a new floor, there was a surplus of £33, which was distributed among the poor.

The new bells arrived at Shrewsbury by water on July 14th, and by the 18th they were hung and ready for the opening.

At the suggestion, probably, of Samuel Lawrence or Thomas Mears, the College Youths were invited to attend the opening and attempt the first peal. It was not a professional engagement. They paid their own expenses and received no fee. It was owing to the prestige of the society that they were allowed to ring the first peal on the bells. Whether the actual opening was performed by the local ringers is not stated, but directly afterwards the Londoners started for 5,184 changes of Grandsire Cinques and completed them in three hours and fifty-four minutes. Thomas Blakemore called from the second, and the other bells were rung by John Lyford, William Wilson, Joseph Holdsworth, John Povey, Peter Ashley, James Dovey, Edward Bartell, Charles Barber, Edward Simmonds, Samuel Lawrence and Philip Pilgrim.

It was most unusual that so heavy a bell as the tenor could be rung single handed to a peal immediately after being hung for the first time, and the fact that Philip Pilgrim needed no assistance shows not only that he was a first-class heavy-bell ringer, but that the work was well done.

This was Thomas Blakemore's last peal, and we hear no more of him. For many years he had been one of the leading ringers of London. He was publisher and joint author of the 'Clavis,' and since the reunion of the College Youths in 1788 had been the principal man in the society. His chief title to fame is that he called the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung.

St. Chad's was the tenth ring of twelve erected in the country. Besides the four in London—St. Bride's, St. Martin's, St. Michael's, and St. Saviour's—Cirencester had twelve bells in 1722, Cambridge in 1770, Birmingham in 1771, and Norwich in 1775. There had also been an earlier ring of twelve at York Minster, which had since been recast into ten.

Peals of Grandsire Triples had been rung at St. Chad's in 1762, 1769 and 1770, and in 1772, 6,210 changes of Grandsire Caters; and on March 28th, 1798, 5,151 changes of Grandsire Major were rung at the Abbey. The peal

probably was taken from the 'Clavis,' and it was conducted by Richard Cross, who was now the leading ringer in the town.

The local men then set themselves the task of surpassing the peal which the College Youths had rung on the new bells at St. Chad's. This they did on November 25th, 1799, when they accomplished 6,006 changes of Grandsire Cinques in 4 hours and 27 minutes. Cross called from the second, Richard Wilding, the schoolmaster of High Ercall rang the sixth, Thomas Groves was at the seventh, and Robert Lloyd at the eleventh. William Bull, who rang the third, was, next to Cross, the leading conductor in the company. John Perrett rang the tenor single handed.

Two months later the band, again with Cross as bob caller, rang 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, when Richard Wilding turned the tenor in without help.

In 1803 a band belonging to the Union Society, and made up partly by Shrewsbury men and partly by some of their outside members, went to Wrexham, and on June 27th rang the first peal of Caters in Wales. Richard Cross called from the treble, and the other ringers were Samuel Lee, James Hartshorn, James Dovey, Robert Rawlings, James Lee, Thomas Hill, Joseph Riley and Samuel Lawrence.

Samuel Lee was the most distinguished of any of the members of the Union Society, and one of the most remarkable men who have been members of the Exercise. He was born in the year 1783 of poor parents at Longnor, eight miles from Shrewsbury, and received his only education at the charity school there. At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to a Shrewsbury carpenter, and he worked at that trade until he was twenty-five years old and was married. Then a fire broke out in a house where he was working, which destroyed his chest of tools, and with them, as he said afterwards, all his views and hopes were destroyed. He was now 'cast on the world without a friend, a shilling, or even the means of subsistence.'

During these years he had developed an extraordinary love and aptitude for classical and oriental languages. He learnt first Latin, then Greek and Hebrew, and followed them up with Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, Persian and Hindustani—a marvellous record for a man entirely self-taught, who had no access to any library, and had to buy his books with the little he could save out of his wages of a few shillings a week. He could only do so by buying one book at a time and selling it when he had read it to find part of the money to buy another.

The fire which destroyed his tools was really the turning point in his life. In his extremity he could think of no other means of earning a living than to apply for a schoolmaster's job, and he became a teacher in a school at Shrewsbury. After a time the Church Missionary Society, in order to make use of his gift of languages, sent him to Cambridge, where he was entered at Queen's College in 1813. He graduated B.A. in 1815, and afterwards took holy orders. He became Professor of Arabic in 1823 and Regius Professor of Hebrew in 1831; and in 1833 the University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, at which time he was said to be master of eighteen languages. He held at times one or two benefices in the Church, including a canonry at Bristol Cathedral. He died on December 16th, 1852, at Barley in Hertfordshire, of which parish he was Rector.

Samuel Lee was still only a journeyman carpenter when he learnt to ring. His love of the art was deep and genuine, and so long as he remained at Shrewsbury he was an active, though relatively unimportant member of the Union Society, with whom he took part in four peals, all of them Grandsire Caters. James Lee, who rang the eighth at Wrexham, was his half-brother.

On Monday, December 6th, 1802, 5,058 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, 'forming a selection of the most harmonious changes with 5, 2, 4, 6, behind the 9th in regular succession, being the first true 5,000 ever rung on those bells in the method.' It was composed and conducted by William Bull, who six years later, on Tuesday, April 5th, 1808, called 10,097 changes in the same method, 'which if surpassed by future practitioners will still stand as a memorial that their predecessors were not deficient in skill and perseverance.'

Surpassed it never has been on St. Chad's bells, nor in the method on any other bells of the same weight. The tenor, however, was rung double-handed. Samuel Lee rang the sixth, Richard Cross the eighth, and Richard Wilding the tenth.

#### RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. J. H. and Mrs. Paulson, of Matlock, Derbyshire, have recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding day. Mr. Paulson has been in charge of the Matlock belfry for many years, and a goodly number of ringers have been instructed by him.

He was a well-known ringer in the Nuneaton district in his younger days, having rung a number of tower and handbell peals there. Quite a number of his family and Mrs. Paulson's relations, too, are or have been ringers, sons, daughter and grandsons among them.

On Sunday, June 30th, a family gathering took place at his home. Owing to the ringing 'silence,' no ringing could be done to mark the occasion, but it is hoped that at some future time the bells may ring for them—perhaps a diamond wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Paulson still enjoy good health and will have the congratulations of all ringers.

#### THE LATE MR. A. WOODROW.

The death of Mr. Alfred Woodrow, at the age of 75, has severed a connection of almost a lifetime with the village of Hersham, Surrey. The deceased gentleman had undergone an operation in Walton Hospital, from which it was thought he would recover, but a relapse occurred and he passed away on Friday, July 5th.

His connection with St. Peter's, Hersham, went back to his boyhood days, when he sang in the choir of the old church. Following his trade, he assisted in building the present church and steeple, and when the peal of eight bells were installed in 1901 he was one of the first to join up as a ringer, a position he filled continuously till 1938.

He was of a cheery disposition and was excellent company; he had little patience with slack ringing and would not tolerate bad striking. A wreath was sent from his brother ringers, who were represented at the funeral by Messrs. W. Mills and W. Simmonds.

It was with regret the ringers were unable to ring him a farewell peal, but his work for tower and church will keep his memory green.

#### DEATH OF MR. C. S. TUTHILL.

##### CAPTAIN OF FAKENHAM BAND OF RINGERS.

We regret to announce the death at the age of 61 of Mr. Charles Samuel Tuthill, of Fakenham, which took place on June 27th.

Mr. Tuthill had been in business as a builder for many years. A churchman, Mr. Tuthill had been the captain of the local company of bellringers, and he was well known amongst bellringers throughout the county. Mr. Tuthill had served as a member of the Fakenham Parish Council and as a special constable.

Mr. Tuthill had taken part in about 24 peals, nearly all in his own tower, where his genial disposition and cheering smile will be greatly missed. During his captaincy of several years he kept a record of all ringing done for service and practice. Many a pleasant outing arranged by him will long be remembered. The last one in June, 1939, was a tour into Lincolnshire, when about 130 miles were covered.

There was a large attendance at the funeral service at Fakenham Parish Church on Monday, July 1st, including the following members of the West Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association: Messrs. R. W. Cooke (captain of the local band), Miss J. Cooke, Mrs. Ovens, Messrs. G. Cooke, E. Cooke, P. Allfrey (three of the bearers), G. Beverley, F. R. Borrett (Tattersett), R. Lingwood (Sculthorpe) and J. A. Godfrey (chairman of the branch).

The Rev. E. F. Morison, D.D., officiated at the service, and the organist was Mrs. F. Jude.

Amongst the many floral tributes was a wreath from the local company of SS. Peter and Paul. Owing to the short notice and difficulty in travelling, many were prevented from attending.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

### THE

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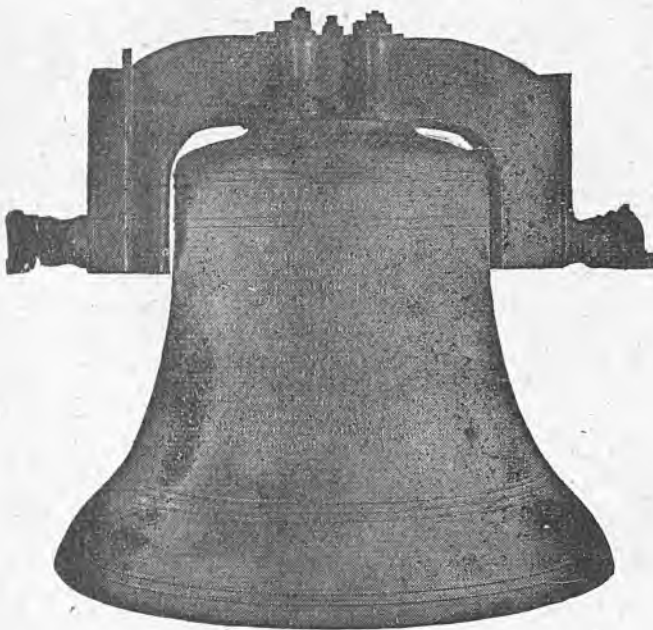
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell practice at West Bridgford on July 4th had a happy ending. As two other members were at the last moment prevented from attending, it was suggested that Grandsire Doubles be rung for an hour. The ringing having been perfect, Mr. Narborough, the conductor, decided to go on, and his son, Kenneth, who is 15, and Bernard, whose age is 16 and joined St. Mary's ringers when his brother Harold was mobilised, were delighted at ringing their first peal.

What remains of the property of the old Waterloo Society has been removed from St. John's, Vassal Road, Kennington, to its old home at St. John's, Waterloo Road—the church where the society had its origin.

The society was formed in 1868 and rang its first peal in 1869 (conducted by William Barron). Its headquarters were removed to Vassal Road about the year 1900, but since that time it has been in a moribund state.

Two of the 'John' peals, London Surprise (1904) and Stedman Cinques (1912), were rung under its auspices, as the only alternative to ringing non-association peals, and the Stedman Cinques was the last, or nearly the last, recorded for the society.

Yesterday was the one hundred and forty-second anniversary of the first peal on the twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. An account of it is given on another page.

On July 9th, 1926, Isaac George Shade was knocked down and killed by a motor-car when returning from a ringing practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. At the time of his death he had rung 1,450 peals, a number then exceeded only by William Pye. Among his performances were the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, and four Surprise peals in four methods rung in one day in four counties.

The first peal (one of Grandsire Triples) by a band of ladies was rung at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, on July 20th, 1912. Mrs. Fletcher, of course, was the conductor. She was then Miss E. K. Parker.

For very many years Thomas Day's 16,608 was supposed to be the longest possible length of Treble Bob Major, but it was at length exceeded. On July 21st, 1923, a band of the Chester Diocesan Guild, with Mr. Robert Sperring as conductor and Mr. James H. Riding as tenor-man, rang at Over 17,280 changes of Kent, the composition of Mr. J. W. Parker.

Will Reuben Sanders please send his present address to C. T. Coles, 21, Vincent Road, E.4?

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

We have received information from Northampton that Mr. James George is as comfortable as can be expected after his recent serious operation. He wishes to be remembered to all his ringing friends, and if any are visiting Northampton he would be very pleased to see them at the General Hospital. Among his recent visitors have been Mr. W. Rogers, of Northampton, the brothers Lane from Bletchley, and Mr. W. Perkins from Irthlingborough.

## A WARNING.

### DANGER TO BELLS FROM 'CLOCKING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the bells of all churches may now be used as a warning signal, it is desired by bellringers that a warning should be given of the danger involved in this use. Some of the gravest of these have already been pointed out in the proper quarter, but there is a very common one and my society desires to point out as quickly as possible the necessity of avoiding wrongful 'clocking' of bells.

I refer to a favourite usage, i.e., running a long line from below up to the heavy clapper, so that it may be roped across to strike the sound bow, often with a maintained impact. This, in the past, has led to the destruction of thousands of bells, including many of the old bells whose entity can never be replaced, and it will be remembered by readers of Miss Dorothy Sayers' 'Nine Tailors' that the old bell 'Carolus' was unfortunately cracked by the abominable practice of 'clappering' for service.

If 'clocking' must be adopted, then a bellhanger or other expert should be consulted and instructions broadcast.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Sec., Ancient Society of College Youths.

## A NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EXAMPLE.

Dear Sir,—I went into a tower recently and saw only one rope. The others had been taken off and this one hung so that the end was 3ft. or more off the floor.

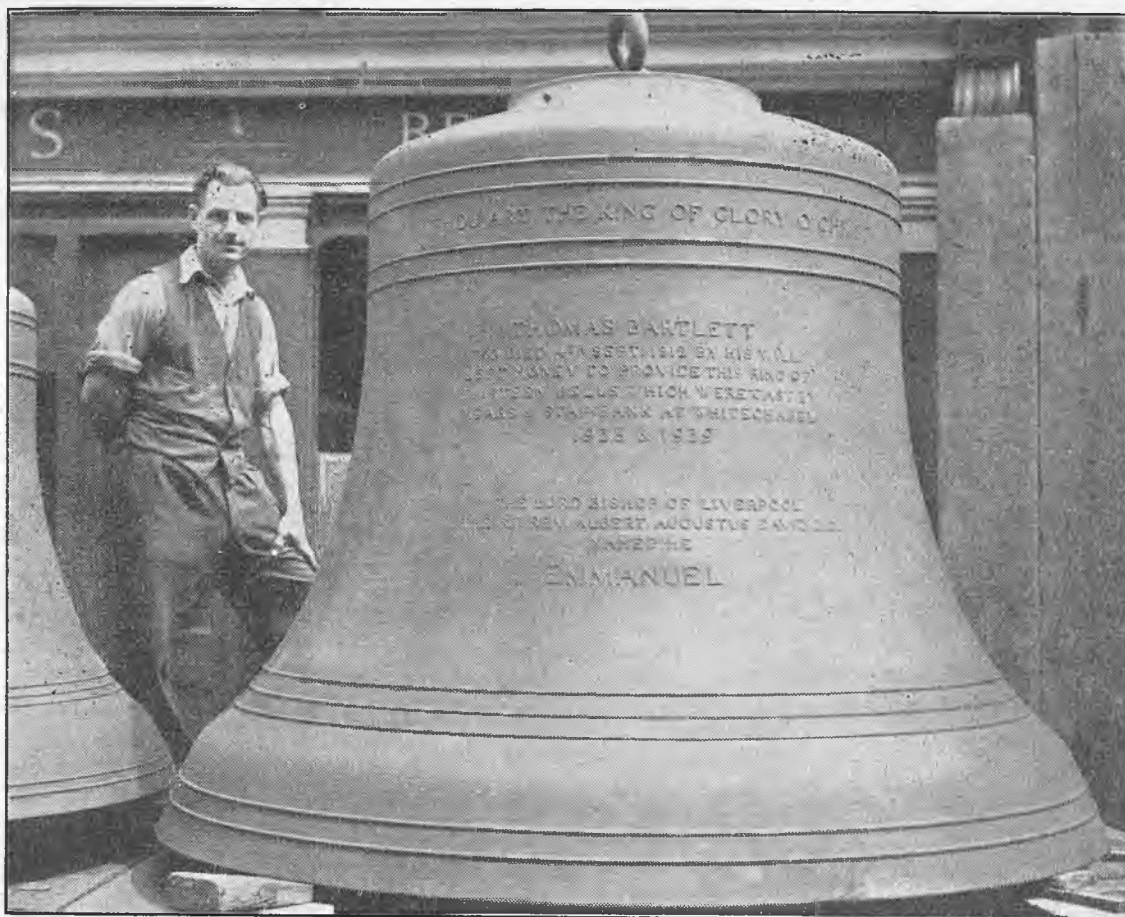
I just touched it and found it moved very easily, so I asked the steeplekeeper (a fairly well-known ringer) where it was fixed. 'Oh,' he said, 'I thought the L.D.V. would manage to ring the alarm better if I put the rope on to the clapper of the next bell, so actually it is the fourth that sounds and not the third.' Now I consider this is very dangerous if done by unskilled persons, and if the bell has a good strong blow and the clapper is held up to it, it may result in cracking the bell. What do you think?

We decided yesterday at our Kettering Branch meeting at Isham to hold the quarterly meetings as usual, with the service, handbells, and the social side of our work will keep going and we keep in touch with each other. It is very nice to meet frequently even if no ringing is available.

ROBERT G. BLACK.



# THE GREAT TENOR BELL FOR LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.



The great size of Liverpool Cathedral tenor can be judged by comparing it with the height of the workman standing beside it.

## DIMENSIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.

The great tenor bell of the new ring for Liverpool Cathedral has been photographed at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and this picture of it will give an impression of its huge size when judged by the height of the workman standing by it.

It is the largest bell ever cast to take a place in a ringing peal. As we recorded in our recent issue, it is 82 cwt. 11lb. in weight, its diameter is 6ft. 4in., and its note A flat. The inscription on it reads:—

THOU ART THE KING OF GLORY O CHRIST  
THOMAS BARTLETT

WHO DIED 4TH SEPT 1912 BY HIS WILL  
LEFT MONEY TO PROVIDE THIS RING OF  
THIRTEEN BELLS WHICH WERE CAST BY  
MEARS & STAINBANK AT WHITECHAPEL  
1938 & 1939

THE LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL  
THE RT REV ALBERT AUGUSTUS DAVID D.D.  
NAMED ME  
EMMANUEL

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT MEETING AT SPELDHURST.

The programme advertised in 'The Ringing World' was duly carried out at Speldhurst on Saturday, July 6th. As might have been expected, it was hardly a representative gathering, members from only four towers in the district being present. Two friends who cycled from Croydon brought the number up to thirteen. It was considered, however, worth while to try and carry on meetings in the district, and it was left to the secretary to try and arrange for a visit to Leigh in August.

## 'AN OPPORTUNITY MISSED.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to refer to your issue of 'The Ringing World' of June 14th giving an excellent account of Liverpool Cathedral's great peal of bells. The details give a list of 13 bells, which include a sharp second for a peal of eight, tenor approximately 25 cwt. in E flat, and the main peal of twelve, with a tenor bell 82 cwt. in A flat, which will require very experienced ringers to handle them. No doubt Liverpool will not be lacking when the time comes in finding a capable band of ringers, but I do think a great opportunity has been missed by not incorporating a second peal of twelve bells using the 55 cwt. eleventh as tenor. This would have meant three additional bells as follows:—

One bell above the existing treble, note F, approximately 9 cwt.

One bell between the existing 4th and 5th, note A, approximately 11½ cwt.

One bell between the existing 8th and 9th, note D, approximately 31½ cwt.

This second peal of twelve, tenor 55 cwt. in B flat, would be exceedingly grand, and most useful in practice for the main peal of twelve, tenor 82 cwt. in A flat. Moreover, Liverpool Cathedral would have the unique distinction of having two peals of twelve bells in one tower with many combinations.

No doubt the designers of the reinforced concrete radial frame would have been able to incorporate the three additional bells without upsetting the circle of ropes to any extent.

ALBERT WALKER.

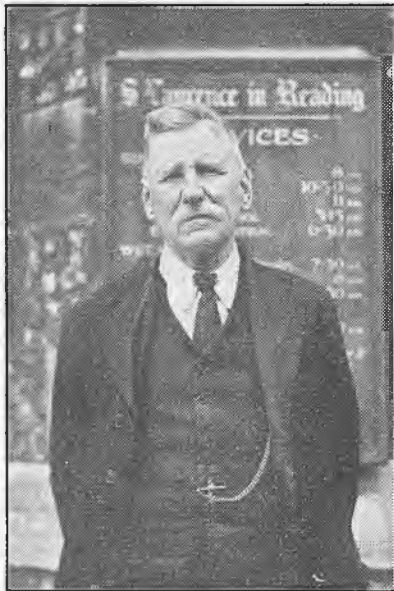
REDRUTH, CORNWALL.—At the Parish Church of St. Uny on Whit Sunday for early Mass, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 covering: D. Tregarthen 1, E. Sanders 2, S. Jeffrey (first quarter-peal as conductor) 3, J. Reed 4, H. Seymour 5, V. Williams 6, S. Seymour 7, D. Wills 8.

## THROUGH SWEDISH EYES.

### IMPRESSIONS OF RINGING AT READING.

A Swedish gentleman, Mr. Curt Berg, on a visit to Reading was attracted by the sound of church bells. Here are his impressions of ringing and ringers, as expressed in an article which appeared in a leading Stockholm newspaper. We reproduce the translation without in any way attempting to edit it.

On a mild evening in June I wandered to the oldest church in town, built some time in the 900's, an old temple looking almost like a fortress with pieces of flint in the plaster. I heard a tiny bell with a brittle sound from within. In the porch, a middle-aged, strongly built man, obviously the churchwarden, stood with a big watch in hand and pulled some beautifully plaited ropes in an even rhythm. I asked him whether it would be possible to attend a ringing in the tower and he looked very pleased. Are you a ringer, sir? No, unfortunately, I had to admit that I was not, but I stressed that I would like to acquaint myself with this learned mystery. His question was, however, a very natural one. A person who comes to a church in the evening and asks to be allowed to attend ringing is in most cases a member of the association that embraces 42,000 members, who in their spare time occupy themselves with campanology. In this association there are people of many different occupations, priests, doctors, innkeepers, workmen, clerks, shoemakers and tradesmen; the chairman of the branch of the association in this town is a famous surgeon. When a member of the association is on a journey and he has a free day, he goes to the nearest church, and if there happens to be a rehearsal or other ringing event and he is a capable ringer, he may be allowed to take a place in the party and help to ring a Grandsire Doubles or a Kent Treble Bob Minor. It is almost like being a Freemason.



This is the photograph of Mr. Tom Hibbert which the Swedish newspaper reproduced, and this is what it said about him in the caption:— Mr. Richard Hibbert, framstaende man i engelska klockringarkretsar.

The churchwarden told me that there would soon be a rehearsal in a neighbouring church—true enough, this church only dated from the 13th century, but it had 12 bells—and he was sure I would be welcome. He would be there to meet me. I am a ringer myself, he added in a fatherly way. The hour, which I later in the evening spent in the tower of St. Laurence, I regard as one of the greatest experiences in my life. We went up a small wooden corkscrew staircase 400 years old and after a strenuous climb we came to a chamber in the tower. In the sunset's red light that entered through one of the windows, the twelve ropes making shadows on the walls, a party was assembled, waiting for the ringing to start. There was a curious mixture of types, short and stout, tall and thin; old, bent men with white moustaches and young men in good tailored suits. There were also a few ladies, old ones and young ones, one a real beauty. The man who looked like the leader of the party was a fine old artisan with a furrowed face and forceful look. I greeted him and asked if I could attend the rehearsal. He was very amiable and showed me the arrangements willingly. He proved to be an important person amongst English ringers, it was Mr. Richard T. Hibbert, honorary secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, the same man for whom the Johnson peal had been rung on his birthday.

After he had shown me the arrangements he gave me a surprise. He took me to the oldest of the ladies, a charming, vital looking woman by the name of Robinson. 'She is the daughter of Dean Robinson, of whom you have certainly heard,' said Mr. Hibbert. Naturally I knew who Dean Robinson was. You don't have to study campanology a long time to know his name. During the latter part of the 20th century, his was perhaps the greatest name in the English Church Bell Ringers' Guild, a great reformer, learned, pious and very energetic. He has published a book, 'Among the Bells,' that is one of English literature's greatest rarities, a thick volume full of accurate descriptions of all important occasions when something has

(Continued in next column.)

## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

### MEETING UNDER WAR-TIME CONDITIONS.

The quarterly meeting originally arranged to be held at Solihull on Saturday, July 6th, was, on account of the ban on ringing church bells, held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham.

At the business meeting Mr. Vice-President J. H. Shepherd occupied the chair in the absence of the Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett. Apologies were received from Vice-President A. Paddon Smith and Mr. John Jaggard, the latter sending kindly greetings from Bourne-mouth. The purely formal business was quickly disposed of, but under the item 'any other business' an interesting discussion developed.

Mr. Albert Walker called attention to the facilities arranged for handbell ringing. He mentioned that there would be a weekly meeting in that room every Tuesday night at 7.45. He asked for the support of all expert handbell ringers in the training of learners, and urged young ringers interested in change ringing on handbells to come along, and if they would put their minds to it they would have a glorious opportunity of becoming expert handbell ringers, as he and many others did during the years 1914-1918.

The secretary referred to the paragraph in 'The Ringing World' regarding the serious condition of Mr. James George. He was sure every member of the Guild would be sorry to read it. On the proposition of the chairman, it was unanimously agreed that the secretary should send a letter of sympathy to Mr. George in his illness, expressing the hope of a speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. Fred Price called attention to the position of 'The Ringing World,' and referred to the strenuous efforts of the Editor to keep the paper going in these very difficult times. He made a special plea to every member of the Guild and, in fact, all ringers throughout the country to rally round the Editor and support 'The Ringing World' by sending interesting matter along for publication and by purchasing the paper regularly. It was vitally necessary that the paper should continue publication.

In supporting this, the librarian (Mr. G. F. Swann) referred to the interesting items now appearing regarding early ringing in Birmingham. Mr. Trollope had delved very deeply into the early history of change ringing in Birmingham and brought to light many interesting items regarding the early history of St. Martin's Guild. General approval was expressed regarding these articles, which in the main were historical facts and could be substantiated from the Guild's peal books and records, but one member expressed the opinion that in these days only facts should be stated, and that such phrases as 'but we may assume' and 'no doubt' took away from the value of these articles, and for the information of Mr. Trollope and in the interests of accuracy he might point out that St. John's Church, Deritend, although now closed, the last service being held only quite recently, was still standing, and had not been pulled down as stated by Mr. Trollope.

The handbells were then brought out and some good practice took place in various methods, Grandsire and Stedman from Triples to Cinques, Treble Bob Royal and Double Norwich Major. Several members showed their skill at darts, and so a successful and enjoyable evening terminated.

## THROUGH SWEDISH EYES.

(Continued from previous column.)

taken place in the towers of English churches. I felt as if I had suddenly been introduced to a daughter of Olaus Petri or at least Johan Olof Wallin. (Olaus Petri, famous learned churchman in the 16th century, who, together with the King, was largely responsible for introducing the Protestant Church in Sweden. Johan Olof Wallin, learned bishop in the last century. He has composed a great number of the hymns sung in the Swedish churches.)

Now one of the youngest members started to pull up the bells, that is swing them by the ropes until the open part of the bell was turned upwards and rested against a little edge. When this had been done Mr. Hibbert conducted me up a further corkscrew staircase in order to show me the works in the bell-room. It was really remarkable. Between the great walls there were a great number of oak beams and the twelve bells, each with a wheel with a rope next to it, and the open bronze mouths turned towards the ceiling. Now they were ready to begin. Downstairs in the bell-room the arms went up and down, and the Guild followed the proceedings with serious faces. The conductor looked round the circle and corrected the ones that did not keep the time correctly. Yes, you need a lot of practice to be worthy of ringing a full peal in an English Church. You have to practise for a year with handbells before you are considered competent to enter a guild, and even then it is not certain that you will make a clever ringer. 'It depends a great deal on natural talent,' said Mr. Hibbert. 'Some learn fairly quickly, others can work a lifetime without really learning the art. It is like playing the violin. Everyone cannot become a master.' He closed the porch of the church when the rehearsal was finished and the company broke up. We helped Miss Robinson with her flowers to the bus; she had visited some friends and had received a few plants and was now going home to the country to see what she could do with them. Mr. Hibbert went away in the warm summer evening and I remained alone in a quiet street in this strange, friendly England and thought of the verse that I had read on the wall in the church tower: 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.'

## CALL CHANGES.

MR. DRAKE REPLIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The case for call changes does not seem very strong. Mr. J. E. Bailey has to drag in rows and changes, but does not say what they have to do with it. He then refers to some change ringing at Helmingham, which is still beside the subject. He then concludes that call changes is as good a way as any of getting good striking. This sort of reasoning does not get us very far. The question is, are East Anglians good strikers in spite of, or because of, their call change ringing?

He also says, and you repeat it, that good call changes are better than badly struck change ringing. But my point is that there cannot be good call changes. They are always bad. Why waste time discussing whether one bad thing is worse than another? Or to make one blind person lead another? We are not told to do this, but to overcome evil with good. Let both—bad striking and call changes—go headlong where the other rubbish goes, into the ditch!

What you and he meant, instead of 'good' call changes, to write 'well-struck' call changes. But if a row sounds unpleasant when rung by itself—that is, if it contains unpleasant intervals—those intervals will sound more clearly and more unpleasant when well struck than if slurred over by being badly struck. This argument is unanswerable and it shows that call changes are bad for ringing and bad for practising: for the better you strike them the worse they sound. Call changes are unutterably bad!

I think you must on consideration be sorry that you wrote that sentence about the 'outside public' not knowing the difference between the sound of call changes and the real thing. I am so unmusical that I can remember the time when I could not recognise the National Anthem, and I wondered why people were standing up when it was played. But I cannot remember, nor can I imagine that there ever was, a time when I could not distinguish between call changes and proper ringing, if it had been brought to my notice. I suppose that what you are thinking of, though it would not suit your argument, is that no one but a ringer would be likely to know the technical term—call changes—either the word or the thing. But I refuse to believe that there is anyone with the ordinary use of his ears who cannot tell the difference when it is pointed out to him; and who does not appreciate the superiority of proper ringing.

It is just 50 years to-day since I cycled into a town with a fine ring of bells. When the lady I was staying with knew that I was a ringer, she said, 'I should not so much mind ringers if they were not always ringing consecutives. Yesterday, for instance, they were ringing consecutive fifths, and not only so, but they kept on repeating them the whole time. I had some important work to do, but for over an hour I could do nothing but listen to their horrible noise. Why should they be allowed to waste my time like that? I do not claim to waste their time.'

I must say that I then had much sympathy with her; and that feeling still continues, and probably will be shared by your readers, if I explain that consecutive fifths are the discord which musicians especially dread and are on the look out for. When you hear changes properly rung, you know that there cannot be any consecutive fifths or thirds or other unresolved discords; though you may not know how to put that feeling into words.

I gathered from the words I have quoted that there was then only a band of what you would call good call change ringers there, and I did not attempt to visit the tower. I have not been there since, but from the peals you have recorded I see that they have a good band of change ringers now.

It is a matter of interest at present; for those who object to bells have for the time got their way, and they will not readily give back our old liberty. It may be easier if we are prepared to give up something. Can we not give up call changes?

In my previous article I pointed out that call changing had spoiled my power of striking properly, and I explained how this happened. In reply you write, 'It is absurd to say that call change ringing produces bad striking.' There may be differences of opinion as to the courtesy of such a flat denial (or of your reference to Mr. Law James), but there can be none as to this being no argument at all. Then, at the end of a long article, with most of which I agree, you point out one way in which the beginner 'can' learn something from call changes. Well I have never said that there were no advantages to be got from call changes. On the contrary I said that there are advantages, but that they can be obtained by teaching in other ways, which are free from the disadvantages of which I have spoken. I know what I am talking about, for some hundreds of pupils have learned through me, and none of them is a bad ringer.

The difficulty is that while in call changes the learner 'can,' as you say, judge where to put his bell in practice he never does. And the other good ringers are learning to be careless strikers while this is going on. At least that is my experience. It is possible that there are some who can teach in this way, but as I have already said, they would do better still to teach proper changes from the first.

I have said that in more than eight bells, the overlapping of the notes of the octave, and the quicker ringing, reduces the unpleasantness of bad intervals; so that call changes on these higher numbers, though unpleasant, is not very unpleasant. This result is just what

(Continued in next column.)

## MUSINGS OF AN OLD RINGER.

ON PATRONYMICS, TENOR-MEN AND OTHER THINGS.

I wonder if many of your readers have given a thought to the names borne by ringers, and particularly by the 'giants' of past days? When browsing over famous performances given by Jasper Snowdon in his historical chapters it has often occurred to me what splendid and uncommon names many of the men taking part possessed. Names that seem to fit. Take the heavy-bell men in the Treble Ten and Treble Twelve struggle between College Youths and Cumberlands from 1766 onwards—Samuel Muggeridge, Malachi Cannon, Edmund Sylvester, Joseph Holdsworth, James Marlton and Allen Grant. And earlier than this we had Philemon Mainwaring and Peter Merrygarts—two lovely names. Perhaps Allen Grant doesn't quite come up to standard—the bearer of such a name ought to have been a Mus.Doc. and organist of Shoreditch rather than the ringer of a 12,000 there. In the same way our dear old friend of yesterday—Edwin Horrex—should have been solo boy in the choir of St. Paul's instead of ringing the 11th in the tower.

With a little imagination we can picture any of these old timers, stripped and ready for a big job, on the box below a big bell. A pity photography and slow-motion pictures were not of their day, with an editor anxious to give readers illustrations of 'famous tenor-men at work.' Or, perhaps, not a pity after all, if one or other of the men offended our idea of what is right and what is wrong in heavy-bell ringing! If we are looking on during a touch of Royal or Maximus on a big ring, it is the tenor-man we watch, and it must be confessed only a few appear to fit the job 'like a glove.' Poise and knack are the fundamentals, rather than scuffle and brute force. One man, and one only, stands out in my experience as the perfect fit. There was no bending at the hips, no feet off the box, but the knees were dropped little or much according to the amount of 'lift' required, and the pull a thing of grace and a delight to watch. And the bell was always in the right spot. One fine day in the month of May this man stepped off the box of a 40 cwt. bell he had just rung to a peal of Royal, and complained of feeling cold. I touched his hands and face—they were cold as ice!

Another recollection is of a man with bare feet ringing the tenor to a peal of Maximus. When cutting in at back he jumped inches off the box, and simultaneously spread out his five toes. A wonderful gift, but most unpleasant! How rare it is to watch a company ringing where all taking part are graceful, clean and tidy 'handlers'! Such men are invariably good strikers, and the rhythm and beat is as clean and crisp as the handling. But, alas, as I say, it is rare. A well-known and experienced ringer at the conclusion of a very good peal of Maximus once said in my hearing, 'That's the first Maximus ringing I've taken part in where the little bells, in dodging behind, were clear and clean all through the peal.' Such ringing is worth while. And for our sins we read a fortnight ago of Mr. Drake's system of ringing call changes, 'Move a quarter of the right distance each row and you will be right in four rows; there is no hurry.' Ye gods! Surely the most pathetic and sloppy statement ever published in 'The Ringing World'! And let me finish with a piece of real news—copyright by Reuter, Exchange Telegraph and Central News, etc., etc.

Our Lancashire friends will be glad to learn the arrangements made for the opening peal on their new and mighty ring at Liverpool Cathedral. Here they are. A peal of Oxford Treble Twelve will be rung by the following band—

Winstanley Richardson	...Treble	Philemon Mainwaring	... 7
Charles Purser	... 2	Edmund Sylvester	... 8
George Meakins	... 3	Malachi Cannon	... 9
James Darquitt	... 4	Samuel Muggeridge	... 10
Joseph Holdsworth	... 5	Allen Grant	... 11
Peter Merrygarts	... 6	James Marlton	... Tenor

Conducted by George Meakins.

If the tower is big enough to hold a thirteenth person, I hope to be allowed to watch these 'gallants' at their job.

'OLD RINGER.'

P.S.—Is my tenor-man, James Marlton, the same man who rang Paiswick tenor in 1815 to the first true peal of Grandsire Royal? Vide Snowdon's 'Grandsire,' page 148.

[Yes, he was the same man, but it was not the first true peal of Grandsire Royal.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

## HANDBELL RINGING AT FELKIRK.

The ringers of Felkirk meet in the belfry every Sunday as usual, both in the morning and evening, to practise handbell ringing, with the result that some of them who thought they never would be able to ring handbells are beginning to grasp the idea and to enjoy it, thanks to their instructor, Mr. H. Chant. On June 30th two of them rang their first 720 of Plain Bob Minor: Daniel Smith 1-2, Harold Chant (conductor) 3-4, Peter Woodward 5-6.

(Continued from previous column.)

is wanted for an interval signal. But we need not imitate it in the tower.

What we have to do now is to find out how we can avoid annoying the outside public in the noises we cause on the bells. The sooner we do this the sooner possibly we shall be able to ring again. One of these annoyances, especially to musical people, is call changes.

HERBERT DRAKE.



**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****UNVEILING OF PEAL BOARD.**

A special meeting was held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, July 6th, to unveil and dedicate a peal board.

Before the service at 4.30 touches of Minor, Triples and Major were rung on handbells in the church. The service, conducted by the Vicar, was brief but very appropriate. After prayers, the Vicar proceeded to the west end of the church, where the board had been fixed underneath the tower and close to the tower door. It records two noteworthy peals, one rung on August 13th, 1936, with the bells fully muffled in memory of the 58 miners who lost their lives in a colliery explosion at Wharnccliffe, Woodmoor Colliery; the other in honour of the Coronation of King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth in May, 1937.

The board was unveiled by Mr. A. Panther, of Wath-on-Dearne, and was blessed and dedicated by the Vicar, who thanked the ringers for what they had done and for providing such a beautiful board. Touches of Minor, Triples and Major were then rung on the handbells, followed by the Blessing.

The party then adjourned to the Church Hall, where a splendid tea awaited them, to which full justice was done.

A short business meeting was held, at which the future arrangements were discussed. It was decided to keep the monthly meetings going as far as possible and to arrange handbell practice in the afternoon, followed by a short service and tea with a business and social meeting to maintain the interest of ringing and keep the ringers together.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th.

The president, Mr. E. Brookes, said he would like to see more towers in the society take up handbell ringing, and if it was possible to start an annual handbell change ringing contest, he would provide a trophy of some sort to be competed for.

After a discussion it was agreed to appoint a committee at the next meeting to discuss this matter.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for all he had done and to the ladies for providing the teas were passed, and the Vicar suitably replied. He said he hoped that when victory was achieved another peal would be rung and another board would be placed in the church recording it and that it would not be long.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing. The towers represented were Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.****PROPOSED WAR-TIME GATHERING.**

When war broke out most ringers asked themselves, 'How will our ringing be affected?' and subsequent events showed that with the exception of the restrictions imposed by the black-out, activities, other than peal ringing, were not interfered with to any great extent. It was possible with an average amount of enthusiasm to carry out a programme of meetings.

But with the imposition of the ban on all church bellringing, a very serious problem has arisen, viz., how to prevent the possible break up of associations.

It was chiefly with this idea in mind that the General Committee of the Surrey Association met at Croydon on July 13th, when it was decided that some form of meeting should be held with a view to keeping the spirit of the association alive.

It was appreciated that a substitute would have to be found for the usual bellringing, and the committee decided to advertise a meeting to be held jointly with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild on the following lines: Meet at Box Hill Station at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, August 3rd, walk through the very pleasant country, by way of Norbury Park, to Leatherhead Church and attend a service, which it is hoped will be arranged. Tea to follow with handbell ringing and conversation after.

This meeting will be held in place of the Ranmore gathering, which is an annual event between the two associations.

At the meeting it is hoped to discuss the question of the next gathering, which probably will take place towards the latter part of September.

Various suggestions were made to introduce variety into these social gatherings, such as short lectures on the various phases of change ringing, history etc.

Each tower might supply a darts team, and thus friendly tournaments could be arranged. Table tennis, etc., were also mentioned.

The committee will, of course, be pleased to learn of any further ideas which might be tried out.

The foregoing will show that the Surrey Association is trying to keep things going despite the blow which has fallen, and the opportunity is taken to make an appeal to those members who are inclined to let things slide to make just that little extra effort, and by keeping the associations alive to ensure the future of ringing.

**HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.****FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.**

Last week we began to tell the beginner how to approach the art of double-handed ringing, and here we may impress upon him that if he wants to understand the matter and to get on quickly, he should not wait until he is actually one of a band and ready to begin practice. As with tower-bell ringing, you can learn very much when you are by yourself, and the use of pencil and paper will help you not a little.

First of all write out a full course of Grandsire Triples on as large a piece of paper as you can, so as to have as few breaks as possible in the continuous succession of the rows. Next draw a line along the path of the treble in black ink and another along the path of the second in red ink. The only reason for the two colours is to mark the distinction clearly. Now study the paths of these bells as if you were learning a new method, but study them as a pair and get the combination into your mind and memory in the same way that you memorise the single line when you are learning the work of a bell to ring a method in the steeple.

Both bells, of course, plain hunt, and you will notice that, while on the front and behind they strike together, AB and then BA, everywhere else they strike with one bell between them. In rounds the second strikes after the treble; when the bells go into change, you reverse your hands and strike 2-1; the second finishes its lead and the treble strikes after it with one bell between. So you hunt up, watching the position of the second and striking the treble two blows later. When the treble lies its whole pull behind, the bells strike 2-1. You now reverse your hands, strike 1-2 behind and hunt the treble down, the second following at the interval of one blow.

This work of 1-2 in Grandsire Triples is the nearest equivalent of plain hunting on tower bells and, if possible, it should be the first thing attempted, the other pairs being rung by three experienced men.

If you have been taught properly on tower bells you will have realised the advantage of knowing which is your course bell, and if you have greater experience you will know something about coursing order. These things will help you to an even greater degree in handbell ringing, but it is well to take them by degrees. At first, and from the first, look after your course bell; then, when you have begun to find your way among the bells fairly comfortably, look after your after bell; and, finally, as you become more proficient, take notice of the coursing order of all the bells, especially when you are ringing Plain Bob and Grandsire. We said something about coursing order in our issues of September 22nd last and the following numbers. It will pay you to study those articles.

As in the belfry, you must use both your eyes and your ears when you are handbell ringing, and you must use them in the proper way. You must use your eyes to find out where you should strike your bells and your ears to find out whether you are doing so properly. You must not let your ears usurp the duties of your eyes or, in other words, you must not ring by the tune. To do this is to some people rather a temptation, and not only in the plain course where it is easy. We knew a young lady who had a rather remarkable aptitude for handbell ringing, though she did not pursue the art. She got as

(Continued on next page.)

**BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.**—On Whit Sunday, for Sung Mass, a date touch, 1,940 changes of Doubles, consisting of 480 of Canterbury, 500 of Plain Bob, 600 of Grandsire and 360 of April Day; R. Bayes 1, E. Smart 2, M. Laughton 3, D. Cockings (conductor) 4, T. Fleming 5.



## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The July quarterly meeting will be held at Monk's Kirby on Saturday, July 20th. Business meeting 6 p.m. at the Denbigh Arms. Social evening to follow. A good attendance is requested.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Oxford (D.V.) on Saturday, July 20th. Service in Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. Business meeting in Chapter House immediately after service. Dinner in Christ Church dining hall at 1.30 p.m. A good attendance is hoped for, as business of importance will be before the meeting.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 27th, at 6.30 p.m. All towers are expected to send a representative to discuss the society's future.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

## A BAD HABIT.

(Continued from previous page.)

far as to be able to ring a pair of inside bells to touches of Grandsire Triples, but it was some time before she could be broken of the habit, when she was doubtful of what she had to do, of dropping her bells in her lap and humming the tune to find out where she should next strike her bells.

One other thing. Avoid the bad habit indulged in by some quite good ringers who flourish their bells and swing them about when they are ringing. Move your bells up and down steadily so the other members of the band can see exactly when and where you are going to strike.

When you have mastered the art of ringing 1-2 to a course of Grandsire Triples, the best thing you can do next is to tackle 3-4 to a course, but before doing so it is a good plan, provided that the other three members of the band are competent handbell ringers, to practise the plain course with the bells mixed up. The treble can still lead in rounds and the tenor can still be the covering bell, but instead of starting rounds with the other bells in the order of the natural scale, mix them up anyhow. The idea of doing this is to avoid any temptation to ring by the tune.

If you thoroughly study these things by yourself, and if you are fortunate enough to have the help of three competent men, you should be able, after one good practice, to ring the trebles to a course of Grandsire Triples and strike it correctly.

## ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held at headquarters, Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, July 30th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint gathering will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30 p.m. to walk through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by handbell ringing and social evening at the Duke's Head, at 5.30. If wet, handbells available in Leatherhead Church belfry from 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 30th. All members are requested to give this venture their fullest support. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton, and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The meeting at Cheadle has been cancelled.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

## APARTMENTS.

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## CHURCH BELL BAN DISOBEYED.

### PRISON FOR LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR.

The first prosecution under the recent order was at Spilsby, Lincolnshire, on Monday last, when the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for sounding his church bell otherwise than for the purpose authorised.

P.C. Peck stated that on June 16th he saw Mr. Graham sitting in the belfry pulling the bell-rope. Asked if he did not know of the Order he replied, 'I know nothing about it. It will save me the trouble of ringing them.' At the evening service that day Mr. Graham stated that he had received a letter from the Bishop prohibiting the ringing of the bells.

Giving evidence, Mr. Graham said that he understood a notice would be served upon him. He had acted in ignorance, and was a loyal law-abiding citizen.

Supt. Little said that all the clergy in the county had received a letter from their Bishop telling them that bells were not to be rung except by the police or military.

The chairman of the Bench, Mr. F. L. Stephenson, said that in their opinion the ringing was intentional and deliberate. A fine would be inadequate.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

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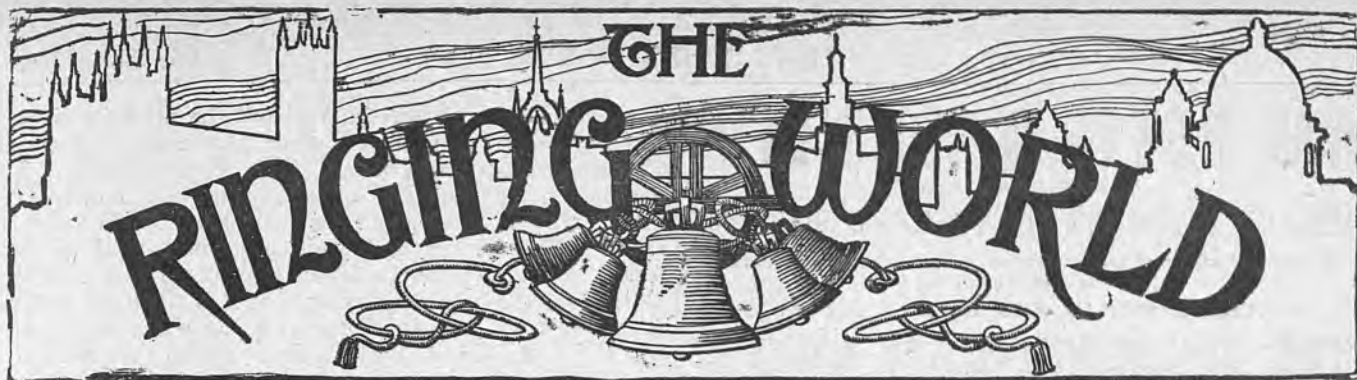
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## OXFORD GUILD & WAR-TIME TOPICS

A stern determination to carry on in face of all the difficulties now confronting ringing associations was manifest in the proceedings of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Oxford on Saturday. Despite the ban, despite the cancelling of luncheon arrangements at Christ Church, something like seventy members attended and showed their sustained interest in the Guild and their desire to preserve the art of ringing. They discussed a number of points relating to war-time policy, and strong opinion was expressed upon the ban that has been imposed, silencing church bells as a war defence measure, so that they may be solely used for notifying the landing of enemy aircraft or parachute troops. The more this Order is studied the more futile it seems to be, although when framed it was, of course, well-intentioned and thought to be a useful means of rousing the countryside to an imminent danger. The strange thing about the Order is that since its publication nothing seems to have been done to organise the efficient use of the bells as a signal, and there is still no instruction as to what the public are to do when the bells are sounded. As matters stand, there is good ground for the desire of the Oxford Guild to have the ban removed so far as it relates to peals of bells used for service purposes on Sundays, and the Standing Committee of the Central Council might well make representations to the responsible Minister for a reconsideration of the ban. Viewed now, in all its aspects, it seems quite certain that the Order was made without full consideration of its effect or, perhaps, it would be more correct to say, its lack of effect. If it is intended that only a single bell should be used, the ringing of a peal of bells at the customary hours on Sundays could no more lead to confusion than the periodical testing of air-raid sirens at a fixed hour, which, up to recently at any rate, many districts experienced. The Central Council might now compile arguments for a modification of the ban, to place before the Minister of Home Security. At the time the Order was imposed, catastrophic happenings were taking place on the Continent, but we have recovered an even keel since these shocks, and while, at that moment, it would have been unfair to challenge the usefulness of the Order, present conditions may last a long time, and the question of taking up the matter with the authorities may well be considered.

Another war-time subject which the Oxford meeting discussed was one which affects this paper, and it is encouraging to find a representative body of ringers showing so much appreciation of the difficulties with which 'The Ringing World' may be faced before the war is

(Continued on page 350.)

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over. We have already pointed out the need for ringers to give us their continued support, if the paper is to survive the critical times ahead. The continued loss of advertisement revenue and of subscribers could eventually have only one result, and we trust the appeals, made at Oxford, Birmingham and elsewhere will not fall on deaf ears. We appreciate the kindness of those who thus help us to fight the battle, realising that it is the ringers alone who can make it possible for us to keep the flag flying. But the Oxford Guild went further than to use persuasive powers among its members. It has given a generous gesture in the assurance that, if need be, the Guild would be prepared to give substantial financial assistance to keep the paper going. There never was a time when a journal was more necessary to the Exercise, and, looked at broadly, it is the Exercise that should shoulder some of the burden involved in continuing 'The Ringing World.' The assurance of the Oxford Guild is a source of considerable encouragement in the face of personal financial risk, and any promise of this kind is naturally a safeguard against the dangers that may arise in the future.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 17, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At the ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT's ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... ..	1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... ..	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 17, 1940, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents called differently.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*G. ALEC DIMMOCK ... ..	1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS	3-4
CYRIL CROSTHWAITE ... ..			5-6

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

Witness—Edward Cowperthwaite.

\* First peal 'in hand.'

## HEAVY BELL RINGING.

OLD RECORDS COMPARED WITH RECENT ONES.

To the Editor.

'Dear Sir,—I have read with interest your letters and articles on old timers and heavy bell ringing. I gather the impression from these that ringing heavy bells years ago was far more difficult than now, of which I am sceptical. The fundamentals of bellhanging have changed little in hundreds of years. We have different types of ball and roller bearings now, it is true, but not everyone prefers these. Also the steel stock enables a bell to be 'tucked-up,' but this doesn't necessarily improve the 'go' of the bell; in fact, if overdone, it produces a grindstone effect, and is detrimental. Some of the heaviest peals of bells are still hung in old frames and on plain bearings, and long lengths have been rung on them quite recently.

Also why the assumption that all the old peals were well struck? Have we anyone living who heard them or have we recordings?

It is on a par with the legend that the youngsters of every age are decadent (to their elders), but they seem to face different crises as well as their forbears when they come.

The question of a ringer's 'stance' is a difficult one. We all admire a good style when seen, but some ringers have a good style and are poor strikers, whilst others are vice-versa.

All ringers *should* be good handlers of little bells as well as big. I do not consider that watching a man ringing a practice touch on a big bell he is used to is any criterion of his ability. Plenty can do that. I like to see how they *finish* on a bad going bell of perhaps only 14 or 15 cwt., after a peal of, say, Superlative, especially if the tenor is nice and slow at 'back'! I have seen ringers very impressive in a short practice touch on heavy metal, but not so good on quite a small bell, going bad, during a peal.

'INTERESTED.'



## THE DEVIL AMONG THE BELLS. STORIES OF HIS VISITS TO STEEPLES.

In bygone years the Devil was a very extensive land-owner in England, and he took a good deal of interest in his estates. As you go through the country to-day you can still come across many of the bridges and jumps that he built and the dykes that he dug. In Scotland he made a vast excavation which he used as a store place and called his beef tubs. In Surrey at Hindhead, he had a similar though smaller excavation where he kept his drink. He had a kitchen in North Wales, near Snowdon, and the chimney remains to this day.

In Sussex he undertook vast public works, the chief of which was to consist of a huge trench cut through the South Downs to bring the sea on to the Weald. The object of this, apparently, was to make Crawley into a seaside resort, but, as every visitor to Brighton knows, the scheme was abandoned just before it was finished. It would seem that the Devil's many friends in Brighton put it to him that they would suffer from a rival watering place.

But, spite of all these things, and for all the public spirit he showed, the Devil was never really an Englishman. In outward appearance, perhaps, but not in spirit or in sentiment. This is shown by the fact that he never could abear church bells; they irritated him beyond measure. Usually, when a peal was on, he would, like a sensible fellow, go and take a walk in the next parish; but, at times, when his temper was somewhat frayed or his liver a bit out of order, he would break out in a passion and try by violence to put a stop to what he considered an intolerable nuisance. At such times he showed not only a very regrettable want of care for church property, but a carelessness which amounted to culpable negligence for the comfort and even the safety of the ringers.

One such incident happened about the year 1530 at St. Michael's, Cornhill, in London. The Devil had been up to the City to take the chair at a meeting of the directors of one of the companies in which he was interested. There had been some unpleasantness at the meeting, and tempers were a bit ruffled. When it was over, the Devil walked down Cornhill on his way to Mansion House station to get a train to Victoria, and as he passed St. Michael's the College Youths started to ring Stedman Cinques. That, as the poet said, put the tin hat on it, and he went for the bells and the ringers like a fury.

The account of the incident has come down to us through the writings of John Stow. Stow was a sober and conscientious historian, who did not retail silly and superstitious legends but took care to verify the facts he related, and we may be sure that his account is substantially correct.

Here is what he says: 'As I have oft heard my father report, upon St. James' night, certain men in the loft next under the bells ringing of a peal, a tempest of lightning and thunder did arise, an ugly shapen sight did appear to them, coming in at the south window and lighted on the north, for fear whereof they all fell down and lay as dead for the time, letting the bells ring and cease of their own accord. When the ringers came to themselves they found certain stones of the north window to be razed and scratched as if they had been so much butter, printed with a lion's claw. The same stones were fastened there again, and so remain till this day. I have

(Continued in next column.)

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION CARRIES ON.

### LIVERPOOL BRANCH DISCUSSES THE BAN.

The last monthly meeting, in the Lancashire Association's year, of the Liverpool Branch was held at Halewood on Saturday week. The attendance was much below the average, which was not surprising, for those who support the meetings love their tower bells. However, those who did turn up enjoyed handbells, and some of the more advanced scored excellent touches of Stedman Caters.

The Church Schoolroom had been placed at the disposal of the members, and several touches were rung there before tea.

The business meeting which followed was presided over by Mr. P. W. Cave, an apology being received from the Rev. D. Railton, Rector of Liverpool, for non-attendance owing to indisposition.

Mr. L. L. Gray was elected Ringing Master of the branch, Mr. J. Martin bell adviser, Mr. T. S. Horridge representative on the General Committee, and Mr. G. R. Newton as hon. branch secretary.

The meeting agreed that the Rev. Arthur Scott and Mr. W. H. Shuker should be again nominated as president and hon. secretary respectively of the association.

The branch secretary gave a report of the committee meeting at Rochdale on June 22nd. The most interesting feature of his report was the announcement of the committee's intention to hold the annual meeting and service at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Sept. 28th.

Among several interesting letters read was one from the Vicar of Prescott (the Rev. Oswald L. Martin) asking if the association was taking up officially the question of the use of church towers and bells for observation purposes. He went on to say, 'It is a matter of great importance and one that I think should have the attention of church authorities generally. The ringing of the bells is not a thing which can be done by any amateur and there are other details, such as insurance and a proper behaviour in the tower, which ought to receive attention.'

The hon. secretary reported to the meeting that he had informed the Vicar of Prescott that it was not the association's intention to take the matter up, but that the Central Council had already done so.

A copy of 'The Ringing World,' containing the president of the Central Council's letter, had also been sent to the Vicar of Prescott.

After several members had expressed their views, it was resolved that a letter be written to the president of the Central Council asking him to use his influence with the Minister of Home Security. The opinion of the meeting was that if the president could obtain an interview with someone in authority, it might lead to the lifting of the ban on bells for Sunday service ringing.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Huyton on Aug. 10th.

## THE DEVIL AMONG THE BELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

seen them oft, and have put a feather or small stick into the holes where the claws had entred three or four inches deep. One of the ringers lived in my youth, whom I have oft heard to verify the same to be true.'

St. Michael's was not the only church where the bells annoyed the Devil to the extent of provoking him to make reprisals. 'This yere, 1533, uppon twelffe daye in Shrewsbury, the dyvyll appeayrd in saint alkmonds church there when the preest was at hygh masse with greate tempeste and darkness so that as he pass'd through the church he mountyd up the steeple in the sayd church teringe the wyers of the sayde clocke and put the prynt of hys claws uppon the 4th bell and toocke one of the pynnales awaye with hym, and for the tyme stayd all the belles in the churches within the sayde towne that they could neither toll nor rynge.'

At Tunstall, in Norfolk, the Devil took advantage of some dispute between the parson and the churchwardens about the bells to step in and carry them off himself. The parson surprised him in the act and pursued him in hot haste and with much Latin, but he got away and dived down with his booty into a hole in the earth, which henceforth was known by the name of Hell Hole.

Generally speaking, however, the Devil's assaults on church bells were failures. He tried to smash them many times, but usually they were inviolate. 'It is said that ye evil spirytes that ben in ye region of ye ayre doubte moche when they here the belles ringen; and this is why the belles ringen whan it thundereth and whan grete tempeste and rages of wether happen, to ye ende that ye feinds and wycked spirytes should ben abashed and flee and cease of ye movynge of tempeste.'

## CHANGE RINGING IN SHREWSBURY.

### THE END OF A FAMOUS SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

About 1811 the Union Society proposed to add two trebles to the octave at St. Mary's. They could not, however, raise the full amount, and the balance was made up by the parishioners. The bells were opened on September 2nd, 1811, when a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,219 changes, was rung by a band which included Samuel and James Lee, Charles Ravenscroft, Robert Lloyd and William Bull. Bull called the bobs and Richard Cross stood out of the band, but on the next day he took part in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal with a picked band made up from several companies.

Stephen Hill rang the treble, James Dovey the eighth, and Samuel Lawrence the tenor. Samuel Moss, from Ashton-under-Lyne, was at the ninth, and the middle bells were rung by men from Sheffield—Henry Grayson, William Hudson, Joseph Grayson, William Booth and Samuel Shirt. Booth conducted. He was then in his twenty-eighth year, a cutler by trade, and the leading man in the Sheffield company, which was taking a foremost part among peal-ringing bands. He was the grandfather of Charles Henry and Thomas Hattersley, who became so well known in the Exercise at the end of the nineteenth century.

Booth probably called his own composition at Shrewsbury, for he had some merits as a composer of Treble Bob Royal; and so had William Hudson, then a young man of twenty years old. Hudson to-day is best remembered in connection with the sixty course-ends of Stedman Triples.

These Sheffield men had the distinction of being the first band to ring double-handed peals on handbells. In 1811 they accomplished 5,088 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major and 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal; and in 1816 5,280 of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. Henry Grayson called the Royal, and William Hudson the Maximus. Booth took part in all three peals.

In 1812, the year after the eight bells at St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, were increased to ten, a new octave was hung at St. Alkmund's, and the opening peal was 5,280 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, composed and conducted by Charles Ravenscroft. James Lee rang the third and William Bull the fourth. Ravenscroft had come to Shrewsbury from Bromsgrove where, in 1787 and 1788, he had called two long peals of Bob Major—10,192 and 12,000.

In 1813, Richard Cross called Treble Bob Royal at St. Mary's and Treble Bob Maximus at St. Chad's, Samuel Lawrence ringing the tenor on both occasions. These seem to have been the last peals in which Cross took part. The blight which had fallen on the Exercise all over the country had badly affected the Union Society, and its palmy days were over. About this time it was dissolved and refounded on less exclusive lines. Other changes were made in 1823, and subsequently, it is recorded, 'the respectable members of the Society gave it up, and bell ringing in Shrewsbury fell into the hands of a low lot whose only motives for ringing were the money and the ale its practice brought them.'

Two letters from Samuel Lee to Samuel Lawrence are extant which afford internal evidence of the decay of change ringing, both in Cambridge and Shropshire, as well as throwing a very pleasing light on the characters

both of the writer and the recipient of the letters. In November, 1817, Lee, acknowledging a letter from Lawrence and 'the present which followed it,' refers to a controversy in which the other had been engaged with some ringers and which evidently had taken a very ranorous turn. Unfortunately there is no hint as to what it was about. Lee then goes on, 'Your conversation and papers revived in a small degree my former love for the Exercise inasmuch that I was tempted to ascend the bell loft of Cambridge and ring a bell in a short touch of Bob Royal. I found I had not quite forgotten it. But whether my want of practice was the cause I know not, but my arms felt so excessively strained that I could scarcely do anything for a short while after.'

Four years later Lawrence sent Lee the circulars which had been printed to advertise the long peals of Kent Treble Bob Maximus and Stedman Cinques rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820, and Lee, replying, says, 'Accept my best thanks for your kind letter with your notices of the truly herculean task in which you have lately taken a part. I suppose with you that it will stand for some time an untouched dish, perhaps for ever. I had no idea that Birmingham could boast so good a set of change ringers.' There are one or two quotations from the circular in the above. Lee then extends a welcome to Lawrence should he be able to visit Cambridge. 'You will find a good peal of bells here. The ringers are very far inferior to your Birmingham friends, they ring Bob Royal, Treble Ten, and Caters, but rather in an inferior style.'

That was in 1821, when John Bowtell, Charles Day, John Sanders, Peter Spenceley and the other men who had put the Cambridge Youths among the leading peal-ringing companies were either dead or had long since retired, and only the dregs of a fine band were left.

It was the same in Shrewsbury. 'When you see your Salop friends,' wrote Lee, 'pray remember me to them. I saw them in the summer. Change ringing seems to have deserted Salop entirely.'

The existence of the Union Society of Shrewsbury seems to have come to an end with the retirement of Richard Cross. For some time it had been on the down grade, and its ending appears to have been abrupt. It was not merged into the very different class of men who thenceforth did what ringing was done in Shrewsbury. Some relics of it survived until the closing years of the nineteenth century. A Mr. P. Cross, probably a descendant of Richard Cross, had in his possession an upright silver drinking cup which had formed one of a set presented to the society by a member, and another was owned by a Mr. T. Morgan, who also had a set of thirteen handbells. Mr. Morgan's father was the last survivor of the society.

### SHREWSBURY ABBEY CHURCH.

#### RINGING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In Mr. Trollope's interesting article on ringing in the Midlands, he states with reference to Shrewsbury Abbey Church that since the ringing gallery was removed in 1814 the bells apparently have never been rung. However, they used to be rung quite a lot for special occasions, etc., and the following, which was told me by the late Mr. George Byolm and other old Shrewsbury ringers, may be of interest.

After the ringing floor was removed, ringing took place in the low chamber immediately under the bells. This was so low that it was possible to reach up and touch the clappers, and the noise when ringing was deafening. Also the place was full of beams and trusses

(Continued on next page.)

**DEATH OF A VETERAN FARNHAM RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Henry Prior, of Farnham, Surrey, which took place at his home on July 6th, six days before his 81st birthday. He had resided in the same house for 24 years, and until three or four years ago, when his health began to fail, was a regular ringer at Farnham Parish Church. Bellringing was his life's hobby in fact, which he took up at the age of 18. He could boast that for 34 consecutive years he never missed ringing for Christmas morning. He took part in a peal of Grandsire Triples on December 23rd, 1922.

Mr. Prior was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Prior, of Northbrook, near Bentley. As a young man he worked on the land and later became a jobbing gardener, an occupation which he maintained until the middle of last year. From 1898-1913 he was sexton at Blackmoor Parish Church, where he had previously been a ringer. Five sons and daughters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild are left in bereavement, and another son, Mr. Alfred Prior, of Rowledge, died two months ago.

The funeral took place at Green Lane Cemetery on the following Wednesday, conducted by the Vicar of The Bourne (the Rev. A. H. Hudson). The ringers present included Mr. C. W. Denyer (representing the Farnham District of the Guildford Guild) and Mr. and Mrs. S. Meadows (representing St. Andrew's belfry).

**SHREWSBURY ABBEY BELLS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

supporting the bell frame and the rope sight was very bad; the 6th man could not see 5 or 7.

When they had got a good band together they frequently rang 'the old six-score' of Grandsire Doubles non-conducted with 4-6-8 covering. At other times they rang rounds, 'Queens' and 'Tittums,' and the conductor whistled each time as a signal for them to go to 'Queen's,' then to 'Tittums' and back to rounds. Owing to the noise it was no use trying to do any conducting.

Some 35 years ago, as the tower was considered unsafe for further ringing, the old frame was taken out, and the bells are now hung on deal beams and are chimed with a chiming apparatus.

While on the subject of the Abbey bells, it may be interesting to note that they were originally cast by Oldfield, of Nottingham, in 1673, since when they have all been recast at various times. At present they are: Treble and 2nd, Thomas Mears, 1825; 3rd, John Taylor, 1884; 4th, John Briant, 1812; 5th, C. and G. Mears, 1846; 6th, A. Rudhall, 1745; 7th, John Warner, 1877; tenor, A. Rudhall, 1713. Considering they are such a mixed lot, they are a fine eight, the diameter of the tenor is 51½ inches and she weighs approximately 23 cwt. in D.

Prees Green, Prees, Salop.

E. V. RODENHURST.

**CHURCH BELLS AS ALARMS.****UNWORKABLE IN PRACTICE.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Already we have, in the air raid siren, an efficient means of warning the public of impending danger. What is the objection to a standardisation of signals throughout the country? Four different signals, the warbling note, short blasts, and long blasts would give a code to cover three different emergencies, all to be countermanded by the long sustained note. Any sirens not capable of producing these four codes should be replaced by appliances that can. So would uniformity of warning be achieved, and church bells freed from a use to which they never should have been put.

I have made enquiries over a large area, but have yet to hear of one church at which arrangements have been made to ring to notify air-borne invasion. Can it be that there is no intention on the part of the authorities to formulate a scheme? Has the ringing Exercise been hoodwinked into a state of complacent acceptance of an order which is unworkable with any degree of efficiency?

Take the case of your last week's Birmingham correspondent. He stated that no arrangement as to procedure at his church had been made, and although most of us realise that warning by bells is a slow method notifying only a small proportion of the population, as against the almost instantaneous warning of the whole of the community by sirens, he mentions his agreement with the Order. I wonder if these supporters of the restriction have considered how the scheme can be worked, or how few people in the country are actually within the sound of a church bell.

I feel that a firmer stand by the Exercise against the senseless action of ceasing ordinary ringing would have effectively quashed the scheme when it was seen how impractical the idea is, and your report of Lord Mottistone's appeal for raising the ban gives me pleasure to know that there is a desire, at least in some quarters, to have a continuance of regular ringing.

'NEMO.'

**CALL CHANGES AND CONSECUTIVE FIFTHS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wonder if the Rev. Mr. Drake will mind my pointing out to him that what he says about Call Changes and Consecutive Fifths is tripe of the tripiest and bilge of the bilgiest. He may, perhaps, think at first that this is a somewhat harsh judgment, but I feel confident that when, in the dim future, he knows what consecutive fifths are, he will fully acknowledge both its justice and its charity.

'MUSICIAN.'

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

His friends will regret to learn of the illness of Mr. Jesse Puplett, of Hopewell, Colehill, Wimborne. Mr. Puplett was formerly a member of the band at All Hallows', Tottenham.

Mr. Fred Nye, of Bagshot, Surrey, who is well known among members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Sonning Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, is, we regret to say, confined to bed with illness. His friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

To-day is the one hundred and eighth anniversary of the first peal of Double Oxford Major, which was rung at St. Giles', Norwich, by the Norwich Scholars, and conducted by Samuel Thurston. Double Oxford Minor is one of the oldest of six-bell methods. The Major was produced by Shipway and first published in his 'Campanalogia' in 1816. The method has many good qualities, but is marred by the excessive amount of 5-pull dodging before and behind.

James W. Washbrook was born at Oxford on July 27th, 1864. His is one of the greatest names in the history of the Exercise. As a heavy bell ringer, conductor and composer he was outstanding. Among his greatest feats was to turn in the 57 cwt. tenor at Wells Cathedral to a peal of Treble Bob Royal at a time when the bell was not going too well. At different times he held the records for conducting the longest peals of Double Norwich Major, Grandsire and Stedman Caters, and London Surprise. He was the first man to ring two tower bells to a peal.

William Cooter, who died on July 28th, 1912, at the age of 87, was for many years one of the most prominent of London's ringers. He called the first true peal of Stedman Triples ever rung on handbells. That was in 1854. J. W. Washbrook called the first rung outside London.

On July 29th, 1785, William Shipway, a young man from Bath, Somerset, arrived in London. Shipway afterwards wrote one of the best text books on ringing that we possess.

## HONOUR FOR THE REV. E. V. COX.

### RECOGNITION OF HIS WORK FOR BELLS AND RINGERS.

Mr. E. V. Cox's many friends will join us in congratulating him on an honour which has just been conferred on him. On Friday last he was installed as a Prebendary in the Cathedral Church of St. Peter at Exeter. The Bishop, in offering him the prebendal stall, referred to the great debt which the diocese owed him for the work he had done in connection with bells and ringers.

## GOOD STRIKING.

### AN OLD EPITAPH RECALLED.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—As the value of good striking has been mentioned in 'The Ringing World' so often, the following will show what interest was taken in the old times to attain a high standard of ringing:—

Skilled in the mystery of the pleasing peal,  
Which few can know and fewer still reveal,  
Whither with little bells or bells sublime,  
He split a moment for the truth of time,  
Time oft he truly beat till he at length o'ercame,  
Yet still this tribute long preserves the name

Of Robert Selwyn.

The above epitaph was on a tombstone in Painswick Churchyard and was unfortunately broken during the restoration of the church in 1879 and never replaced.

It is recorded that Robert Selwyn was the only bachelor who took part in the long peal of Grandsire Caters, 12,312 changes, in 7 hours and 44 minutes, on May 5th, 1817. All the rest lived to a great age. Giles Mansfield lived to be nearly 100, and, although bedridden, took part in an excellent course of Grandsire Triples on handbells double-handed on his 97th birthday, the writer taking part. Giles Mansfield's performance must surely be a record,

WILLIAM HALE.

The Leigh, near Gloucester.

## BELLS OVERSEAS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I can add to the list of bells in the Colonies, Cape Town and Durban. At the suburban church of Woodstock, about a mile from the centre of Cape Town, there is a light ring of eight, and when I left, 14 years ago, they were in good order; a young band, with the help of two or three old ringers, were then ringing Grandsire Doubles, and had made a start in Bob Minor. At Durban rings of ten and eight were installed about 20 years ago, and change ringing was practised in both towers.

W. C. BARRETT.

Home of St. Barnabas, Dormans.

The places that we mentioned in our footnote to the letter which appeared in our issue of July 12th were towers where there is the possibility of ringing being obtained by the casual caller. We are not aware of the existence of any regular bands at other places which have since been mentioned, although we sincerely hope there may be. There are, for instance, several towers in and around Boston, U.S.A., but ringing would only be possible by the previous collecting of a band that would have to be called together, if it is still practicable, from a wide area.



## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING AT OXFORD.

### Ban on Bells Debated.

At the annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Oxford on Saturday, the difficulties that might beset the continuation of 'The Ringing World,' if the present conditions are prolonged, were envisaged by a number of speakers, and a resolution was passed promising substantial financial help if it became necessary.

'Carry on' was the keynote of a successful meeting, which, robbed of the opportunities of ringing and even of dining in the famous Hall of Christ Church, was nevertheless extremely successful. Despite transport problems and the stress of war work, which kept many away, there was an attendance of some 70 members, representing all the three counties covered by the diocese. The service in the Cathedral was really inspiring. The preacher was the Rev. Dr. B. H. B. Attlee, the Rector of Holywell, and his address will not soon be forgotten by those privileged to hear him.

At the business meeting in the Chapter House the chair was taken by the Master, Canon G. F. Coleridge, who was supported by the Deputy Master (the Rev. C. E. Wigg), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) and the general secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert).

Before the business began, the Master, in a few happy words, said how pleased he was to see so many present. It proved that the spirit of the Guild was strong and sound. On the proposition of Mr. A. D. Cullum, seconded by Mr. E. G. Foster, the reports of the four officers were adopted.

### OFFICERS' REPORTS.

In his annual report, written before the ban had been imposed on church bellringing, the Master (Canon G. F. Coleridge) said: We entered the year 1939 full of hope and expectation that the Guild would pursue its wonted course and make definite progress all along the line. Little did we expect that before the last quarter of the year was entered we should be involved in a terrible war which is calling forth all the energies of our people, not merely to preserve for ourselves the right to live in freedom, but to prevent an end of all civilisation in Europe reduced to slavery and ruled by brute force and tyranny. The calling up of many to don uniform, as well as innumerable volunteers for all kinds of service at home, must in many cases deplete our belfries. 'What can we do?'—one answer only is needed—'We will do our best by personal endeavour to man the ropes for Sunday services.' That must be our steadfast endeavour. I look to every member of the Guild to do his utmost in this respect.

Looking back over the year, we have specially to deplore the passing away of several who have proved themselves worthy members of the Guild. I only mention two known to me by near residence and as holding important offices in the Guild, Mr. L. Joyce and Mr. A. J. Wright, who died on March 18th and October 31st respectively. Mr. Joyce, churchwarden of St. Mary's, Reading, not only made himself responsible for the rehanging and improvement of St. Mary's bells, but took a very prominent part in ringing them. The Reading Branch has indeed cause to mourn the loss of its chairman, and the Guild the loss of one of its trustees. Mr. A. J. Wright served for years as treasurer of the Guild finances, taking an active interest in its affairs till failing health compelled his resignation.

Mr. F. Sharpe, Launton, at the request of the Berks Archaeological Society, is busily engaged in writing an invaluable work on the 'Church Bells of Berkshire.' The first part with precise details of every bell hanging in some three dozen churches, in alphabetical order, Abingdon—Buscot, is now in print and makes fascinating reading for all bell lovers. The remaining part will appear in due course and will be found to be full of information and interest. The Guild is to be congratulated on having a member so competent to write on the subject as Mr. Sharpe: his work when finished will undoubtedly be acknowledged as one of the very best of the many county bell histories.

### FINDING RINGERS FOR LONDON CHURCHES.

The Rev. C. Elliot Wigg (Deputy Master), in his report, said: It was a matter of personal regret that in 1939 I was not able to attend the annual meetings of four of the branches. At the ten annual and six quarterly meetings at which I was present, attendances and general keenness seemed to be well maintained.

At the beginning of the war I sent out letters of enquiry to the branch secretaries, asking for their observations on the extent to which the work of the Guild was being affected by such things as the black-out. Most of them replied to the effect that their towers were carrying on as well as possible in the circumstances, and that Sunday ringing at least was being maintained in most cases. It is to be hoped that the difficulties of getting far afield nowadays may encourage an increase of combined practices on a small scale, arranged between closely neighbouring towers. Such a plan has been followed in this district since the war, and has so far worked very well. Many towers will be facing the difficulty of depleted bands, as men are called away to serve their country in the Forces. Here then is an opportunity to recruit new members for the belfry from among the boys and girls or women of the parish. The number of children in our diocese has been vastly increased by the evacuation scheme. It is possible that useful material for the belfry might be found amongst these new arrivals. If a number of children from the Metropolitan areas became interested in ringing during their stay in the provinces,

this might prove later to be a partial solution to the notorious difficulty of finding ringers for the London churches.

### THE SECRETARY'S NIGHTMARE.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert (secretary) reported as follows: The year 1939 opened very favourably for our Guild, and everything went swimming along as it ought to do for two-thirds of the year, when this terrible upheaval started in Europe. I must admit that for a few days I thought the bottom had been knocked out of everything, including 'The Oxford Diocesan Guild.' However, realisation soon made things clear that work must go on as usual, and all over the three counties of Berks, Bucks and Oxon our members made up their minds to keep ringing going, especially 'service ringing' as near as possible to normal times.

I attended the annual meetings of all the branches, but I must say that getting home from the ones held at the end of the year was almost a nightmare.

Sixty-five peals were rung during the year, comprising several twelve-bell peals; several 'Surprise Major'; Stedman Caters and Triples, Grandsire Caters and Triples, and some good performances of seven-method Minor peals. A noteworthy and unusual peal was the one of Doubles at Little Missenden, in 12 methods, with 41 changes of method. A pleasing fact was that many young ringers scored their first peal.

As one of the old school, I feel I must congratulate the men of East Hagbourne who scored the first peal of Stedman Triples rung by their own Sunday service ringers. More power to their elbows (and brains). It was in 1886 that a local band at Hagbourne first rang peals of Grandsire Triples without outside help, and since that time change ringing has never slipped back.

I again beg all members to use every endeavour to keep the Oxford Diocesan Guild well up amongst the leaders of the Exercise.

### FINANCE.

The hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) reported that the general funds of the Guild amounted to £252 16s. 5d., of which £96 4s. 4d. was in the Restoration Fund. Several branches had failed to send in their contributions before the accounts were closed. Illness and war service have prevented some branch secretaries from complying with the rules.

The year, which began with a balance in hand of £98 7s. 10d. on the general account, ended with £80 18s. 5d. in hand. The branches contributed £60 15s. 3d., and other receipts amounted to £11 11s. 4d. The expenses, which included £3 10s. transferred to the Restoration Fund, amounted to £89 16s. In the reserve fund is a balance of £75 13s. 8d., and in the Restoration Fund £96 4s. 4d. Only one grant was made during the year, namely, £6 6s. to Colleshill.

In proposing that the officers should be re-elected, Mr. E. G. Foster said that no Guild could be better served than they were, and the election was carried by acclamation.

It was decided to hold the annual festival at Oxford in 1941 if it is at all possible. Miss Vera Robinson said that to carry on was the basis on which they should work, and this view was re-echoed by her seconder, Mr. H. Sear, and other speakers.

Grants of five guineas each in aid of restoration work at Cholsey and Yattendon were ratified on the proposal of the Rev. St. George Edwards and Mr. R. A. Post, seconded by Messrs. T. Trollope and A. D. Cullum.

### MEMBERS WITH THE FORCES.

The General Committee recommended that no member of the Guild who is serving in H.M. Forces shall have his name deleted from the Guild Report on account of his annual subscription not being paid, and this was agreed to on the proposition of Mr. T. J. Fowler, seconded by Mr. H. Barnett.

Mr. W. Birmingham proposed that members of other guilds or associations serving in H.M. Forces and stationed in the diocese be enrolled members of this Guild on payment of sixpence. To this an amendment was moved by Mr. E. G. Foster that after the word 'enrolled' the resolution should read 'free members of this Guild for the duration of the war.' After a debate, in which Messrs. Cullum, Barker, Post and Paice took part, the amended resolution was carried.

The Deputy Master explained his efforts to compile a list of the towers and bells in the diocese, with an account of all the peals rung on them, and asked the support of the meeting to get it printed. On the proposition of Miss Robinson, seconded by Mr. R. A. Post, the sum of ten guineas was voted for the purpose.

It was agreed that the annual report for the year 1940 should be printed in leaflet form and without the names of the members and the rules of the Guild.

The election of 95 new members was ratified.

Among the correspondence read were two letters from incumbents of parishes in the diocese asking if something could be done to lift the ban on ringing, especially for Sunday services. The matter was debated and it was decided to ask the Editor of 'The Ringing World' to use all his influence to invoke a strong protest from ringers and the bell loving public to try to get church bells used again, and to let all the other associations know that the Oxford Guild protests very strongly against this useless and unnecessary order.

### 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

Mr. W. Collett asked the meeting to consider seriously the future of 'The Ringing World,' and begged members and ringers all over

(Continued on next page.)

## HANDBELLS AT SCHOOL.

### GIRLS' PROGRESS AT MALVERN WELLS.

At the Abbey School, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, is a self-taught band of young ladies who have made excellent progress with handbell ringing. Miss Brenda Richardson (daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson) sends us the following information upon the achievements of this enthusiastic little company:—

Dear Sir,—Some of your readers may be interested to hear of the activities of the handbell band at the Abbey School, Malvern Wells. The average age of the band is fifteen, and the youngest member is thirteen.

During the summer term the band have rung several 720's of Bob Minor. Those taking part were Monica and Dorothy Richardson, Hazel and June Weall, Janet Peet, Margaret Eastwood, Joan Thomas, Patricia Peel, Anne Harper and Eve Beddow. Several touches of Bob Major (with the tenors parted) have been rung, and five members can now ring a good plain course of Bob Royal. Oxford Bob Minor, Double Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles are practised, while the more advanced members ring Kent Treble Bob Minor.

Friday mornings at the Abbey are eagerly awaited, and 'The Ringing World' is read with interest. The articles for beginners and those on proof, etc., are much appreciated.

Nearly all the band belong to the Worcestershire Association, and many of the members have joined their home guilds as well, and have been practising tower bells during the holidays.

The band is entirely self-taught, 'Rope-Sight' and 'Standard Methods' being constantly in use as reference books.

BRENDA M. RICHARDSON.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Continued from previous page.)

the country not to give up taking the paper because their names could not appear in the list of peals. After many suggestions, Mr. A. D. Cullum moved and Canon Coleridge seconded, 'That this meeting would assure the Editor of substantial financial help if it becomes necessary, and asks all other guilds and associations to do the same thing.'

The Hon. Treasurer asked the meeting to authorise him to invest £50 from the Guild's funds in National Defence Bonds, and this was agreed to on the motion of Mr. E. G. Foster, seconded by Mr. W. J. Paice.

Votes of thanks to the Dean and Chapter, the preacher and organist were carried with applause.

The Master then declared the meeting closed, and as the lunch in the hall had been cancelled by the Christ Church authorities, the members arrived at their various home destinations much earlier than is usual after an Oxford Diocesan Guild festival at Oxford.

## OXFORD, 1940—AN IMPRESSION.

'There's old Tom Tower'—'And all the towers and spires.' With what feelings of joy did we see once again the sunlit towers and spires of Oxford.

In trains, frankly rather overcrowded, but dead up to time, we had slipped through the beautiful countryside—sunny, peaceful, prosperous, to all appearance—to our annual festival.

'How peaceful this place is,' whispered someone as we waited for the service to begin. Then what shouts of praise as we sang of our bells—now, alas! silent—and their work in the service of God.

The Rev. Dr. B. H. B. Attlee preached an inspiring sermon on hope—'We are saved by hope.' Our Christian faith gave us grounds of hope for our civilisation, our nation, our enemies and ourselves, for we should despair of no man, like those to whom St. Paul wrote, who had been 'with no hope and without God in the world.' We could now rejoice in our salvation.

The preacher referred to the agenda of the coming business meeting as an act of hope: 'Place of the festival for 1941,' 'Proposal for publishing an inventory of the church bells of the diocese'—as if no shortage of paper, nor other hindrances, could cramp our actions. 'Carry on in hope.'

And the service ended with the Te Deum as an act of thanksgiving. The thought of hope was carried on by the chairman in his opening words at the meeting, and rang through the business meeting, attended by some 68 members, representing 36 towers.

It was echoed by one of the oldest members present in the words of the poem enclosed:—

'Faith will never alter,  
Britain never falter,  
Ours the way to end the fray,  
And peace to follow after.'

What if we could not lunch in Christ Church Hall? What if we could not ring in all the towers of Oxford? The day will come, in God's good time, when victory will be acclaimed by peals throughout the land.

M. V. R.

## HOIST WITH HIS OWN PETARD.

OR THE BITTER BIT.

The man who told me this said it was a true tale. It may be so, and if it isn't, it ought to be. It concerns a man who died many years ago well known and highly respected, whom we will call Harry Smith because that was not his name.

In his young days Harry Smith was a member of an enthusiastic band, who were very anxious to score the first peal of Treble Bob in their tower. They had had several attempts and another was fixed for a certain date. It so happened that a very skilful company in a nearby town had arranged to go for Stedman Triples on the same day, and, being short, invited Harry Smith to make one. In those days Stedman Triples was a very high-class method and Harry was keen to ring a peal of it; but what was he to do? He argued it out like this. If he turned the Stedman down they could easily fill his place and he might never get another invitation. But he was indispensable in his own company, and if he told them he could not ring they would have to postpone their attempt. So he decided for the Stedman.

But things did not work out quite as he hoped and expected. The members of his own band said several things about him, most of them worse than the others, and, compassing heaven and earth, got another to take his place. He felt very hurt at this. They did not, he thought, appreciate his position, for he really did want to be in the first peal of Treble Bob, and did not want it rung without him. So he called round one evening at the George, when he knew the verger was sure to be there, and asked him if he would like to earn an honest half-crown.

'What's up?' asked the verger. 'What dirty work have you got in hand?'

Harry looked offended. 'Don't be a fool,' he said. 'They are going for a peal on Saturday, and all I want you to do is to turn off the gas, in a fit of absent-mindedness, after they have rung about an hour. I want you to do it by mistake. I distinctly do not want you to do it deliberately.'

The verger sighed deeply, lifted his eyes to heaven solemnly, and then winked. So that was that.

But still things did not work out quite as Harry hoped and expected. First he got notice that the peal of Stedman was off, and he reflected rather sadly that he might after all have stood in the Treble Bob and saved his half-crown. But it could not be helped, and on the day he went round to hear the start of the peal. He did not, of course, go too near the church, but it so happened that he ran into one of the band.

'Hullo! Harry,' the latter said. 'I've been looking for you everywhere.'

'What do you want?' asked Harry.

'Well,' said the other, 'we are one short and we want you to ring.'

'After what you've been saying?'

'We didn't, and anyhow it don't matter.'

Harry really did want to ring in the Treble Bob, so telling the other he would be round in a minute he set off to find the verger. He went to his house, but he wasn't there. He went to the George, but could not find him. Neither was he at the King's Arms, nor at the Red Lion, nor at the Angel, nor yet at the Six Bells; and at last Harry had to give up the search as a bad job and go to the steeple where the others were impatiently waiting for him.

'After all,' he said to himself, 'the verger's got some sense. He must have known I was only joking.'

They started to ring and soon settled down into some most excellent striking. Never before had they shaped so much like getting a peal. They rang a quarter-peal and as they approached the end of the first hour Harry began to feel nervous and to wonder what would happen; but it passed and the ringing still went on.

'I knew he had got some sense,' thought Harry, and gradually his fears evaporated. Two hours they rang. Two hours and a half. Two hours and three-quarters. Three hours. They were approaching the end of the last course and—out went the light!

Harry Smith was the first out of the tower and down below he met the verger, who greeted him warmly.

'That was a bit of luck,' he said. 'I'd clean forgot all about your little plan, but fortunately I happened to remember just in time. So I may as well have that half-crown.'

What Harry Smith said is not reported. As Wordsworth remarks, there are 'thoughts that do lie too deep for tears!'

## BOURNEMOUTH VICAR'S TRIBUTE TO RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sending this short line to 'The Ringing World' to express my own deep appreciation of our ringers at St. Peter's. I am so glad to think that during these first months of the war it has been possible for the bells to sound, and I have been cheered not only by the sound of the bells, but also by the quality of the ringers.

In St. Peter's belfry we have had the advantage of the help of St. John's, Surrey Road, ringers and other members of the Christchurch and Poole companies. All this service has been deeply appreciated, and now that the bells can no longer be rung I should like your members all over the country to know, through the medium of your news, how deeply one person at any rate values the witness of the bells and the quality of his ringers.

HEDLEY BURROWS, Vicar of St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

## CALL CHANGES.

THEIR USE IS JUSTIFIED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was not my intention to enter into the call change argument, but merely to challenge the indirect suggestion made by the Rev. Herbert Drake that call changes had made East Anglian ringing inferior to that of any other part of the country.

My challenge was very neatly side-stepped in a few sentences, and Mr. Drake goes on to further his argument with a lot of theoretical talk, but no concrete facts upon which to form an opinion.

I prefer to base my opinions on results which I have seen. I know many excellent ringers, whose training included call changes, and I have assisted in teaching several youngsters by that method with good results, and I see no foundation for Mr. Drake's anti-call change theories.

I should be interested to hear the views of some of our leading instructors, and I am sure they would like to hear more of Mr. Drake's 'other ways' of teaching. If 'some hundreds' have learned by them, Mr. Drake is certainly a prince amongst instructors, because at the rate of five per year it would take 20 years to teach 100, and as 'none of them is a bad ringer,' we are to assume they have all stuck to ringing, which in itself is a remarkable achievement.

Mr. Drake's arguments are not convincing, and I consider the present is a most inopportune time to advance them.

When we are able to make a fresh start, there will be a great many, like myself, who will be glad to ring call changes, if necessary, and will be glad to use them to help build new bands.

Judging by past results, we shall have every justification for doing this.

J. E. BAILEY.

### AN OPPOSITE VIEW.

Sir,—So much has been written about 'call changes' that one seems to be incited to lose sight of the true position. Without reference to what has been said, may I be allowed to state:—

(a) Call change ringing as practised in the West is quite a different affair from 'half-pull' ringing. There is no treble rest and the bells run round in monotonous regularity. There is no 'beat' nor rhythm. Each ringer sets a fixed eye on one rope, or if he rings by ear, hangs his head and gazes to the floor. There is no intelligent rope sight, and only the mind of the foreman is really working. Even so many 'call change' ringers are first-class strikers.

(b) There is no 'running' down or hunting up in call change ringing. When a change is called one bell holds up, the other cuts in and 60 changes occupy 15 minutes as a rule. There is no flexibility, nor movement of any bell in a course at all, and rope sight from a 'hunting' point of view is ignored. There is nothing dynamic about the performance, indeed it is almost completely static, and if a young ringer is led to become proficient as a call change ringer he is likely to become a poor 'placer' of his bell when hunting.

(c) Scientific rounds are different from call change rounds, because the pull is at back and not at hand, and it is almost true to say that if rounds are much practised the call change habit of pulling at hand will develop.

The way of bringing young ringers along is by cultivation of rope sight by hunting, and the practice of half-pull work as early as possible. Dodging should be practised in many positions up and down before any plain course is attempted. The call change ringer never looks at the ropes as a whole like the method ringer has to do, and if call changes be practised a different sort of change should be called. A well-known ringer in the West while training a band used a series of such call dodges and the effect outside was really pleasing.

I could ring call changes fairly well at an early age, and I do emphasise that this static method is not good for the development of the dynamic, ever-changing half-pull ringing, where quick intelligence of rope sight is the all important factor.

What the average outside listener thinks is another matter; the ordinary person is generally unable to distinguish how many bells are used in the Bow Bells time signal of the B.B.C.; the Queens positions pass unnoticed. I think, however, that there is appreciation of the rhythmic cadence when Stedman is well struck. 'We don't do it that way,' Mr. Tyler, of Henfield, once said to a very keen and humble static ringer, and that is the whole story.

FREDK. C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okchampton.

### CALL CHANGES HELP TO PRODUCE GOOD STRIKING.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the recent articles in your paper dealing with the points 'for and against' the use of call changes, and while I myself am no call change enthusiast, I should like to say how valuable I have found this type of ringing in teaching beginners.

I am in charge of a large band of ringers, the majority of whom are young boys and girls, and I have found in every case that after they have learnt to pull a bell and to ring in 'rounds,' the practising of call changes has given them that extra confidence in handling their bells, which most beginners seem to need. Call changes have, too, helped tremendously in producing good striking, because each learner could hear the sound of the bell he or she was ringing for several blows, with the result that when they commenced change ringing on the bells, they had learned to listen, and there was no real bad striking. They were remarkably quick in getting used to the

idea of 'half-pull' ringing, which I think goes to show that call changes are a valuable link between rounds and change ringing.

If it had not been for the use of call changes, our ten bells might have remained silent on a Sunday for a considerable period, but while my pupils were going all out with change ringing on the practice nights, they were ringing the ten bells to call changes Sunday by Sunday and getting great pleasure out of it. The band has often been congratulated on the good striking and music which it has put over on a Sunday.

On one occasion I was outside the tower while my band was ringing the ten bells to call changes, and I am bound to say that the striking and music were really grand.

O. L. ASHBROOK.

Isleworth.

### A SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT.

Dear Sir,—The controversy over call changes recalls to me an incident which took place some years ago when I was, staying in a country district of Yorkshire.

The village church had five fairly heavy bells; there was a long draught of rope, and the bells went badly. The ringers were keen on their work and rang call changes not very well, but perhaps as well as most bands would have done on those bells.

They told me that a visiting band had once done some change ringing on their bells, but they knew nothing whatever about it. I showed them how they could produce some variety by dodging, and that was all one could do in a single lesson. The general opinion not only of the ringers themselves, but also of a group of villagers outside, was that this 'new' way of ringing sounded much better than the old way.

R. O. STREET.

Glasgow.

### CASE TOO STRONG TO DEMOLISH.

Dear Sir,—Though I am all in favour of the introduction of a little light reading in 'The Ringing World,' I think most of your readers will agree with me that Mr. Drake as a comic writer is a dismal failure. Before we have quite recovered from his efforts on 'Rows and changes,' he tries to take us on another wild goose chase about call changes. Is he really trying to be serious? If so, how can he, a self-confessed had striker, presume to offer advice on how to obtain good striking? And how can he, who admits he cannot recognise the tune of the National Anthem, presume to speak on behalf of musical people?

The case for the use of call changes in instruction has already been proved to be far too strong for Mr. Drake to demolish it.

Bath.

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

### R. EVERGREEN CRITICISES PARSON DRAKE.

To Mister Iditer.

Dere Zur,—I 'ave read, as best I can, my spees bein' broke, a lot o' to-do in your paper lately about call changes and Parson Drake. Well, thinks I, if you could vind room vor it, I'd kinda like ta critecise 'im a bit if you da unnerstand what I do mano.

Now I've ringed a goodish bit in me time all over the place. Done a bit along o' the call changers out west and these yer splaced zurpizes up Lunnon an' all sarts a ringing, good, had an' half dacent all over the show.

I listened to and ringed in zum call changes wi' the Devonshire byes an' rale injined and I ringed zum Stedman's Triples out Suffolk way wi' Parson Drake an' didn't injiy it.

Until I read this yer letter o' 'is I cudn't onnerstand why the feller cud never kape in 'is place, but now I do zee. Ec ony shifted quarter o' the way the vust stroke an' then got isselt right in about your strokes. Why dang me, time ee was got right the zix was over an ee 'ad ta start gittin' 'isselt right vor the next 'un. Noo wonder ee cud never kape 'isselt noowhere. Thicky feller Bailey knowed a bit about 'un I reckon, he what ee wrote.

The bit what zurpized I most were Parson Drake zaying as 'ow Parson Law James tayed 'im to ring. They allus telled I Parson Law James done a wunnerful lot a good vor ringing.

Now, Mister Iditer, zur, us do injiy radin yore paper a mighty lot, but it do git a bit gutty at times to git Parson Drake's argymnts over nuthin' continually dished up at us. Kape 'em for thicky Council mating you do 'ave onct a yer.

They must be a grand gurt lot o' bells they be 'aving out Liverpool, an' what a shame thicky church got burned down in New Forest. Us must zend thicky Parson a bob or two towards a noo un. Wonder 'ow 'ee come to ketch alight?—Your'ne Respekfully,

R. EVERGREEN.

Lower Ditchwater Varm, Waterditch. Zunday.

### HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

While the ban remains upon the ringing of church bells, handbells are regularly rung before the services at Darley Dale Church, Derbyshire. The ringers are fortunate in having a set of handbells and a suitable belfry for handbell ringing, which is open to the nave of the church. The handbells are rung before each Sunday service, partly as an incentive to the band to keep together until the tower bells can be rung again. The ringing has consisted of rounds on 10 bells, Grandsire Triples, Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles in the way of change ringing, and it is much appreciated by the congregation.



## BELLS, METHODS AND BEARINGS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There must be hundreds of little villages where hang a peal of bells, but where there are no local ringers. What condition are these rings going to be in by the time we can resume activity again?

It means that without a steeplekeeper the gudgeons of many bells will be coated with red rust and will be practically unringable, if this war lasts for a long period.

I suggest that Masters of all associations approach the Bishops of their dioceses with a view to *instructing* (not requesting) all incumbents to have their bell fittings oiled and greased. Almost every diocese has a church magazine and the instruction to all parsons could be inserted in this paper.

The only diversions of ringers these days are handbells and talks, and we have much time now to examine our successes and failures as far as progress is concerned, for without progress our art would soon fade out. And I am reminded of Mr. J. E. Bailey's question of a few weeks back on why East Anglian ringers favour even bell ringing. Look at it how you like and as far back as you like. I think I am right in saying that whatever method on any number of bells you may desire to ring you can be almost certain of attaining your desire in East Anglia.

Where change ringing is practised in a tower in the Eastern Counties you may be sure of, at least, three of the standard methods being rung. Go to some other parts of the country and you find one method only, year in and year out. I refer to Grandsire. East Anglian ringers are invariably taught on an even number of bells, from four upwards. The steps to Bob Major are gradual and simple. And after Bob Major how much longer is it before a ringer can grasp Treble Bob, and after Treble Bob how far is it to Double Norwich?

I say, and always have said, it is better to learn Plain Bob first. The lowest number of bells you can practise Grandsire on being five, it becomes bewildering to a learner when he is put on to Triples. One extra bell at a time is ample. And what do you find in towers where nothing but odd bell ringing is practised? Dozens of tenor-men who have no desire to go further than 'blowing.' There is no need for me to state why progress is retarded in odd-bell method towers. In the whole of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex I doubt whether you will find a dozen men whose only abilities are 'blowing.'

A lot of bands get hold of Grandsire pretty quickly and they are all keyed up to try Stedman and then the fun begins. It's a bigger job going from Grandsire to Stedman than from Bob Major to Treble Bob. A bigger job for the bell caller and a bigger job for the conductor. Many struggling Stedman companies abandon the method and have to be content with Grandsire, and what was once a budding change ringing band is broken up, solely owing to lack of progress.

Personally, I like to hear a touch of Grandsire or Stedman on any number of bells, but I think these methods are *overdone*. I remember one Sunday morning, when ringing for service, there was about seven minutes before tolling-in time and our conductor suggested a bob course of Stedman Cinques. I took courage and said to him, 'I've never heard a *plain* course of Stedman Cinques. Will you oblige?' He did and I can truthfully say I thoroughly enjoyed it. Lots of readers will know why!

One more little matter. The latest craze is ball bearings. The bell-founders love them and the ringers humbly submit. So far no one has openly voiced his firm opinion on this so-called 'advancement' in bell hanging.

I speak from experience and I dare to suggest that 90 per cent. of ringers are against the hanging of bells in ball bearings.

This matter is, I consider, an important one and many ringers are now beginning to realise it. We are the men who have to do the pulling, and if we consider that bells run better on plain bearings, then let us up and say so and make a general protest against bell bearings.

'DORKEN.'

### THE LATE MR. W. A. CAVE'S PEALS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In addition to the associations shown, the late Mr. W. A. Cave rang in a few peals for the Middlesex County Association, including one of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, on February 27th, 1926, and one of London Surprise Major at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on February 27th, 1929. By a strange coincidence, both of these peals were rung on the same day of the year. He also rang in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by a band of 'Williams' at St. Mary's, Ealing, on February 22nd, 1936. It is possible that these peals are included in the totals published, as the list was sent, by request, to Bristol some time ago.

C. T. COLES.

## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

### FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

When you have learnt how to ring 1-2 to a course of Grandsire Triples, the next best thing, if the conditions of your band will admit it, is to learn how to ring 3-4 to a course. That is not how bands as a rule do actually go to work. Usually, when a man starts on 1-2, he keeps to that pair until he is able to ring them satisfactorily to touches or even peals. No doubt, so long as the same four men can meet and practise together it is, for their immediate purposes, better for each to stick to his own pair, but in the long run it is not a very good thing for the ringer of the trebles.

A man who has learnt double-handed ringing on 1-2 usually finds it difficult to adapt himself to the altered conditions when he attempts to ring 3-4 or 5-6, and not seldom this disability lasts for years; so much so that many people think it is a harder thing to ring an inside pair than to ring the trebles. That is not necessarily so. It is usually a question of which pair the man has started with. So if your aim is to be a really competent handbell ringer, when you begin do your best, consistent with the interests of your band, to get as much practice as possible on all four pairs.

Write out another full course of Grandsire Triples and draw lines, one black, the other red, along the paths of the third and fourth. Do not imagine that this is taking too much unnecessary trouble. As we explained in our issue of December 15th last, the task of pricking changes is not a difficult one or a monotonous one. If done in the right way it has its own interest, and it will fully repay any trouble taken.

When you have drawn the lines along the two paths, study them as a whole in the same way you would study a single line if you were 'swotting' up a method to ring in the steeple. You will find that for the greater part of the course the two bells, 3 and 4, course each other, and the rules for ringing them are the same as those you used when you rang the trebles. But just as in the tower, the work of the third consists of plain hunting with certain exceptions, so here the work of the third and fourth consists of plain hunting (with one bell striking between the two) and certain exceptions.

Directly the bells go into changes the third makes third's place, the fourth strikes one blow in fifths, and the two are in the position to follow one another in plain hunting. This they do until the third, hunting down, has to dodge 4-5. But as, when the third is dodging in 4-5 down, the fourth has to dodge in 6-7 down, the relative positions of the two are unaltered, and it is quite easy to treat the works of two as one, watching the position of that which strikes first and striking the other at an interval of one blow.

All this is quite simple and, indeed, obvious, but we stress it because almost the whole art of double-handed ringing consists in being able to combine the works of the two bells, and to ring them as if they were one. If you learn to do this with 3-4 in Grandsire Triples, you

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have begun to learn how to do it in Stedman Triples or Double Norwich Major.

At the next lead end the two bells are in 6-7 and they dodge together. Here take careful note of which bell should come away first from the back. You know, of course, that in the plain course it is the third, but when, later on, you are attempting a touch or a peal, you will not necessarily know so easily, and if you are not alert you can easily change your hands—one of the pitfalls into which the handbell ringer can most easily fall, and without himself or his companions noticing it until too late.

The plain hunting continues (with a dodge in 4-5 and 6-7 up) until the end of the last lead but one, and now we have some work entirely different from what we have had up to now. The third leads, the fourth turns it and leads, and then the treble turns the fourth. Your two bells hunt up until they strike in third's and fifth's. Then the fourth makes third's place and the third dodges in 4-5 up, so that they strike together thus—0143000. And now the fourth returns to lead while the third hunts up behind. This parts the two bells; they no longer hunt with one blow between them, but are parted in coursing order by the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt. Why this happens you can learn by studying the articles on coursing order which we printed last September, and it will help you with your handbell ringing if you study those articles.

Note carefully how, after the fourth has made third's place, your two bells get parted wider and wider as one goes to lead and the other hunts up behind. First they strike next each other; then there are two blows between them; then four; then five (as the fourth finishes its whole pull on the lead and the third strikes its first blow behind); then four; and now the pair begin to come together again until they meet and cross in 4-5. They strike together first at handstroke (4-3) and change and strike 3-4 at backstroke, after which they separate and get wider and wider apart until the third leads and they begin to come together again and meet in 3-4.

Then the third makes third's place, the fourth dodges in 4-5 down, and the two fall once more into the plain hunting with one blow between them. The special point to notice is where the two cross each other's path and how they do it—at handstroke or backstroke. This is one of the important things in ringing two handbells, whatever they are.

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## NOTICES.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A meeting will be held at Drighlington on Saturday, July 27th, at 6.30 p.m. All towers are expected to send a representative to discuss the society's future.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—The quarterly meeting arranged for July 27th at West Meon is cancelled.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield, Hants.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The meeting of the Grimsby District, which should have been held on Saturday, July 27th, at Burton-on-Stather, is cancelled.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on July 30th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint gathering will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30 p.m. to walk through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by handbell ringing and social evening at the Duke's Head, at 5.30. If wet, handbells available in Leatherhead Church belfry from 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, July 30th. All members are requested to give this venture their fullest support. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton, and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—We hope to see you at the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, August 3rd, for handbell ringing, and to decide on future arrangements. Please do your best to come along and help keep the guild alive.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 10th, at the Institute, Bushey, at 3, for social gossip and handbells. Open to all interested in ringing.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at St. James' Church, Milnrow, at 7 p.m. Members, please note date and place. Handbells will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

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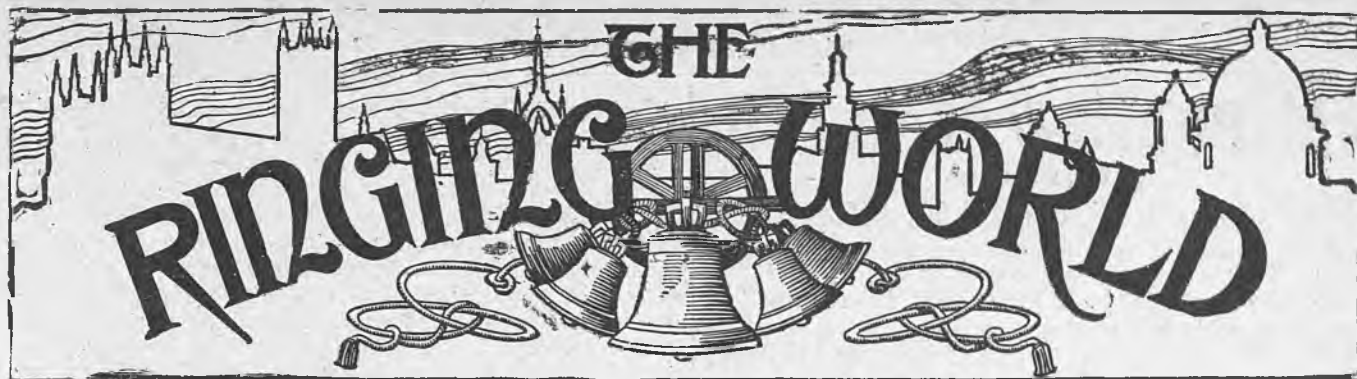
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## THE BAN.

The difficulties in connection with using church bells for the purpose of an alarm in connection with any attempted invasion from the air is, we believe, beginning to be brought home to the authorities responsible for the Order imposing a ban on ordinary ringing. In individual cases local clergy have made it known to those upon whom would fall the duty of ordering the bells to be rung, that to give effect to the Order would not be as simple as it appears to the uninitiated, and on Monday two leading London newspapers voiced what 'The Ringing World' has continually been saying as to the absence of instructions and the risks attendant upon the use of the bells by inexperienced people. Apart from the doubtful effectiveness of the alarm, it is indeed remarkable that proper instructions have not been issued as to the action to be taken by the public when they hear a bell denoting the arrival of parachutists, and still more strange is it that even now, six weeks after the Order, hundreds, if not thousands, of parishes are without any information of the official arrangements for the ringing of the alarm bell. It is proof, we think, that the decision which led to the Order was never very well considered. The desire to give the public a distinctive warning was uppermost in mind, and church bells were thought to be a suitable means. What was really involved, however, can scarcely have occurred to those who had the 'brain wave' about utilising the bells. Ringers would be quite content with the silencing of the bells in the national interests, if they believed that proper arrangements existed for making effective use of them in the contemplated emergency, but as things are at present they realise how futile the whole thing is likely to be.

One of the first steps that ought to be taken by the authorities is to make proper plans in every parish to have a competent person always available to give the alarm. The writer in the 'Daily Telegraph,' whom we quote elsewhere, very adequately, as a layman, sets out the dangers of any attempt by an uninitiated person to try to swing church bells, and this information is one of the first things which the authorities should have obtained before they decided on church bells as an alarm signal. The information was there for the asking; indeed, we have good reason to suppose that it was given to a certain departmental staff before the Order was signed. Official knowledge, however, seems to have gone no further than that a bell has a rope attached, and if the rope is pulled the bell ought to make a noise, therefore

(Continued on page 362.)

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the church bell is the thing to use as an alarm, because there is at least one church bell in every parish. Beyond prescribing that bells shall be sounded only in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's forces, or the chief of police for the area, there are no instructions, either for the public or for those who supposedly are to ring the bells. Is it that the authorities are beginning to realise that the effectiveness of the scheme is questionable, and they are therefore no longer interested in making it function efficiently?

In consultation with church authorities and those who understand the technicalities of ringing, an alarm signal by means of the bells could have been arranged, for what it is worth, without stopping the use of the bells, at any rate for the Sunday services. There is no question that in innumerable places the absence of the bells on Sundays is keenly felt. Indeed, their usefulness for this purpose through long years is now being realised; for, despite the fact that this is an age of clocks and wireless time signals, there are more latecomers to the services than ever before. Incidentally, therefore, let it not be said again that bells are out of date for calling people to church. They will still have their part to play when wars have ceased and bells come once again into their own. In the meantime, however, there is no reason why representations should not be made to the proper quarter to get a modification of the ban, without in any way reducing whatever effectiveness in the way of an alarm the bells can provide. It is only a matter of organisation, in which ringers everywhere would be glad to co-operate. The idea behind the scheme was well intentioned, but the absence of any constructive planning has left it in a state of almost complete futility. Again, we ask, what are the public to do when the alarm is rung? They are no wiser now than they were when the Order was made six weeks ago. Why is there still no organisation which details the persons to ring the bells, or even to make the key of the belfry immediately available if it is needed? These and other questions must be answered if the warning, which the bells are intended to give, is to be of the least value.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, July 23, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7-8

\*EDWIN JENNINGS ... 9-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

\* First peal of Royal on handbells. Edwin Jennings' 250th peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 21, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY, WHITECHAPEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 7-8

Composed by E. WHITEMAN. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.



## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

### JOHN GARTHON'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The reputation of Norwich bells and ringers stood very high at the beginning of the eighteenth century. In 1723 a writer declared that the tower of St. Peter Mancroft contained 'eight bells, as perhaps have not their fellows, considering their musical notes and the persons by whom they are rung, who may challenge (without vanity) any eight men in England, for ringing is practised nowhere else for number of changes and truth of ringing.'

This pre-eminence the Norwich Scholars owed in large degree to their leader, John Garthon, who has earned an honourable place in the history of the Exercise as the first man to compose and conduct a true peal. Very little information about him has come down to us. We do not know what sort of a man he was, what his station in life was, or whether he was learned or illiterate. We know he died in June, 1728, and was buried in St. Gregory's Churchyard. You will not find his place of sepulchre to-day. Generation after generation of parishioners had been buried in that tiny plot until the surface of the ground was raised six feet and more above the level of the surrounding street, and the grass grew rank among the mouldering tombstones. And now it has all been cleared away.

The first actual performance in the city of which we have any notice was in 1710, when a half-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter's. The composition most likely was from the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia,' and during the next three or four years the whole peal was twice rung, almost certainly the same composition, for it was admitted that there was repetition of changes.

But now John Garthon set himself the task of composing a true peal, and on May 2nd, 1715, 'The Ringers called Norwich Scholars' rang 'that most Incomparable Peal called Gransir Bob Triples,' 'the first whole Peal that ever was Rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever.' Garthon rang the treble and called the bobs.

Thomas Gardiner, who rang the sixth, was almost the last of the long line of Norwich bell founders. The ringer of the seventh was William Dixon, and nearly forty years later a Norwich ringer of the same name was the first man to call Holt's Original and ring at the same time. The other men in the band were Isaac Pearce, John Briggs, James Brookes, David Sanneville and Robert Woodcock.

The figures of Garthon's peal are lost, and we cannot be sure what was rung; but, though later generations of ringers, especially in London, professed to believe it was false, we can be reasonably certain of its truth; for there are sufficient indications to enable us to make a pretty accurate guess as to what it was like.

It was called Grandsire Bob and, though the name came, in time, to be used somewhat loosely, originally it was not just another name for Plain Bob. It was the title of that particular extent of Bob Minor which we now call the standard 720. We may, therefore, fairly assume that Garthon's peal of Triples was an attempt to extend the Minor composition to seven bells. Secondly, we may be certain that it was constructed by hunts. The treble was the whole-hunt, and the big bells, the seventh, sixth and fifth, came home at regular intervals.

The use of hunts was the greatest general discovery in composition during the seventeenth century, and men

used them to produce extents just as competent present-day composers use Q sets. Garthon's second peal, that of Grandsire Triples, is an excellent example of their use, and a few years later, when Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane were waging a wordy warfare in the columns of the 'Norwich Gazette' over the composition of Stedman Triples, Crane appealed to the memory of John Garthon, and asserted that all methods that are 'proper' 'bring their great bells home at the proper time.'

If, then, John Garthon attempted to extend the standard 720 of Bob Minor to Triples, using hunts, how did he set to work?

In the first place he took the seventh as the half-hunt and left the work of that bell undisturbed. Older composers would have taken the second, but it is pretty certain from the Grandsire Triples and from Crane's letter that Garthon took the seventh.

Next he must fix the work of the sixth as the quarter-hunt. That bell had to fall into every possible combination of positions with the whole and half-hunts and to come home at the end, which meant that the whole peal was divided into twelve equal parts corresponding to the twelve courses of Bob Minor.

We cannot be sure how he made the sixth complete its revolution, but if he studied the 720 of Minor he would notice that the normal thing is for a bob to be made at every lead end when the half-hunt is above fourth's place. If he did the same thing in Triples he would get exactly the block he wanted for his part.

He has next to make the fifth, the half-quarter-hunt, perform its revolution, and here he could stick closely to the 720. There the 6th is called W.R.W. If in his five-course block he does the same thing (only since there are already bobs at every lead end he must omit instead of calling), he would find that the fifth had performed its proper revolution and a 10-course block was produced which, five times repeated, with a single half-way and end would give him his complete and true peal.

It all seems to us now quite clear and simple, but we must not assume that it was equally clear and simple to Garthon. Simple truths, when they are unfamiliar, are not usually the most obvious. Garthon had to devote 'long study and practice' to the matter, and, although he undoubtedly did argue something like the foregoing, he reached his conclusion by a much longer route. His peal may have been somewhat

more complicated in the actual working out, but all the indications seem to show that it was exactly as I have given it; for in essentials it is the same composition as that on which the original Plain changes were founded.

Since 1715 only one other peal of Bob Triples has ever been rung at Mancroft or, indeed, in any steeple in Norwich. I called it myself in 1896, and it is to me a very interesting coincidence that it was the same composition, though I did not know it at the time.

23456	M.	W.	R.
60000	—	—	—
00600	—	—	—
06000	—	—	—
00060	—	—	—
00006	—	—	—

23456 W. R.

45236	—	—
34256	—	—

234567 M. W. R.

642357	—	—	—
52643	—	—	—
36524	—	—	—
53462	—	—	—
452367	—	—	—
624537	—	—	—
34625	—	—	—
56342	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—
423567	—	—	—

## BELLS AS AN INVASION ALARM.

### WHO WILL GIVE THE WARNING?

#### The Risks of Inexperience.

'The Daily Telegraph' on Monday directed attention to the absence of instructions from the Government on the subject of the use of church bells as a warning in the event of air invasion. In an article by their own reporter, this influential London newspaper, under the heading, 'Church Bell Problem: Experts Needed,' said:—

'Inquiry among the clergy shows that no precise instructions have been given on the Government order to discontinue the use of church bells except as an alarm against parachutists.

'It was stated that the bells would in future be rung only by the military or the Local Defence Volunteers. For the most part, however, the clergy have received no instructions and no requests for giving access at all times to the bells.

'Moreover, it appears to have been overlooked that the ringing of bells requires much practice and skill. When the anticipated emergency arises there is likely to be bewilderment and exasperation in the belfry when an inexperienced soldier or volunteer tries to give the alarm. He will pull the rope, but no sound will be heard. The harder he pulls the less likely he is to make the bell ring.

'On the other hand, the bell set for ringing can be made to speak with very little effort by the practised bellringer, but the novice who pulls the rope with the bell in its proper ringing position runs the growing risk of wringing his own neck.

'A bell rope whipping round the belfry with a ton weight of metal agitating it is like a live thing and very dangerous. It is also possible for the inexpert ringer to be carried up and to crack his skull on the belfry roof.

'It would seem a wise plan to have enlisted bellringers for the express purpose of sounding the tocsin. It is estimated that there are about 35,000 in England, almost all of whom would be only too glad to give their services.'

#### CENTRAL COUNCIL SECRETARY INTERVIEWED.

On Monday, 'The Evening Standard' devoted an article to the same subject, and one of the newspaper's reporters gave the result of several interviews which he had had. He wrote that the clergy throughout the country are asking the War Office to give more explicit information regarding the use of church bells as an alarm. 'They are faced with such questions as: What will happen if the church is locked and the Vicar is away? Will the military or police force the door open?

'The reporter interviewed the secretary of the Central Council, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, who told him he hoped that the authorities would employ some of the 40,000 ringers of the country on rota duties in churches.

Mr. Fletcher, who is in the Home Guard, said he had received no instructions that he should ring the bells if he considered it necessary, nor have arrangements been made with the vicar of his church.

Mrs. Fletcher, secretary to the Ladies' Guild, told the reporter:— 'Bellringers throughout the country are anxious to help. But at the moment instructions by the authorities are so vague that in many cases the clergy have not been told what to do.

'The ringing of a peal is a job for experts. Anyone uninitiated would find great difficulty in producing a sound, except with a small bell, and there is the danger of an inexperienced person being injured.'

The secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury informed the reporter that the whole question was a matter for local adjustment. If proper arrangements had not been made, the local clergy should see the military or the police and obtain an understanding. Preparations may have been made in some cases, but not in others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury advised the bishops of the dioceses, and it was left to the bishops to make arrangements in their own areas.

#### IF THE COLONEL BUMPS HIS HEAD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Has anyone thought what would happen if there is an alarm at night and police or soldiers have to go up into a belfry which has not been blacked out? It seems to me that either they would do damage or break their necks or fall in their object or break the law by showing a brilliant light across the country.

They might do any or all of these things, and who would be responsible? Could the parson be held responsible for neglect if the policeman fell down the belfry stairs because there was no light upon them; and suppose the colonel himself went up to pull the bell, but instead was pulled up and cracked his head against the ceiling. What then? All the possibilities involved are worse than working out a method and would give one a headache. But not so bad a headache as the colonel would get.

F. H. SMITH.

#### L.D.V.'s AT THE CHURCH TOWER.

Dear Sir,—I feel it my duty to report to you that at Newcastle-under-Lyme the L.D.V.'s have been stationed at the church tower since Tuesday, July 16th.

To prevent any system of clocking of the bells, I have been along to the tower and have given them a short instruction how to chime a bell.

As you already know, with having the clappers out of the front six bells, it was easy for me to instruct them.

ANDREW THOMPSON.

## CHURCH BELLS AS ALARMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think there is a great misunderstanding with a great many people as to what the alarm bell is going to be rung for. As I understand it is not being rung to warn the public, but the police and military. I am on duty two nights a week and our orders are to ring the bell if anything is seen to fall from an enemy plane until the police arrive and also inform them in which direction they have been seen to fall.

I cannot see why they should prevent us from ringing a peal of bells on Sunday. People would know the difference between one bell and a peal.

It is not Sunday unless we hear the bells, and we ringers are lost without some ringing at week-ends. I must say our tower is a very good look-out post. Standing on very high ground, it is a landmark for miles around.

E. C. GOBEY.

## SILENT BELLS.

### A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—'Let England hear the bells again.' I quite agree that safety first is most essential, but everything should be done to keep up the morale of the people, and, even if the ringing of our church bells was banned for peals, practices and meetings, if they could be rung for Sunday morning service between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m. it would have a very reassuring effect not only on the worshippers, but also on the general public. If an order was made and understood that the danger signal would be only when the tenor and treble bells were used together, then if those two bells were raised just enough to clapper on both sides and rung together, they would have a very distinguishing effect; they would be easy to manipulate, and, being the official signal and conforming to rule throughout the country, would be understood by all.

If the signal was wanted whilst ringing for the morning service was in progress it could easily be switched over to the danger signal at once.

WILLIAM HALE.

Roseleigh, The Leigh, near Gloucester.

## RINGING IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Even in peace time ringing in Scotland is not practised to the extent it is in England. There are only very few towers with ringing peals in the whole of the country, the public do not take kindly to the ringing of bells, and most of the towers are compelled to practice on a silent apparatus, which consists of small bells fixed on the wall of the ringing room.

Peal attempts are very restricted, the only ringing being Sunday service ringing and not too much of that.

This silent system of practice has always in peace time been considered a drawback, but now when all bells are silent it would seem that we Scottish ringers have an advantage, and I sincerely trust it will be made use of, for it means that all towers fitted with this system can carry on practices along with handbell ringing and so keep the good work going.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, the band has kept up its practices since the commencement of war, and even now are ringing every Thursday evening Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Boh Major, Treble Boh, and Cambridge Minor and Major, and on handbells from Plain Bob to touches of Stedman Caters.

There may be ringers who are stationed in this district, and the St. Mary's band extend a welcome to all visitors and men in the Forces to the Thursday practices at 7.30. If they wish to get in touch with the secretary, his address is E. A. Stafford, 77, Caldwell Avenue, Glasgow, W.3.

W. H. PICKETT, Master, Scottish Association.

## KENT RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

### CELEBRATION AT WICKHAMBREAU.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Smith, of Wickhambreaux, Kent, have recently celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Smith, who has been so actively connected with Wickham for a great number of years, having lived all his life in the village, is a well-known and much respected member of the Kent County Association, and for a number of years was a representative for the Canterbury District of this association, where he worked among a wide circle of friends.

During his long ringing career Mr. Smith has been responsible for turning out many good recruits for the Exercise, and his activities have not been altogether confined to his 'home town' in this respect, as many other towers will testify with appreciation.

Although naturally saddened by the silencing of the bells, Mr. Smith takes pride in his past achievements and boasts of his 50 years' non-break festival ringing.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are still enjoying good health, and their many friends, particularly those perhaps who have been privileged to enjoy the hospitality of 'The cottage on the Green,' will wish them well and congratulate them on this grand anniversary.

**SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT MONK'S KIRBY.****DOES HANDBELL RINGING ALARM THE PUBLIC?**

The quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Monk's Kirby on July 20th at The Denbigh Arms. Upwards of twenty members and friends attended.

In the absence of the Master (Mr. J. H. W. White) through illness, Mr. D. H. Argyle took the chair at the business meeting.

Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting, at which the hon. secretary was asked to express sympathy with Mr. A. Wilkerson, a former secretary, in his illness, Mrs. Beannish reported that she had received a letter of thanks from Mr. Wilkerson, who was progressing favourably. (Incidentally, Mr. Wilkerson has now accepted the position of vergier at Nuneaton Parish Church.)

The next item on the agenda, meeting places for August, September and October, provided much discussion, and eventually it was decided to hold the meetings monthly as usual in the form of social evenings with handbell ringing, etc., beginning at 6 p.m.

Mr. W. Stote spoke very strongly on the subject of handbell ringing and hoped the 'experts' would not monopolise them, but that everyone should keep in practice by ringing one bell each if necessary. Several members voiced their approval of this procedure, and a subsequent attempt for a touch of Grandsire Triples was successful, single-handed except for the tenors. Courses of Cambridge Minor and Major and Stedman Caters were also rung.

Rugby was fixed for the August meeting, Nuneaton for September, and Coventry for October.

Mr. E. Stone voiced the sympathy of the members with Mr. James George, a former Master of the Guild, in his serious illness, and the secretary is to inform Mr. George and wish him a speedy recovery.

The towers represented were Allesley, Bilton, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Rugby, Shilton, Stoke-in-Coventry and visitors from Croft.

The change ringing was interspersed with songs delightfully rendered by Mrs. A. E. Monk, of Chatham, who is staying with the hon. secretary for the 'duration.'

Just before the meeting the hotel proprietor informed the hon. secretary that the police had asked him to see that handbells were not rung as alarm might be caused. It was suggested that permission should be obtained from Rugby Police Station. A 'phone call was put through and permission sought. This was a real teaser. The constable said he would ask the sergeant. The sergeant wondered if we could possibly manage without the handbells. How loud were they? Could they be heard in the street? How long did we intend to ring? Finally the inspector was approached, who, after looking up regulation (his and paragraph that, said that we might ring if we took every precaution against alarming the public.

All these precautions to ring handbells in the upper room at the back of a small village hostelry!

D. E. B.

**CONSECUTIVE FIFTHS.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—No wonder 'Musician' was astounded at the idea of consecutive fifths in ringing: I hope he will not mind my trying to explain what they are, for the benefit of any who do not know. The term has to do with harmony (in its technical sense), when two or more notes are sounded at once, which cannot (or ought not!) to happen in ringing. A fifth is when the first and last of a series of five following notes are struck at once, and they produce a two part harmony: but if you strike one fifth immediately after another, you get a discord. Probably many readers who, like myself, cannot play the piano know the names of the notes: and if anyone will strike, for example, C G at once and follow it at once with D A or F C or another fifth, he will find that it produces a horrible discord. I am not learned enough to say why this is, but know it as a fact. The forbidding of consecutive fifths is one of the most elementary rules of harmony.

W. C. B.

**MUSICAL EFFECTS.**

Sir,—Although I have not had much experience of tall changes, Mr. Drake's arguments against them appear to me to be very unconvincing. The one leading to the conclusion that the better they are struck the worse they sound seems to imply that all changes, by themselves, are unmusical, and while it must be admitted that some are less musical than others, I am of the opinion that the majority, whether produced by call changes or otherwise, are pleasing to the ear, some very much so, and will not only bear repetition, but sound all the better for being well struck.

The statement with regard to consecutive fifths or thirds is unintelligible, to me, at any rate. Far from being discords, these intervals are recognised as the most perfect chords obtainable in music, and the objection to consecutive fifths (I have never heard of any to consecutive thirds, which are very common in music) is in no way due to their being, considered discordant. In any case, fifths in the sense implied, either consecutive or otherwise, are never produced in bellringing, because they involve two notes being sounded simultaneously, whereas in changes each blow (assuming good striking) is struck separately, the difference being that between harmony and melody. It would be interesting to know what the lady meant by 'ringing consecutive fifths.' Tittums on eight bells (15263748) might perhaps come under that description (although not in the sense which 'musicians especially dread'), but could not, I am sure, be considered unpleasant or discordant, even if repeated a number of times.

G. A. PECK.

Claygate, Surrey.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Holman, of 15, Elm Lane, Sheffield, who on Sunday celebrate their golden wedding. They were married on August 4th, 1890, at St. John's Church, Waddingborough, Lincolnshire.

John Holman has, for many years, been one of Sheffield's most prominent ringers, and has many friends in the Exercise outside as well as in the county of broad acres.

Mr. W. F. J. Cope, hon. secretary of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, has been transferred from P.O. Telephones to the Admiralty and is now stationed at Gosport. The affairs of the Guildford District have been temporarily taken over by Mr. G. L. Grover, hon. secretary of the Guild.

On August 3rd, 1735, the new ring of twelve bells which had been cast by Samuel Knight were opened at St. Saviour's, Southwark, by the College Youths.

A notable record was set up on August 5th, 1929, when 15,312 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne in 11 hours and 33 minutes by a mixed band drawn from various parts of the country. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. It still remains the longest peal of Maximus ever rung.

As we go to Press, we learn with great pleasure that Mr. James George has had a marvellous recovery from his late serious operation. He has already been out on crutches for a short time, and it is expected that he will be leaving the hospital shortly.

## CHALLIS WINNEY MEMORIAL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sending an amended list of subscribers to the Winney Memorial Fund, to all of whom I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation.

A. B. PECK.

J. H. B. Hesse, Haslemere, £1 1s.; St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich (per G. E. Symonds), 10s.; T. Haslam, Kendal, 5s.; W. J. Nevard, Great Bentley, 2s. 6d.; E. J. Rowe, Warminster, 2s. 6d.; W. H. Lawrence, Little Munden, 1s.; T. Groombridge, sen., Chislehurst, 2s. 6d.; T. Groombridge, jun., Crayford, 5s.; E. Jennings, Bushey, 2s.; F. White, Tunbridge Wells, 5s.; C. George, Watford, 2s. 6d.; J. C. Mitchell, West Norwood, 5s.; W. H. L. Buckingham, St. Albans, 5s.; E. H. Lewis, Brasted, 5s.; George Williams, Easleigh, 5s.; E. A. Young, Bromley, 10s.; Rev. W. P. Bickford and Mrs. Bickford, St. Clement's, £1 1s.; Miss Doris Bryant, St. Clement Danes, 5s.; Mrs. Wilkins, Clifton, Bristol, 2s. 6d.

## LANCASHIRE RINGER'S SILVER WEDDING.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. GARSIDE.

Ringers of St. George's Parish Church, Mossley, Lancashire, accompanied by their wives and other friends, spent a pleasant evening on Saturday, July 20th, at the invitation of Mr. Ernest Garside, one of the ringers, and Mrs. Garside, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding day. Supper was served at Clayton's Cafe, and afterwards Mr. Harold Jackson proposed the toast to Mr. and Mrs. Garside. He expressed the good wishes of his colleagues and spoke of the positions which Mr. Garside had held in connection with the church and school. Mr. S. Hirst, a friend, also congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Garside.

Mr. Henry Pickles, the ringers' secretary, in a happy speech, made a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Garside on behalf of the ringers. The gift was an electric reading lamp.

In accepting the present, Mr. Garside remarked that he and his wife were married in war time, but never thought that they would have their silver wedding in another war time. He thanked the ringers for the beautiful present and mentioned that on their wedding day 25 years ago the ringers had presented them with a clock. The clock, which was a replica of a church, had not cost them ten shillings in repairs in all these years.

The rest of the evening was spent in a social manner. Mr. Garside told of some humorous experiences which had occurred in his life, which greatly amused the company. Community singing was indulged in to the music of two accordions, played by two of the friends present. Mrs. Garside then cut the silver wedding cake, which was distributed to the company.

The proceedings terminated at 11.30 p.m. with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

## AN OLD NORWICH TENORMAN.

A correspondent writes: 'I was much interested in the musings of "Old Ringer" and had no difficulty in recognising the portrait of the old tenorman. George Smith certainly was a very fine example of a heavy bell ringer, and for grace and ease of style can have had very few equals. A tall man, with a strong physique, and a placid and even temperament, he knew Mancroft tenor thoroughly, and though it was by no means an easy bell to ring, he could place it perfectly with the minimum of seeming effort. He had inherited the splendid tradition of good striking which came down from the old Norwich Scholars, who always boasted that their striking was "bold and regular." How he would have fitted into a modern band with their smarter style of striking is a question.'



**RELEASE OF LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR.**

'THE RINGING WORLD' SECURES REMISSION OF PART OF SENTENCE.

As a result of representations made to the Home Secretary by the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' the Rev. R. G. Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, who was convicted at Spilsby Police Court on July 15th and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for a breach of the Control of Noise Order by ringing a church bell for an unauthorised purpose, has been released from prison.

The case was reported in our issue of the 19th inst., but before it appeared the Editor of 'The Ringing World' had already written to the Home Secretary on the subject, pointing out in effect that if the report was correct and the offence alleged actually took place on June 16th, there must have been a misunderstanding, because the Control of Noise (Defence) Order was not made until June 19th. It was assumed that this was the Order under which proceedings had been taken, because up to that date church bells had been freely rung throughout the land on the strength of a Home Office ruling that they were specially exempted from any restrictions under the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order of October, 1939. The following was the letter addressed by the Editor to the Home Secretary:—

16th July, 1940.

The Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for  
Home Affairs,  
Whitehall, London, W.C.1.

Sir,—I have read in the 'Daily Telegraph' to-day of the prosecution and conviction of the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, Lincs, who was sentenced by the Spilsby magistrates for an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) Order.

The newspaper, in reporting the evidence of the police constable, says he stated that on June 16th he saw the Rector sitting in the belfry pulling the bell rope.

If the date quoted by the 'Daily Telegraph' is correct, may I respectfully ask that the matter should receive your attention, in case there has been a miscarriage of justice, in view of the fact that the Order is dated the 19th of June.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. S. GOLDSMITH, Editor.

On Tuesday last, the following reply was received from the Home Office:—

Home Office,  
Cleland House,  
Page Street, S.W.1,  
July 29th, 1940.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 16th July regarding the conviction of the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that Graham was convicted of an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939, and not of an offence against the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1940. Nevertheless, in view of all the circumstances, the Secretary of State has thought it right to advise the remission of the remainder of Graham's sentence, and he was discharged from prison on the 27th instant.

I am, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) E. CORDES.

The Editor,  
'The Ringing World,'  
Lower Pyrford Road,  
Woking, Surrey.

It is a matter of great satisfaction, therefore, that the Rector of Old Bolingbroke has been released, although there still remains the question of whether there has not been some miscarriage of justice in a conviction under the Order of October last.

Before the reply of the Home Secretary was received the Editor had taken the matter up with the Bishop of Lincoln and had made inquiries of the clerk to the Spilsby Justices as to the date of the offence (as, having had to rely upon a newspaper report, there was always the chance of an error). The clerk, in his reply of July 25th, confirmed that the date of the offence was June 16th, but pointed out that the prosecution was taken under the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order and not under the Order of June 19th.

On the strength of this reply, the Editor has called the attention of both the Home Secretary and the Clerk to the Justices to the letter of November 10th, 1939, from the Home Office to the Editor, which was published in our issue of November 17th last, and was in the following terms:—

Home Office,  
Air-Raid Precautions Department,  
Horseferry House,  
Thorney Street,  
London, S.W.1.  
November 10th, 1939.

Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of November 7th, I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say that it is intended that the use of church and chapel bells should be exempted from any restrictions by virtue of Clause 1(b) of the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) R. L. POLAND.

The Editor,  
'The Ringing World.'

The liberation of the Rev. R. G. Colvin Graham is, we think, only the first measure of justice to which he is entitled. The matter ought not to rest until the conviction has been quashed, unless it can be held that every ringer who has rung a bell since October 31st last has rendered himself liable to imprisonment, despite the ruling which is given in the Home Office letter of November 10th, which we quote above.

**ANOTHER PROSECUTION.**

At Cambridge on Saturday, the Rev. John George Langhorn Swann, Vicar of Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, was summoned for having caused a church bell to be sounded otherwise than for giving warning of enemy landings from the air.

A constable said the Vicar told him that the bell was pulled three or four times by the lad who usually rang it, until he was told to stop on account of the restriction.

Defendant told the Court that his wife stopped the boy. He was preoccupied, as he had a service to take, and any thought of an offence never entered his head.

The case was dismissed on payment of 4s. costs.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****DECISION TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS.**

The monthly meeting of the Leeds and District Society was due to be held at Drighlington on Saturday, and by kind permission of the Vicar and local company the tower was open to the members for a meeting to discuss the future policy and welfare of the society.

Two or three sets of handbells were available for all who wished to try and ring various methods.

The president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) was supported by the three vice-presidents, and if all the towers had sent only one ringer, a larger measure of success would have rewarded the efforts of those present.

After discussion on the future policy, it was decided to hold monthly gatherings while the evenings were light enough and then to hold afternoon gatherings, either monthly or quarterly, according to whatever success attends the efforts. It is the intention of the committee to ask some eminent conductor or handbell ringer to explain his method of proving peals or ringing them, etc.

The next meeting is due to be held at Calverley on August 31st, and, failing that, the next tower on the list will be approached.

All members are urged to support the efforts to keep alive the life and interests of the society.

## CALL CHANGES.

'THE DISADVANTAGES OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is it not rather curious for change ringers to be so emphatic in support of call changes? And the more emphatic the less logical? A second correspondent now writes about 'rows and changes,' but apparently neither writer sees the obvious connection; as I did not mention them, the only purpose seems to be to draw a red herring across the trail.

Mr. J. E. Bailey writes of a suggestion that East Anglian ringing is inferior to that of any other part of the country. I made no such suggestion, nor do I think this to be the case. Mr. Bailey alone has introduced the matter, and apparently it is a product of his own imagination.

Nor did I speak of 20 years ago, but 50; when he speaks of five a year I suppose he means five a month; nor did I 'assume that all beginners stick to ringing.' Call changers certainly do not.

I do not want to stop him or anyone else from teaching call changes, if they like them. I do not, nor do I intend to. All I ask is that they shall not annoy the casual listener, by teaching them in such a way that he can hear, and stop us, as he is now doing, from ringing well-struck call changes.

Another letter is headed 'Call changes help to produce good striking'; of course they do; if they did not they would never be used. What I have said is that they also produce bad striking. No one can deny this. To do so they would have to deny my existence. What I am asking is that the same end shall be obtained by other means. Mr. Smale and Mr. Street give excellent suggestions for doing this. All your other correspondents seem helplessly bound to call changes. One wonders why they ever ring real changes at all.

Would it not be better to read a letter more carefully before attempting to reply to it? 'Old Ringer' seems to think that, in speaking of ringing a quarter of the right distance away, I praise what I condemn. And 'Musician' attributes to me the words which I quoted of my musical hostess of 50 years ago. She evidently did not know anything about ringing or ringing terms. Nor do I know what she meant by 'consecutives.' It evidently was call changes she heard; and it evidently annoyed her very much, simply because it was call changes. I have never forgotten her words; I think they were justified. I hope every ringer will take them to heart: if we do not we shall never be allowed to ring again; and the ban will be right. She said, 'I do not claim to waste their time. Why should they waste mine?'

I do not suggest that I am musical, nor have I said anything that would cause anyone carefully reading my letter to suppose that I am. But a word crept in that ought not to be there; 'other' ought not to have been before 'discords.' For this mistake I apologise to your other readers; but not to 'Musician'; for were he really a musician he would know that fifths and thirds being the fundamental concords, cannot in any position be discords; and that therefore there must have been a mistake. I may also point out to him that abuse is not argument; nor does foul abuse become charity by calling it so.

If Mr. Smallwood looks at my letter again he will see that I did not say that I 'cannot recognise the tune of the National Anthem.' What I said was the exact opposite.

However, call changes do not make all the votaries of them misquote everything, for the letters of Miss Ashbrook and of Mr. Clark are excellent, as far as they go; the only trouble is that they do not go far enough. For instance, they cannot get call changes out of their heads; they seem to think that there is nothing else. Miss Ashbrook actually says that her tower would have been silent if it were not for call changes. This is expecting us to believe too much. There are really other things. I have even heard of a row called 'rounds'; and besides there is another called 'tittums,' not to speak of 'Queens' and 'Whittington'! What do those towers do, where call changes are never heard? After all there are large parts of England where they are actually looked down upon. I am not by any means alone in disliking call changes.

Miss Ashbrook seems to have been surprised that on ten bells call changes were not so bad. I have, I think, three times in your columns explained why this is so, and, therefore, will not repeat it now.

Mr. Smallwood asks how I can presume to give advice on good striking. Well, I have not done so yet. But does he not think it is about time he or someone else did? Never once have I heard, in the belfry or out of it, anyone explain how bells can be well struck. Often enough people have declaimed about bad striking, but never have they said how it can be improved. Do they not know? Is it not about time they found out? It certainly will not be by call changes, of which it has been said the better they are struck the worse they sound.

HERBERT DRAKE.

## GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

WANTED A TEN-PART COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have been told more than once recently that there is in existence a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with common singles at half-way and end. I have not been able actually to get the figures, though I have spoken to people who say they have them or have seen them. If anyone has this peal it would be to the interests of the Exercise if it was sent to 'The Ringing World' for publication.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

## HEAVY BELL RINGING.

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN OLD-TIME AND MODERN FEATS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In comparing heavy bell ringing in older times with that of to-day, I rather think that your correspondent has missed the real point.

The contrast is not between bells hung in plain bearings and bells hung on balls or rollers, but between old style hanging and modern style.

Nowadays stocks are fitted to bells in the foundry, the gudgeons are fixed by iron plates and bolts and the whole is trued up in the lathe, perfect alignment and perfectly fitting bearings being produced. In olden times the gudgeons were round pieces of iron or steel driven into the ends of the stock and fixed by wedges. What amount of truing up could be done was done by hand with a file.

The brasses were let direct into the wood frames instead of being fixed in iron cages as in modern hanging.

Naturally the quality of the work varied enormously. There were bell hangers who were excellent craftsmen and who did their work well and there was also a lot of work done by the village blacksmith which with luck answered its purpose very well. But in nearly every case no bells and especially no heavy bells went at all well until they had been rung for some time and the bearings worn a bit slack or had become a bit loose in the frame.

A perfectly fitting bearing is, of course, an excellent thing so long as the frame is quite rigid and the bearings and gudgeons are dead true. But if one of them is the least bit out of alignment the gudgeon will bind and the bell go badly. If the bearing has worn loose and the gudgeon is a sloppy fit, or if the bearing is not quite rigidly fixed to the frame, this binding is to some extent counteracted.

Then there is the trouble caused by the shrinkage and alteration of the wood stocks and frames due to weather. Nowadays a wood frame old or new can be tied together by iron rods with plates and bolts. In the olden times there were no means of cutting a thread on a bolt, and so wedges and keys had to be used, which, of course, made the work far more difficult.

With big bells there was the great difficulty of getting a piece of elm large enough and strong enough to carry a heavy bell without sagging.

Modern hanging gets over most of these difficulties. The value of ball bearings is not that they make the bells go better, for plain bearings will do that when they are properly fixed, but that they are not affected by faulty alignment of the gudgeons unless it is excessive.

Most men who have had experience of all sorts of heavy bells will probably prefer plain bearings when they are at their best, but take things on the whole and there is not the least doubt that bells to-day go infinitely better than they did, say, fifty years ago. There are dozens of heavy bells which to-day are turned in to peals by people who then would not have been able to ring them behind to a course. Yet those bells were rung to peals.

X.Y.Z.

## BALL BEARINGS HAVE COME TO STAY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A letter by 'Dorken' in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World' refers to ball bearings. Ball bearings are here for good. Why? They are here, I think, particularly for commercial reasons. After all, the fittings have been prepared in the workshop; it does not require a man of much experience to fix ball bearings. That is not the case, however, with ordinary plain bearings. Here an experienced hand is best suited for the job. Gudgeons and bearings for good going must be in perfect alignment. Another reason why ball bearings have come to stay is this. Any bell founder may hang a peal, no matter of what number, 6, 8, 10 or 12, on plain bearings. The job is satisfactory at the time in heaps of cases, but after about 12 months the bells don't 'go' as they did. Why? Gudgeons and bearings have got like a man's throat after ringing a heavy bell for a peal—dry and parched. The steeplekeeper has got tired of the new job. Result, the bell founder gets blamed. I have known cases where the steeplekeeper thinks that it is only necessary to oil bells once a month or once every three months, and light bells about twice a year. The result is that gudgeon and bearing rub metal to metal and small particles of metal get under gudgeons. The bell won't 'go'; besides, it wears out the bearings.

In my opinion, if a peal of bells, with a tenor of 16 cwt. to 25 cwt., is rung twice on Sundays and on practice night, the back bells should be oiled once a week and the front bells once a fortnight, with a special oiling for a peal. Old wood frames should be kept free of grease under the sliders, as this only acts as so much glue, and the bell gets checked before it has completed its circle.

If ringers can do anything at all as regards bells and frames, they should insist on cast iron frames. The churches in about another 25 to 30 years will have far more trouble with frames than they have had. Heaps of steel frames will have rusted out with neglect, all for want of a little paint. In a lot of cases the steel is against the wall and cannot be got at. Next to a good wood frame, choose cast iron. In my opinion, provided there is a good, rigid frame, plain bearings are best for all kinds of ringing. It is steadier, but for the reasons I have given we ringers had better stand by the ball bearing.

Taunton.

J. HUNT.

## QUEX PARK. A UNIQUE PEAL OF BELLS. Shipway as Instructor.

On August 4th, 1819, the twelve bells which had been erected in a new tower in Quex Park, Thanet, were opened.

The owner of the park was a man named John Powell Powell, who lived at Park House, Fulham, where ap-



THE WATERLOO TOWER.

parently he learned to ring. After he had inherited Quex Park he became a very wealthy man, and was enabled to indulge his hobby by erecting a brick tower and installing in it a peal of twelve bells cast at Whitechapel.

The tower is circular in form with four round turrets, one at each corner; if we may be allowed to speak of the corners of a round building. On the top is a cast-iron spire copied more or less from Faversham Church steeple.

The bells are rung from the ground, and as there are two or three floors between the ringers and the bells, and the bells are hung in

two tiers, the hearing is not good. In fact, to hear the trebles it is necessary to leave the belfry windows open.

From a musical point of view the bells are a failure, and at first sight it seems difficult to say why. The front five are quite a good five well in tune; so are the middle six; and the back eight are quite of an average goodness. But when the twelve are rung they do not so much sound out of tune, but as if they did not belong to each other in any way. Perhaps the explanation is that old style bells were tuned by their strike notes and the hum notes were roughly a flattened seventh. With ordinary bells this did not matter, in fact it was to some people an improvement, but with small bells the hum notes are as prominent as the strike notes, and, as they are wild, the effect on the musical quality of the peal is disastrous.

When the bells were opened a fete was held in the park, to which the people of quality from the neighbouring town of Margate were invited. The actual ringing was done by a band from each of the two leading London societies. First each of them rang a touch of Grandsire Cinques about 900 changes long, and then the Cumberlands rang what is said to have been a 'fine' peal of 5,213 changes of Cinques in 3 hours 19 minutes.

The younger George Gross rang the treble and called the bobs, and the band included such well-known ringers as William Shipway, John Hints, and Joseph Riley, the man from the Midlands who was mentioned in the recent articles on Birmingham and Shrewsbury.

The College Youths did not attempt a peal, but contented themselves with ringing touches. Most of them were getting to be elderly men and they had largely outgrown their ambitions in the matter of peal ringing.

John Powell Powell was himself a ringer, but, like his bells, he was not quite the real thing. He did ring one peal, but that was Grandsire Triples and then he rang the tenor.

He did his best, however, to get together a good band. William Shipway was induced to go to Birchington to act as instructor, and practically every man on the estate was persuaded to try to become a ringer. How far all of them really wanted to learn is another thing, but when the squire expressed a strong wish it was a difficult thing to refuse.

During the years Shipway lived in Thanet he did much to foster the art of ringing in the steeples of the district. He called a peal of Grandsire Caters at Canterbury in 1824, and peals at St. John's, Margate, and other neighbouring towers.

No doubt Powell did his best to make Shipway comfortable, but the latter very soon got tired of his country life, and pined for London and his ringing friends among the Cumberlands. At last he broke away and returned to London, notwithstanding all Powell could say.

Powell had ambitions to be a composer, and under Shipway's tuition set himself to learn the construction of Stedman Triples. He evidently devoted an immense amount of time to the matter and pricked many thousands of figures. The result was some touches and a variation or two of the peal Joseph Tobbs, of Yorkshire, had composed. How much of the composition was Powell and how much Shipway we cannot now say. Powell had all his peal and touches printed in a book and copies presented to each of the leading ringing companies in the country. Several copies of it are extant and in the hands of different ringers.

Since Powell's death the bells have been maintained by his heirs and successors, and any hands who applied have always readily been granted permission to attempt peals. At one time a record of every peal rung in the tower was put up in the belfry, but as the number multiplied and the space on the walls began to be filled up, only selected performances such as the first peals in methods were recorded.

A rather remarkable record at Quex Park was made by Mr. J. R. Sharman. He made twelve visits to the tower, rang twelve peals, and when he had completed the twelfth found that without design he had rung every bell to a peal.

Besides the ringing bells, there is at Quex Park a rather finely cast bell brought from foreign parts, and the clock over the stables of the mansion strikes on an ancient bell which once hung in a Canterbury church.

As announced lately in our columns, the owner of the park and the bells, Major Powell Cotton, died recently. He had been a great traveller and sportsman in his time and he was very proud of the very fine collection of stuffed birds and beasts in the museum at the house. They included an elephant, lions, tigers, rhinos and the like, and one warthog whose beauties Major Cotton delighted to point out. All the beasts had fallen either to his gun or to that of Mrs. Cotton.

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## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

### FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

Before we go on to examine the work of 5-6 in Grandsire Triples we want to say something in general about plain hunting with a pair of handbells.

First, write out a plain hunting course on eight bells, that is the first lead of Bob Major; only instead of making second's place let the bells come round at the lead end. To make a better illustration, write the sixteen rows out three times in succession. You will, of course, get repetition of changes, but that does not matter for our present purpose. Now examine the combinations of work of the different pairs of bells.

Take 1-2 first. These you will see follow each other in parallel paths, striking with one blow between them and crossing each other in 1-2 and 7-8, striking together first at backstroke and then at handstroke. This work we described in connection with Grandsire Triples in our issue of July 19th.

Next examine the work of 1-4. These also follow each other in parallel paths, but they strike with three bells between them and cross each other in 2-3 and 6-7, striking together first at handstroke and then at backstroke.

Next examine the work of 1-6. These are widely parted in rounds, and during most of their hunting, while one is moving up, the other is moving down, so that they come closer to each other, pass, and get separated again. They pass in 3-4 and 5-6, striking together, first at backstroke and then at handstroke.

Then examine the work of 1-8. In rounds these are parted as widely as they can be parted. When changes begin they approach each other by a regular progression, one striking in second's while the other strikes in seventh's, then one in third's and the other in sixth's. They meet and cross in the middle positions (4-5), striking together first at handstroke and then at backstroke. One then goes to the front and the other to the back, and while one leads a whole pull before, the other lies a whole pull behind.

Diagrams should be drawn of the work of these four pairs of bells, for they represent all the combinations of plain hunting which are possible with a pair of bells. The work of any other pair will be the same as one of these four pairs. The work of 7-1 is the same as that of 1-6. The work of 5-1 is the same as that of 1-4. The work of 3-1 is the same as 1-2. In a similar way the work of 2-4 is the same as that of 1-2, 2-6 is the same as 1-4, and any other possible pair is an equivalent of one of the first four pairs.

When we learn change ringing on tower bells, the first thing we are taught to understand and to master is the plain hunting of the treble. In a similar way, when we learn double-handed handbell ringing we should first understand and master these four combinations of plain hunting; for just as plain hunting is the basis of all the work that a tower bell is called upon to do, so these combinations of plain hunting are the bases of all the work a pair of handbells is called upon to do.

Obviously, then, it will pay the beginner to devote some time to the study of these combinations, and this he can do by himself and by means of figures and diagrams.

We have taken eight as our example because there the bells work from the front and from the back in a perfectly symmetrical manner. With an odd number of bells, Grandsire Triples, for instance, certain modifications are necessary because, while the whole pulls at the lead are at hand and back, the whole pulls behind are at back and hand; but the beginner who studies the figures and diagrams will have no more difficulty in reconciling double-handed plain hunting on odd numbers of bells with plain hunting on even numbers of bells, than he has when he is ringing in the tower.

The main point is to get to know and to understand all you can about the combined hunting of a pair of bells before you turn your attention to dodging and method ringing.

When an entirely new band is being formed it will be a good plan first of all to practise the hunting course on eight bells, ringing it over and over again and shifting the pairs of bells among the four ringers.

In ringing Grandsire Triples on handbells there is one pair which is in quite a different category from the others. The man who is ringing the tenors has not to concern himself about the combinations of the work of his two bells. He rings the bell in his right hand (the seventh) by exactly the same rules as he would ring a single bell in the steeple, and with the bell in his left hand (the tenor) he simply covers each change. A man who is a competent tower bell ringer should find, when once he has mastered the knack of striking a handbell, no particular difficulty in ringing the tenors to a double-handed touch of Triples or Caters.

It must not, however, be thought that the tenors can be rung, as they should be rung, without practice or the exercise of a considerable amount of skill. For here comes in the question of striking, and you will never get good striking on handbells, any more than you will get it on tower bells, unless you have a good man on the tenors.

Striking is one of those things to which the majority of ringers pay far too little attention. For the most part they are content with a standard which is much lower than it might and ought to be. They do not realise the vast difference between good striking and really first-class striking. There is a quality about really first-class striking which is difficult to describe and which certainly cannot be taught, but which can readily be appreciated by people with sensitive ears. One thing really good striking is not. It is not clockwork striking, though that is a favourite expression with some ringers. The charm of ringing from the point of the listener depends on rhythm, and you cannot have rhythm when every note strikes the ear equally as it would do with clockwork striking. There must be some accentuation, that is, there must be some notes which impress the ear more than

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others, just as in metrical poetry, and, indeed, in good prose writing there must be some syllables which are stressed more than others.

But how, you may ask, is it possible to get such accentuation in change ringing? To some extent the method you are ringing will give it, and that is the reason why some methods are more musical than others. No Spliced Surprise Major ringing, for instance, however 'clockwork' the striking may be, will ever give, or ever can give, the musical effect that Kent Treble Bob, or Double Norwich, or Bob Major will give.

In Triples ringing the covering tenor supplies a certain amount of accentuation, but by itself not quite sufficient, and it does not help to give that variety of rhythm which is necessary to satisfy the ear and to prevent monotony. On the other hand, unless it is skilfully and artistically rung, it can hinder badly. On tower bells, Triples and Cater ringing is often spoilt by the tenor being rung just a shade too closely.

A really first-class man ringing the tenors on handbells can, and (if he has a sensitive ear) usually does, stress the accentuation of the rhythm, not only by *where* he strikes his bells but by *how* he strikes them. But here is the snag. If he consciously tries to do so he will almost certainly overdo it and spoil the effect.

The moral of all this is that you can only learn to be a good striker by cultivating a sense of rhythm and never resting satisfied with the way you strike until you know that you have reached a high standard.

Handbell ringing differs from tower bell ringing in that, as a rule, the ringers ring to satisfy their own ears and not those of any listeners. But now and then a band does ring changes for the benefit of other people. On such occasions, at a concert, for instance, or occasionally in church, they usually make the mistake of failing to take into account the musical effect that change ringing has on an ordinary listener. What sounds good to them when they are ringing together in a room will, they think, sound good to other people in a concert hall or in a church, and almost always they ring too long and too fast.

A touch of Stedman Caters or a course of Stedman Cinquses seems to the men who are ringing to take very little time, but to ordinary listeners the charm has dissolved into monotony long before the end comes. We remember a very striking instance of this. At the memorable service in St. Paul's Cathedral, at the time of the College Youths' tercentenary, a touch of Stedman Triples was rung from behind the high altar. The band was a first-class one, and the striking was excellent. And yet, in the opinion of many people, the artistic effect would have been three times as great if they had rung no more than three leads of Grandsire Triples and at a much slower rate.

#### NOTICES.—Continued from next column.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

#### GOLDEN WEDDING.

**HOLMAN—REYNOLDS.**—On August 4th, 1890, at St. John's Church, Washingborough, Lincolnshire, John Holman to Elizabeth Ann Reynolds. Present address, 15, Elm Lane, Sheffield, 5.

#### NOTICES.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) and **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Leatherhead District).—A joint gathering will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30 p.m. to walk through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by handbell ringing and social evening at the Duke's Head, at 5.30. If wet, handbells available in Leatherhead Church belfry from 3 p.m. All members are requested to give this venture their fullest support. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton, and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—We hope to see you at the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, August 3rd, for handbell ringing, and to decide on future arrangements. Please do your best to come along and help keep the guild alive.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Thrapston Branch.—A meeting will be held at Thrapston on Saturday, August 3rd, at the church. Service at 6 p.m., followed by meeting. Handbell ringing from 5 p.m. and after meeting.—All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Sec.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 10th, at the Institute, Bushey, at 3, for social gossip and handbells. Open to all interested in ringing.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at St. James' Church, Milnrow, at 7 p.m. Members, please note date and place. Handbells will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

**BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells available in Church House at 3 p.m. Service in church 4.30 p.m. Tea at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each, followed by business meeting and handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Sometimes known as the Model Village, correctly, Leigh, is to be the scene of the next meeting. The date, Saturday, August 10th. Tower open! Beg pardon, handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 1s. per head, and business meeting. One train only from Tonbridge, at 2.15 p.m. Bus leaves twenty minutes to the hour (No. 101). Please notify me for tea by Wednesday, the 7th. Come and enjoy a brief respite from the worries of the day.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells from 3.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Kindly notify for tea to A. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 13th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

(Continued in previous column.)

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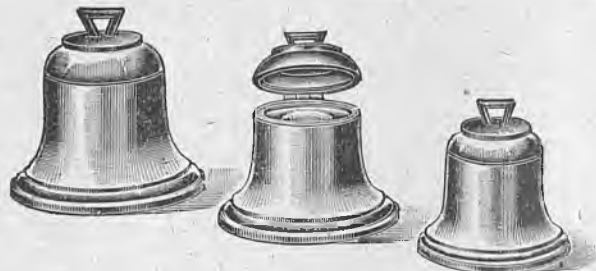
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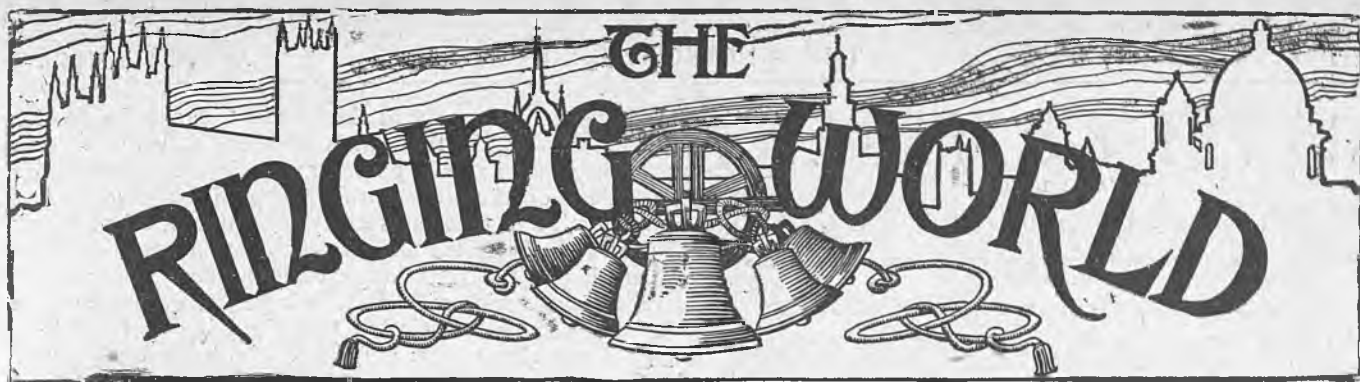


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## UNCERTAINTY STILL PREVAILS.

More and more the clergy, as well as ringers, are becoming perturbed at the silence of the bells without any adequate arrangements having been made for their use for the purpose for which they are now reserved. The Archdeacon of Chester and the Rev. E. C. Courtman, hon. secretary of the National Clergy Association, representing thousands of incumbents, have now taken up the subject in the Press in the hope that instructions may be forthcoming from the Ministry of Home Security. Archdeacon Burne has put some pointed questions, and Mr. Courtman calls attention to the fact that, in this question, the clergy who might have been helpful have been ignored. All these things we have persistently pointed out since the Order was made in June. Ringers have no desire other than to be helpful; they are the people who best know how to ring the bells without danger to life or limb; and, if the sounding of church bells is the most effective method of alarm, they would everywhere be only too happy to collaborate. But even organisation among ringers is useless, unless the public know what is expected of them when the warning is given. The unsatisfactory state of affairs at the moment is beyond understanding. The state of uncertainty has existed for seven weeks, and the only thing that anyone knows is that the bells may not be sounded except at the command of a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces or the Chief of Police. While the uncertainty exists, there is always the risk of chaos. The sounding of hammer against steel in a local gasworks fetched many members of the public into the streets at one place in south-east London. The noise was mistaken for a church bell, and the first instinct appears to have been to rush out of doors to see what was happening. Is that what the authorities want? We think not, but they have not told us. The church bell can hardly be for the purpose of calling assistance—if it is, whose assistance is required? When the army or police have been informed of the air invasion, so that they may order the bells to be rung, they have far greater facilities for gathering defensive and armed forces by other means, and the church bells would not be necessary, even if the authorities bothered to give instructions for them to be sounded.

Some of our readers may think we are unduly labouring this matter, but it is only by stressing the futility of the scheme as it at present exists that any useful amendment of it is likely to be secured; and in a useful amendment it would be possible, without any risk to national security or thwarting the idea behind the plan, to permit, at least, the ringing of bells for services. But even if

(Continued on page 374.)

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this latter desire cannot at the moment be acceded to, for invasion is still, in the words of the Prime Minister, a possibility that has not passed away, it is important that the object of the bell warning should be known and understood, and that the services of those who know how to use the bells should be enlisted. If this were done, the restoration of the bells for service ringing could, we feel sure, be made with safety. We have the evidence of the National Clergy Association that the silence of the bells has a depressing effect; and those who know our country life in particular will fully endorse this view. At a time when everything should be done to avoid such an effect, it is not too much to press for a modification of this particular ban. There is always something cheering in the sound of church bells, and their restoration now would more than likely be doubly cheering and reassuring after their enforced silence. But what is most necessary at the moment is the clearing up of the present uncertainty and some definite arrangements about the warning, for which the services of ringers ought to be secured. In the meantime, ringing organisations might turn their attention to making representations in the proper quarter for a modification of the ban. If the Central Council would give a lead, there is no question that the associations would follow.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

At the RECTORY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANCES;  
Tenor size 15.

WILFRED WILLIAMS	...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS	...	7-8

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## GETTING READY FOR VICTORY.

A SUSSEX PEAL TO BE RESTORED.

Shortly before the ban of silence was imposed upon all church bells, the belfry at Wadhurst, Sussex, was examined by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, after complaints had been made by the ringers about the increasing difficulty of ringing. It was reported that there was much movement in the bottom timbers of the bell frame, and that bolts are needed to secure the joints. The fitting of iron angle plates to the internal top corners of the bell frame pits was also advised. In addition the gudgeons and bearings of the four smaller bells are much worn, and they should be refitted in ball bearings and rehung. The tenor and fifth bell were recently refitted and rehung.

It would not be safe to ring the bells in their present state, so in view of the report, and as an act of faith in ultimate victory, the Parochial Church Council has decided to put these repairs in hand, in order that, when the bells can be rung again, there may be no question of danger arising from the state of the bell frame. The estimated cost is £66 19s. 8d., and there is a small reserve fund which can be drawn upon for this purpose, but any special contribution for the purpose would be most gratefully received by the Vicar.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

Despite his 86 years, Mr. James George is reported to be making remarkable progress towards recovery, after the recent amputation of his left leg. He still suffers some pain, but is quite bright.

He asks us to thank the many ringers who have sent him kind letters of sympathy. He especially thanks the members of the College Youths, the Middlesex Association and the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, for their letters.

He is still in the Gribble Ward at Northampton General Hospital and is likely to be there for three weeks or more. When he is able to leave he proposes to make his home with friends at Wolverton, Bucks. In the meantime he will appreciate letters from any old friends who are able to write to him.



## DEATH OF MR. JOHN BEAMS.

### LOSS TO EWELL TOWER.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, Surrey, who passed away in Epsom County Hospital on Saturday after only a short illness. He was taken ill on the preceding Sunday and underwent two operations on Thursday. He leaves a widow and son and daughter in bereavement.

Mr. Beams was one of the mainstays of ringing in his particular corner of Surrey for many years, and gave his services unsparingly in promoting the art. For over fifty years he was a member of the Surrey Association and was one of the foundation members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. He was an unassuming man, but ever ready to lend a helping hand, whether in ringing or anything else. He will be much missed in Ewell belfry and among his many friends in the district. He had rung a great many peals and conducted several.

Among the peals in which he had taken part was one by which, in 1928, all the band celebrated their silver weddings, which occurred during the year, and five years after, another to commemorate the 30th anniversary of their respective weddings. Mr. Beams and his son also took part in a 'John' peal. All these peals were rung for the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

The news of Mr. Beams' death reached the joint meeting of the Surrey Association and Guildford Guild at Leatherhead on Saturday and suitable reference was made to the loss sustained, the members signifying their regret by standing in silence for a few moments.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Ewell, on Wednesday afternoon.

Only a few months ago, Mr. Beams' brother, Jesse, passed away, and last week also Ewell tower sustained further loss by the death of another old member in Mr. Worsfold.

## EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

### WAR-TIME MEETING AT HARTFIELD.

Last Saturday the East Grinstead and District Guild held a successful meeting in the Church Room at Hartfield, when members met to discuss the future and to enjoy a social afternoon. The company, who were welcomed by the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. James) quickly settled down to handbell ringing, and though it was very obvious that most members were more proficient in the tower, some good practice was put in. To help younger members, single-handed ringing was the order of the day.

Over tea in the Anchor Hotel, the future was discussed. Mr. E. J. Ladd pointed out that the committee's decision to carry on, which was made at the October meeting, had been fully justified, for the monthly meetings had all been well attended, and the last meeting at Rotherfield on June 8th was a great success. On his proposition it was decided to hold meetings bi-monthly, and Mr. A. Ryman suggested East Grinstead as the next meeting place. This was agreed to and the date was fixed for October 12th.

After tea the company returned to the Church Room for more handbell practice, but transport problems caused an earlier break up than usual.

## A REMARKABLE PEAL.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of June 28th you published an interesting article, 'A Remarkable Peal,' by X.Y.Z., describing a peal of fifteen thousand of Kent Treble Bob Major said to have been rung at Fenchurch St. Paul in Lincolnshire.

An account of this is also to be found in Dorothy Sayers' admirable book, 'The Nine Tailors,' but with this difference: Whereas X.Y.Z. writes of this peal as actually taking place on January 1st, 1929, and goes on to describe the ringers taking part, Miss Sayers, in the foreword to her book, craves the indulgence of any change ringer who may find any errors and states that all characters and place names are purely fictitious.

Both accounts are exactly alike apart from this, which I'm sure you will agree is very inconsistent.

I wonder if you or X.Y.Z. can explain this for me.

S. BIRCH.

Dawley, Salop.

For the benefit of our correspondent, we would point out that 'X.Y.Z.' had really been doing a bit of detective work, like the chief character in Miss Sayers' novel. He delved into the pages of 'The Nine Tailors,' picked up the clues, and, piecing them together, presented a picture of the ringers and an account of their great performance for the interest of our readers. Did X.Y.Z. pull our correspondent's leg, or is Mr. Birch pulling ours?—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

## HANDBELL RINGING FOR SERVICE.

At Halesworth Parish Church on Sunday, July 28th, handbells were rung for morning service. The following ringers took part in courses of Grandsire Triples: A. H. Took 1-2, Miss O. L. Ashbrook 3-4, F. C. Lambert 5-6, S. Sgt. H. W. Rogers, R.A.O.C., 7-8. Other members of the local band took part in rounds and call changes.

## RINGING IN SHREWSBURY.

### MORE DETAILS OF PEALS.

Mr. C. R. Lilley, who was one time Master at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, has amplified the material given in the recent articles by Mr. J. A. Trollope on ringing in Shrewsbury. Mr. Lilley says that the first of the peals was rung at the Abbey in 1735, a 5,040 Grandsire Triples. A board in the tower records that the performance was repeated in the following year. At old St. Chad's Church, peals were rung in 1762, 1769 and 1770. These were two peals of Grandsire Triples and one of Caters. In 1772 'Mr. Holt's celebrated peal of Grandsire Triples was rung for the first time in the town,' at St. Mary's, where in 1783 and 1798 peals of Grandsire Triples were again rung. Earlier, in 1776, a peal of Treble Bob Major was rung at the Abbey and is recorded on a board in the ringing loft. The local society of change ringers were in good form at the end of the eighteenth century, and in the year 1799 completed a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Chad's, 'distinguished for its fine striking.' In the following year they surpassed themselves by completing the more difficult task of ringing a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. Other peals were rung by the Union Society, whose conductor was R. Cross. They included Grandsire Caters and Cinques, Bob Royal and Maximus and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus.

Cross was a saddler by trade and his grave is close by the tower of St. Chad's. After these peals there came a long gap, but before the new bells were installed John Carter called Grandsire Cinques, Edgar Hancock called Stedman Cinques, J. E. Groves called Grandsire Caters and George Byolin called two peals of Grandsire Triples (one on the front eight and the other on the back eight).

St. Chad's Society was formed in 1912, after the bells had been recast, and between 1913 and 1926 the following peals were rung in the tower, conducted by C. R. Lilley: Bob Major, Bob Royal, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples and Cinques, Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus. Mr. Lilley also called a number of peals of Minor on St. Michael's and St. Julien's bells, and Mr. William Short also called one in each of those belfries.

The Abbey bells, Mr. Lilley says, were rung up to 1887, when the tower was restored and the ringing chamber, the floor of which was level with the west window, was done away with. The bells were then hung 'dead.'

## GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### OFFICIALS' APPEAL TO MEMBERS.

The difficulties of carrying on the work of associations now that a ban has descended upon the ringing of church bells is everywhere apparent. The Master, Secretary and Treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have made a joint appeal to the members to carry on to the best of their ability. This appeal has been sent out with the copies of the annual report to the members. They say:—

'The authorities have silenced our bells! (Rightly or wrongly, it is not for us to say). We are, therefore, faced with a great difficulty in the fact that meetings without ringing will be unattractive.'

'We urge members to continue their branch and local Guild meetings. In one instance we have learned of a Guild, meeting on Sundays once a month, just as if they had turned up to ring. Instead, they have a chat.'

'Ringers have had meeting places other than their belfries, such as localities and inns, and to continue this is to ensure contact. Besides somebody is sure to bring handbells. In large cities social evenings could be arranged, reports of such activities could be made, and ideas interchanged.'

'We all must interest ourselves in our association, and not desert it, because of our enforced inactivity.—Noel E. Hope (Master), Edgar Guise (secretary), Percy C. Williams (hon. treasurer).'

## TEN-PART PEALS OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

### To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. E. C. S. Turner's inquiry for a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples with common singles at half-way and end, this one, by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, was rung on handbells in Romford tower, conducted by the late Ernest Pye, about the year 1912. I was one of the umpires. The first half has bobs at 15515415315 repeated four times with Single at last 5 in 5th part. The second half is called with bobs at 51351451551, four times repeated, with Single at last 1 in last part.

A. C. CHAPLIN.

25, Station Road, Dagenham, Essex.

### AN IRREGULAR TEN-PART PEAL.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. E. C. S. Turner's request for figures of a ten-part peal, I have not as yet seen a peal with ten equal parts, but am sending figures of an irregular ten-part by the Rev. E. B. James. Perhaps it will help Mr. Turner.

J. HUNT.

We hardly think these peals are what Mr. Turner asked for. He was enquiring for a peal said to exist in ten equal parts with common singles half-way and end. We think Mr. Chaplin must be mistaken, as Davies' peal requires Holt's singles. With ordinary singles the composition would be false.—Editor 'Ringing World.'

## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

### FIRST PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

Having got his true peal of Bob Triples, John Garthon next turned to Grandsire, and here he was faced with what appears to us as a totally different problem, but actually to him was very similar, although considerably more difficult. For he did not do as a modern composer would have done—take the plain course as the unit and compose the peal from that. What he did was to take the six-score he knew as Grandsire Doubles and extend it to seven bells much in the same way as he had extended the standard 720 of Bob Minor. He found that

bob which he called a 'Hic,' in which fifth's place is made when the treble is leading at handstroke.

With nine of these Hics used exactly in the same way as the bobs are used in the standard 720 of Bob Minor, and as he had used the omits in the Grandsire Bob Triples, he joined together six of the 5-course blocks. He had now the equivalent of the 360 of Minor and the half-peal of Bob Triples, but, as his course consisted of only three leads, the six blocks gave only a quarter-peal

234567	1	2	3
247563	—	H	—
273564	—	H	—
734265	—	—	—
345762	—	—	—
452367	—	—	—
427365	—	H	—



THE FAMOUS CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT, WHERE THE FIRST RECORDED PEAL WAS RUNG.

in the Doubles a bob is made at every lead except when the half-hunt (the fifth) is before. On seven bells that meant a 3-lead course in which the half-hunt (the sixth) double dodges in 4-5 up, makes thirds, and double dodges in 6-7 down. It also produced a five-course block, in which the quarter-hunt (the seventh) completes its revolution. Neither on five bells nor on seven does the half-hunt go into the hunt, but the conditions for composition by hunts are fulfilled, as they are not fulfilled in the plain course. So far all was plain sailing, but now Garthon had to fix the path of the half-quarter-hunt (the fifth). He must not interfere with the bobs when the half-hunt is dodging in 4-5 or 6-7, and he must not make a bob when that bell is before, for that would at once make the peal false; so he introduced a fresh sort of

with the half-quarter-hunt in half its full number of positions. A complementary quarter-peal was therefore necessary in which the half-quarter-hunt had to fall into the missing positions, and these two quarter-peals, with the corresponding two in which the rows are of opposite nature, gave him the extent of the changes.

To link up the four quarters he used a Q set consisting of two Hic's, and two Doubles made alternately at the end of the quarter-peals.

The peal has three sorts of calls, and after some years it was superseded and became obsolete. Men

275463	—	—
753264	—	—
534762	—	—
342567	—	—
543267	1	2 3
537264	—	H —
574263	—	H —
743562	—	—
432765	—	—
325467	—	—
257364	—	—

who knew nothing about it came to despise it and to question its truth; and even in modern times, after it has been rediscovered, it is usually looked upon as a crude and immature production. But it is anything but crude, and, provided we accept the premise from which Garthon started, it cannot be bettered. Originally Grandsire Doubles was not a method with a plain course in which bobs can be called, but the definite six-score, and it was this six-score that Garthon extended to Triples. The regular succession of two plain leads and one bobbed was the method and might not be altered. The Hic was the bob, and in a note concerning the peal copied by William Doubleday Crofts, evidently from Garthon's own manuscript, it is stated, 'We never call anything but the extrems in this peal, which are the leads marked with a dot or point,' i.e., the Hics.

Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter Mancroft on August 26th, 1718. Only two of the men who had rung in the earlier performance—John Brooke and John Briggs—stood in this. William Palmer rang the third, Robert Crane the fourth, Henry Howard the fifth, William Callow the sixth, Thomas Melchior the seventh, and Thomas Barrett the tenor. Garthon himself did not stand in.

Robert Crane was the oldest of a family of ringers who took a leading part in early Norwich ringing. We shall have a good deal to say about them later. William Callow was for forty-three years the landlord of the Labour-in-Vain inn, and when he died on July 13th, 1779, was

the oldest ringer in Norwich. Thomas Melchior was one of the most distinguished of the Norwich Scholars throughout their history. He had taken Garthon's place as leader, and, though it is not definitely so stated, he probably called the bobs.

Melchior was a member of a family well known at the time in the city of Norwich. A John Melchior died in 1657, and was buried in the church of St. John Maddermarket, where his memorial still is, or was. He was a prosperous tradesman and a coppersmith, as probably all the family were. His wife, Mary, and his son, John, were buried in 1668 in the north aisle of St. Peter Mancroft, and a third John was buried in St. John's Church in 1705. He seems to have been eighty-five years old, and was probably the man who in 1672 gave ten shillings towards the cost of increasing Mancroft bells to the full octave. Cornelius Melchior, who possibly was Thomas Melchior's father, was buried in St. John's in 1713.

I have said that the family were coppersmiths, and this gave rise to a strange legend which is repeated by Mr. Morris in his History. The legend is that there was a 'tradition' of 'copperfaced Melchior.' 'No doubt the name is derived from Melchior the Eastern King who brought gold while the other two brought frankincense and myrrh.'

On December 28th, 1719, rather more than a twelve month after the peal of Grandsire Triples, the Norwich Scholars repeated the performance at St. Peter's. Melchior again rang the seventh; Thomas Barrett, the tenor man in the first peal, rang the sixth; and the tenor was rung by John Webster, a young man who for many years was to be a leader of the Exercise in Norwich. Who rang the other bells we do not know, but Robert Crane was almost certainly one of them.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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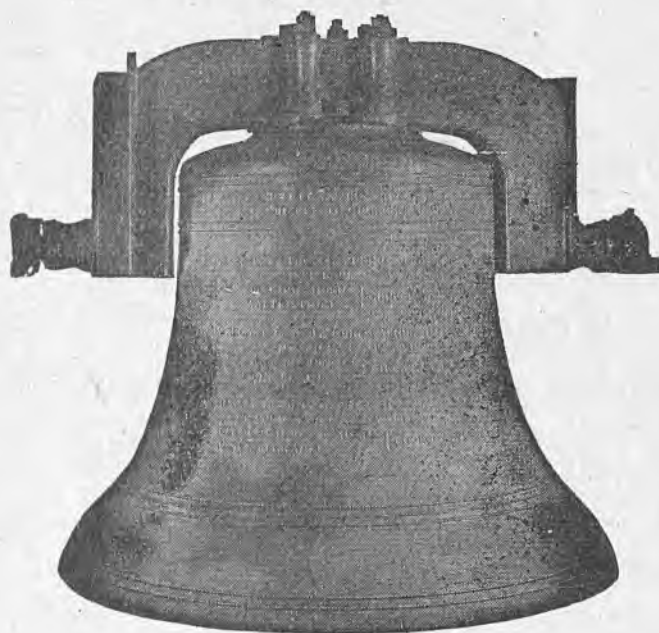
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. F. Sharpe informs us that he has been able to procure a limited number of copies of Part I. of the 'Church Bells of Berkshire.' These are reprints of the article which appeared in Volume 43 of 'The Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' and are reproduced by courtesy of the society. The price will be 1s. 3d., including postage, and copies can be obtained from Mr. Sharpe at Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

Among those recently officially reported missing is Pte. David Sleet, of the 2/6th East Surrey Regt., a member of the band at Ottershaw Church, Surrey. No news has been received of him since June 10th. Pte. Sleet is married, with three young children.

The picture of the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, which we published in our last issue, was from a photograph by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

'When we have won the war, and war-time restrictions are removed, I hope we shall have some jolly good peals of Bow Bells over the wireless again,' writes A. C. Powell, of Kingskerswell, South Devon, in this week's 'Radio Times.'

Hearty congratulations to Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, who next Monday attains his 72nd birthday.

Mr. H. Worboys, of Barking, was present at the College Youths' meeting at the Coffee Pot on Tuesday evening last week and was congratulated by the Master on his recent marriage. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Fenn said the event had come as a surprise. He did not know whether Mrs. Worboys was a lady ringer, but, judging from Mr. Worboys' recent letters in 'The Ringing World,' he felt fairly safe in assuming she was not.

On August 9th, 1751, the Union Scholars rang at St. John's, Hillingdon, 5,800 changes of Double Bob Major and followed it up apparently without setting the bells with a 5,040 of Bob Major. John Holt conducted.

August 12th is the anniversary of a peal of 6,012 Grandsire Caters rung at Leicester in 1776. The composition was by John Martin.

We are informed that the committee of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association has decided not to publish a report for 1939.

The Painswick Youths rang 5,099 changes of Grandsire Royal on August 6th, 1815. Giles Mansfield, who was referred to by Mr. William Hale in his recent letter, rang the second. Jasper Snowden gives this as the first true peal of Grandsire Royal, but the College Youths had rung one many years before at Fulham.

## BELLS AND THE DEVIL.

### WHISPERED CURSES WHEN HE APPEARED.

In your issue of last Friday week we were told that the Devil doesn't like the bells. It is equally true that the bells don't like the Devil. A few days ago 'somewhere in England' he paid us a hasty visit, complete in his new war dress, with black crosses on his wings and swastikas on his tail.

I was taking a short cut through the churchyard when I first saw him, a small dot in the sky, and his voice was a thin drone, as of a mosquito on a summer's evening. The A.A. guns started to bark, making harmless looking patches of white cotton-wool in the sky. Then a most peculiar phenomenon occurred; the bells began to hum and mutter amongst themselves, like eight old gentlemen who, having hung in their ancient places and shouted with their merry voices for centuries, are now silenced by this evil one, and whisper their curses at him when he appears.

Yes, the bells were definitely humming to themselves, and I thought someone in the bell chamber had caused the sound by tapping a bell. But no, the tower door was locked and the key was in its usual hiding place, and as long as our friend from the underworld was in the sky the sullen conversation continued.

'You wait,' they muttered, 'for the day when you are in the bottomless pit and the key is in England, we'll have no muffles on our clappers for your funeral. We rang out the good news when Napoleon failed, although there were only five of us here then, but you will have the honour of a full peal of Major.'

By this time Beelzebub had swung round and was legging it back to Hades, having decided that the temperature over there was cooler than it is here when our guns are in action, and our eight friends in the tower lapsed into silence once more.

Of course, anyone with a scientific mind will immediately say that the vibrations set up by our guns had a frequency that coincided with the frequency of one or more of our bells. But I don't know; perhaps, after all, they were airing their views on the matter and talking it over, as all free Englishmen can.

'ECHO.'

## BIRTHDAY BELLS.

On Saturday, July 27th, several members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild met at Hughenden to convey their good wishes to Miss May Wingrove, a member of the Beaconsfield band, and daughter of the foreman, on the occasion of her 21st birthday. During the course of the evening, courses and touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob Minor and Major were rung.



## THE BELLS, THE BAN AND THE WARNING ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER'S APPEAL.

The points we have so many times emphasised in the columns regarding the use of church bells as a warning in the event of enemy invasion by air are now being taken up in many quarters. Concern is being shown at the absence of any definite plan or, indeed, of any practical arrangements for the ringing of the bells, and the Archdeacon of Chester admirably summed up the situation in a letter to the 'Daily Telegraph,' which appeared on August 1st. He wrote:—

Sir,—I am glad that your reporter has called attention to the fact that no arrangements have been made for the ringing of church bells. But he understates the case.

We have never been officially told on what occasion the bells are to be rung, or (what is more important) what the public are to do when they hear them. Unless they are told, their instinct will be to come out of their houses to find out what is the matter, which is probably the opposite to what is desired.

This absence of information suggests that the authorities have not yet worked out a definite plan. This is not surprising in view of all they have to do in organising the defence of this island; but why silence the bells before the plan is ready?

It is no small thing to silence this witness to the Christian religion throughout the land, but it is a sacrifice which will gladly be made if it is going to help our country. At present there is no likelihood of that; and for some months now we have crept to church in gloomy silence, and all to no purpose.

Either let us have our bells back again, or let us know (1) when they are to be rung, (2) by whom, (3) what the ringing is meant to signify, and (4) what we are to do on hearing it.—Yours, etc.,

R. V. H. BURNE.

Chester. July 30th.

## CLERGY NOT CONSULTED. INCUMBENTS WITHOUT OFFICIAL ORDERS.

The hon. organising secretary of the National Clergy Association (the Rev. E. G. Courtman, of Mildenhall, Suffolk) has written to the Press as follows:—

'As hon. organising secretary to the National Clergy Association, I sent on July 18th a letter to Sir John Anderson pointing out the depressing effect of the silencing of the church bells. I pointed out that a louder and more distinct warning would be given by clanging the bells together, or by a quick and sharp sounding where one bell only existed.

'The Archdeacon of Chester stated that no instruction has been issued as to ringers. A novice could do much harm both to bells and the structure. Further, the incumbent is the guardian of the church, and would be wise to withhold the key unless he is assured that proper ringers would be used. Incumbents up to now have had no official order on the matter.

'As an association representing thousands of incumbents, we maintain that the clergy should have been consulted on this matter, as their experience would have produced a useful and acceptable scheme. Consultation could have been effected through each Diocesan Bishop and hence to the Rural Deans. It is erroneously supposed that the Archbishop of Canterbury has these executive powers.'

## MISS DOROTHY SAYERS' COMMENT.

Miss Dorothy L. Sayers, author of 'The Nine Tailors,' has sent us a copy of a letter she addressed to 'The Daily Telegraph,' following the article in that newspaper which we quoted last week:—

Dear Sir,—I was very glad to see your reporter's column on the Church Bell Problem in to-day's issue (July 29th). I have been waiting, fascinated, for someone in authority to realise that to order a completely raw hand to run along and ring a church bell is rather like ordering him to run along and milk a savage and reluctant cow; the net result would be much the same, except that the bell can kick much harder than the cow. The ringers themselves have already made mild representations to this effect, but got little for their pains but jeers and cat-calls from the bright boys of the gossip columns—not, I hasten to say, in the 'Telegraph.'

The man power needed to ring all but the lightest peal of bells is one ringer to one bell, so that to man all the towers in a threatened district would be a complicated job of organisation, seeing that so many of the ringers will be distributed among (a) the Forces, (b) the Home Guard, and (c) the various A.R.P. services. This organisation could be best effected through the secretaries of the numerous ringers' guilds, who form a network over the whole country, and possess detailed information about every tower and every local band of ringers.—Yours faithfully,

DOROTHY L. SAYERS,

Hon. Member, Ladies' Guild of Ringers and  
I.O.W. Guild of Ringers.

## GO TO IT!

### ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD ACT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the official ban on the ringing of church bells and to the present position, which to say the least is extremely unsatisfactory, may I suggest that the Central Council and every association communicate immediately with the Government department concerned.

In order that the action may be universal, perhaps you would give some idea of the form the appeal should take by an insertion in the next issue of 'The Ringing World.'

If the application is unproductive, the associations could approach the Member of Parliament for their particular area. I think it would facilitate matters if the associations would communicate with you when they receive a reply. In any case, the motto certainly is 'Go to it.'

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead.

## TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ringing of a church bell as a warning when air-born invaders arrive seems all right at first sight, but as you have mentioned in 'The Ringing World,' there are a number of technical objections, to which may be added:—

(1) In many parishes the belfry windows have been so covered in that a bell would not be heard any distance from the church and in a strong wind hardly at all in half of the parish.

(2) I have had experience of the fire brigade being called out at the sound of a church bell when there was no fire, because the wrong bell was chimed for a service. In other cases the officers couldn't tell by sound if it was the regular fire bell ringing.

The Home Guard is filling the gap now and air raid warnings are not so frequent, because it has been found unnecessary to disturb the public *not* in the immediate locality of a raid.

Lord Mottistone was right—the nation wants cheering up at times. The War Office is setting an example by re-forming old and making up new brass bands to give us military music, etc. It wants something better than we get on the B.B.C. at present for the 'interval' signal.

W. H. FUSSELL.

Slough.

## INQUIRIES UNANSWERED.

Sir,—The first part of Mr. E. C. Gobey's letter in your last issue speaks of a great misunderstanding and that bells are not to warn the public, but the military and police when something is seen falling from a 'plane.

As I am the person in charge of our bells, I was instructed by our Vicar to make the necessary arrangements with the military, and I inquired of them what they wanted. I was told to get to know first how many of our ringers would undertake the ringing should the order be given.

I have informed them that all our ringers are willing to assist, and four weeks ago I asked for an interview to arrange for the duty and to know how the bells should be rung, but neither I nor the Vicar have received any reply.

It seems that Mr. E. C. Gobey has had more instructions on the matter than we and other bands of ringers in our area have had. Have we got to wait for orders until the invaders arrive?

W. E. LLOYD.

3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

## 'MYSTERY' BELLS.

It is stated that many people ran into the street in the Lower Sydenham district of Greater London early on Thursday of last week when they heard what they believed to be the sound of bells rung as an invasion alarm.

Police investigated the matter. At first the noise was thought to have come from the direction of St. Michael's Church, but it was found that the building was locked and that the bells had been dismantled for many weeks.

Then it was believed that a handbell had been rung in the street. Eventually the police traced the noise to the Sydenham Gas Works.

Employees there had been engaged on work with steel tubes, and the hammering of the pipes caused a sound similar to the ringing of church bells.

Here, then, is another 'snag' in the use of church bells as an invasion alarm. Other noises may be mistaken for the bells. Apart, however, from this, would it not help to increase rather than to allay panic, if the public are to run into the street when the warning is heard?

## COLLEGE YOUTHS' SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

The meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Tuesday week was attended by about 35 members and friends. The handbells were kept well going and the methods rung included London Surprise Major, Stedman Caters and Triples, Bob Major, etc. Visitors were present from Crayford, Bushey, Ealing, etc., and an enjoyable evening was spent.

## ASSOCIATION FUNDS FOR WAR NEEDS

### SUGGESTION FOR POOLED INVESTMENT.

#### Surrey Association and Guildford Guild Meeting.

It has been the practice of the Surrey Association and the Guildford Diocesan Guild for several years to hold a joint meeting on the Saturday before August Bank Holiday at Ranmore Common, one of Surrey's beauty spots on the top of a hill overlooking Dorking. But under war-time conditions Ranmore Common has its drawbacks. There is not even a village near the church—at least not anything worth calling a village—and without the use of the attractive ring of eight bells the promoters of the meeting naturally became dubious of making it a success this year. In consequence it was decided to transfer the gathering to Leatherhead, which at any rate is more accessible and provides far greater facilities for an 'indoor' gathering than Ranmore can do. The move was more than justified.

The programme included some new departures, one of which was a walk from Box Hill to Leatherhead, and the whole proceedings, thanks to glorious weather and the enthusiasm of some 40 ringers, were marked with the greatest success. Nearly half of those who attended joined the strollers, and the saunter through beautiful Norbury Park proved most enjoyable. Indeed, the charm of the countryside caused them to dally on the road, and they arrived late for the service, which was held in Leatherhead Parish Church.

At the informal proceedings which followed tea, a suggestion was made that associations, instead of individually investing any surplus funds they may have, should pool them with the Central Council and invest them as one sum in War Loan, free of interest to the country. This matter will probably be heard more of in the near future, although perhaps it may be a little late in the day for those associations that have already decided on a line of action.

The Vicar of Leatherhead (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge) conducted the service and based his address upon Psalm 137, which he read as a preface. He commented upon the similarity of the circumstances prevailing at the time the psalm was written with those of to-day. In their captivity, the Jews hanged their harps upon the willows. Metaphorically the ringers had now had their harps silenced. Bells had taken the place of harps, but they could not now be used as they had always been used. If we were not actually in a strange land, there was the strangeness of this time of strife and warfare. It was worth remembering that the patriotism of God's people was bound up in their songs and in their music, and was there any sound more specifically and more generically English than the sound of the church bells? Now these bells had been silenced, as were the harps of old. They should thank God, however, that in that area those who used to give their time and their service to God could, despite the silence of the bells, continue to meet together and strengthen their resolve not to forget the cunning of their right hand, not to get out of touch with one another and to continue to be really a band of brothers, who were resolved not to forget their art so that when this tyranny is past and victory and peace come they would not only be willing but ready to play their part in sending out the joyous news with that most characteristic English instrument, the bells. Although they could not now call the people to come and worship and gather at the Lord's table, he hoped they would continue to use their influence by their example. There were those who had called others to worship who had not always themselves come to pray, but he hoped in the stress of these times they would renew their determination, not only outwardly but inwardly, to draw nearer to God.

#### AN ENCOURAGING MEETING.

Tea at the Duke's Head was a merry meal, although the lady responsible for the teapot did not appear to think so when some of the walkers really got down to serious tea drinking. However, all's well that ends well. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Kenneth Birt (Master of the Surrey Association), and he was supported by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (vice-president of the Guildford Diocesan Guild), Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer), Mrs. Corbett, Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary), Mr. F. G. Talbot (hon. secretary, Surrey Association), Mr. W. Massey (district secretary), Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president of the Middlesex Association), ringers from Croydon (including a number of Mr. Wills' lady pupils from St. Peter's), Beddington, Banstead, Ealing, various London churches, Aldershot, Kingston, Epsom, as well as Leatherhead and other towers.

The Chairman said he was very gratified to see that members had turned up in such numbers in such difficult times. A gathering like that was most encouraging at a time when Hitler was trying to prevent them. It was well to realise how differently they did things in this country to the way in which things were permitted to be done in Germany. Although they had, at the moment, a ban on ringing, if it had been imposed in Germany Hitler would not have allowed the Editor of 'The Ringing World' to make comments on it as he had done. The Editor would have found himself in a concentration camp long ago for what he had said about the ban (laughter). He (the chairman) thought there was really a lesson in that for us. Hitler could not trust the people and held them down by frightfulness. In this country we were free to think as we liked and to express our thoughts. The criticism offered about the ban had been constructive, and while we might think that the people in Whitehall had not been fully alive to what the ban imposed, nevertheless we all realised that they were carrying out a most difficult job and, on the whole, they were not doing it badly. The Editor of 'The Ringing World' was not being kept in durance vile (laughter).

Continuing, the Chairman referred to the death of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, which had taken place that morning. He had been a member of the Surrey Association for over fifty years and the association owed him a great deal. They had also lost during the past week another old member of the Ewell tower, Mr. Worsfold.

The Chairman went on to propose a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Leatherhead for holding the service and expressed pleasure at Mr. Coleridge's recovery from his recent illness. He also thanked Mr. George Marriner and Mr. Albert Harman for making the local arrangements for the meeting, and added that the committee of the Surrey Association had been discussing plans for keeping the flag flying. They had decided, provisionally, to hold another meeting on September 28th at Merstham. Any suggestions for making the meeting a success they would be pleased to have from the members.

#### MR. J. BEAMS' CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith said he would like, on behalf of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, to join in the expression of sympathy and regret at the death of Mr. Beams. Mr. Beams was an original member of the Guild, having joined it at its foundation, and had contributed in no small way to its success in its early days in that part of the diocese. Many of those present would remember that when the Guildford Guild was formed the situation in the Leatherhead district was a somewhat delicate one, but by mutual goodwill and understanding difficulties had been overcome and the two organisations had worked hand in hand for their mutual advantage. They were now almost like one society in the area, in which there was at one time the possibility of friction, and in creating the spirit of friendliness Mr. Beams had played a valuable part. The Guildford Diocesan Guild would deeply regret his death. Mr. Goldsmith went on to express the pleasure of the members of the Guild at the success of that joint meeting and hoped that more such would follow. They might have to do without the church bells, but gatherings such as that enabled them to maintain touch with one another and to keep alive the friendly spirit which existed between them.

With regard to the ban of church bells, Mr. Goldsmith said that each week recently he had been expecting to be thrown into the deepest dungeon of the Tower, but happily he was still at large. He did feel, however, that the time had arrived when, without endangering the safety of the State, the ban might be modified, and he hoped some steps would be taken collectively to make representations in the proper quarter. It was for the Central Council to move in the matter and to organise whatever action was necessary (hear, hear).

A letter was read from Mr. A. R. Wilson, hon. secretary of the Holy Trinity Society, Hobart, Tasmania, saying that he had read with great interest in 'The Ringing World' the report of the Surrey Association's annual meeting, and asking for a copy of the association's service form, as he was hoping to compile a form of service for use in his own society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. G. Talbot), who read the letter, said it was posted in Hobart at the beginning of May and reached him about the middle of July. It was decided when replying to Mr. Wilson to send the Tasmanian ringers the fraternal greetings of the joint gathering.

#### FUNDS FOR INVESTMENT.

Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary of the Guildford Guild) said he had been interested to hear that Mr. Talbot had safely received the letter from Tasmania, because a letter which he sent to him from Clandon some weeks ago had not yet reached Croydon (laughter). Mr. Grover went on to say that the various ringing organisations throughout the country had in hand considerable funds which were now lying idle. Probably some of them might be used for purchasing National Savings Certificates, but he thought a much better scheme would be for these funds to be lodged with the Central Council, who should invest them in one sum in War Loan free of interest (hear, hear). He thought some such scheme, if it could be organised, would be better than having separate societies investing small amounts. He did not suggest, of course, that such sums as were already invested in Government funds should be touched.

Mr. F. W. Housden thought they would be up against difficulties if they tried to organise such a scheme. He referred to one society with a very large balance which, if asked for a guinea for some cause in connection with bells, would spend a day over it in committee and finish up by giving half-a-crown (laughter).

The Chairman, in closing this part of the proceedings, reciprocated on behalf of the Surrey Association the good feeling expressed by Mr. Goldsmith. The Surrey Association had always had the warmest feeling for the Guildford Guild. He hoped the friendship between them would always continue and that they would work in close harmony. A committee was already considering a scheme for closer unity. They would be delighted to see any members of Guildford Guild who could get to Merstham when the meeting was held there in September.

Afterwards music and handbell ringing were enjoyed. Piano and violin duets were played by the Misses Harman and community singing was indulged in. There was no lack of handbell ringers and a number of touches were rung, including Stedman Triples and Caters, Grand-sire Triples and Caters and Double Norwich and Double Oxford Major. Even single-handed handbell ringing was tried. A party of eight rang three leads of Treble Bob, and added to the gaiety of the proceedings. The success of the gathering should encourage similar meetings in future.

## HISTORICAL PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES

### THE FOUNDATIONS OF THURSTANS' PEAL.

Yesterday was the ninety-eighth anniversary of the performance of a peal of Stedman Triples which marked a definite and important stage in the process by which the first true peal composed by ordinary bobs and singles was evolved. The broadsheet which was published to advertise the performance reads as follows: 'On Monday, August 8th, 1842, eight members of St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, ascended the tower of Saints Peter and Paul, Aston, and rung in a masterly style a true and complete peal of Stedman Triples, comprising 5,040 changes, in 3 hours and 10 minutes. Tenor 23 cwt. The band as stationed—Mr. James Jarvis, Treble; Mr. John Hopkins, Second; Mr. John James, Third; Mr. Joseph Deer, Fourth; Mr. Thomas Guy, Fifth; Mr. Thos. Thurstans, Sixth; Mr. Thomas Day, Seventh; Mr. Jesse Cutler, Tenor. The peal was ably conducted by Mr. Thomas Day.

'The above peal consists of 240 bobs and 2 singles only, which gives it a decided superiority over any peal yet produced, and is an improvement upon Mr. Hudson's peal of Sheffield, having twenty singles taken away which has been done by Mr. Thomas Thurstans to whom great credit is due.'

A hot controversy arose about this composition, both Thurstans and Lates claiming the credit for it. John Hopkins, who rang the second in the above performance, called Lates 'the robber author,' but Henry Johnson stated on the authority of Thomas Day that 'Lates was the real author of the peal, and although about the time Thurstans made some improvement on Hudson's peal by cutting some of the singles out, it was Lates who first reduced the number to two.'

The facts are as follows. When composers first tried to get a true peal of Stedman Triples they were faced with the fact that it is not possible to set the 5,040 changes down in 60 separate and independent courses without bobs or singles, as can be done with most methods; so they used a plan in which two bells were kept dodging for a long time behind while the front bells rang Stedman Doubles. The plan gave true peals, but the ringing and the music were altogether too monotonous, and so the aim of composers was to reduce the number of calls as much as possible. Generally they worked by experiment, and, by what seems to be a lucky chance, William Hudson, of Sheffield, hit upon the following peal:—

231456	1	3	4	5	6
356412	—	—	—	—	—
521643	D	—	—	—	—
234165	D	—	—	—	—
365142	—	—	—	—	—
642153	—	—	—	—	—
453126	—	—	—	—	—

Nine times repeated with a Double in the first six of the fifth course of the second and seventh parts. The Doubles are made thus:

3564127
5364127
356
365
635
653
5631472

This peal actually supplied the long sought for solution of the problem and is the basis on which every one of the twin-bob peals in the method is founded. But at the time it was produced there was nothing particularly original or brilliant about its composition. It was just the sort of peal that any other one of the leading composers of the time might have produced—only it happened to be true.

The plan of it is as old as change ringing. The idea is to use the seventh as the whole-hunt and let it be unaffected by bobs or singles. The sixth is the half-hunt, and it must be so arranged that it falls into every possible combination of positions relative to the whole hunt and to repeat this work regularly throughout the peal.

This was the plan on which Annable had constructed his peal of Bob Major, which was for the old composers the typical peal. It was the plan on which the Garthons and Vicars' peals of Grandsire were based. Earlier than them Fabian Stedman had explained it, and earlier still it was the plan of the Plain Changes, the very foundation of all change ringing. Annable's peal is based on the following five-course block:—

23456	W	M
42635	—	—
64523	—	—
56342	—	—
35264	—	—
23456	—	—

When we compare this with the first part of Hudson's peal we cannot fail to notice the similarity. But there was one important difference between the two methods. In the Bob Major, bobs at Wrong and Middle called in full will cause the sixth to fall successively into every one of the five possible positions and to come home

at the fifth course end. In the Stedman, bobs at 3, 4, 5, 6 or, as we now say, at S and H, will similarly cause the sixth to fall successively into five different positions and to come home at the fifth course end. But whereas in the Major there are only five possible positions, in the Stedman there are six positions, and the half-hunt (the sixth) does not fall into fourths at the course ends.

To get the bell into that position and out again so that the thread of the composition could be picked up, Hudson used two doubles, as we have shown above. This again was a device which was quite familiar to the composers of the time. It had the additional advantage that it brought up a part-end which would repeat four times and so almost automatically give the 60 courses in 10 regular parts.

That, there is not much doubt, is the problem which Hudson set himself to solve at the outset, and in doing so he solved the far more elusive problem of how to avoid the internal falseness of the method. We shall not, we think, do him an injustice when we say that this was a piece of luck.

Composers were not slow to recognise the great merits of Hudson's peal, but they thought naturally that it could be improved, and the obvious way of doing so was to reduce the number of the doubles.

Hudson himself tried to do it, and he conducted a peal at Sheffield in 1846, in which he had omitted 18 doubles and eight bobs; but it was false. For it is a fact (the reasons for which we will not now go into) that every peal of Stedman Triples on this plan must contain 240 bobs, no more and no less.

The only way Hudson's peal could be improved was by altering the position of certain of the pairs of bobs and so doing away with the necessity of some of the doubles. This was a device which Shipway had discovered and used in earlier compositions, but whether composers generally understood what he had done is very doubtful. It was the Birmingham men, and especially John Lates and Thomas Thurstans, who rediscovered the device.

The process consists of omitting a pair of bobs at 3-4 and calling another pair in another course at 7-8. Or omitting a pair of bobs at 5-6 and calling another pair in another course at 12-13.

If you omit any pair it is necessary to know which other pair you must call instead, but when you know that you can get rid of the necessity for using the Doubles as Hudson did.

Both Lates and Thurstans found out how to get rid of doubles. Which of them first discovered the trick, and whether he learnt it from Shipway, we do not know. Lates evidently made the final reduction to two, but the credit for the composition which was rung in 1842 can quite fairly be divided equally between the two men.

The matter did not rest there. Both men made further investigations, leading in the end to Thurstans' familiar four-part peal, which has two ordinary singles in place of Hudson's doubles.

One important and interesting thing about Hudson's peal we can point out.

231456	453126	125346
324156	541326	213546
342516	514236	312645
435216	152436	243615

Here are twelve course ends. If from each of these we prick a round block consisting of five courses each called 3, 4, 5, 6 (S H), we shall have the 5,040 true rows of Stedman Triples set down in twelve separate and independent five-course blocks. Composition in the method consists of breaking up these blocks and joining them together.

There is only one way of doing this apart from the use of Singles. We can omit a pair of bobs (either 3-4 or 5-6) in any one course. If we do so we must omit another pair at 3-4 or 5-6 in another course, and we must call two pairs (either 7-8 or 12-13) in two further courses. When once we omit any one pair we are strictly limited in the omission and calling of the other three pairs to certain definite courses. When we understand how and why these omissions and callings have to be done we have learned the essentials of the composition of peals of Stedman Triples on the twin-bob plan. The great majority of the peals which have been rung in the method are on this plan.

## CALL CHANGES.

### AN EXCELLENT WAY.

To the Editor.

'Dear Sir,—I should like very much to endorse 'Musician's' remarks in 'The Ringing World' about Mr. Drake's articles on call changes. Possibly one day Mr. Drake will read over all the letters which he has written to 'The Ringing World' on this subject, and will smile when he realises what a lot of tripe he has written. Personally I am of the opinion that call changes are an excellent way of helping a learner to listen for the sound of his own bell, which is essential for good striking when he commences change ringing.

I was one of several learners whom Mr. E. H. Lewis, then captain of the Brasted band, taught to ring about two years ago, and I should like to point out that as soon as we could ring rounds we were put to ringing call changes for some time before we began half-pull change ringing. When we did eventually begin change ringing for Sunday services, the striking was much better, I think, than it would have been had we gone straight from rounds to half-pull ringing.

P. N. BOND.



## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

### FIRST STEPS FOR THE BEGINNER.

We have now examined the work of three of the pairs of bells in a plain course of Grandsire Triples. The fourth pair, 5-6, presents to the beginner considerably more difficulties than the other three. With 1-2, the two bells quite obviously work together, the second following the treble in a parallel path and the two striking with the interval of one other bell.

With 3-4 the work is very similar except for one lead and for the dodging and place making.

With 7-8 the ringer is concerned only with one bell, so far as the method is concerned.

But when he comes to tackle 5-6, the beginner finds a great deal of difficulty in realising the connection between the work of the two bells. That connection, of course, does exist, and the ringer must find it out because it is an almost hopeless task to try to ring two handbells independently of each other, even in the simplest method; and, however clever a man is, he will not get very far in the more complex methods if he depends on that plan.

In the first place, the learner should realise that in every method, and especially in such methods as Grandsire and Plain Bob, the paths of all the bells are parallel to each other, though some pairs follow each other at a greater interval than others. That is why we advised learners to practise the hunting course of Major. We saw there that, however you may select pairs of bells from the eight, there are only four combinations of hunting, and when once these four combinations are mastered, plain hunting should present no further difficulties whatever bells are being rung.

On seven bells there are only three combinations of plain hunting. First when the bells are coursing next each other and pass in 1-2 and 6-7 as the trebles do in the plain course. The second combination is when the two are coursing with one bell between them as 1-4 do in the hunting course. They pass each other in 2-3 and 5-6, and hunt up and down with three other bells striking between them. Note how they pass each other, striking together in 3-4 first at handstroke and then at backstroke. But when they cross in 5-6 they strike together first at backstroke and then at handstroke. They come to the lead and to the back with one other bell between them.

The third combination is when the two bells are coursing with two other bells between, as 1-6 do in the hunting course. Their paths are really as much parallel as those of the other pairs, but since they are parted in rounds as widely as they can be, while one of them is hunting up the other is hunting down, and so the learner should study how they gradually come together, pass each other and separate again. They pass in 3-4 and 4-5, striking together in 3-4 first at backstroke and then at handstroke; but when they pass in 4-5 they strike together first at handstroke and then at backstroke.

Into whatever positions your pair of bells fall in Grandsire Triples, the plain hunting will always be one of these three combinations, therefore it is most advisable that you should thoroughly understand all you can about the three before you go further. And here, as we have all

along insisted, pricking changes and drawing diagrams will help you immensely.

Now let us turn to the work of 5-6 in the plain course of Grandsire Triples. And first there is one point which is worth stressing: The two bells 5 and 6, together with the 7th, supply almost all of the distinctive music of the course. The ringer is almost certain to be familiar with the music, and when he first attempts to ring the pair to the course he will find it a very great help to him in knowing where he should strike his bells. But, and this is the point, though he is helped perhaps more than he realises, to ring the plain course, he is not helped to ring any other pair which may fall into the same positions that 5-6 do in the plain course. In fact, he is hindered, for he is relying (again perhaps more than he realises) on what will fail him as soon as he comes to altered conditions, either a fresh pair of bells or the different music when bobs and singles are made.

It is probably due in large measure to this early and unconscious relying on the music when learning the plain course that quite a number of good ringers who can ring touches and peals are not nearly so comfortable on any other pair of bells as on the one they started with. The moral of it is, when learning vary the pair of bells you ring as much as possible, and when you practise the plain course vary the order of the bells in rounds. Ring the bells, for instance, in Queens or Tittums instead of in the natural scale.

When the course of Grandsire Triples begins 5-6 start with a dodge. Then they plain hunt with one bell between them. They cross in 2-3 and continue hunting until the treble has turned the fifth and led. The fifth now has to make third's place, and in the same change the sixth dodges in 6-7 up. This puts the treble and the bell-in-the-hunt in coursing order between 5 and 6, and therefore you take up the third combination of plain hunting, passing your bells in 3-4 and 4-5. When you are together in 4-5, a dodge is due, and that presents no difficulty. You continue plain hunting until the sixth comes before the treble and makes third's place, while the fifth dodges in 6-7 down. This puts you back into the second hunting combination.

At the next lead end you get what is called the 'scissor' dodge. Your bells have come together and passed in 5-6. One goes down to fourths and the other behind; but now at the dodge they come back together for one blow before they part again. This dodge should be carefully studied, for you will get it in various forms in different methods. In the plain course of Grandsire Triples you get another form in which the bells dodge before they pass instead of dodging after they pass. This is the dodge at the beginning of the course.

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**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 10th, at the Institute, Bushey, at 3, for social gossip and handbells. Open to all interested in ringing.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at St. James' Church, Milnrow, at 7 p.m. Members, please note date and place. Handbells will be available.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, August 10th. Handbells available in Church House at 3 p.m. Service in church 4.30 p.m. Tea at Binn's Cafe at 5 p.m., 1s. 6d. each, followed by business meeting and handbell practice.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Sometimes known as the Model Village, correctly, Leigh, is to be the scene of the next meeting. The date, Saturday, August 10th. Tower open! Beg pardon, handbells available. Service 4.30, followed by tea at 1s. per head, and business meeting. One train only from Tonbridge, at 2.15 p.m. Bus leaves twenty minutes to the hour (No. 101). Come and enjoy a brief respite from the worries of the day.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, August 10th. Handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., meeting to follow. Please make an effort to attend and ensure future contact with each other. Have you any ideas or suggestions? Come and talk them over.—A. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—There will be a handbell practice at Hughenden belfry next Saturday, August 10th, at 5 p.m., and any ringers who care to attend will be very welcome. It is hoped to arrange weekly practices at Hughenden. There are also handbell practices at Beaconsfield belfry on Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9 p.m. Visitors, including ringing members of His Majesty's Forces, will be very welcome at these practices.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 13th, at 8 p.m. Handbell ringing from 7 p.m. and after the meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 17th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, at 3 p.m. Handbells available, also 'silent' tower bells. Learners, here's a fine opportunity to learn ropesight! Tea can be arranged nearby.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wokingham on Saturday, August 17th. Service in All Saints' Church 4.15 p.m.; preacher, Canon Coleridge. Tea at Great Mead, near church, 5.45, followed by handbell ringing and a social hour. All welcome. Please let me know by August 13th how many for tea.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, August 24th. General meeting at the George Hotel, Princes Square, at 6.30, to be followed by social evening, with handbell ringing, etc. A hearty welcome to all. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. F. E. Darby is now 15, Wilmot Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

**APARTMENTS.**

**LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES.**—Superior board-residence or bed and breakfast; 2 minutes sea, tennis courts, bowling green and park. — Mrs. Brown, Avonholm, 24, Queen's Road. Telephone 6965.

**BELLS HUNG IN BALL BEARINGS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—What authority has your correspondent for saying that 90 per cent. of ringers are against the hanging of bells in ball bearings? There are, I dare say, a good many people who don't know how to handle a bell, who put their failure down to the ball bearings. When they can't ring a bell in plain bearings they say it wants oiling or wants rehanging. Some bells hung in the old plain bearings go well enough, and then they are delightful to ring, but more often they don't go well. Of course, a good many of the old ringers who had learnt to handle heavy bells on plain bearings did not take kindly to bells rung on balls where the pull is entirely different, but when a man knows how to handle a bell hung in balls it is just as comfortable to ring as any on plain bearings. I wonder how many of the younger people of to-day who turn tenors in would have made any fist of the tenors of sixty or seventy years ago. Your correspondent can up and say what he likes and he can protest against ball bearings until he is blue in the face, but he had far better stay at home and smoke his pipe. In any case the bell hangers and the architects have all the say in the matter. The ringers don't count. They have to take what is given them, and in this case it so happens that it is better than what they used to have.

L. W. BUNCE.

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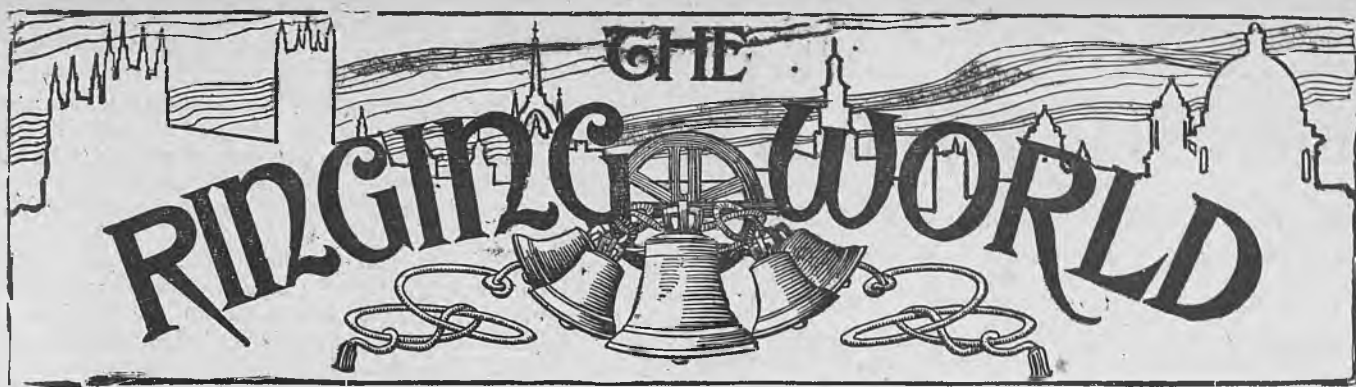
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No. 1,534. Vol. XXXV.

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## A TIME FOR ACTION.

The suggestion, made by a correspondent in our last issue in connection with the present unsatisfactory position of the ban on the use of church bells, that the Central Council and every association should communicate immediately with the Government department concerned with a view to getting some modification, is one that deserves close attention. Sufficient time has now elapsed for a studied review of the situation, and there is nothing in the scheme for using single church bells as air invasion warnings to prevent using rings of bells for their normal purpose of notifying Sunday services. The position with regard to churches, particularly in rural areas, having only a single bell, is rather different, because there could be no distinction between a service bell and an alarm, but where there are rings of bells there can be no possible confusion. Bells rung in orderly fashion in the way that the people of this country have been used to hearing for hundreds of years could not be in any way confused with just one or two bells clanged when the enemy is expected or has arrived. This is one thing that should be emphasised with the Ministry of Home Security which, in conceiving the idea of a warning scheme could obviously have had little or no knowledge of the technicalities involved on the actual bells side of the question.

If, however, representations are to be effective, any proposals which are put forward to the Ministry to obtain a modification of the ban must be reasoned and constructive. It would be useless and, indeed, unreasonable merely to make a general demand for the wiping out of the ban, and if the associations approach the authorities it should be on common lines which the Ministry can see are worthy of consideration. Such points as are put forward must clearly show that they would in no way interfere with the general scheme of the Ministry that an alarm in case of air invasion shall be given by the use of church bells. Those who know bells best know the limited effectiveness of such a plan and know also the difficulties of carrying it out, but that is not the sort of thing the authorities are likely to listen to with much patience. It seems to us that the best hope of sympathetic consideration will be to prove to the Ministry that service ringing and practices can be revived without the least risk of interfering with the warning, if only the advice of those who really understand bells is sought and that the public are taken into confidence in any plans that may be evolved.

There would admittedly be difficulties in the case of one-bell churches. These bells may still have to remain  
(Continued on page 386.)

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silent except for the emergency which the Order contem-  
plates, but the orderly ringing of bells in peal, at pub-  
licly recognised hours of service, could not, as we have  
already said, lead to any misconception. On the other  
hand, the restoration of ringing would be widely wel-  
comed by the public. With the silence of the bells there  
is something sadly missing in the English Sunday, some-  
thing which the public would gladly welcome back again,  
and we think that reasoned appeal to the Minister of  
Home Security by the associations, led by the Central  
Council, might open the way for a reconsideration of the  
total ban. It needs, however, thoughtful action. One  
difficulty in getting any steps taken within reasonable  
time by the fifty or so ringing associations spread over  
the country is that so few of them have any machinery  
for acting quickly, unless the leading officials are pre-  
pared to take the matter in hand on behalf of the mem-  
bers. This is an occasion and an object which, we feel,  
would amply justify the task being undertaken by re-  
sponsible officers of associations without waiting to con-  
sult committees or general meetings, and it should be  
done without loss of time. Opportunity should be taken  
to call attention not only to the depressing effect, already  
expressed by many influential clergy in the public Press,  
which the silence of bells in town and village is having  
upon the people, but also to the fact that such silence is  
unnecessary in the interest of public security if the scheme  
is thoughtfully worked out. The question of practices  
might present some difficulty, but where there has, in the  
past, been a night fixed by definitely established cus-  
tom, and when it is understood that the warning will be  
only the clanging of one particular bell, local knowledge  
would enable the scheme to be clearly understood. If  
need be, it could be locally advertised to save the possi-  
bility of any misunderstanding. The Central Council  
should give a lead to the associations in their approach  
to the Ministry, and might well ask for a deputation to be  
received. There is nothing to be lost, and there might  
be much to be gained by such action, for the decision of  
the Ministry to ban all bells was unquestionably hurriedly  
made and without consultation with those who could have  
imparted valuable information.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 5, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CONDUCTOR'S RESIDENCE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Comprising seven 720's each called differently.

*ERIC DURRANT	...	...	1-2	†JACK N. A. PUMPHREY	...	3-4
WALTER C. MEDLER	...	...	5-6			

Conducted by W. C. MEDLER.

\* First handbell peal away from the tenors. † First handbell peal  
away from 1-2.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Thursday, August 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT PERRY FARM,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY...	...	...	1-2	CHARLES R. LILLEY	...	3-4
*HENRY G. LEWIS	...	...	5-6			

Conducted by C. R. LILLEY.

\* First peal on handbells.



## JOHN MARTIN'S MANUSCRIPT BOOK. OLD LEICESTER COMPOSER'S 'TIT TOM' PEALS.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

John Martin was composer to the Leicester Scholars towards the end of the 18th century, when that society was at the height of its fame. His manuscript book, a brown quarto volume, is carefully ruled and neatly written. The ink is very much faded, but except where the edges of pages have cracked and broken off, everything can be read quite easily. The language is not elegant, but it is direct and very human, and it is free from that queer mixture of obscurity and florid eulogy that is characteristic of so many writings of the period.

The volume opens with accounts of two peals of Grand-sire Caters rung soon after the bells of St. Margaret's Church had been augmented to ten. The first was 6,012, rung on August 12th, 1776, and of this Martin says: 'We can safely say that a peal of such a Length Never was performed so compleat by the first Attempt Ever Made for the same.'

The second was the great 10,080 rung in 1777. Martin tells the story of this in inimitable style.

'It was agreed on By the Leicester Change Ringers To Go for a peal of Ten Thousand and Eighty Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, which They Did Every Monday Morning, and after a Tryal of several Times, They compleated Their Desires. Four Times They Rung Eight Thousand, and Once they Rung Nine Thousand, and then ye Man that Rung the Third misfd, his Salley, and ye peal was lost—Another Tryal Took place on the 25th. Day of February, (1777) and 5000 changes was rung in the Morning and In ye afternoon of ye same Day they Compleated the Great peal of 10080 Grandsire Caters in ye Tittoms, in Seven hours and Twelve Minuets, the Next Day the Society Met and Chear'd (i.e. chaired) Three of the Oldest Members Through the principle Streets of the Town, and the inhabitants of ve (town?) Made a Subscription and it Ris to the Eight (height) of Thirty Three pounds and upwards, which Names are hear wrote under. Begin from St. Margaret's Church.'

Then follow 22 columns of names and the amount each gave. Contributions ranged from 2d. to a guinea, given by 'Mr. Watts for Ale.' The collectors missed very little ('In the Combship 2.6'), and their enthusiasm was in no way abated by the next day, for we read:—

'Received the Next Day of people that was not at home 2.2.'

The ringers in this great peal were 'Wm. Ryder, Treble. Benjn. Warburton, 2. Thos. Armstrong, 3. Thos. Scott, 4. Wm. Thaker, 5. John Martin, 6. Mark Greyham, 7. Joseph Smith, 8. William Bull, 9. James Slack and Richard Wright, Tenor. Conducted by Wm. Bull.'

Succeeding pages of this fascinating book give instructions for the ringing of Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and Bob Major. There are touches of progressive lengths in these methods, and the figures of two peals, Holt's Ten-Part and the 5,120 Treble Bob Major rung in 1718 by the Union Scholars. Inside the front cover of the book are the figures of 5,040 Bob Royal with this comment: 'Bob Bells for 5,040 Bob Royal with 789X Beating together Right way behind.' A touch of Grandsire Triples has this footnote. 'In ye Tittoms: a Favourigt 504'; three leads of Treble Bob are said "to Shoe the Nature of a Bob and how it is to Be Made"; and on a page devoted to Bob Major is a quaint fragment of musical stave showing the ascending scale of D major.

A great portion of the book is devoted to Grandsire Caters, and here Martin is extremely interesting. He gives two leads of the plain course in full with this remark: 'I have hear prick'd two leads in (full?) length that it may be adapted to the Method, the Remainder of

ye Course I have prick'd the Back Stroke Leads of ye Treble as above.'

His touches are built on a mixture of the long-course plan and the short-course plan, and he uses 8 in 2 for placing a new bell behind the ninth, but his peals follow the traditional long-course plan. He loved the music of the Tittoms: 'Give Me the Tittom Beat, with 7th. Beating Down Before ye 8th. and the 8th. Before the 9th., when a person has Once got that Beat in is ear he Sails Before the wind with pleasure and his Ear will Never be Satisfyed with the Beat of Good Tittoms.'

In Martin we have for the first time a composer stressing the musical importance of the bell behind the ninth. Reeves dismisses the subject rather casually with the remark that some prefer the music of one bell behind the ninth and some prefer another. For John Martin no doubt whatever existed. He never failed to draw attention to the excellence of the block of courses with the 6th behind the ninth; he called it 'the Long Twelve Hundred Course with the 6th. behind ye ninth,' and for him it was the highest form of Cater music.

It grieved him to feel that only a limited amount of pure Tittum music was available. He knew that lengths exceeding some 6,000 changes must be patched up with non-Tittum music, and he sought by a means of his own to split up this inferior music and to distribute it as regularly as possible among the more desirable portions of the peal. Reeves and Gross had tacked the extra portions on to the front of the peal, as may be seen in Gross' 7,001. Martin had a plan of his own. His device was what he designated 'Calling the 7th. down out of the Tittums.' He called the 7th Before, In and out at 6 with a double. The Tittum position was broken up for 198 changes and then re-established, the total result being the same as if 78 had been called. Martin set out his peals and touches by the bob leads, indicating by dotted lines in red ink where the 7th might be 'called down.'

The examples given here show, first the process of calling the 7th down, and, secondly, how they are written in the composer's book. From 52637489 26537489 one may call a bob at 7 and arrive at 36245978 in seven leads; or one may, from 26537489, call the 7th down, insert 198 changes, and still arrive at 36245978. The bell behind the ninth was undisturbed by this plan, and when the 6th was in that position the music was tolerable. In other cases it was poor stuff.

Martin knew this quite well, and felt that he was only making the best of a bad job. Below his 10,080 he writes: '10080 is hear prick'd and has got all the Musick in it as can be Thrown into it, and by Filling up five of the Blanks it Will make a peal of 11070, and by Filling up the Other five Blanks it will make a peal of 12060, and the greater Lengths you Run the More Deficient the Music in some parts must Be, But preserve and get all the good Music you can.'

For his 10,080 Martin lengthened out only the block where the 6th, 5th and 3rd were behind the ninth. For him the music was more important than the symmetry. Read, in conclusion, what he writes of his 7,002:—

'7002 is more compleat when each course is Lengthen'd

(Continued on page 395.)

## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS. THE FIRST TEN THOUSAND.

To commemorate the peals of Grandsire Bob Triples rung in 1715, and Grandsire Triples rung in 1718, two boards were erected in Mancroft belfry, and they still exist. Some years ago the earlier one became decayed through age, and was taken down, repaired, and repainted. It was a rather drastic restoration, but the style of the board was faithfully retained. The other board has been carefully restored on more conservative lines, and is now in an excellent state of preservation.

The wording of it is interesting on account of the statements it makes, and what it claims and does not claim. The performance is not claimed to be the first peal of Grandsire Triples ever rung. On the contrary, it is stated that 5,040 changes had 'often times' been rung, but with changes alike. The Norwich claim is that though the 'most ingenious men' of the age who were ringers had studied the problem of producing a true peal of Grandsire Triples, yet all their projections had proved errors until John Garthon, with long study and practice, had discovered the secret.

From this we are justified in concluding that peal ringing was common at a much earlier date than is usually supposed; only, for want of a true composition, all the peals were false. And this is confirmed by what the authors of the J. D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' say. We may, perhaps, wonder why men should ring a false peal of Triples when they could without much difficulty have discovered true five-thousands of Major, but we must remember that Grandsire Triples was the standard method, that many ringers, perhaps nearly all ringers, did not know that Doleman's peal was false, and that as yet five thousand had not been accepted as the number of changes for a peal on all numbers of bells. There was a point in ringing the extent of Triple changes, but no more in ringing five thousand on eight than in ringing four or six thousand. And anyhow, Major ringing was little understood or practised.

Between the Norwich Scholars and the Union Scholars of London there was some communication. As soon as Garthon's peal had been rung at Mancroft it was sent up to London, and there, less than three weeks after its performance, it was again rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, with Robert Baldwin apparently as conductor. The London men evidently did not look upon it as the sort of peal they really wanted for Grandsire Triples, so they gave it a new name and called it Hick Triples after the distinctive calls in it.

In return, the Union Scholars sent to Norwich the Major method of which they had rung the first peal, and this led to the next important performance in the East Anglian capital.

In 1726 the ring at St. Michael's Coslany was increased to eight, and on the first of April in the following year 'a remarkable peal was rung, called the Quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in, or the Union Bob, consisting of 10,080 changes, in six hours and twenty-eight minutes.'

It was the first time that ten thousand changes had been rung anywhere, and, indeed, so far as we know, only one peal longer than the usual five thousand had up till then been scored—6,832 changes of Bob Major by the College Youths at Lambeth in the previous year.

Thomas Gardiner rang the fifth, Thomas Melchior rang the second, John Webster the fourth, Thomas Barrett the sixth, and Robert Crane the tenor. Three names appear for the first time—Richard Barnham, who rang the treble, John Harvey the third, and Edward Crane the seventh.

When men first began to practise Treble Bob methods on eight bells it did not occur to them that a composition might be true at the lead ends and yet have repetition of changes in the interior of the leads. They had learned by experience that in a symmetrical Treble Bob Minor method internal falseness is not possible so long as the lead ends are true; and they did not see why it should be otherwise in a Major method.

The result was that it was only a matter of luck if the early peals of Treble Bob were true, and, except in the case of the first peal of all, the presumption is that they were false.

We do not know definitely what peal the Norwich men rang at Coslany, and at first sight we should be inclined to conclude that it must have been false; but actually, as with the Grandsire Bob Triples, there is evidence which enables us to judge the matter and to decide, not only what peal was rung, but also whose composition it was, and that it was true.

Shipway in his book gives a 10,080 234567 In Out as the composition of Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, but adds in a footnote that he had also received it from William 573624 — — Eversfield as the composition of Wil- 647253 — — liam Doubleday Crofts, of Nottingham, 426357 — and that it had been rung several times Four times re- at Out in last Crofts' notebook is extant and con- course of the tains the peal. Now Crofts was a re- last part gives 34256. lative or in some other way a connec- tion of John Garthon's family, and he

The whole twice had inherited manuscripts and figures repeated. from the Norwich composer, including the figures of the peal of Grandsire Triples. Henry Hubbard suggested that this peal of Treble Bob was the one which had been rung in 1727 at Coslany, and after examining the figures we can come to the almost certain conclusion that not only is Hubbard's conjecture correct, but that John Garthon was the composer.

He had already, as we have seen, extended the standard 720 of Bob Minor and the six-score of Grandsire Doubles to seven bells. What more natural than that he should try to extend the standard 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor to eight bells, using the same plan as he had used for the others?

He knew that in Minor the half-hunt is called in and out of the slow until the two big bells come together again, and when one is going into the hunt and the other out, the bob is omitted.

When he applied this to eight bells it gave a three-course block in which the half-hunt and the quarter-hunt completed their revolution, and which would repeat four times and give the full revolution of the half-quarter-hunt (the sixth).

2345678

8642735 3

4862735 1

8235476 6

3825476 1

8576342 6

P. 4263578 4

He had now the equivalent of the five-course blocks in the Grandsire Bob Triples and the Grandsire Triples, and it only needed to apply the composition of those peals to produce the extent.

As in the Grandsire Triples, he cannot omit or add any bobs without upsetting the hunts, so he again employed Hics, which in Treble Bob Major take the form of sixth-place bobs.

Whether he went on and produced the 40,320 changes we do not know, but most likely he did, and we can without difficulty reconstruct his figures. If he applied the composition of his peal of Grandsire Triples he would obtain the 40,320, and the lead ends would be true, but there would be internal repetition. That, however, Garthon did not know.

In those days five thousand had not yet been recognised as the standard number of changes for a peal except, of course, on seven bells; but to ring the full extent on eight or even half of it was obviously a physical impossibility for one set of men. A quarter-peal was within the bounds of possibility, though it was much longer than any company had as yet accomplished, and this the Norwich Scholars resolved to attempt.

The composition was an obvious one. Just as they rang a quarter of the 720 of Bob Minor by calling a bob in each of the three courses when 5-6 are at home, so they got the quarter-peal of Treble Bob Major by calling a Hic in each of the fifteen-course blocks when 7-8 are before and 5-6 in their home positions. This was the peal that Croft preserved and that Shipway printed, and this I do not doubt was the peal the Norwich Scholars rang in 1727.

It is significant that on the board they described it as 'the Quarter Peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in.'

The composition is true, and true for the same reason that the Union Scholars' peal is true, but it is too much to suppose that Garthon selected the courses with 7-8 together because they consisted of three of the six true groups. As with Baldwin, the composer of the other peal, in this matter luck was with him.

The conductor of the Coslany peal is not stated. Melchior had for long been the leading man among the Norwich Scholars, and, like Annable among the College Youths, he looked on the conducting as his right. But he rang the second, which was not an observation bell nor a sub-observation bell. Edward Crane rang the seventh, and he was beginning to push himself forward as the authority on composition and the successor of John Garthon. Moreover, the Cranes seem to have had control of St. Michael's belfry, and though the purse club, the ringers' organisation, claimed all the towers in the city, we may be sure that it was individuals that really counted, especially when they were parish clerks, sextons or steeplekeepers. Whether, therefore, Thomas Melchior or Edward Crane called the peal, we cannot decide, especially as a keen rivalry now sprang up between the two men.

J. A.  
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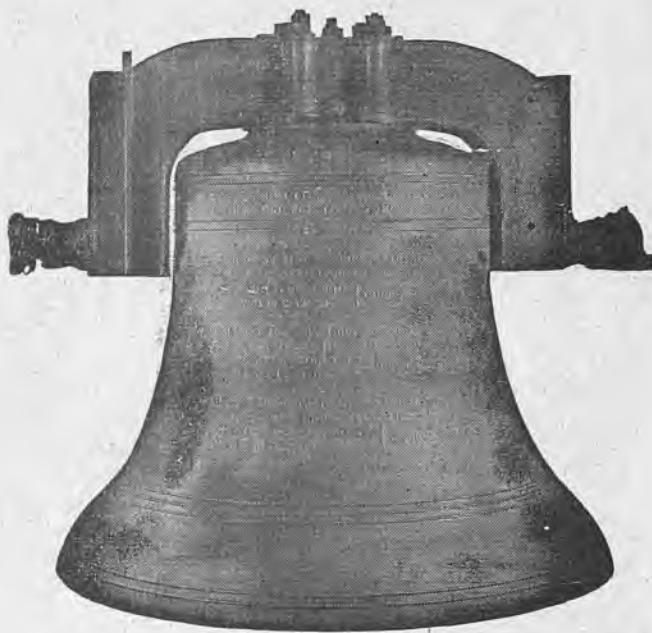
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. C. W. Denyer, the hon. secretary of the Farnham District of the Guildford Guild, has joined the Royal Artillery, and all correspondence relating to the district should be addressed to Miss E. Southby, 122, Ash Road, Aldershot. She is having the help of Mr. John Denyer.

William Pyc was born on August 14th, 1870. During a long ringing career he took part in nearly two thousand peals and set up fresh long length records in several methods, of which London Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Maximus have not yet been beaten. He also called a peal in twelve Spliced Surprise Major methods, which so far is the highest point to which method ringing has reached.

On August 15th, 1908, the Ipswich company rang the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. James Motts called the peal and William Pyc was in the band.

We have been reminded by a correspondent that an interesting anniversary fell on July 21st. The record peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (17,280 changes) was rung at Over in the year 1923.

One of the earliest peals of Surprise Major was rung on August 18th, 1811, when the Keighley band accomplished 5,376 changes of Cambridge Surprise. The composition was by Joseph Tibbs, who was in many respects a competent composer, but it was false.

On August 19th, 1765, a heavy ring of ten bells cast at Whitechapel was opened at York Minster by the Norwich Scholars with a long touch of Bob Royal. The first peal in the steeple was rung in 1788 by the College Youths, conducted by Thomas Blakemore.

The time of the tea at the Oxford Guild's meeting at Wokingham to-morrow is a quarter to five, not a quarter to six as advertised in our last issue.

## RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—During the enforced silence of the bells there is one point that will require watching with close attention. One effect of this deplorable ban is the suspension of the Curfew, Angelus and other traditional bells. Due measures ought to be taken to ensure that on the lifting of the ban these venerable customs shall at once be resumed and that those responsible for ringing such bells shall be ready automatically to return to their duties. Especially important is that in the event of a new clerk, vergor or other official customarily so responsible being appointed under existing conditions, he be informed that the ringing of the bell, as soon as it is allowed, will constitute one of his duties.

F. LL. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

His friends will learn with pleasure that Mr. James George is still improving after his severe operation. Last week he was transferred from Northampton General Hospital to the Margaret Spencer Convalescent Home, at Dallington, where he is likely to remain for a few weeks, after which he will make his home with friends at Wolverton.

Mr. George is still suffering considerable pain, but keeps up his spirits in a most remarkable way, while his tremendous vitality is standing him in good stead. He will be glad to hear from any of his friends.

## GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—If Mr. Turner means a ten-part peal with a single half-way and end, and no other singles, as I expect that he does, then such a peal cannot be had.

The Thompson papers proved that it is not possible to bring an even number of round blocks together into one touch with bobs only. Grandsire Triples shows us all the 5,040 changes divided into 60 short courses called B blocks.

Since it is impossible to put 30 of these together to get the half-peal, one of them, at least, must be divided to show two rows of the B block in one half-peal, and the other in the other half. Take the B block:—

In course  
234567  
752634  
467352

If put after the single it will read:—

Out of course  
325476  
643725  
576243

Take any in course row and follow it with a plain lead:—

234567  
253746

Now 576243 cannot be followed by a bob or it will bring up rounds, and it cannot be followed with a plain lead or it brings 527364, which we have already had. Try as you will, you cannot have two leads of a B block in one half-peal and one lead in the other and keep the changes true, with ordinary singles.

E. BANKES JAMES.



## THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

### READERS PROPOSE ACTION.

#### A MASS PETITION SUGGESTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. F. W. Housden's letter in your last issue, I suggest that it would be possible for you to organise a mass petition from ringers in general against what is generally accepted to be a very impractical ban on ringing.

My suggestions are as follows:—

Churches with three or more bells which are rung in changes in normal times could be given licence to ring for service on Sundays. Should invasion take place while ringing is in progress, the warning might easily be given by ringing treble and tenor together for a period of not less than (say) five minutes, the time limit being specified to allow for those unfortunate learners who cannot 'Stand' when required by the conductor.

At all other times, the ringing of a single bell for not less than (say) ten minutes would provide the alarm. This, in turn, would allow for the contingency of a broken rope, an overturned bell, or any other mishap which might render a bell uncontrollable. There would be no 'five-minute' bell, and churches with less than three bells would have to observe the existing rule.

Now, Mr. Editor, can you organise a petition which will allow us, if successful, to ring at least for Sunday services? Peals, practices and meetings could go by the board if necessary, although I see no reason why these should not be allowed as well as service ringing.

I shall be glad to hear what you think of Mr. Housden's suggestion. I heartily endorse it, and would point out that, if the Exercise is fortunate to get an M.P. on its side, half the battle is won.

W. E. CHALLICE.

## AN INVASION FILM.

### MUDDLE OF THE BELLS.

Sir,—It is urgently necessary that the Ministry of Home Security should at least make a definite statement to everyone concerning the sounding of church bells as alarms in the event of attempted invasion from the air.

In a local cinema last Saturday evening I saw a ten-minute film, shown under the auspices of the Ministry of Information, illustrating by means of a short play the action to take during an attempted invasion for the rounding up of parachutists and spies.

The scene is set in the country home of two ladies, who are awakened at night by a local Air Raid Warden, and told to get to the cellar, as a raid is on. On their way they hear a knock at the front door, which they open to find a dying parachutist outside. At the same time they hear the local ring of eight going to rounds and call changes, which informs them that an air invasion is on.

A man in the uniform of a military officer then knocks, is admitted, and gives himself away as a German spy by asking for the use of an Ordnance Survey Map. He is held up by one lady with the revolver taken from the dead parachutist, while the other rides to the Wardens' post to ask him to inform the Home Guard.

The fact that a whole ring of bells is used in this film can be very misleading and confusing to the public. At any rate, on the face of it, it gives the direct lie to the statement made by the authorities to the secretary of the Central Council some time ago, namely, that 'the ringing of church bells in full peal was not contemplated or required.'

Will people in the vicinity of a ring of bells, after seeing this film, know what to do when only one bell is rung? It is doubtful, to say the least. The suggestion of a ring of bells going at night in these times is absurd, because local ringers could not be got together at short notice, and members of the Home Guard would not be capable of ringing rounds.

Five weeks ago I walked into a belfry 16 miles from this city. The ropes had been removed from five of the six bells, leaving only the second bell to be rung as an alarm. No rounds can be rung from this tower. What would happen if clergy up and down the country were to go one better than this and remove all the ropes from the bells in their towers pending definite instructions from the Ministry of Home Security regarding the use of the bells as an invasion alarm?

WILLIAM A. STOTE.

Coventry.

On the last question raised by our correspondent, we venture to suggest that it might be dangerous to remove all the ropes from a tower. The clergy who did this might bring themselves within one or other of the Defence Orders for obstructing legal authority and the safety of the realm.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

## DINNER GONG FOR CHURCH BELL.

When a vicar is inducted to his parish he has to toll the church bell as part of the ceremony.

Defence regulations recently prevented the Rev. G. Hutchinson, the new Vicar of Alton, Hampshire, from carrying out that part of the ceremony at his induction.

Instead he pulled lightly at the rope without sounding the bell—and at the same time struck a dinner-gong.

## SUFFOLK RECTOR'S PROTEST.

### THE RELIGIOUS SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

The following letter from a Suffolk clergyman recently appeared in the 'Daily Mail':—

Sir,—It is time someone uttered a protest about the use of church bells for war warnings, which precludes their normal use.

In a town there are so many ways of spreading news that bells are unnecessary.

Then there is the religious side of the question.

We are told that we are fighting against a system which sets out to kill religion. For that fight we need a prayerful nation, a people ever listening for those calls which draw them together, so that by mutual aid, companionship, and confidence in God's House they may be strengthened to face whatsoever lies before them.

What are those calls? What is one of the sweetest and most familiar, known down the ages? The church bells.

Let this song of England ring out again each Sunday, ring of home and ring of country, ring of peace that was and yet shall be; ring of a Faith that never dies and of a victory that none can take away.

Euston Rectory, Thetford.

E. N. Needham-Davies.

## BELLS TO SUMMON L.D.V.'S?

### A WESTERN AREA INSTRUCTION.

In one western area a scheme has been formulated for ringing church bells to signify the order of assembly of L.D.V.'s in the locality. Apparently the signal is to be given by platoon commanders, but it may be pointed out that, unless it is done by direction of a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces or the chief of police, it would be an offence under the Order to call a platoon together by this means.

Platoon commanders are not themselves necessarily either commissioned officers or chiefs of police. The L.D.V. in the area referred to have evidently got a plan for the use of the church bells, but are they not arrogating to themselves powers which, under the Order, they do not appear to possess? And unless there is a threatened or actual air invasion will they not be taking an action likely to lead to local panic? There has been no official intimation yet that the ringing of church bells is to summon the L.D.V., and while that may eventually be the best and most practical purpose for which they can be used under the Order, no local platoon commander is entitled on his own initiative to use the bells of his parish church for summoning his men.

## MITCHAM BELLS AND THE BAN.

The Mitcham Parish Church Magazine for August contains the following paragraph:—

All the world now knows that Mitcham Parish Church has a peal of bells. This has happened because the ringers at the end of their weekly practice left the bells 'up' on the night before a regulation was issued that church bells were not to be rung except in warning of invasion. Accordingly, notice that they were to be rung down had to be given on the wireless, in the newspapers and by word of mouth. The officials at the Ministry in London evidently like to think of Mitcham as still a place of lavender and liquorice, of camomile and the squirting cucumber, as their letter giving instructions about the ringing down speaks of the 'Church bells at Mitcham Village Church.' Alas, we can hardly style Mitcham a village any longer.

## THE LATE MR. J. BEAMS.

### FUNERAL AT EWELL.

The funeral of Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, Surrey, whose death we recorded last week, took place at Ewell Parish Church on Wednesday of last week. Mr. Beams, who was 68 years of age, was one of the oldest members of the Surrey Association and a foundation member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

A member of a very old and respected Ewell family which has been associated with the parish since the 18th century, Mr. Beams was a gardener. For several years he worked for the Kensington and Chelsea Schools, and from 1929 to 1938 he was gardening instructor at Ewell Boys' School. His father, Jesse Beams, who died some 20 years ago, was a ringer and beadle for about 50 years at Ewell Parish Church.

Mr. John Beams was introduced to the belfry as a child by his father and so had a lifelong connection with bells. He took part in more than 200 peals, including one at Widford, Essex, in 1894, rung by a band of gardeners, and the first peals on the new bells at Reigate in 1899 and at St. Martin's, Epsom, in 1921. In 1901 he headed the list of conductors for the Surrey Association and again in 1919. One of the peals he called was muffled for the funeral of Queen Victoria. His peals included a 'John' peal at Hersham in 1933 and one at Epsom with a band consisting of four fathers and four sons.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. C. Baring-Gould (assistant priest of Ewell), and the mourners included his son and other members of the family, in addition to ringers from the local band and other towers. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the Surrey Association and the bands at Ewell Parish Church and All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, as well as the Ewell Parochial Church Council.

At the special assembly at Ewell Boys' School, the headmaster (Dr. D. W. G. Jones) referred regretfully to the death of Mr. Beams, and a memorial Communion service was held at All Saints' Church, West Ewell, on the morning of the funeral.

## DEATH OF MRS. C. D. P. DAVIES.

### WIDOW OF CELEBRATED RINGER AND COMPOSER.

The death occurred on Monday of last week of Mrs. Jessie Davies, widow of the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, celebrated as a ringer and composer, author of many works on ringing, and for over 20 years hon. secretary of the Central Council. Mrs. Davies had reached an advanced age and for some years had been an invalid. She was a native of Ringmer, Sussex, where Mr. Davies at one time held a curacy, before being appointed to the living of East Marden, a village among the Sussex Downs, where the first years of their married life were spent and where a family of two sons and two daughters were born. Later Mr. and Mrs. Davies lived for many years at Fretherne in Gloucestershire and afterwards at Deane, Hampshire. When Mr. Davies resigned the latter living, he and his wife retired to Tewkesbury, where Mr. Davies' father was once Vicar, and while incumbent of the fine old Abbey initiated the great restoration scheme. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Davies spent her remaining days at Brodon, near Tewkesbury.

Throughout their married life Mrs. Davies took the keenest interest in the work of her husband, whether in the parish or in his hobbies, which included not only bellringing, but astronomy—he was one of the most honoured Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society. Mrs. Davies' interest in ringing matters continued, and up to the time of her death she was a reader of 'The Ringing World,' which was posted to her every week.

A great tribute to the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, which was broken up by the death of the former, was paid by a lifelong friend, who wrote, 'All who came into contact with it could not fail to be influenced for good—father, mother, sons, daughter, grandchildren, all bound together in one perfect bond of love. Not a few felt the inspiration of that beautiful home of family life, lived in the very bond of peace and of all virtues.'

Mrs. Davies was buried on Friday in the Cloister Garth, hard by the south-east corner of Tewkesbury Abbey, where the Rev. C. D. P. Davies was interred in 1931. The service was taken by the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, one of the oldest friends of the family, whose association with the Rev. C. D. P. Davies began in their undergraduate days at Oxford University in the late seventies. Canon Coleridge was 'best man' at his friend's wedding at Ringmer. He married three out of four of the family, and has laid both father and mother to rest at the close of their long lives.

### REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' SERVICES TO RINGING.

In recognition of his service to the Central Council from 1901 to 1921, the Rev. C. D. P. Davies was presented with a silver loving cup on relinquishing the office of hon. secretary and treasurer. After his death in 1931 a national memorial was raised by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Two trebles were added in Tewkesbury Abbey to make a ring of twelve bells and a ringers' chapel was furnished.

Few men served the art of ringing so much as Charles D. P. Davies did, and none brought to bear on the science a finer intellect. Very much of the knowledge possessed by ringers to-day is the result of the work he began over sixty years ago. A Scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford, his mathematical mind was early directed to the investigation of the construction of peals of Grandsire Triples, and for his labours in this direction alone the Exercise will remain permanently indebted to him.

In those early days Mr. Davies was associated with investigators like Jasper Snowdon, Sir Arthur Heywood, the Rev. H. Earle Bulver and that non-ringing but eminent campanological mathematician, Mr. W. H. Thompson.

Before their time composition had been to a large extent haphazard. Men had produced peals largely by trial and error; but these investigators reduced the subject to an exact science.

By their work they were able to prove that certain natural laws operated in the production of peals, and thus they made the way far easier for those who have followed them by laying down well defined paths which it is necessary to follow to reach certain desired ends.

They eliminated, as it were, many of the blind alleys into which composers used to stumble and grope in search of peals, and by the publication of the results of their labours they saved others that fruitless wandering in the wilderness which earlier lack of knowledge made almost inevitable.

But there are other directions in which Mr. Davies laid the Exercise under a debt to him. It was he who after the death of Jasper Snowdon carried on the work which Snowdon had begun. He was the author of the first 'Stedman' and of a work on the Surprise Methods which had been continued by William Snowdon from the earlier writings and notes of his brother Jasper.

He also published on his own account smaller booklets on Grandsire Composition and kindred subjects, the gleanings of his long investigations into the subject.

Wherever indeed there was work to be done in the cause of ringing Davies was ready to shoulder a task, and not the least onerous of those he undertook was the office of hon. secretary to the Central Council, which he ably filled for 20 years. But he did not despise the humbler duties. He had at various times filled a district secretaryship in the Winchester Guild, and been twice Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, of which he was one of the founders, while one of the first offices he filled was that of hon. secretary of the Oxford University Society.

## HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### SOCIAL GOSSIP AND HANDBELLS AT BUSHEY.

The success of the meeting arranged at Bushey last Saturday for social gossip and handbell ringing fully justified the holding of such a gathering. About thirty members turned up, some from places so far afield as Crayford, Croydon, Beddington, Stepney, Kennington and Ealing. Two rooms and several sets of handbells were provided and the ringing was of exceptionally high quality. Courses and touches were attempted (and usually rung) in many methods, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise in the four standard methods. They included a course of London Surprise, one of Double Oxford Major, one of Bob Royal, one of Cambridge Surprise Major and one of Kent Treble Bob Major, as well as some Stedman Triples and Caters, Double Norwich Major and Grandsire Caters.

The social gossip, which was advertised as one of the objects of the meeting, was duly indulged in, partly at tea and partly after handbell ringing had been closed down, and a move made elsewhere en route for the station. A foursome in darts was won by a talented team, but who won the shoveha'penny competition is not known.

## BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### MEETING AT WATH.

The August meeting was held at Wath on the 10th, members being present from Cawthorne, Darfield, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine and the local company.

Good use was made of the handbells in the afternoon, and at half-past four a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Russell, was held in the Parish Church.

Tea was served at Binn's Cafe, and after tea the Vicar spoke a few words of welcome. He said that he hoped it would not be long before the church bells would be allowed to ring again.

The business meeting in the Church House followed, the president, Mr. E. Brookes, being in the chair. After a discussion, it was agreed to select the next meeting place at each meeting. This will be a temporary arrangement during the restriction of tower bells, and when this is ended the rule of holding meetings in alphabetical order will be reverted to. After votes of thanks plenty of practice was put in on the handbells, the methods rung being Plain Bob, Little Bob and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Grandsire Triples and Plain and Little Bob Major. During the afternoon a 720 of Plain Bob Minor was rung by S. Briggs 1-2, H. Chant (conductor) 3-4, A. Gill 5-6. It was the first 720 'in hand' by A. Gill.

Felkirk was chosen as next place of meeting, which will be held on Saturday, September 14th.

## HANDBELL RINGING AT BRASTED.

### A USEFUL PRACTICE MEETING.

A very successful informal handbell meeting was held at The Mill, High Street, Brasted, on Sunday, August 4th, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Bond. This is the second of a series of handbell practices now being arranged by the Tunbridge Wells and Brasted bands. The first arrivals, a local contingent, brought 29 handbells, eight of which were immediately set in motion to Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, and at 3.30 the carload from Tunbridge Wells arrived (. . . where did they get the petrol?).

Two bands were then formed, one of which chose the big bells (recently overhauled by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank), and seated themselves in the garden, and the rest departed indoors with the small bells. After some time the two bands combined in order that the experts might help the beginners.

Tea was partaken of in the garden. Of course, the main topic of conversation was bells and ringing, and there was much discussion about the rival merits of different rings of bells, and many stories of peals and outings in the golden days before the ban.

After tea two members seemed desirous of breaking their cameras, so the party obligingly grouped themselves with the handbells and several photographs were taken. Revived by tea, several of the ringers felt they could attempt Grandsire Caters, and a plain course was brought round which was the first for nearly all the band.

Three other members, determined not to be outdone, retired to a far corner of the garden to ring a 720 of Bob Minor, which would have been the first in hand for two of the band. However, the distractions caused by the nearby mill stream and the not-so-distant Grandsire Caters proved too much, and the attempt broke down in the tenth course. After more courses of Grandsire Caters had been rung by different bands, three members were banished to the far corner of a nearby field, with strict orders not to return until the 720 had been rung (we fear they must still be in the corner of the field, as we have heard no more of the 720. . .).

The Tunbridge Wells people said that they could fix their clappers if there was any prospect of getting a band. It was, therefore, arranged that a tower-bell practice should be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, August 15th. We hope that this will be the first of many.

At eight o'clock the practice ended with firm resolutions to look up Grandsire Caters for the next association meeting at Leigh. However, the departure of the Tunbridge Wells band was somewhat delayed by one of its members, who felt it incumbent upon himself to drain the bottle in which he had been interested almost to the exclusion of ringing most of the evening.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AND HANDBELLS AT LEIGH.

On Saturday, August 10th, a highly successful meeting was held at Leigh. It was a lovely afternoon, during which some of the members enjoyed watching cricket played on the village green, others making good use of handbells in the vestry. Divine service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Sealy. Appropriate hymns were sung, the members being accompanied on the organ by Mr. H. Hitchcock, a member of the local band of ringers.

After an enjoyable tea, at pre-war prices, the business meeting was held.

For the first time in the history of the district, the members had the pleasure of having the guidance of a lady chairman, Mrs. E. M. E. Richardson being elected to preside. Mrs. Richardson is the widow of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, who was Rector of St. Nicholas', Hereford, and hon. secretary of the Hereford Diocesan Guild.

Miss Rosemary Medhurst, daughter of Mr. J. Medhurst, one of the district's representatives, was elected as a practising member. It was decided to hold, if possible, the annual meeting at Tunbridge Wells on October 8th.

Mr. B. Collinson asked Mr. Richardson, the district secretary, if the Editor of 'The Ringing World' had in any way cut the report of the last meeting. He said it was a very poor report, taking up only two lines. Mr. A. J. Battin also spoke on the subject, and said that the report gave the impression that the meeting was a failure.

The secretary answered the question by saying it was ridiculous to suggest that a meeting could be reported by only two lines of print, and added that the Editor had never cut anything sent to 'The Ringing World' for publication by him. So far as he could remember, the report of the last meeting consisted of about nine lines.

Mr. A. J. Battin said that Mr. Richardson's reports were usually rather lengthy, and made the one in question rather noticeable. The secretary, therefore, took the kicks.

Mr. J. Medhurst reminded the members how important it was that to-day more than ever 'The Ringing World' should be taken.

Of course, the present ban on the ringing of bells was the main subject for discussion. It was unanimously considered that the ban was an imposition, and that the purpose for which the bells were now intended to be used would for many reasons be, in the main, a failure.

Mr. B. Pankhurst proposed, and Mr. T. Saunders seconded, that the secretary should be instructed to convey to the general secretary the fact that the members of the Tonbridge District would associate themselves with any scheme put forward in the hopes of getting the ban lifted. This was carried, the secretary saying that he would certainly carry out their instruction.

Mr. A. Richardson, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Richardson for presiding over the meeting, said how warmly the members welcomed her in their midst, and also her four daughters.

Votes of thanks were also passed to the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Sealy, for taking the service, and to the organist, Mr. H. Hitchcock.

The meeting being declared closed, handbell ringing was indulged in, and a fine course of Bob Major was rung by the following: Monica Richardson (aged 16) 1-2, Dorothy Richardson (aged 14) 3-4, Brenda Richardson (aged 18) 5-6, Christine Richardson (aged 11) 7-8.

'To-morrow is a lovely day' and the inevitable 'Drink to me only' were played by the Misses Brenda and Dorothy Richardson with goodness knows how many bells in each hand.

A course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Christine Richardson 1-2, Monica Richardson 3-4, Tom Sone 5-6, Alfred Battin 7-8.

The beautiful music of Grandsire Caters was heard, a course being rung by Peter Bond 1-2, Dorothy Richardson 3-4, Brenda Richardson 5-6, Tom Sone 7-8, Alec Richardson 9-10.

After more ringing in the vestry, the members departed on their various ways carrying away memories of a very happy meeting.

### SINGLES IN BOB MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The two old standard 720's of Bob Minor are always shown to have a Single half-way and end, making 20 calls. Why use 20 calls when 18 will do? Herewith are the two 720's with the Singles otherwise placed:—

From 6th		5th
23456		23456
S 32564 1	—	64235 4
— 45326 4	—	64352 1
— 45263 1	S	32645 4
— 24563 5	—	63245 5
— 35246 4	—	63452 1
— 35462 1	—	24635 4
— 43562 5	—	62435 5
— 25436 4	—	62354 1
— 25364 1	—	43625 4
PL 32456 4	PL	32456 1

Each to be repeated.

JAMES HUNT.

Taunton.

## 'THE RINGING WORLD' MORE INTERESTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—First let me say what I dare say many other ringers are saying, that 'The Ringing World' is more interesting to-day than it was when it was so cluttered up with peals that there was room for little else. Notwithstanding, we all deplore the ban on the use of our beloved bells. Still, the increased number of articles and letters, very interesting on account of the variety of ideas they represent, should compensate in some measure. We see some of our pet ideas in print, without the bother of spreading them abroad ourselves, and we see points of view we had never thought of, and a good many we can't agree with anyway, and it is all to the good, so long as personalities are avoided.

Mr. Bunce's letter this week seems to hit the right note in the ball and plain bearing controversy. The fact is, unless the tower and frame are solid, no bearing, of any description, will make the bells run easily. I know one or two rocking towers where the frames are modern and good, and the bells on ball bearings, but they are as tricky as they were on the old plain bearings, and require study and knack to ring them. Either kind of bearing would give the same result, because the tower sways.

For some years I have had charge of a ring of ten, tenor 30 cwt., which have been on the same plain bearings since they were put in, in 1896. The bells still run easily and well, and one has only to look around the tower and frame to see why. The tower is huge and solid. 26ft. 6in. by 24ft. 6in. internal measurement. The frame is of huge section timber, and therein lies the secret.

Ball bearings will no doubt supersede the plain ones in due course, but the 'go' will be about the same. In my opinion, all towers that rock excessively should have the bells taken out of them, for the sake of the striking. How often can a band be found that can really make a job of ringing in such towers? Or else reduce the number of bells to what the tower can stand.

May I give a hint on keeping plain bearings in good order, either during the ban or at any time. Cut pieces of half-inch felt to fit in the gudgeon box, press down and soak with good medium oil, three or four drops weekly will make the bells run well, and keep the water and rust away during the ban. All success to you.

PETER LATIN.

Stockport.

## CALL CHANGES.

MR. BAILEY REPLIES TO MR. DRAKE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I quote the Rev. Herbert Drake from his letter of June 28th?

'In the greater part of the country the use of call changes is, I know, condemned, but here in East Anglia it is practised.'

'... it is said the practice is good for this or that... I have noticed it as no good for any of them.'

'I think we may say call changes can do no good.'

'They are a sort of anodyne to prevent real progress.'

On July 19th he said, 'They are always bad.'

'Call changes are unutterably bad.'

'Let both—bad striking and call changes—go headlong where other rubbish goes into the ditch!'

In his latest letter he says:—

'Mr. Bailey writes of a suggestion that East Anglian ringing is inferior to that of any other part of the country. *I made no such suggestion.*... It is apparently a product of his own imagination.' (The italics are mine.)

After reading his first paragraph and the following ones, I fail to see how Mr. Drake can deny making the suggestion.

Apart from that, the fact remains that in East Anglia, and elsewhere in the country, there are thousands of ringers, second to none in ability, who were instructed by the help of call changes.

Mr. Drake will have to produce evidence that where ringers have been taught by other means, they are *better* ringers, before his case is proved.

One paragraph of good solid fact will be more convincing than the three columns of theory which we have had from Mr. Drake's pen up to the present.

In conclusion, let me quote one more extract from his letter of July 19th:—

'I have never said there were no advantages to be got from call changes. On the contrary, I said there are advantages, etc.'

After reading the quotations I gave at the beginning, I give it up.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.



## HINTS ON HANDBELL RINGING.

### FIRST STAGES FOR THE BEGINNER.

Before the learner tries to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples double handed there are two more combinations of work which he should study. Although these do occur between bells in the plain course, they do not occur between 1-2, or 3-4, or 5-6, and so they give something which he probably will not have learnt when he has been practising the plain course.

The first of these combinations is when he is ringing the trebles and the second is out of the hunt. We can study this combination in the plain course by taking the works of 1-3. After the third has been turned from the front by the treble and has made third's place, the two bells cross in 2-3 and hunt in parallel paths, with one bell coursing between them. That bell is the bell-in-the-hunt.

The pair next cross in 5-6, and continue hunting until the treble has led, when the third has to dodge in 4-5 down. That puts a second bell between 1-3 in coursing order, and now they cross each other in 3-4 and 4-5 and are as widely parted as they can be. The next dodge for the third is in 6-7 down. This brings three bells between the treble and third in coursing order, but at the same time reduces the number between the third and the treble to two, so that the pair are hunting in the same relative order as in the previous lead, but reversed. Instead of the treble leading and then two bells and the third, the third leads and then two bells and the treble. The pair cross in 4-5 and 3-4.

The next dodge is made by the third in 6-7 up and brings the bells closer together again. They now hunt with one bell between them in coursing order and cross in 5-6 and 2-3.

Finally the dodge in 4-5 up brings the pair next each other in coursing order, and for one lead they follow each other in hunting in the same way that 1-2 do in the plain course, except that the treble follows the third instead of the third following the treble.

If you draw out the diagrams of the work of the treble and the third in the plain course you will see how in each successive lead their paths diverge more and more until they are as far apart as they can be, when they begin to come together again. This is still more striking when we study Caters or Cinques.

Now, since within one course the man who is ringing 1-2 may have every possible combination of hunting, it is very easy for him to make a mistake and to imagine that his work has got further on, or not so far on, as it actually has, and so to try and ring the wrong lead. To avoid this, he should notice carefully where his bell dodged last lead and where it will dodge next lead, and not depend solely on dodging when the treble has led.

The other combination of work to be studied is when you are ringing 3-4 or 5-6 and one of your bells is in the hunt. All the possible combinations of hunting are shown by the combined paths of the second and the third in the plain course.

When we study the paths of these two bells we shall see that they work together in the same way that 1-3 do, getting further apart in coursing order and then coming together again. Indeed, so far as a course is concerned, the bell-in-the-hunt is just as much a treble as the treble is. Only the dodging is when the bell-in-the-hunt leads its

first blow at handstroke instead of when it strikes in seconds.

When you have learnt all these combinations of work—those of 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 1-3 and 2-3—and when you can ring them without any aid from the tune or from the familiar features of the plain course, you should have no difficulty about ringing touches. For bobs and singles do not introduce any new combinations of work. All they do is either to switch your pair of bells from one of the combinations we have described into another, or to cut out a part of the combined work.

Take the courses and diagrams you have written out and make bobs in them and notice how the combined works are affected. A bob at the first lead end of the plain course puts the trebles into the work of 1-4, 5-6 into the work of 3-4, and cuts a lead out of the work of 3-4.

We have taken Grandsire Triples as our sample method in these elementary notes because it is the method which most men will wish to start on, and for many reasons it is the best. But when there are four men who have a natural gift for double-handed ringing and who mean to take up the thing seriously, they would do well to start with Plain Bob. Bob Minor at first and then Bob Major. They should remember our advice. Learn all you can about such things as coursing order and how methods are constructed, and don't keep to one pair of bells when you are learning.

## EDWIN BARNETT.

### AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED.

One of the best known and most beloved ringers of our time passed away eight years ago last Sunday. Edwin Barnett was born at Ross in Herefordshire in 1862, but spent most of his ringing career at Crayford in Kent, which he made a headquarters of the art. He rang over 800 peals, but more noteworthy than their number was the variety of the methods, for Edwin Barnett was a man who was always seeking something fresh to do. He was one of the band who rang the then record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Romford in 1894. The band had just previously attempted the peal at Brentwood and after ringing more than 13,000 changes, had been frustrated by the breaking of the treble rope. Double Norwich was one of Mr. Barnett's favourite methods, and he composed several peals of it, one or two of them of exceptional merit. Among the peals he conducted were Union, Oxford Bob, Darlaston, Court Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Erin Triples; Reverse Bob, Hereward Bob, Crayford College, Double Oxford, Cam and Granta Treble Bob, and Erith and Dartford Little Bob Major; Little Bob, and Cam and Granta Treble Bob Royal; and Little Bob and Canterbury Pleasure Maximus. This list shows how much he tried to get out of the ordinary rut in his ringing. He took part also, of course, in many peals in the standard methods.

Peal ringing was only one of his many activities. He was for 30 years a member of the Central Council. He took a great deal of interest in composition, and spent much time in teaching. Few men have had so acute an ear as he had in following changes outside the tower. It is related that once a well-known conductor went to Crayford and called a peal of Stedman Triples which was unknown to anyone but himself. Edwin Barnett was recovering from an illness at the time, and so was not in the band; but he was outside the steeple listening, and when the conductor came out of the tower he presented him with the figures of the peal he had just called.

Perhaps we may quote what we wrote when he died eight years ago, for the passage of years has not caused us to modify in any way the opinion we then held.

Edwin Barnett was one of the world's quiet, unassuming workers. He held his own opinions, sometimes very strongly, but he never thrust them on others. He was content to think for himself, and to act according to his lights. He went his way conscious only that he was striving to do his duty, and whether at work or play he gave of his best. He was a prolific peal ringer, but his peal ringing was by no means all done to achieve his own ambitions. Much of it was done to help and encourage others, and he was never better pleased than when helping some struggling beginner through a peal of Grandsire or some other simple method. And he upheld the standard of ringing. Nothing delighted him more than a well-struck touch or peal, but he had no toleration for bad striking. In short, Edwin Barnett was an exceptional ringer—in enthusiasm, in ability, in patience—an example to be followed.



## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rugby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17th.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 17th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans, at 3 p.m. Handbells available, also 'silent' tower bells. Learners, here's a fine opportunity to learn ropesight! Tea can be arranged nearby.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Wokingham on Saturday, August 17th. Service in All Saints' Church 4.15 p.m.; preacher, Canon Coleridge. Tea at Great Mead, near church, 4.45, followed by handbell ringing and a social hour. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COALBROOKDALE.**—The Bellringers' Festival will be held on Sunday, August 18th. Sermons will be preached in the morning by the Rev. F. T. Brooks, in the evening by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hereford (Dr. Lisle Carr). The offertories at all services during the day will be given to the bellringers, who receive no other remuneration for their services.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, August 24th. General meeting at the George Hotel, Princes Square, at 6.30, to be followed by social evening, with handbell ringing, etc. A hearty welcome to all. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for handbell practice at Belbroughton (D.V.) on Saturday, August 24th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Further ringing and social evening afterwards.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, August 24th. Bells (7), without clappers, also handbells, available from 3 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but cafe close by. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The meeting of the Grimsby District, which should have been held at Louth on Saturday, August 24th, is cancelled.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Horsell on Saturday, August 24th, for handbell practice and social intercourse. Bells available (hand, of course) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Will those who intend to be present to tea please notify me by Tuesday, the 20th, and also bring their own sugar? All are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—A 'silent' tower bell practice, followed by a social gathering, handbells, etc., will be held at Earl Shilton on August 24th. All welcome. Meet at the church 6 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, August 27th, at 8 p.m. Handbells from 7 p.m. and after the business meeting.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—Efforts are being made to arrange the quarterly meeting for Saturday, August 31st. The operation of the Defence Regulations and other circumstances rendered the selected towers and date impossible. Will members likely to attend please send me a card during the coming week? The venue will be as central as possible. Half fares will be paid. Details next Friday.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

The address of Mr. D. Smith is now 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

The address of Mr. L. Derrick and Mrs. Derrick (nee Miss F. Boon, of Bristol) is now Campano, The Grove, Nailsea, Somerset.

## APARTMENTS.

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## JOHN MARTIN'S MANUSCRIPT BOOK

(Continued from page 387.)

Equal, that is Each Course having the 7th Down Once In it, it may to the Eye Look more compleat to see Each course equal, and that is the Reason I wrote it so—But was I to call it I would call all the course the same as the 6012, Except the Course with 6th behind ye 9th and In that Course I would Through the whole 990—or Otherwise would call three of them in the Course of 6 behind 9th and Two of them in the Course of third behind the 9th the Ear and Not the eye is to be considered, what think you Brother String of This Method.'

Was there ever a more categorical statement of musical policy? And to the query at the end, surely each Brother String must reply: 'It is well said, John Martin.'

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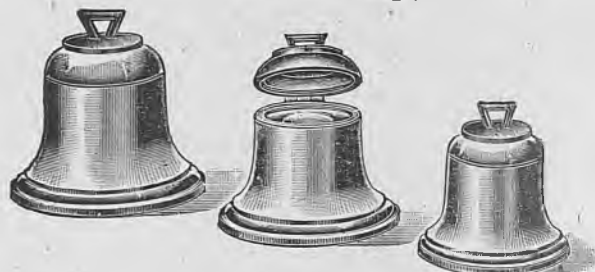
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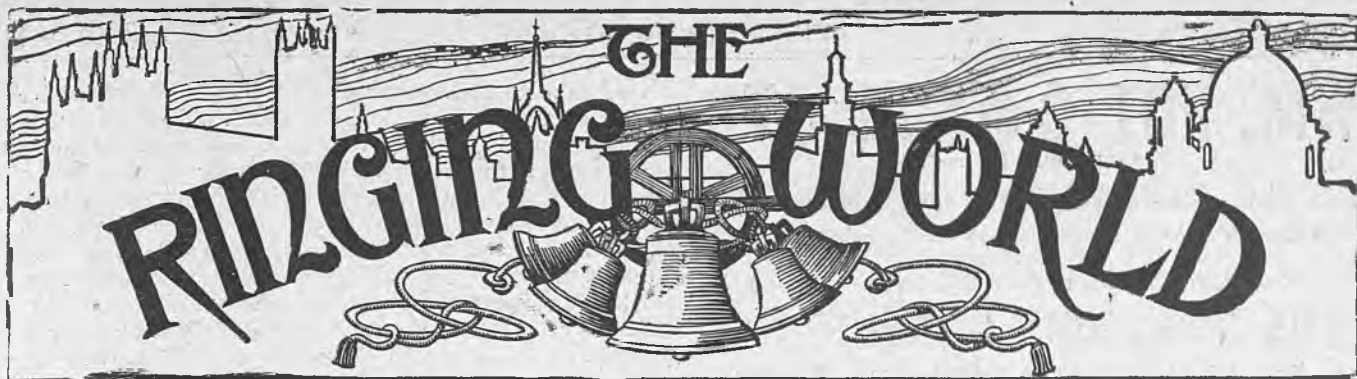
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## MEETINGS DURING THE BAN.

Meetings of bellringers without the opportunity of ringing church bells would, a few months ago, have been, we believe, unthinkable. Yet, to-day, with a complete ban on our bells, associations are holding meetings and finding it worth while. It is, of course, no use to deny that the main attraction is missing, but wherever meetings have been held they have proved that among ringers there is a bond which even the absence of bells cannot break. These gatherings are a test of the loyalty of ringers to their craft and to their friends, and it is standing the test. It does not matter that the meetings are not so well attended as in other and happier days; it does not matter that even such handbell ringing as may be provided is only of indifferent quality—the church bell-ringing has frequently been of similar character—the vital factor of the whole question is that ringers are still prepared to keep in touch with one another, to encourage one another and to help one another within the limits which circumstances permit, so that when the time comes that the bells may once more be used, ringers will be ready for the task and their organisation still available to make recovery as rapid as possible.

Even in those instances where the attendance happens to be meagre there is no need for discouragement. There have been meetings in every association in prosperous times when the support accorded has been disappointing, but no one has failed to try again for that reason. New efforts are made, and sooner or later comes the reward. With so many men now serving in the Army or engaged on work of national importance, small numbers are only to be expected, but these small numbers are the nucleus upon which rapid expansion can be built when opportunity comes, and all the while these gatherings can be maintained there is good ground for satisfaction. It is upon the little companies of enthusiasts that the future of the Exercise must depend, and, bells or no bells, it is important that facilities should be provided for those who are left at home, and who have the will to keep the flag flying, to meet for mutual encouragement.

Those districts in which all thought of ringing meetings has for the time being been abandoned should take courage from the success which has attended many of the gatherings which optimistic secretaries have arranged. An attendance of from twenty to thirty ringers in days like these is equivalent to twice that number in the piping times of peace; and we have recorded several gatherings of this size since the ban began. Even from the ringing aspect, all is by no means lost. The church bells are not available, but there are always the handbells, and it is

(Continued on page 398.)

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a mistake to suppose that when handbells are used they must always be rung double-handed. There can be good practice put in, both in regard to new methods and as a preliminary to double-handed ringing by single-handed ringing and if ringers will condescend to try it we fancy they will find unexpected interest and amusement.

In another part of this issue single-handed ringing forms the subject of a special article, and we commend it to all who are unable to ring double-handed. It opens the way to future progress when church bells are once more available, and in the meantime will provide a new interest at meetings. There are many people who cannot ring a pair of handbells, but there are none among ringers who might not try to ring one handbell to a method. For learners, handbells are looked upon as essential by the majority of instructors. There might now be much more profitable use made of them by more advanced ringers, not only for the sake of amusement, but also to extend their knowledge of methods. Here, too, is a way to encourage the attendance at meetings, where, after all, the bells are the thing. Let those who can ring double-handed do so, but neither they nor anyone need despise the practice which others less talented can obtain from ringing one bell each.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,  
At PERRY FARM,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY ... ..	1-2	CHARLES R. LILLEY ... ..	3-4
HENRY G. LEWIS ... ..			5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 14, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,

At 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven callings.

Tenor size 13.

*WILLIAM VIGGERS ... ..	1-2	JOHN FREEMAN ... ..	3-4
MAURICE HODGSON ... ..			5-6

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

\* First peal 'in hand.'

## ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

On Tuesday, August 13th, another successful meeting was held at headquarters. The Master, treasurer, secretary and both stewards were present. Handbells were kept well going to Double Norwich, Stedman Cinques, Bob Royal, etc.

Mr. E. H. Lewis, who had dropped in on his way to Scotland, undertook to convey the best wishes of the members to Lieut. W. H. Hooton on his joining H.M. Forces. The members wished Mr. Frank Shorter 'godspeed and a safe return,' and read a cheerful letter from Mr. Len Fox, now a soldier.

Interesting letters were also received from Councillor A. Paddou Smith, of Birmingham, and from Mr. R. T. Hibbert, general secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. C. T. P. Brice, of Pulham St. Mary, an old St. Stephen's, Westminster, ringer. Then handbells were brought into use again until 'Time, gentlemen, please,' closed a very pleasant evening.

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## BELLS AND THEIR BEARINGS.

### THE EFFECT ON THE RATE OF RINGING.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Before the correspondence on ball bearings ceases, I shall be grateful if someone will explain how they affect the 'time' or should I say 'compass' in ringing?

Some months ago I was in the company of several well-known ringers, who were discussing the 'go' of a certain ring of bells. All were agreed that the 'go' was splendid, but thought that a peal on them would always require a longer time than on other rings of similar weight, comparing them in particular with another ring with a tenor a hundredweight heavier (both are between 25 and 27 cwt.).

One ringer, who has rung both tenors to a peal and, I believe, turned in one of them, expressed the view that he could ring the heavier tenor (covering) to a peal in three hours, but that the other, on ball bearings, would always require another 15 or 20 minutes.

Another said that bells on ball bearings always required more time. At this point something broke us up, otherwise I should have asked for some exposition.

Have ball bearings anything to do with it, other than to ensure good going? Or is it a matter of tucking up?

I assume that if two tenors of equal weight, equally tucked up, were rung to the same pitch and one went a little worse than the other, the extra pull required would accelerate her leaving the balance and consequently the ringing would be quicker. There are doubtless many mechanically-minded readers who can say if this is so, and if not, explain what actually does happen.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

### CAUSES WHICH AFFECT RINGING SPEED.

Our correspondent raises a very interesting question when he asks whether and how far the hanging of bells in ball bearings and tucked up stocks affects the rate of ringing. It is a question to which much can be said in reply, but to which there is no definite answer. Some people are fond of arguing the matter on purely mechanical lines. They tell us that the more you tuck a bell up the slower it will swing, notwithstanding this tendency is to some extent counteracted by the fact that the distance the bell has to travel is less. And they tell us that since the friction on the gudgeons is much less when the bells are hung in balls, the bells will swing quicker than when they are hung in plain bearings.

These things may be true and no doubt mechanical engineers can calculate to a great exactitude all the forces and resistances involved, but experience convinces us that the factors which actually do influence the rate of ringing are other than those, and are much more elusive and incalculable. For instance, a long draught of rope usually means a slower rate of ringing, and a big belfry and a wide circle of ropes almost always lead to slower ringing than a small belfry and a close circle of ropes. Even high boxes to the big bells have a tendency to reduce the rate of ringing.

Why these things should be difficult to explain, and to some men they will seem rather ridiculous. They are not really mechanical causes, or not to any extent, but they affect in some subtle way the ringers. And in the long run it is in the ringers themselves that the main causes lie why bells are rung at a slower or quicker rate, even why the same man will ring one bell quicker than another. Fashion has something to do with it. It is undoubtedly true that the influence of William Pye led to a quicker rate of ringing heavy bells. His rate for peals of Maximus at Southwark, for instance, was about 22 changes a minute, while the men of a hundred or two hundred years ago rang the same bells at between 20 and 21 changes a minute. The bells were then and still are hung in plain bearings and in the same frame.

There is also the rather foolish idea held by many men that there is something worth doing in ringing a peal on any bells at a faster rate than anyone has ever done it before. Actually quick ringing is easier than slow ringing, provided that the band is reasonably competent, and from an artistic point of view very quick ringing is deplorable. Bells are intended to be heard by outside people, and from that point of view it is just as reasonable to boast of having rung a peal in less time than anyone else, as it would be to boast of having sung an anthem quicker than anybody else.

### WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND

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## ARCHITECTS AND TOWERS.

### EFFICIENCY SACRIFICED TO APPEARANCE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The sins of architects are many and they have much to answer for. Their worst sin in church building is that they think first of designing something which will look well and make other things subordinate to that. Whereas what they should do is to design the building first for use and then consider its appearance.

We ringers suffer as much as most people from this vice. Towers are built that are unsuitable for carrying bells. It used to be lofty spires on the top of thin brick walls which rock with the movement of even a light peal of bells and make ringing difficult. The reason, they would tell you, is that they were limited for money and could not afford to spend more on thicker walls. If you told them that they should sacrifice the spire and put the money into a stronger tower they would tell you that it would spoil the design. The latest style of church is far worse, for it would be hopeless even to consider putting bells into the towers. Again the plea is that the style requires straight vertical lines and no buttresses.

I am moved to these remarks by what has been said by Mr. Rodenhurst and Mr. Lilley about what was done at Shrewsbury Abbey. There used to be in that tower a convenient ringing floor at the level of the bottom of the west window, but it was pulled down when the church was restored, and a fine peal of bells had to be rung for a time under conditions almost impossible and now cannot be rung at all.

That is the sort of thing which happened all over the country. In most churches the best place for the ringing floor is a gallery open to the church and level with the sill of the west window. Such galleries were once common everywhere, but a mania arose for opening out the tower arch, as it was termed, and scores of these galleries were pulled down so that now you have to ring either in a cramped room just under the bells or from the floor of the church, which is uncomfortable and with too long a draught of rope.

Architects have a lot to learn about bells and bell towers, but they are not the sort of people that you can teach. They think they know all about their profession and they won't have outsiders butting in.

B. C. LOCKMORE.

### THE TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We can all sympathise with Mr. Llewellyn Edwards' plea for the retention of the traditional English uses of bells, but it comes too late. Most of these traditional uses have long since lapsed. The ringing of the curfew was a dying custom a hundred years ago, and it was dead when the present century opened. The death bell lasted a little longer, but is equally obsolete now. The early morning bell, the pancake bell, the gleaming bell, and such like, have gone the same way, and the fact that here and there a few parishes kept the old customs longer than others proves nothing against the general rule.

When old customs have once died out, there is no point in trying to revive them, unless the reasons which at first led to their establishment still exist.

The Angelus, which until the recent ban was rung daily in a large and increasing number of churches, is not a traditional English use. It is an innovation introduced into English churches in quite recent years.

X.Y.Z.

### HENRY W. HALEY.

#### CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In last week's issue of 'The Ringing World' mention is made of the late Mr. E. Barnett's acute ear. The following may interest your readers.

In the latter half of the last century, Warners, of London, did considerable work to the bells of Sherborne Abbey, and the College Youths, I have been told, were to open them. A band left London for Sherborne over night and the next day they attempted a peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans' Four-Part). Henry W. Haley, Warners' bell tuner, could not be in the band, I presume because he was in the employ of the contractors. So he and Mr. Dunn, Warners' manager for all bell work, left London on the following morning and arrived at Sherborne while the peal was in progress.

As they were walking together from the station, Haley said suddenly to Mr. Dunn, 'Hark!' and stood still listening keenly to the bells. 'They will soon stop. Two bells have changed over.' And stop they did.

The above was told me by Mr. J. MacKenny, who took over Mr. Dunn's job at Messrs. Warners'. Mr. H. W. Haley died in 1886.

JAMES HUNT.

J. A.  
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## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

### THE FIRST PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

Having scored peals of Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major, the Norwich Scholars next turned their attention to Stedman Triples. They did not ring a peal of Bob Major—why, we cannot guess. Perhaps they did not wish to imitate the College Youths, who had rung 10,800 changes in the method in 1728.

And now the rivalry between Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane came to a head. Each of them wanted to call a peal of Stedman Triples, and each of them believed himself capable of composing a peal in the method. So the company split into two bands. Melchior was supreme at St. Peter's, and he was supported by John Webster, William Palmer and John Gardiner. The men he got to fill up his band were Thomas Blofield, Thomas Atber, John Foster, Christopher Booty and William Porter. Foster was the landlord of the Eight Bells, the headquarters of the Mancroft party. William Porter was a trunk maker, whose shop was in the Market Place. Until some few years ago, when the remains of the Norwich Scholars were finally dissolved, the society's handbells were kept in a leather trunk made by Porter. He has earned a certain amount of fame as the composer of Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Royal and Imperial the Third Major.

On his side Edward Crane was supported by Robert and Thomas Crane, who probably were his father and brother, and by Richard Barnham and John Harvey. His new men were Robert Nockold, William Pettingall and Rice Green. He secured St. Michael's belfry, if he and his family were not in fact already in control there.

So the old peal ringing band was split into two almost equal halves, and each half consisted of skilled and competent ringers. It shows how strong the Society of Norwich Scholars was, and how many good ringers there were then in the city that such a thing could have been possible.

Both parties made haste to secure the double honour of composing and ringing the first peal of Stedman Triples, and on September 11th, 1731, Edward Crane, in order not to be forestalled, advertised in the 'Norwich Gazette' that, whereas that most noted and harmonious peal on seven bells called Stedman Triples, which had so long lain hid in darkness from the knowledge of the world, and was thought impossible to be done, this was to acquaint all ringers and lovers of the art that it was now brought to light and truth and pricked at length by that ingenious and complete ringer Edward Crane. If

any doubted the truth of the peal he could go to the sign of the Six Ringers in St. Michael's of Coslany and have any wager on the matter from two guineas to ten.

This was a challenge to the Mancroft party which was quickly taken up, and in the most effective manner. On October 25th, Melchior called his peal at St. Peter's, and he issued an advertisement: 'Notwithstanding the pretensions of several ingenious ringers in that city and elsewhere, that would bear the world in hand that they had composed that most intricate peal of Stedman Triples, this was to satisfy all lovers of that ingenious art that Thomas Melchior had composed it to truth with two Doubles, being the first that was composed all perfect

Stedman; and it was rung by him and seven more on Monday, the 25th of October, 1731, at St. Peter's of Mancroft in Norwich in 3 hours and 40 minutes, and never a bell out of course or changes alike.' And then with a sly hit at Crane's advertisement he added, 'If any of the curious be desirous they may see the Peal at John Foster's at the sign of the Eight Bells in St. Peter's of Mancroft aforesaid and satisfie themselves without laying any wager.'

The time taken seems extraordinarily long. Three hours and forty minutes for a peal of Triples with a 23 cwt. tenor seems, to-day, al-

most too slow to be possible, but the time has a double corroboration—a further advertisement and the peal board. At the time the bells were rung from the same gallery as now, and the draught of rope was a long one. A long draught usually means slow ringing. The Norwich Scholars rang all their peals at a slower rate than ringers elsewhere, and all the early peals of Triples were slow ones. But the Stedman was by far the slowest of the lot. The 1715 peal took 3 hours and 18 minutes, the 1718 peal took 3 hours and 30 minutes, and the 1719 peal took 3 hours and 6 minutes.

The reference to the 'ingenious ringers elsewhere,' who had claimed to have composed a peal of Stedman Triples, is interesting. Unless it is only rhetoric, it can only be to Benjamin Annable, for we know of no other man sufficiently competent to attempt the task. And Annable's peal is false.

The first round in the contest was clearly Melchior's, but the Coslany party had no intention of owning themselves beaten. They had sent two of their members, Thomas Crane and Rice Green, to listen to the peal and, if possible, find fault. Crane's method of checking the truth of the performance was to count the strokes of the tenor. He did not realise what a difficult, an almost impossible, task he had undertaken. He did not even tick off the strokes on a piece of paper, which possibly might



ST. MICHAEL COSLANY, NORWICH.

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have been a fair test. He relied on his memory, and, of course, he made the tale short.

Edward Crane would not have undertaken such a dull and monotonous job as his brother's, but we may be sure he took good care to hear the whole of the peal. We may picture the scene. He would wait at a convenient distance to hear the start. Then with one or two of his friends he would walk round listening intently. Across the market place and up through the tangle of narrow lanes by the church; along St. Peter's Street and round by the new Bethel Hospital into the Chapel Field; then past St. Stephen's Church and over Hay Hill; and so to the market place again; moving steadily while the ringing was regular, and stopping with bated breath whenever there was a trip, hoping with all his might that it would develop into a muddle and so break the peal down.

And since listening to a peal is well known to be a thirsty job, he would call now and then into one of the many taverns that surrounded the church. But not, I think, into the Eight Bells. Host Foster was up in the belfry, sweating at the tail end of the sixth, but there would be too many of the Mancroft supporters in that house to make it a very comfortable place for Edward Crane.

And then when, at last, the bells came round, he would not wait to mingle with the crowd which gathered to congratulate the ringers, but was off to St. Miles' and the Six Ringers. There he would meet his friends. Notes would be compared. Faults would be remembered. Trips would be magnified. And when brother Tom turned up and reported that only 4,860 changes had been rung, their spirits would rise again. All was not lost. The

fight was not yet over. Let Melchior publish the peal, if he dared. They would have something to say to that.

Melchior, as we have seen, did publish the peal, and the Coslany party set about preparing their counterblast. First they tried to get hold of the figures. It will be remembered that Melchior had offered in his advertisement to let 'any of the curious' see the peal free, but when Thomas Crane and a companion called for it, he was suspicious (and not without reason) of their intentions. However, they would not take no for an answer, and kept him up all night. In the end he sold them figures for half a crown a man, but when they were examined they turned out to be, not the peal that was rung, but another and earlier essay of Melchior's with 14 Doubles and 21 alterations.

The controversy now waxed hot, and in all the public-houses round St. Peter's and St. Michael's men took sides and argued on the merits of the two bands and the qualities of Stedman Triples.

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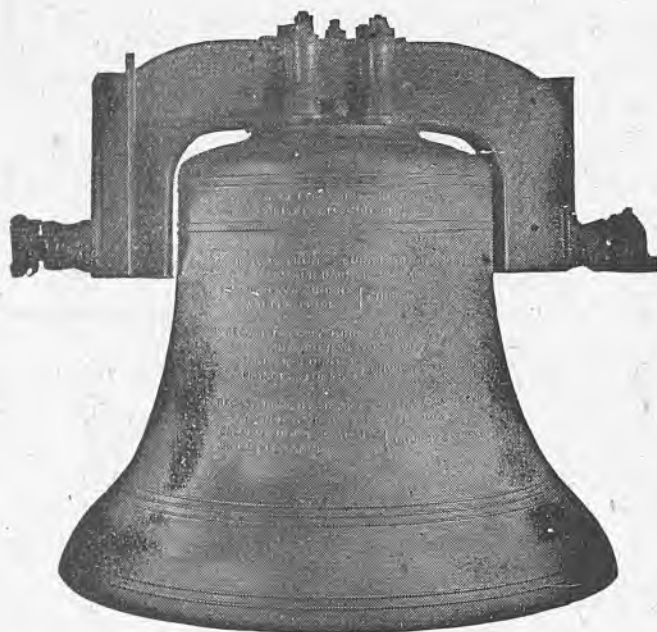
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Pte. David Sleet, of Ottershaw, Surrey, a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, who, as recorded in our issue of August 9th, had been posted as missing after the British Army's evacuation from France, is now reported to be a prisoner of war in Germany. He was serving with the 2/6th East Surrey Regt.

One result of the war, at any rate, was to give an impetus to handbell ringing at Aldershot. Then the calling up process brought John Freeman, of Lincoln, to the district and excellent progress was made. Alas, however, for the programme: the prime mover, Charlie Denyer, had to become a Royal Artilleryman, but, nothing daunted, the others are carrying on and this week we record a peal of Bob Minor.

This answers an inquiry from a correspondent at Farnham, Surrey, who has asked where he can obtain handbell ringing within ten miles of that town. He should write to Mr. Will Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

On Saturday, August 22nd, 1752, Holt's Original was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich, 'it being the first time ever performed by Eight men only, so intricate it was thought no man could ring and call the Bobs.' Holt called it in 1751 at Westminster, and William Walker, a man from Richmond in Surrey, called it in 1751 at Stonham Aspal, Suffolk. Both sat in the tower and called from manuscript. Who conducted the Coslany peal is not stated, but it was almost certainly William Dixon, who in the following October called it at St. Giles', Norwich.

To-day is the 152nd anniversary of the second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung. It was conducted by John Reeves at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, with a band of Cumberlands. In the previous year Reeves had called the first peal in the method for the ancient Society of College Youths.

Henry Hubbard, one of the famous Norwich Scholars and the author of a text book on change ringing which went through five editions, was born in Norwich on August 25th, 1807. He rang in few peals, but they included the first ever accomplished of London Surprise and Double Oxford Major, the second of Superlative Surprise Major, the then longest length of Stedman Cinques, and the first half-peal of Stedman Triples double handed on handbells. His last peal was on August 23rd, 1868, when he was in his 61st year and the total ages of the band amounted to 553 years.

There was a mix-up of raincoats at the Bushey meeting last Saturday week. If the person who has got the wrong one will communicate with Mr. H. J. Hazell, 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans, the necessary adjustments can be made.

The Parish Church of All Saints', Wokingham, Berkshire, where the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild met on Saturday, stands, curiously enough, in the county of Wiltshire. The church and churchyard stand on one of a number of small areas of ground still included with Wilts.

## THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

**ROBERT J. GARDINER, A.B., R.N.R., HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK.**

The loss of H.M. Minesweeping Trawler 'Tamarisk' was announced last week. The vessel, it was stated, had been sunk by enemy action. Among the missing is A.B. Robert J. Gardiner, R.N.R., a member of the Halesworth Church Bellringers' Society. He was a native of Huntingfield, where his parents reside.

He was a keen ringer, and, whenever at home on leave, took his part in the Sunday service ringing, etc., at Halesworth Church. He had rung several peals at Halesworth, Huntingfield, Redenhall, Wrentham and Wissett Churches, and was a member of the Suffolk Guild and the Norwich Diocesan Association. Much sympathy will be felt for his relatives in their sad loss, and he will be greatly missed by his brother ringers.

## DEATH OF MR. JOHN HOLMAN.

**WELL-KNOWN SHEFFIELD RINGER PASSES AWAY.**

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. John Holman, of Sheffield, which took place early last Friday morning. The deceased gentleman, who was 75 years of age, had undergone an operation, but unfortunately it was of no avail. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Shiregreen Cemetery.

Mr. Holman, who was well known to ringers in many parts of the country, was a member of the Sheffield Cathedral Company. Our readers will remember that only three weeks ago we announced his golden wedding.

## FIRST LADY TO RING A PEAL.

Mr. R. C. H. Connolly, of Watford, calls attention to the statement made in the annual report of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild that Mrs. Coward, who rang in a handbell peal of Grandsire Doubles at Mere on March 27th, 1939, was believed to be the first lady to ring a handbell peal for the Guild. Mr. Connolly points out that the late Mrs. George Williams was the first lady to ring a handbell peal for the Salisbury Guild. This was at Brighton on March 24th, 1892, when she rang 1-2 to Grandsire Triples and thus achieved the distinction of being the first lady ever to ring a peal.



**BELLS USED AS ALARMS.****THE SAFETY OF HISTORICAL BELLS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The following extracts from correspondence between the War Office and myself may be of interest to clergy, secretaries of associations, and ringers generally.

GEO. W. FLETCHER,  
Hon. Sec., Central Council.

**EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO WAR OFFICE.**

'With regard to bells, there is one matter which is causing some concern, and that is the safeguarding of those of historical interest. For the most part these were cast prior to 1700, and they are always treated with great care.

'It is felt that there is a serious risk of damage if these are used by inexperienced persons, and we would like to suggest that permission be given for the removal of ropes.'

**REPLY.**

'With regard to those bells which have an historical interest, providing sufficient bells remain to give the warning, there would appear to be no reason why the ropes should not be removed from these particular bells.'

**WHAT HAPPENED IN WALSALL.****'EMERGENCY' OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO RECALLED.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In connection with the ban on ringing and the suggestion, made by Mr. W. Hale, of Roseleigh, Gloucester, that the treble and tenor bells be rung together as a danger signal, perhaps it may be of interest to note that this idea was put forward in Walsall at a time when various disturbances and riots were taking place in the district over a century ago. May I quote the following from Willmore's 'History of Walsall':—

'In December of this year (1831) there was great discontent among the colliers, and the military were kept in readiness in case of riots, which had occurred in various places in the neighbourhood.

'A number of special constables were appointed, and the signal for action was the ringing of the "little bell and the big bell" of St. Matthew's Church. Fortunately, however, their services were not required.'

In this case there is no doubt that the signal would have been heard by those who were concerned, as those readers who have visited Walsall will remember that St. Matthew's Church is situated on the top of a hill and dominates all the town, being a noted landmark for miles around.

Moreover, as the military were quartered in various hostels in the vicinity, they would have had no difficulty in hearing the bells, and as two or three of the ringers lived practically on the spot there would have been no difficulty in getting the bells rung.

The great thing to be noticed is that definite instructions were given as to the number of bells and the method to be used for the alarm, a thing that has not yet been decided by the 'powers that be' in the present emergency.

Some time ago the bells were used to call out the members of the local A.F.S. for practice one Saturday afternoon, but, alas, as for the efficacy of the alarm, 'Quoth the raven, nevermore.'

May I express the hope that the last sentence of the paragraph quoted above may again come true. 'Fortunately, however, their services were not required'; may the sound of church bells soon reach again throughout the length and breadth of 'The Ringing Isle' and may 'The Ringing World' prosper and serve to hold together the 40,000 ringers who have been so badly hit by this ban which has evidently been made without consulting anyone who is an authority on ringing.

St. Matthew's, Walsall.

H. E. GREEN.

**RINGING FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Would it be possible, perhaps through the secretary of the Central Council and the Bishops, to ask the responsible authorities to appoint a certain Sunday, say the third or last in September, for harvest thanksgiving services, and to allow the bells to be rung for all services throughout the day? As all signs point to a bumper harvest, and the weather is ideal, why not make a gesture of thanks?

ROBERT WHITTINGTON.

Guildford Road, Cranleigh, Surrey.

**SERVICE RINGING.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—While every ringer, and thousands of others, would welcome a relaxation of the ban on ringing so that the bells could be used at least for services, it is well to realise that as long as the sounding of a bell is in any way used as a signal, a great responsibility will rest on service ringers.

It has been suggested that no attempt should be made to have the restriction removed when there is only one bell, and that service ringing should consist entirely of round ringing or change ringing. If this was permitted it is practically certain that there would be endless cases when single bells were rung, probably quite unthinkingly, and consequently both unnecessary alarm and subsequent prosecution would result. How often would a ringer just try the bell to see if the rope was right, or would an attempt be made to raise or to lower a single bell? To prevent such happenings endless vigilance would be required. The number of prosecutions for such a simple thing as failing to screen a light shows how difficult it is to maintain the required standard.

On the whole, it seems better that so long as any restriction whatever is placed on the use of bells the silence should be complete. And, finally, as one of the officials of the Central Council stated, is this the time when the authorities should be troubled with what is after all a very trivial matter? X.

**PARACHUTES BUT NO PARACHUTISTS.****NO CO-ORDINATION IN CHURCH BELL WARNING.**

Last week between 70 and 80 German parachutes were dropped on the Midlands and the North. The authorities afterwards officially announced that they were satisfied that these 'incidents' were faked by the enemy in an attempt to cause panic. They failed hopelessly in their purpose. The parachutes were a 'flop.'

In one place the church bell was rung when a descending parachute was seen; elsewhere the bells were not used. Commenting upon this, 'The Daily Telegraph' said:—

'One important point raised by this episode is the problem of large-scale co-ordination of arrangements for the ringing of church bells as a warning to people in case of invasion.

'The parachutes were found in three northern parishes in the early morning over a radius of several miles, but in only one case, where a parachute was actually seen to fall, was the alarm given.

It seems that the ringing of church bells is, in fact, left largely to local discretion.

'It is admitted that problems might arise in the event of large-scale employment of the parachute weapon, when troops might land unperceived, but it is not regarded as feasible for orders for ringing of the bells to be sent through a central headquarters.'

**DEATH OF MR. C. T. P. BRICE.****NOTABLE PERFORMANCES RECALLED.**

A well-known ringer of yester-year has passed away in the person of Charles Thomas Pinder Brice, of Pulham St. Mary, Norfolk. He died at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at the age of 72 years. He had been licensee of the King's Head, Pulham, for over 40 years. A stonemason by trade, Mr. Brice was associated with a well-known Peterborough firm for a long period and was a highly skilled craftsman.

Mr. Brice came to London as a young man and reached the zenith of his ringing career while a member of the talented band which about 40 years ago became famous at St. Stephen's, Westminster, a company which included John Oxborrow, Henry R. Newton, John W. Golding, William and Harry Pasmore, Arthur and Henry Ellis, James Wiltshire, Sam Andrews and others.

With these men Charlie Brice took part in many notable peals, for Surprise ringing was not then in common practice. In 1901 this band rang peals of London and Cambridge Surprise Major non-conducted at St. Stephen's, and earlier than that the first peal of Westminster Surprise in London, which Mr. Brice called at Putney in April, 1899, and in the year 1900 took part in the first peal of St. Stephen's Surprise. In February, 1899, he conducted the first peal of London Surprise for the Norwich Diocesan Association. It was rung at the Church of St. John at Hackney by a band that had previously rung peals of Superlative and Cambridge on the same bells. Mr. Brice also called the first peal of London on the bells at St. Stephen's, but among his greatest achievements was his share in three Surprise peals rung in one day by one band. It was the first time this had ever been done, and was justifiably looked upon as a great performance. The peals were rung in three different counties, with three different conductors, C. T. P. Brice being one of them, and the 15,200 changes occupied 8 hours 52 minutes' ringing time. The first peal was London Surprise, rung at Old Windsor, Berks, conducted by J. N. Oxborrow; the second, Superlative, at Wraysbury, Bucks, conducted by C. T. P. Brice, and the third, Cambridge, at Staines, Middlesex, conducted by H. R. Newton.

After he left London to return to his native county, Mr. Brice did a good deal of ringing in and around Norfolk, but his name gradually disappeared from the peal columns.

At the funeral at Pulham St. Mary, the Norwich Diocesan Association was represented by Mr. W. L. Duffield.

When the Ancient Society of College Youths met on Tuesday of last week the members expressed their sense of the loss of an old colleague by standing in silence.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. SONNING DEANERY'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING. A Suggestion for Towers.

The Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, with the Guild's Master (Canon G. F. Coleridge) as its chairman and Mr. W. J. Paice as its enthusiastic hon. secretary, has long been one of the most active branches of the Guild, which, as most ringers know, covers the three counties of Oxford, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Sonning Deanery stretches from the Surrey border almost to Reading, and its parishes reach from the Thames to the borders of Hampshire. In this area in peace time solid work in the interests of ringing was consistently put in, and now that war-time restrictions prevail there is still a determination to 'carry on' despite all the handicaps. Last Saturday a meeting was held at All Saints', Wokingham, and the response among the members must have been encouraging to the promoters. As may be expected, the company included mostly older members—the younger men have sterner duties on hand—but the right spirit prevailed. It proved that when ringers meet the bells are not always the only attraction. They were missed, it is true, but the obvious desire to keep the organisation alive and to meet old friends was sufficient incentive to draw together a goodly company and make the meeting well worth while, to say nothing of the topics of interest which they found to discuss at the informal proceedings after tea.

The early arrivals rang handbells in the belfry, and later a short service was held in the chapel, with Canon Coleridge officiating.

### LOSS OF FRIENDS.

Canon Coleridge gave a homely address upon the text, 'Go and prosper' (I. Kings, 22, 15). He said he preferred to take a text from the Bible, because no matter how poor a sermon might be or how far it missed its mark, there were always the words of Holy Scripture to remember. To obey the command 'Go' always meant the need of certain energy. There were many, he was afraid, who preferred to sit in easy chairs when the command was to go; who preferred to remain at home on ringing practice nights and say, 'It is only the youngsters, there is no need for me to go to-night.' He hoped there were none such among those present that afternoon. He urged them all to go forward in their work and prosper.

He was glad to be there that afternoon, he added. He gave his promise some weeks ago when he had no engagements for that day. Since then, however, he was asked to take a wedding in the afternoon and had been able to do so without interfering with his promise to attend that meeting. But other things, sad things, had happened. Ringers had to mourn the loss of one who was a very great friend to them in that diocese, Canon Cooper, of Newbury, and also of the Vicar of Windsor, the Rev. C. H. Hamilton. Both were great friends of his and both were to be buried that afternoon. He would have liked to attend the funeral of each of them, but what he promised he tried to fulfil.

A week ago, said Canon Coleridge, he made a long journey to bury the widow of one of the best known members of the Exercise and one of his closest friends from his Oxford days, a friendship which began in 1876. The Rev. C. D. P. Davies tried to instruct him in change ringing and he owed everything in ringing to him. He (Canon Coleridge) was best man at Mr. Davies' wedding, he married three out of four of Mr. and Mrs. Davies' children and was godfather to two of their grandchildren. He recalled the gathering they had at Tewkesbury when, as a memorial to Mr. Davies, they opened two new bells to make a peal of twelve at the fine old Abbey church and also dedicated one of the fifteen chapels as a ringers' chapel. It was a great day and one which those who were present would always remember. His widow lived on and died last week. None of Mr. Davies' family took up ringing, but Mr. Davies' works for the Exercise would live. Whenever he set himself out to do a thing he went on and prospered, and ringers should take an example from him.

### THE BAN.

Although there were no opportunities for ringing church bells at the present time, continued Canon Coleridge, a great deal was being done to try to get the ban lifted, but Governments were very difficult to move. Ringers were, however, living in hope that Sunday ringing at least would be permitted and possibly practices might be allowed. It was not, he thought, so much the Ministry of Home Security as the War Office that did not want the bells rung except for their own purpose. He hoped before long that the bells would again be heard ringing on Sundays that the people might be cheered; it was a great thing to keep the people bright and happy, and nothing would help in that direction more than the joyous sound of the bells. They looked forward to the time, therefore—he hoped no distant time—when ringers would go forth once more to the belfries and prosper. If it was a long time, let them not complain, but thank God they were doing their duty. As long as the country prospered and was in good health and upheld its high faith and traditions, they need not be ashamed when the day came to ring the bells of peace and joy and thanksgiving.

About 25 ringers sat down to tea in the garden hall at Great Mead, kindly lent by Miss Kemble, and to this lady as well as to Miss Vera Robinson and Miss Walker, who were responsible for the tea and looked after the wants of the party, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the district secretary (Mr. W. J. Paice). Mr. Paice

added that by the generosity of someone who wished to remain anonymous the tea was provided free of charge and he thanked the donor.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert (diocesan secretary), who seconded the vote of thanks, said he hoped the person who had so generously provided the tea would live to come to many more (laughter and applause).

Mr. Paice also proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of All Saints' (the Rev. G. Kenworthy) and to the Rev. Howlett, who had kindly presided at the organ.

### 'THE RINGING WORLD' FOR MEMBERS OF FORCES.

Afterwards Mr. Paice gave a review of the annual festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, held last month. He, however, prefaced his remarks by expressing the hope that all the members of the Guild would continue to give their support to 'The Ringing World.' There were many members serving with the forces, and he suggested that the towers from which they came might make a point of sending them 'The Ringing World' every week, not only to help keep up the circulation of the paper, but also to help keep alive the interest of the ringers. When a man was at home he had many other things in which he was interested; while he was away he would be very glad of anything that would help to keep up his interest in his peace-time activities. He remembered how he welcomed 'The Ringing World' every week while he was serving in the last war and he hoped many towers would act on his suggestion to take extra copies of the paper to send to their absent members.

Speaking of the festival in July, he said some of them travelled to Oxford in a curious frame of mind. He thought they felt rather like a fisherman setting off to fish, packing his rod and bait and all the other paraphernalia, but knowing very well that when he got to his destination there would be no water (laughter). They went to Oxford for their festival knowing there would be no bells to ring. When they arrived there were no Stedman Cinques at Christ Church to usher them into the service, and when they got into the Cathedral he thought they felt the solemnity of the atmosphere of the place more than they did in the days of peace. The new circumstances seemed to strike home to them. Mr. Paice spoke of the impressiveness of the service and of the inspiration of the address on 'Hope' given by the Rev. Attlee, and then referred in detail to the business transacted at the meeting.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert appealed to the younger members of the Guild to do their best to maintain its efficiency in the difficult times. The old members had proved their loyalty and unity by sticking together both in the church and out of the church. He contrasted the festival this year with some he had attended in the past. This year they all got home early, he said, but thirty-five or forty years ago he missed the last train on several occasions and got home on Sunday night (laughter). He was still alive and it proved that the Guild was one of the things to 'keep you going.' 'Stick together,' he said, 'in a brotherly way so that whatever happens, however long this trouble lasts, the Oxford Guild will come to the top like a cork on water.'

### A FOOLISH PROHIBITION.

With regard to doing something towards getting the ban on ringing lifted, he had, he said, written to Mr. Fletcher, who had told him they were doing all they could in the matter. He (Mr. Hibbert) hoped something would be done to organise an approach to the Ministry, but he knew it was difficult to get such people to alter their views. Personally he thought the ban on church bells on Sundays was one of the silliest things that had been done. He did not mind foregoing peals and he did not much mind foregoing practices, but to stop church bells ringing for services on Sunday was foolish. For all the good it did they might as well stop the organ or the choir, except that the voices of the bells sang over the countryside. The sooner the Central Council and men like the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and Canon Coleridge could make their influence felt the better. The silencing of the bells was inducing a defeatist spirit. An old village blacksmith, who was a ringer, had said to him, 'Things must be worse than they tell us or they wouldn't have stopped the bells.' In the towns the absence of the bells was not so much noticed, but in the country the blacksmith and the ploughman, who were ringers and as likely as not in the choir as well, might get a different opinion. They must not, of course, think that because they couldn't ring the bells this country was at the bottom of the pit of hopelessness—we were far from that, but the bells were a sign of hope and would cheer up the people. When the time came to ring again he hoped, in the words of the Master that afternoon, they would all go and prosper; that they would all get to the belfry a little bit earlier than they used to do and put their hearts into the job even more deeply than they did before, and let the people know that the church bells of England are part of the voice of the religion of this country (applause).

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith expressed the hope that the Central Council and the associations and guilds would combine to make reasoned representations to the authorities to get the ban modified. The times were anxious and nothing should be done which could in the least be regarded as disunity, but by the time organised representations could be made it was possible that the immediate danger, which had been looming up during the week, would have passed or died down and it would not then be out of place to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister responsible for the Order. Mr. Goldsmith thanked Mr. Paice for the suggestion he had made that towers should send

(Continued on next page.)

**HEAVY BELL RINGING.**

OLD TIMES COMPARED WITH NEW.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. L. W. Bunce wonders how many of the younger people of to-day who turn tenors in would have made any list of the tenors of sixty or seventy years ago.

A ringer has two possibilities—either he can strike a bell or he cannot. Similarly a heavy bell ringer has two possibilities—either he can ring a heavy bell or he cannot.

If he can ring a heavy bell of to-day, surely he would have been able to ring a heavy bell of sixty or seventy years ago. It isn't the weight of the bell nor the method of hanging which is the deciding factor as to whether a man can ring a heavy bell. It all depends on an acquired skill which has to be applied to any back bell—heavy or light, easy-going or bad-going. Obviously bad-going is not intended to include 'unringable' bells, and obviously the heavier a bell is or the worse it goes the more the ringer must exert himself and the more quickly will he become tired.

May I give the reasons on which I base this perhaps extraordinary opinion? No two peals of bells are exactly alike and no two individual bells are exactly alike to ring, and consequently a good striker is one who can go into any reasonable tower and strike a bell properly almost straight away; similarly, a good heavy bell ringer is one who can go into any reasonable tower and ring a heavy bell properly almost straight away.

I cannot quite remember what things were like sixty or seventy years ago, but I imagine that even then no two peals of bells were alike and no two individual bells alike; in which case a good ringer then, as now, had to be versatile.

A versatile heavy bell ringer of those days would manage the easier-going and differently hung bells of to-day. A versatile heavy bell ringer of these days would similarly manage the somewhat harder-going and differently hung bells of those days. Both would rely upon the skill which, to a certain extent, has to be born and not made.

I have often felt that we make far too much fuss about tenor ringers and tenor ringing. The tenor man usually gets the blame if a peal is too fast or too slow, or if it is badly struck (provided there are no other outstanding offenders). But he is hopeless, and bound to be so, if the other bells, particularly the 7th in 8, the 9th in 10, or the 11th in 12, are not properly rung. A good beat in a peal of Major relies far more upon the 7th than upon the tenor. A good 7th man can often make an indifferent tenor man ring well, but a good tenor man can never do anything with an indifferent blighter on the 7th. And however good the men on 7-8 may be, they can never force a decent peal without good strikers on most of the small bells. You may ring a good peal with only one poor striker, but you haven't much hope with more than one. It often seems to work well to put an indifferent striker on a bell which is odd struck in his favour, whilst some bad strikers seem to be less bad on the 5th or 6th.

At all events, it seems to me that good ringing depends on a band of good ringers and not on any particularly brilliant individual.

I hope I may be pardoned for all these perhaps revolutionary views, but I am young, very young, so maybe there is quite a good hope that I shall grow out of them as I get a bit older.

I hope that one so inexperienced may be forgiven for airing his views, but the present lull in ringing activity seems to present a reasonable opportunity and encouragement for the expression of opinions.

P. A. CORBY.

**UNCERTAINTY OF INSTRUCTIONS UNDER BAN.**

(Continued from previous page.)

'The Ringing World' each week to their absent members, and he took the opportunity of thanking the Oxford Diocesan Guild for their valued offer of help, if a time should come when it was needed, to keep 'The Ringing World' going.

Mr. Paice referred to the uncertainty that still existed with regard to the ringing of bells in the event of air invasion. At his church the L.D.V. had access to the tower at all times. By arrangement the rope of one bell had been brought down to the ground floor and, with the consent of the Rector and churchwardens, the other ropes had been removed. There were some places, of course, where a ringer lived near the church and was available to ring a bell if necessary, but it did not seem right that every Tom, Dick and Harry should have access to the bells and as likely as not do damage.

The meeting, which was presided over by Canon Coleridge, was attended by ringers from Binfield, Easthampstead, Hurst, Sonning, Twyford, Finchampstead, All Saints', Wokingham, Sandhurst, Caversham and St. Laurence's, Reading. Among those present was the Rev. A. L. Manby, and the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master) sent a telegram of good wishes.

The meeting concluded after the chairman had thanked Mr. Paice for the successful arrangements which he had made.

Handbell ringing was then indulged in and members enjoyed strolling round the gardens of Great Mead.

**CALL CHANGES.**

MR. DRAKE RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with Mr. J. E. Bailey that if one perversely misunderstands what I have written, one can make it seem inconsistent. Indeed, we can do the same with anything. But it is not for this that our powers of understanding are given to us. If he tries to make the different facts agree, he will, like other people, no longer be confused. He and another referred to the correspondence on rows and changes; but they seem not to remember when it was, or that I was on the right side then. However, let them imagine that they are ringing call changes, and after each bell has struck six times, a call is made; after that, let another six blows be struck without a call being made. They will then have rung twelve rows, but only have made one change. This proves that I was right in maintaining the difference between rows and changes. Now, can either of them tell in which row the change is made?

My arguments have been described by two of your correspondents as blank and blunder. It seems quite fair so to describe the words actually used. For I do not use these epithets myself; and the words I have given contain as much or as little argument as the others. We need not waste any more time on them.

Let us now see on what we are all agreed. First of all, we are agreed that real changes are better than call changes. If not, real changes would never be rung.

Next, we are all agreed that they are only rung by change ringers to try to improve the striking. Whether they ever do this I doubt. What I am certain about is that in my own case they make me careless; careless ringing means bad striking; on that again we are all agreed. I have never said that I am a bad striker. That is for others to decide. But I think that all will agree that the worst are those who do not know that they are striking badly. They can be taught how to strike, but not by call changes.

No one has suggested that I am the only person who is taught to be careless by call changes; therefore I think I may say we are agreed that it is an evil. I say that it is an unnecessary evil. Those who use it must think it a necessary evil—otherwise they are doing evil that good may come. But how can it be maintained that it is necessary, when so many good strikers have never used it?

Two of your correspondents write that they always ring dodging instead of call changes. The latter are evidently not necessary in their case. It does matter how it is done, but if anyone wants a new way of teaching, let them try this. As soon as the band can manage the bells well enough to ring rounds tolerably well, let them try the second change of a plain course on every hand stroke, always ringing rounds on the back stroke. Next let them ring the last row instead. Then let them ring both rows, alternately; rounds being always the back stroke. After that, either the next rows of the plain course; or some other tuneful row (such as titmuss) may be substituted for rounds, and started from. Whatever is chosen, the next row, as it comes in change ringing on one side or the other, should be rung. Thought must always be given to the outside listener, but it is not difficult to pick only those rows which contain intervals that are not unpleasant.

While this is not exactly the best way of teaching, it is near enough to call changes, for those accustomed to that way to use. I have used it myself in teaching a raw band; and though there is no need to say, as Mr. J. H. Bailey suggests, that it is 'better' (I have avoided comparisons as much as possible), it certainly shows a great saving in time and efficiency.

This way is no more difficult or less attractive for beginners; in fact, if the changes are made by one pair at a time, it is practically a form of call changes, with the advantage that no one learns what they have to unlearn; everyone is kept alive, and no one is being taught to be careless. Moreover, if each beginner is put on the second bell in turn, he can be taught from the very first how to lead. This, which is usually left to the last, or omitted altogether, is, we all agree, essential to good striking, and ought to be taught before change ringing proper is attempted. What is the use of wasting time in teaching a beginner change ringing, till he knows how to bring a bell down from behind to the front; and, moreover, while he has never been taught how to lead when he gets there?

HERBERT DRAKE.

**SUNDERLAND RINGER'S DEATH.**

FORTY YEARS AT ST. IGNATIUS' CHURCH.

At Sunderland, on August 12th, the death of Michael F. Harrison took place from internal trouble of some years' standing, although he was laid up only for a comparatively short time.

He was a faithful service ringer for 40 years at the Church of St. Ignatius, joining the band two years after the bells were installed. A regular churchgoer, his upright character and cheerful, unassuming disposition endeared him to his fellow-ringers, and his loss is, and will be, severely felt. He could always be depended on to steer his bell through a touch or peal without mistakes, and the 63 peals which he rang included Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

He was interred in Sunderland Cemetery, after service at St. Ignatius' Church, on Thursday, August 15th. Many of his brother ringers and old workmates attended. Unfortunately, owing to present conditions, no bells could be sounded.

J. W. P.



## SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL RINGING SOMETHING NOT TO BE DESPISED.

### A Way to Learn New Methods During the Ban.

Do not despise single-handed handbell ringing. For the majority of ringers that is an easy thing to do. If they think of the matter at all, they are apt to consider single-handed ringing as one of those things which no doubt have their uses in the most elementary stages of learning, but which a man drops and forgets about as quickly as he can.

There are some things like that. When a man first begins to ring, he has to go through a course of pulling the bell with the clapper tied, but when once he knows how to handle a rope he forgets all about that stage of his development.

When a band is being instructed it is a good thing for them to have a large dose of call changes, but as they progress they go on to other and better things, and they feel, quite rightly, that to go back to 'stoney' would be a retrograde movement. Stoney and ringing a bell with the clapper lashed are things which have their uses and advantages, but only as means to an end. We do not value or practise them for their own sake, but because they help us to go on further and to better and higher things.

Many, and indeed the majority of ringers, look on single-handed handbell ringing in much the same way. They think it is a useful means of instructing a band of learners in the rudimentary elements of change ringing, but they never stop to consider whether there may not be something in it worth while for its own sake. Your average expert ringer somehow thinks it beneath him to take a single bell in a touch on handbells. He would, of course, oblige if his assistance were needed to help other and lesser people than himself, but it never so much as enters into his head that he and others as good as himself might get profit and amusement out of single-handed ringing. Even the tyro, who can just scramble through a course of Grandsire Triples with the trebles, would not willingly go back (as he would consider it) to single-handed ringing.

This attitude is quite a natural one and up to a point a reasonable one. If your aim is to learn something about methods so that you can ring them in the steeple, or if you wish to become an expert double-handed ringer, you will value single-handed ringing only so far as it helps you to those ends, and you will drop it as soon as it has served the very humble purpose you have asked of it. But what we want to point out in this article is that single-handed ringing can be used in quite a different way, and in one which, so long as the ban on tower bell-ringing lasts, can serve a very real and useful purpose. Single-handed ringing can be practised as an end in itself and for its own sake, and not merely as a step to something else.

This is where it differs from call changes. To a change ringer, 'stoney' can never be anything but intolerably monotonous to ring or to listen to. It may serve certain purposes excellently well, and it does, whether for the outside listener or the teaching of such things as striking, but it lacks and always must lack, those things which attract the change ringer. In itself it is a dead end and is not capable of development.

But single-handed handbell ringing is not a dead end.

It is capable of as much development as change ringing itself is capable. We make a mistake if we think that single-handed ringing is a lesser form of double-handed ringing. The two are distinctly separate things. In many respects double-handed ringing is harder than single handed, but not in all. It is easier, for instance, to get good striking when the band consists of four men than which it consists of eight, even when the quality of the ringers is equal. It is easier, once a band has reached a certain degree of proficiency, for them to ring methods like Grandsire or Plain Bob double-handed than to ring them single-handed.

On the other hand, outside a comparatively small group of methods, double-handed ringing is for the average persons an impossibility; but with single-handed ringing there is a vast field that can be explored. If you think that single-handed ringing must be a tame affair, just consider whether you would not find a well-struck single-handed touch of Superlative or London, or Spliced Surprise, or of one of the thousands of fresh methods which are available, both absorbingly interesting and a test on your utmost ability. We need to get rid of the very common impression that all single-handed ringing is in a lower class than double-handed ringing.

There is another impression very widely, if usually unconsciously, held, that anyone who knows how to strike a handbell and can ring a method in the steeple, can forthwith ring that method single-handed on handbells. Most people think they can do it for the same reason that the Irishman felt sure he could play the fiddle. He had never tried, and so he had not proved that he could not.

Actually, if you want to practise single-handed ringing you must take just as much trouble to learn the elementary technique as with anything else. If you pick out eight men who know Cambridge Surprise, and know it well, and set them to ringing it on the handbells, it is ten to one that they will break down, or if they do scramble through a course it is certain that the striking will be bad.

The reason is that they will not have known anything about the elementary technique of ringing handbells. Therefore, if there is a band who, debarred from using the tower bells, wishes to keep up their interest and intercourse by means of handbell ringing, what they should do is first of all to practise ringing together with an idea of getting good striking and rhythm. It is futile to try method ringing, and especially the more complex method ringing, until rounds can be struck cleanly, accurately and properly. This is a point just as important as it is in the tower, almost more so (if that be possible), for no handbell ringing can go on for long unless good striking and rhythm are maintained.

Here are one or two points. Arrange the band in a good circle, so that everyone can easily see everyone else. When you ring, move your bell up and down in a regular path. Try to strike all your backstrokes with your bell in exactly the same position, and all your handstrokes also in the same position. Remember that your fellows have to watch your bell to know where to strike, and they ought to be able to see, by the position in which you are holding your bell, exactly when you are going to strike. You can strike your bell correctly, no matter where you are holding it, and that may serve your purposes, but it does not serve your companions' purposes. If you swing your bell about just anyhow, you baffle

(Continued on next page.)



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Horsell on Saturday, August 24th, for handbell practice and social intercourse. Bells available (hand, of course) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All are welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for handbell practice at Belbroughton (D.V.) on Saturday, August 24th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Further ringing and social evening afterwards.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, August 24th. Bells (7), without clappers, also handbells, available from 3 p.m. Tea will not be provided, but cafe close by. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The meeting of the Grimsby District, which should have been held at Louth on Saturday, August 24th, is cancelled.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

**SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL RINGING.**

(Continued from previous page.)

them and make their task tenfold harder. There is nothing more confusing for the others than the man who puts his handstrokes across his chest instead of straight up, or begins his backstrokes with a flourish. Keep your body still and your arms, too, except for the steady up and down movement. You will feel impelled by an almost uncontrollable impulse, especially when there is a trip, to lean forward and wave your bell to the man who you think should be working with you. Don't do it. Speak, if you must, but don't alter the regular up and down movement of your bell. You will find this advice hard to follow, but it is sound advice.

When a band has once learnt how to ring with good time and good rhythm, they have got an immense range of methods to practise. Some are simple, some are harder than anything that has as yet been rung, but all will be fresh to them. Single-handed handbell ringing practised in the right way affords opportunities for unlimited progress and never-failing interest.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, August 24th. General meeting at the George Hotel, Princes Square, at 6.30, to be followed by social evening, with handbell ringing, etc. A hearty welcome to all. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—A 'silent' tower bell practice, followed by a social gathering, handbells, etc., will be held at Earl Shilton on August 24th. All welcome. Meet at the church 6 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Est. 1637).**—The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27th, at 8 p.m. Handbells from 7 p.m. and after the business meeting. There will be a practice on the bells of St. Lawrence Jewry on Friday evenings from 8 till 9, and on Sunday mornings 10.30 to 11 (no clappers, special apparatus).—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, August 31st. Handbells available from 3 p.m. at the Rectory, Rectory Place. Service at 5 p.m. Business meeting and social evening later. Catering arrangements are uncertain, but accommodation will be provided, if possible, for members notifying me not later than Tuesday, August 27th. Half-fares will be paid according to rule.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The district invites members of the Derby and Loughborough Districts to join them at Cole Orton for a social meeting on Saturday, August 31st. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. It is hoped to arrange for either Rectory or Hall grounds to be open after tea. Postcards to me if you require tea.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Calverley on Saturday, August 31st. Handbells in the schools. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Special attention to learners. All ringers are invited.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Shrewsbury on Saturday, August 31st. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Programme according to circumstances.—W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**APARTMENTS.**

**LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES.**—Superior board-residence or bed and breakfast; 2 minutes sea, tennis courts, bowling green and park. — Mrs. Brown, Avonholm, 24, Queen's Road. Telephone 6965.

**BIRTH.**

**CONNOLLY.**—On August 6th to the wife of R. C. H. Connolly, of 27, Monmouth Road, Watford, a son.

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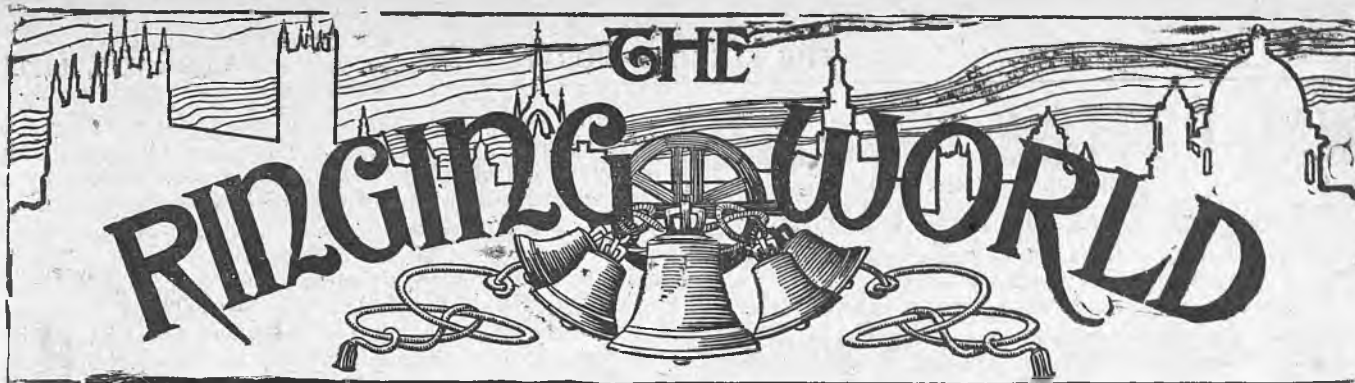


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## THE PROTECTION OF CHURCH BELLS.

The question of the safety of the church bells themselves is now giving concern in some quarters in connection with their use as a warning in the event of air-borne invasion. Ringers know full well the danger which may arise of cracking a bell if 'clocking' is resorted to as an easy way of getting it sounded. But there are others who are not so wise in this matter. Recently, for instance, in a memorandum issued in the diocese of St. Albans on 'The War and Church Property,' it was stated, in connection with the use of bells for warning purposes, that 'access to the belfry must be available day and night to the responsible official of the L.D.V.,' and that 'ringing by rope attached to wheel is probably not necessary or desirable: chiming by rope attached to clapper should suffice.'

Leaving aside the doubtful right of the responsible L.D.V. official to ring a bell for the purpose mentioned, unless he has the authority of the chief of police or a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces (as prescribed by the Order), the suggestion that the bells should preferably be chimed by a rope attached to the clapper is only another example of the ignorance about bells which often exists in high places. True, some modification of this advice has since appeared in the diocesan 'Leaflet,' published albeit some weeks after the original memorandum. This, however, was not until Dr. F. C. Eeles, secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Churches, had called attention to the danger to bells 'from unskilful handling of bell clappers.' But the fact remains that an official memorandum went out recommending the use of 'clocked' bells, it having been assumed, as the 'Leaflet' pointed out, that 'in every parish some experienced person would see to the rope being properly affixed to the lower extremity of the clapper of each bell before leaving it to be chimed,' . . . and would 'warn any unskilled person that when a blow is struck the tension on the rope must be immediately released.' It is extraordinary how readily people who have only a slight knowledge will give advice. In this case, of course, it was well intentioned but woefully misguided.

If the bells throughout the land were clocked and much used by inexperienced hands there would quickly be a sorry tale of damage to some of the most valuable property of the church. In matters of this kind, one would have thought the best advice would be obtained, yet it often happens in the case of bells that the people most competent to help are forgotten or ignored. It would have been better if, instead of making excuses, the instruction given in the memorandum as to clocking the bells had been entirely withdrawn. A bell should be

(Continued on page 410.)

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swung by the rope from the wheel and not clanged by tying the rope to the clapper. There may be a degree less danger if the chiming by the latter means is done by an experienced person, but if an experienced ringer is available he will not need to 'clock' the bell; he will be able to sound it by the proper means. If he is not available, then the inexperienced substitute should at least be taught how to do it. All this, however, brings us back once more to the fact that there is still absolutely no organisation coming from headquarters as to the ringing of this alarm or any intimation of the action to be taken upon it. In some cases local arrangements have been made to have a bell sounded, but of the various plans which have come to our notice all must result in inevitable delays and loss of time, and when at length the bells are sounded no one knows what is to happen. The police and military will be well aware of any landing before the bells are rung; the public are still in the dark as to the part they are to play.

But the question of the protection of church bells is the theme of this article, and there is one other point in connection with it to which we must come; it is the Central Council's suggestion to the War Office that permission should be given to remove the ropes from any bells of historical interest to avoid risk of damage. The War Office reply, which we published last week, gets us just nowhere: 'Providing sufficient bells remain to give the warning, there would appear to be no reason why the ropes should not be removed from these particular bells.' In this case the Central Council can surely say, 'Thank you for nothing.' No church authorities in their senses would leave bells of historical interest—those cast prior to the year 1700, as the Central Council suggest—to be knocked about by a lot of inexperienced rope pullers, and they would do what has been done in many cases where there are only modern bells, take off the ropes and leave only one to be jangled. But where there is only one bell, and that bell of archaeological value, the War Office has not moved a jot. For all the good the Central Council has been able to do in this matter they might have saved themselves the trouble. What the Council could well do is to issue a warning to the diocesan authorities against the danger of 'clocking' bells, and ask that the warning shall be passed on to all church authorities. It would, we hope, have better results.

### BERTRAM PREWETT.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE, AUGUST 31st, 1918.

The Great War of 1914-1918 took a great toll of ringers, but none of them held quite so prominent a position in the Exercise as did Bertram Prewett, who was killed not very long before victory was gained. He was born on October 12th, 1878, and so was in the very prime of his life when he fell on the field of honour.

He rang his first peal in 1898, and soon afterwards became one of the very talented band which had been formed under the auspices of the Middlesex County Association, with William Pye at its head. He took part in many famous peals, including the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, and the 15,264 Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch in 1912. Among his other peals were the first of Cambridge Maximus ever rung, the first Bristol Surprise Major, and Cambridge Royal in London, the first Superlative Major in Wales, and the first Cambridge Major in Ireland. He rang the tenors at St. Patrick's, Dublin, St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, to peals, and the last two especially were by no means easy jobs. Altogether his peals numbered nearly a thousand, and his friends confidently expected that he would in the end make a record, for he was several years younger than William Pye.

Had he lived, he probably would now have ranked as the greatest active ringer, for he was a conductor and a handbell ringer of outstanding ability. It is impossible to assess what the Exercise lost by his death, but it was very great.



## THE DEATH OF MR. JOHN HOLMAN.

### OLDEST MEMBER OF THE SHEFFIELD COMPANY.

It was with the deepest regret that we had last week to announce the death of Mr. John Holman, of 15, Elm Lane, Sheffield, the oldest member of the Sheffield Cathedral Company. He passed away after only a short illness on the 16th inst., at the age of 75 years.

Mr. Holman was suddenly taken ill on the 13th inst., when his doctor ordered his removal to hospital for an immediate operation, from which, however, he never recovered.

The funeral service took place at his home privately, and the interment at Shiregreen Cemetery, on the 20th inst. A large number of family mourners and intimate friends attended the burial service, including Mr. S. F. Palmer (hon. treasurer of the Yorkshire Association and secretary of the Sheffield Cathedral Company), Mr. W. Biggin (Norton), representing the Midland Counties Association, Messrs. W. R. Harrison, G. Holmes, W. Burgar (St. Marie's R.C.), and John Thorpe and Ernest Thorpe (Sheffield Cathedral).

A number of ringers in Sheffield and the district sent their regrets at being unable to attend owing to pressure of war work.

Mr. Holman had been connected with the firm of Messrs. W. Jessop and Sons, Ltd., for approximately fifty years, and representatives were present from the manager and from various sections of the establishment, and also from the A.E.U.

Originally a native of Lincoln, Mr. Holman went to Sheffield from Bath on his marriage in 1890, when he joined the then Parish Church company. With the exception of a period of two years (1903 and 1904), when his work again took him to Bath, he remained a regular member of the society up to the time of his death.

Beginning his ringing career at Lincoln, Mr. Holman scored his first peal (Grandsire Triples) at Colerne, Wiltshire, in 1888. It was conducted by the late James Hinton, with whom Mr. Holman formed a close friendship.

Afterwards, five further peals were rung in Bath and Bristol, including his first of Treble Bob and Grandsire Major, but it was not until he came to Sheffield that he was able to indulge in ringing on the higher numbers and in advanced methods.

Always a keen ringer and good striker, Mr. Holman took every opportunity to indulge in his only hobby, and quickly became well known amongst the prominent ringers of the day. His favourite holiday was to join one of the ringing tours, which enabled him to share in many noted performances throughout the country.

Altogether he had rung 310 peals in 100 towers in 24 counties and under 15 different associations in England, Scotland and Wales. His last peal was one of Little Bob Maximus at Surfleet, Lincs, in August, 1939.

Mr. Holman was most regular in his Sunday service ringing, and his 'brother strings' will greatly miss him when ringing takes place again. He was also keen on attending the annual dinners of the Yorkshire Association, the Bristol United Guilds, and the Ancient Society of College Youths, he having been a member of the last-named society for 51 years.

Of a genial disposition, he made many friends amongst ringers throughout the country, all of which will deplore his sudden departure from their midst.

Mr. Holman is survived by his widow and two sons. It was only on August 4th last that Mr. and Mrs. Holman celebrated their golden wedding, when congratulations were received from all parts of the country.

### LIST OF PEALS.

The following is the list of Mr. Holman's peals:—

Bob Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bob Maximus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grandsire Triples	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grandsire Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grandsire Caters	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grandsire Cinques	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Forward Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kent Treble Bob Minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kent Treble Bob Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Kent Treble Bob Royal	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Oxford Treble Bob Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Oxford Treble Bob Royal	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Oxford Treble Bob Maximus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Double Norwich Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Double Norwich Caters	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Little Bob Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Little Bob Maximus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stedman Triples	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Stedman Caters	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Stedman Cinques	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Superlative Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Rutland Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bristol Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pudsey Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
London Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

(Continued in next column.)

## WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

### DEDICATION OF PEAL TABLETS AT RUGBY.

The meeting held at Rugby on August 17th was made the occasion for dedicating two peal tablets in the belfry of St. Andrew's Church. One of the tablets records a peal of Stedman Triples rung in 1919, in which the late Mr. Albert Bramall (for over 40 years a ringer at St. Andrew's) took part. The other tablet records a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major rung in 1937, in which Leslie Bramall, son of Albert Bramall, was one of the ringers. The tablets were designed and executed by Mr. C. H. Webb, of Coventry, whose excellent workmanship is so well known in many Midland belfries.

The short service of dedication was conducted by the president of the Guild (Ven. R. Brook, M.A., Archdeacon of Coventry). In the course of a short address the Archdeacon deplored the silence of the bells, and hoped it might be possible to get them going again. At the same time, he urged the members to carry on and stick together by holding similar meetings to the one in which they were taking part that day.

Upwards of twenty members and friends were present, and at the conclusion of the service, a move was made to the Church Hall nearby, where a comfortable room was available for handbell ringing. Four Rugby members rang a good course of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. W. Vann 1-2, W. Vann 3-4, W. Betley 5-6, J. B. Fenton 7-8. Tunes were rung by Messrs. C. H. Webb, F. Stone, P. Stone, A. H. Beamish and Mrs. D. E. Beamish.

Various methods were rung single and double-handed, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

During an interval in the ringing, Mr. C. H. Webb voiced the thanks of the Guild to the local band for their arrangements, and also to the Ven. Archdeacon Brook for taking the service. He said he was sure that all present would like Mr. James George to know, when he read the report of the meeting in 'The Ringing World,' how pleased they were to hear of his wonderful progress, and that he was not forgotten at that meeting.

Since the meeting it has been announced that the Archdeacon of Coventry has been appointed to the Bishopric of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. This is the third episcopal appointment from Rugby since 1927, and the members of the Guild warmly congratulate their president on his appointment.

## SPEED IN RINGING.

### A COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO FAMOUS TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was pleased to see your note on quick ringing, and should like to endorse your condemnation of it.

I always think the footnote, 'Quickest peal on the bells,' is in the nature of an apology, and not a matter for pride. One, therefore, wonders why such a footnote is appended. And, moreover, it takes a better band to ring a well-struck slow peal than a quick one.

There is a proper 'beat' for all rings—when they sound at their best, so why clip in and spoil the rhythm? The reasons for difference in time between peals on two rings are, as you say, 'elusive and incalculable.' Take, for example, St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. Mancroft tenor—all on—is at least half a ton heavier than the other, and yet, over a long period of years, there is practically no difference in the time taken for peals, whether of Caters, Royal, Cinques or Maximus, and for a dig at one of your own reasons, may I remind you that at Mancroft there is a longer draught, a bigger belfry and circle of ropes, and higher boxes for the big bells! The curious thing in these two towers is this—and I find all who have rung peals at both will agree—at Ipswich the bells seem to be travelling much faster, and the ringer striking much closer than at Mancroft. And yet the clock says 'No!'

Many different ringers have rung the tenors at these churches, but the tale is always the same. The late William Pye rang his first peal of Maximus at Norwich. This was in 1899, and time 3.48. Two months later at Ipswich in 3.59, and again in Norwich in 1901 in 3.55. In each of these Mr. Pye rang the tenor, all were 5,040's, and all were with first-class men on the 11th—Frederick Day, John Cheesman and Ernest Pye—and both rings on plain bearings.

Since Mancroft were hung on ball bearings, the Maximus peals have been rung in quicker time, but if I am to ring one of the small bells and hold up over the big ones, then give me plain bearings!—Yours truly,

CHAS. E. BORRETT.

### MR. J. HOLMAN'S PEALS.

(Continued from previous column.)

Cambridge Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cambridge Surprise Royal	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	...	...	...	...	...	5
Norfolk Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	10
New Cambridge Surprise	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Cambridge Surprise Royal	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yorkshire Surprise Major	...	...	...	...	...	22
Yorkshire Surprise Royal	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	310

## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

### MELCHIOR VERSUS CRANE.

Edward Crane and the Coslany band set themselves two tasks. One was to ring their own peal at St. Michael's; the other was to prove that their opponents' peal had not been properly rung.

The old English custom was that when a man wanted to convince the public that he was speaking the truth, he either offered to back his words with a wager, or went and swore an oath before a magistrate.

Then, as now, men said the thing that was not, in varying degrees from slight exaggeration to downright lying, and, provided there was something to be gained by it, it was no great matter. But when a man laid a wager he stood to lose his money, and when he took an oath he was risking his welfare in the next world. And even though there were men who, like Macbeth, for some advantage 'but here upon this bank and shoal of time' were quite prepared to 'jump the life to come,' there were temporal and mundane penalties attached to false swearing.

There was, therefore, no way in which the Mancroft peal could be more discredited than by taking an oath about it. So Thomas Crane went before a magistrate and formally swore that he had counted the changes and that 4,860 were rung and no more. The time, he said, was three hours and a half and not three hours and forty minutes.

The Mancroft party, on their side, were prepared to swear, and John Webster also went before a magistrate and took an oath. Webster had not been in the peal band, but had been present in the belfry as referee.

The two cases were not alike. Thomas Crane could take his oath with a clear conscience, for he, good simple soul, had counted the strokes of the tenor, and did not see why he should have made a mistake. Webster was in a different case. He was an honest and truthful man and was quite prepared to swear that the peal was fairly and truly rung. But that did not satisfy the opposition. They challenged him to swear to the exact literal truth of the advertisement of October 31st that there was 'never a bell out of course nor changes alike.' Naturally he hesitated. There have been very few peals rung of which that could be said to be strictly and literally true. One missed dodge—one little trip in the slow—is enough to invalidate the claim. And the Mancroft peal had not been faultless. There had been some poor striking and a few blunders. The sixth, too, was going badly, so much so that Webster had had to relieve John Foster.

Naturally, the Coslany men made the most of these things, and they cross-examined Webster severely. When they 'put him upon his oath,' he 'said cunningly that it was not the peal they rang, but it was the peal upon his paper he would swear was true.'

'We asked him how many times their 5 fore bells struck together in one part of their peal. He owned five times. Then how could this peal be rung without bells out of course?'

Webster was then asked why his party had advertised but eight men when he himself was fain to relieve the sixth man. This was something of a poser, and his answer was more ingenious than convincing. 'Oh,' he said, 'we did not count the tenor man,' which provoked the quick retort, 'Then why was he in the News?' All this was very damaging to the Mancroft party, but the

Coslany men in their eagerness to discredit their opponents' performance, forgot that it was a game that two could play at, and when their turn came their peal could be subjected to a like scrutiny.

Thomas Melchior was a bonny fighter, and he could hit back hard. He had a pretty wit, and could write an effective letter. He was a born controversialist, who thoroughly enjoyed the fray, and could give and take hard knocks without losing his temper or saying anything that really hurt or rankled and so make a final reconciliation impossible.

He was quite satisfied himself that his peal was true as a composition and had been fairly rung. He was justly scornful of Thomas Crane's method of checking it by counting the strokes of the tenor, and he very properly pointed out that it was no test at all.

'I will acquaint the world with his accurate proceedings. First he placed himself in a public-house where people were often coming in and going out, by and by in a yard, and oftentimes walking backwards and forwards, telling the strokes of the tenor; which is the method he took to prove the truth of our performance, as he himself confessed before the justice. Now I appeal to the world whether or no this man could be a proper judge of it. He also asserted that we rung but three hours and a half, and likewise that we rung 180 changes short; notwithstanding that we rung 3 hours and 40 minutes, not only by Mr. William Riches' watch, but by many others in St. Peter's of Mancroft in Norwich; and that the peal contained 5,040 changes John Webster (whom they supposed to be the prompter) will firmly declare.'

And then, acting on the principle that to attack is the best defence, he carried the war into the enemy's country, and offered a wager of 'two to one, as far as ten guineas go, that Edward Crane's peal (if it be the same they oftentimes endeavoured to ring at St. Michael's of Coslany) is not proper Stedman Triples.' 'But,' he added, 'to challenge them to ring is beneath us; for we know that if we perform our parts to truth we may be sworn out of it. Therefore we leave them as false, malicious, brethren, not thinking it worth while to answer their base, scurrilous, and scandalous calumnies for the future.'

The last was merely rhetoric, for he was enjoying the fight too much to retire from it.

Melchior's advertisement provoked a rejoinder from Edward Crane. He flatly denied that his brother was walking about while he was counting the strokes of the tenor. 'Mr. Will Aburn does here justify that he was in a room of his, and that there was nobody with him all the time of their ringing but two of his company, till he had proved the truth of their peal.'

Crane gave his version of what had happened before the magistrate, and then took up Melchior's challenge on the composition of Stedman. 'Mr. Melchior was pleased to say that the peal we rung at St. Michael's of Coslany is not Stedman. I am sorry that he should show his ignorance to both city and county. I will appeal to any Man of his Art whether or no they ever knew the 6th and 7th bells were turned half the one way and half the other as theirs now do. I will tell him he never pricked a peal upon seven bells with only two Doubles; if he had he would have known how the great bells should come home at their proper places; and not have taken to

himself a peal of five bells and fled to Stedman for assistance; because the peal of five bells will work many ways, and so will Grandsire on five bells, as well as Stedman. Then, I pray, let any man that is a judge in this art tell me why Stedman on seven bells should not work as Grandsire on seven bells, and bring their great bells home at their quarter, half, three-quarter and whole peal's end? And so do other peals on 5, 6, 7 and 8. But, alas! Mr. Melchior, if you desire to keep your credit, you must go into St. Gregory's churchyard and call up John Garthorn to do the work for you. Pray be not affronted because I tell you the truth.'

Whether Thomas Crane spoke the truth when he said he had shut himself up in a quiet room all the time he was checking the Mancroft peal, or whether Melchior was right when he said he was walking about in a busy place where people were passing to and fro, is no matter. I am inclined to believe Crane. Melchior could have known nothing about it personally. Mr. Aburn was the landlord of the tavern, and as such friendly with both parties. He was ready to testify to Crane's version, and later on, when Melchior called on him, he agreed to pretty well what he was asked to.

Crane's evidence, of course, was really contemptible, but, so far as the general public went, it was the most effective weapon in the Coslany party's armory. And so Melchior published a fancy portrait of Thomas and his counting that must have made even that somewhat dull-witted gentleman squirm. It is not good for a man's vanity, after he has been posing as an authority, to be turned into a figure of fun. When Thomas Crane and

Rice Green came, said Aburn, they first sat in the yard and listened to the ringing, but finding it too cold (it was, we remember, at the end of October) they went into a room. Presently the landlord looked in and found only one man there. 'Doubtless they had no discourse,' remarks Melchior, 'for honest Tom was so brisk in telling the strokes of the tenor that he could hardly spare time to tell Rice Green go and be damned because he would stay no longer. Tom, methinks, has an excellent memory and ears as long as an ass, that he could not be put out of his reckoning by any noise the people made going in and out. This indeed seems to me wonderful, for I have often mistook in telling twelve strokes of the clock by some interruption or other. But Tom was earnest in proving what he knew nothing of, for whenever the landlord came in to see what he wanted, he clinched his fist, shut his hard mouth, and grinned at him; all this could not put infallible Tom out, but he went on telling the strokes of the tenor for three hours and a half. Methinks this infallible man ought to be knighted for this grand exploit. I would almost envy his great skill in proving peals.'

Melchior went on to repeat the claim that he and his band had rung 5,040 changes and not two bells out of course, 'and John Webster remarked every bob that I called, and will take oath that I called every bob, neither more nor less, yet honest Tom, by his unerring rule of telling the strokes of the tenor, has sworn that we wanted nine score changes.' Likewise this Honest Man told John Webster that he never spoke a word in his life but he would swear to the truth of it. Let this be allowed him,' added Melchior sarcastically.

(Continued on page 416.)

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the meeting of the College Youths at the Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, September 10th (which, by the way will be held at 7 p.m. instead of 8), the question of holding Saturday instead of Tuesday meetings is to be discussed.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley on his eighty-first birthday, which occurred yesterday. Mr. Woodley is one of the oldest members of the Society of College Youths, and was the hon. secretary before the late W. T. Cockerill.

Last Monday was the 222nd anniversary of the ringing of the first true peal of Grandsire Triples by the Norwich Scholars, as described in the recent articles in our pages.

John Holt called one of his peals of Double Bob Major at St. John's, Hillingdon, on August 26th, 1751, with a band of the Union Scholars.

On the same date, in 1776, the College Youths rang 10,640 changes of Bob Major at St. Mary's, Mortlake. James Worster called the bobs.

One of the early long peals of Treble Bob Major was rung at Otley, in Yorkshire, on August 27th, 1814. The composition, by Shipway, was the longest that at the time had been worked out. Two men, Joseph Tebbs and J. Inman, rang the tenor between them, and the conductor sat in the belfry and called from manuscript.

The noble ring of twelve bells at York Minster was dedicated on August 29th, 1926.

A notable record was set up at Guildford on August 31st, 1912, when 19,738 changes of Stedman Caters were rung on handbells in nine hours and thirty-two minutes. Mr. A. H. Pulling rang 3-4 and conducted, and the other ringers were A. F. Shepherd 1-2, W. Shepherd 3-4, J. Hunt 7-8, and F. Blondell 9-10.

The first 10-bell peal in Scotland, Grandsire Caters, was rung at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on August 31st, 1886.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

We are very pleased to hear from Mr. George that he is progressing very satisfactorily, and is able to get about on crutches.

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The dynamical theory of the motion of a bell is not easy, but some information can be obtained by considering the much simpler problem when the clapper is tied. As the mass of the clapper is so much smaller than that of the bell, little error will be introduced by this assumption.

Suppose, for the sake of comparison, that as the bell leaves the vertical position it is given just sufficient speed to bring it to the balance again. Then, other things being the same, it is clear that the greater the friction of the bearings the greater must be both the initial speed and also the speed through the whole revolution, or the bell would not have sufficient energy to overcome the increased friction. The time of a complete revolution will thus be smaller.

As the use of ball bearings is presumably to reduce friction, it seems that they will slow down the speed of ringing.

The Royal Technical College,  
Glasgow.

R. O. STREET.

## RINGING IN BOURNEMOUTH.

**LOCAL RINGERS AMALGAMATE FOR HANDBELL PRACTICE.**

The ringers in Bournemouth and district did not have to turn suddenly to handbells when the church bells were silenced by the ban, for practice in St. Peter's Hall has been a weekly feature since the outbreak of hostilities curtailed tower bell practice. However, the ban has given an impetus to the 'double-handed' branch of the Exercise, and those who had not previously taken handbells too seriously are fortunate in having the help and guidance of such an accomplished enthusiast as Mr. Fred Townsend, from Poole. Prior to the war, he and 'his boys' held a weekly practice for handbells as well as for the tower bells, and those who have heard them can testify to the quality of their ringing. Now 'the boys' are 'somewhere in England,' Fred goes along on Tuesday evenings to St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, where the remains of St. Peter's and St. John's bands foregather for handbells.

The Vicar of St. Peter's (Canon H. R. Burrows) has, as usual, shown sympathetic interest and given practical assistance by providing the necessary accommodation for practice. Mr. F. S. Wilson, who has lately come to reside in the district, became identified with St. Peter's just before the 'silence,' and has proved of great value in bringing about the progress so far achieved. Touches of Grandsire Triples are now possible, whilst individual members are progressing from 7-8, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6, in addition to courses of Caters, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major, and, the other evening, one of Oxford Bob Triples.

A hearty invitation is extended to all members of H.M. Forces who may be in the district and interested enough to make their way to St. Peter's Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.



**CRIPPLEGATE CHURCH DAMAGED.**

RESULT OF AIR RAID ON LONDON.

**Another Vicissitude in Long History.**

It has been revealed that the city church damaged by a bomb during the raid on London on Saturday night was St. Giles', Cripplegate, in which Oliver Cromwell was married and John Milton was buried.



ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

[From a photo by F. E. Dawe.]

The statue of Milton outside the church was thrown from its pedestal, but was not badly damaged.

The bomb, in addition to blowing off the front door of the church, wrecked the north-west wall and dislodged a high sandbag wall in front of one of the stained-glass windows, which was shattered. Little damage was done inside the building, except by fragments of glass, which chipped some of the memorials on the walls.

The bomb fell by the weakest part of the building, and the Vicar, the Rev. E. G. Turner, has stated that it will be weeks, possibly months, before the ordinary church services can be resumed.

The original St. Giles' Church dated from 1090, but nothing remains of that structure except, perhaps, part of the basement of the tower. In 1357 the church was rebuilt. It was largely destroyed by fire in 1545. The present building, which succeeded it, is of the perpendicular Gothic style. It survived the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the big Cripplegate fire of 1897.

During the last war the church had another escape when a German bomb dropped close to it and the wall was slightly damaged.

The church is a valuable repository of Elizabethan and Jacobean

monuments, and its small churchyard encloses an angle bastion of the Roman wall of London.

Cripplegate Church has been famous for its bells from quite early times. In 1552 there were 'fiye belles greate and small,' and by 1726 they had been increased to ten. Three peals were accomplished on this ring. Two of them were Grandsire Caters, one by the College Youths in 1726 and one by the City Scholars in 1732. The other was Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in 1752.

In 1772, Pack and Chapman recast the whole ring, and in 1792 the two trebles were added by John Briant, of Hertford.

The first peal on the twelve was one of Grandsire Cinques by the College Youths on February 2nd, 1799, and the second, after a break of 45 years, was Stedman Cinques in 1844 by the Cumberlands, who followed it by two peals of Treble Twelve in 1747 and 1748, and another of Stedman Cinques in 1750.

In 1751 the College Youths rang the then record peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,528 changes, in 5 hours and 24 minutes. John Cox was the composer and conductor.

Later peals on the bells include a 'John' peal of Stedman Cinques by the Waterloo Society in 1912, and the only peal in the City of London for the jubilee of King George V.

**RAID ITEMS.**

The residence of the Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild (Major J. H. B. Hesse) was damaged a few days ago by a bomb dropped during an enemy air raid.

Mr. Jack Thomas, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's bell hanger, had a narrow escape last Saturday. He was in a churchyard in —shire when machine-gun bullets fired from a German plane began to zip round him. He dived for the protection of a big tree and saved his skin whole.

**MORE CONFUSION.****BELLS RUNG IN ERROR.**

An official statement has been issued denying the rumours, current in a Midland town on Sunday night, that parachutists had been dropped.

The explanation given by the police is that a report was received from a woman that a parachute had been dropped. A motor patrol was sent immediately to search the district, but no trace of a parachute could be found.

Later it was reported that church bells were ringing, and it was found that members of the Home Guard had called out the verger of a church and requested him to ring the bells. This was caused by an orderly in charge of a post misconstruing a message, and conveying a wrong impression to the officer in charge.

**THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.**

Sentence of three months' imprisonment was passed at Burton-on-Trent on Michael Dooley, an Irishman, for ringing local church bells. It was stated that alarm was caused, and the matron of an institution locked all the doors. When charged, he said, 'I was trying to see how loud it would ring.'

The Bishop of Bradford, Dr. Blunt, has directed that at an induction, when the customary bellringing item in the ceremony is reached, the verger shall place the bell rope in the hand of the new incumbent, who will take hold of it and then let it go.

**AIR-RAID STOPS PRACTICE.**

Because of the air-raids, the proposed 'tied' tower bell practice that was to have been held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, the other day, was abandoned. When the train that brought four ringers from Brasted to 'the Wells' arrived long after scheduled time, an air raid was in progress. The 'all-clear' was sounded soon afterwards, but it was too late to start fixing the clappers, so the visitors joined with three of the local band in ringing handbells in the belfry.

It was a very weary party that finally arrived back at Brasted at midnight. They had missed the last bus from Tunbridge Wells, almost missed the train to Sevenoaks, and missed the last bus from Sevenoaks, which necessitated a four-mile walk. In addition, one member had previously missed his tea, in the hope of being able to ring tower bells.

The next of these practices will be held to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon, and any ringers who find themselves in the vicinity will be heartily welcomed.

**RINGER NOW A PRISONER OF WAR.**

Private Herbert Pasmore, son of the late Mr. H. R. Pasmore and nephew of Mr. W. H. Pasmore, has been posted as missing since May 21st, but news has now been received that he is a prisoner of war in Germany.

## CARRYING ON.

### GUILDFORD GUILD MEET DURING AIR-RAID WARNING.

#### Appeal for Restoration of Chertsey Bells.

An air-raid warning was sounded just before members of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild attended service at a meeting at Horsell on Saturday, and the 'All clear' did not go until, an hour later, they were enjoying tea on the Vicarage lawn. At the same time a largely attended fete was being held in a field adjoining, in connection with a local fund to pay for a Hurricane engine. It is typical of the spirit with which the British public is facing the air-raid menace that very few people left the fete to take cover. Neither were the ringers in the least bit perturbed. Everyone just 'carried on,' except that one of the local men, having obeyed official instructions and remained indoors, arrived late for tea.

The ringers' meeting brought together a gathering of twenty, and they passed a thoroughly pleasant time. The early arrivals amused themselves with handbells in the belfry, and the Vicar (the Rev. F. A. Woodard) afterwards conducted the Guild's service. A slight but notable addition was made to one of the prayers: 'Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound of the bells "in times of peace" to Thine House of Prayer, etc. Under the silence now imposed on church bells, churchgoers are losing a spiritual as well as merely an aural reminder of the occasion.'

The Vicar gave a short address, at the outset of which he welcomed the visitors to the church and parish, and said how glad he was to see that even in times like these some of them were able to meet. He hoped the day was not far distant when they would once more be able to ring the church bells. The subject of his address was a call to everyone to love God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind and with all their strength. They, as church bellringers, were of necessity Christian believers, and what they did in life depended very much on what they believed.

#### HELP FOR HURRICANE FUND.

Except that the visitors had to bring their own sugar, they were the guests of the Vicar and Mrs. Woodard, and had tea on the lawn to the sounds of revelry in the field adjoining.

There was little business to transact afterwards, but it was decided to write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Sleet, of Ottershaw, wife of Mr. David Sleet, a member of the district, who is now a prisoner of war in Germany.

Mr. Morley read an extract from a local paper, in which a correspondent urged that something should be done to raise the £100 or so necessary to put Chertsey bells in order, so that they may be ready to ring for victory and peace.

It was stated by Mr. Hessey, of Chertsey, that a few subscriptions had been received towards the restoration, and he undertook to inquire what was officially being done in connection with the scheme, which was to have been put in hand just before war broke out.

It was announced that other meetings are to be arranged later.

Thanks were accorded to the Vicar for permitting the meeting to be held and for conducting the service, also to him and Mrs. Woodard for their kind hospitality.

It was suggested that as the members were getting their tea for nothing, a collection should be made for the parish Hurricane fund. This was promptly acted upon, and when the Vicar announced that the collection amounted to 16s. 6d., it was further suggested that it should be raised to £1. Ultimately the pound became 22s. 6d.

Two things prevented handbell ringing on the lawn. One was fear of the law, the other the impossibility of competing with the loud speakers and the band next door. So a return was made to the tower, and valiant efforts were made with Grandsire and Stedman Triples. The ringing did not reach a high standard, but it was good practice.

Horsell has an early English tower upon which a good deal of money was spent a few years ago, not only in rehanging the six bells, but in removing from the exterior of the structure a layer of unwanted plaster, in order to expose the original building.

The story of the present bells is summarised in ten words on the fifth: 'Robert Catlin cast and hung us all anno domini 1741.' All the bells bear his name or initials; the third adds, 'Prosperity to the parish of Horsell,' the fourth 'Health and prosperity to all our benefactors.' The tenor bears the names of the churchwardens, Henry Roake and William Collyer, and there have been Roakes and Collyers in the parish ever since.

But Horsell had bells long before 1741. The inventory made in the reign of Edward VI. records: Item iij belles in the steeple the best bie extymacion xiiijc, the second xijc, the third xc. Item j sauncc bell. Item ij sacking belles.

The bells at Chertsey include one, the fifth, which tradition says was the original bell in the incident on which the poem, 'Curfew shall not ring to-night,' was based. At any rate, it is of special antiquarian interest. It is believed to have been brought from Chertsey Abbey at the dissolution, and is inscribed in capitals, 'Ora Mente Pia Pro Nobis Virgo Maria.' The seventh is another old bell, cast by Robert Mot, first of the Whitechapel bellfounders, in 1588.

## ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford took place at the George Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Saturday last. Mr. Isaac Evans was unanimously voted to the chair.

Apologies for absence were received from the President, the Ven. the Archdeacon of Stafford (the Rev. Canon R. L. Hodson), and from the Ringing Master (Mr. B. G. Key), who is on active service. The report and statement of accounts were read and confirmed, and it was decided that the report should not be printed this year. Mr. H. Howell, of Walsall, was appointed Ringing Master in the place of Mr. B. G. Key, who retires at the end of three years' useful service. Mr. F. Broiherton, of St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, was appointed auditor. The other officials were re-elected en bloc.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: 'That this meeting of members warmly supports the urge that the ban on Sunday service ringing should be lifted.'

It was agreed that when the ban on ringing is removed, and peals are again allowed to be rung, members of H.M. Forces temporarily stationed within the Archdeaconry shall be exempt from paying subscriptions. Three new members were enrolled.

The next meeting was provisionally fixed to be held at Walsall in April. In consequence of the difficulty in transport during the winter months, it was decided not to have a meeting in January.

Votes of thanks to the officers for the past year's work, and to the chairman for so ably conducting the business, concluded a successful meeting.

Handbells were then brought into use. Besides a variety of methods rung double-handed, the St. Peter's handbell quartette rendered some selections which were well received.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

There have been only two quarterly meetings held during the period under review, and they were at Brewood, in September, when the members were entertained to tea by the generosity of a few kind friends, and at Willenhall, in April of this year. Although held under war conditions, both were well attended. The annual meeting had to be postponed on account of war activities.

At our last annual meeting it was agreed to have an annual dinner. Arrangements were being made for one to take place in the late autumn of last year, but the international upheaval prevented it. However, when the present hostilities cease we may look forward to the time when it will be possible to have one.

Several of our members have been enrolled in H.M. Forces, but a complete list is not yet to hand.

The number of peals rung is small, only eleven being achieved. Considering there were only two clear months after the last annual meeting up to the time of war breaking out, this total is quite moderate. The list is as follows:—

Grandsire Doubles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grandsire Triples	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stedman Cinques	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minor (three methods)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plain Bob Minor (one on handbells)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Plain Bob Major	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	11

One of this total is noteworthy, viz., a peal of Stedman Cinques, rung at Walsall, half-muffled, to the memory of the late Thomas J. Elton, who for 38 years was ringer, towerkeeper and chorister at St. Matthew's, Walsall. Mr. Elton had been instrumental in building up a band who succeeded in ringing a peal of Stedman Cinques by a local company of Sunday service ringers. The deceased had held the office of Ringing Master for two separate periods, and represented St. Matthew's band on the committee for this society for a great number of years. Also, he was at one time one of the society's representatives at the Central Council.

The committee also regret to record the loss, through death, of additional members: Horace Sadler, of Wombourn; Robert P. Knight, of Salisbury; and Herbert Sheppard, of Dudley.

## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

(Continued from page 413.)

He then expressed his sorrow for 'poor Ned Crane, finding him void of all knowledge of Stedman Triples,' and he asked, 'If the peal we pricked and rung be not proper Stedman's Triples, why does he not accept the wager two to one we proffered in our last?' Which seems a reasonable demand, only we remember that Crane had previously offered a similar wager, and Melchior had not taken it up. We rather wonder whether these offers of wagers were really meant to be taken seriously. They sound a bit like the familiar, 'I'll bet you what you like,' that such and such.

## GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. BRISTOL CITY BRANCH TO 'CARRY ON.'

St. Matthew's, Bristol, was the venue of the first meeting of the City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association since the ban on bellringing came into force. Early comers set the ball rolling with some handbell ringing just after 3.30 p.m., and one thoughtful member from the neighbouring branch kindly brought along the peal identical to that of the new Liverpool Cathedral ring.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar, after which members proceeded to tea in the Parish Hall, twenty members being present.

The business meeting followed, Mr. Harris (chairman) presiding. A discussion on 'Should the branch continue to hold future meetings?' brought various opinions to light. Mr. W. H. Thomas urged the branch to continue holding its quarterly meetings. Supporting this, Mr. W. Knight said that ringers should endeavour to keep in touch with one another as much as possible. The chairman went even further, and recommended that monthly meetings be held in the usual way. It was ultimately decided that meetings would be held at monthly intervals in an attempt to keep activities going.

A new idea was then introduced, when Mr. Lambie proposed that someone should be asked to give a lecture on any interesting topic connected with ringing. Mr. Bryant, in seconding this proposal, added that it would be very beneficial to the majority if an experienced ringer were asked to give a talk on a particular book, such as a publication of Grandsire Triples or Stedman Triples. A little dose of theory, he went on, would do ringers the world of good, because even those who read these books on different standard methods did not always understand the meaning it was meant to convey.

Members then entered into a general discussion regarding 'The authorities and the associations,' the result of which showed that no definite and efficient system had been arranged in connection with the sounding of air invasion warnings, and that different ringers had received different instructions. Others had no knowledge whatsoever about arrangements which may have been made regarding their own towers; some, again, were to receive orders from the Vicar of the church when a signal became necessary, and, finally, other ringers were going to be informed by the authorities direct.

In summing up the position, Mr. Guise proposed that the secretary should write a letter to the authorities, offering them the services of the branch in providing competent ringers to be at their service in any emergency. Mr. F. Leakor, in seconding, said that several peals of bells were still 'up' in the city, and that no permission could be obtained from any source to lower them.

In conclusion, the secretary (Mr. A. M. Tyler) drew attention to the activities of 'The Ringing World,' and made a special request to those ringing members who did not take the paper to do so, even if it were only for the duration of the war, as 'every little helps' to keep in existence the paper that is really vital to the art of ringing to-day.

Handbell practice followed, and after everyone had been satisfied in this direction the meeting terminated.

## KEEPING PUBLIC INTEREST ALIVE.

### A CLAPPERLESS 720 OF MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In order that the general public shall not get the idea that the ban on ringing church bells has brought about the natural death of ringing, may I suggest that we all be a little more communicative with our local Press, which will at these times be pleased to get any little articles relative to church bells and ringing?

I consider we are missing one of our greatest opportunities of bringing ringing before the general public by remaining like our bells, 'silent.' Let the public know that we are carrying on, in spite of (as at my tower) constantly losing one more member into the Services of the Crown. Teach, even if only on one clapperless bell. Using (in an eight-bell tower) 2.3.4.5.6 and 7 without clappers for practice in Minor methods is very interesting, while teaching youngsters to hunt by ropesight is also more pleasure than torture. I am enclosing a local press report of a 720 of Bob Minor rung on Tuesday last on 'silent' bells.

Residents in a parish do not realise (as they hear no sound of bells) that it is possible still to carry on, and if we want their support when we do ring again, we must let them know that we have warranted it by putting in the foundation. Let us all do as you are doing, 'carry on,' however difficult the conditions.

GEORGE GILBERT.

Ferndale, Stomp Road,  
Burnham, Bucks.

[Mr. Gilbert has certainly done his best to keep the public of Burnham and district interested. A number of articles on bells and bellringing have been given prominence in two local newspapers.—Ed., 'R.W.']

## CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

### WHAT FAMOUS RINGERS HAVE DONE.

Last week Mr. James Hunt told us of Henry W. Haley and his ability to tell a mistake in ringing when he was listening outside the tower. A correspondent reminds of other instances of this gift.

Snowdon relates that about 1820 a long peal of Treble Bob Major, over 14,000 changes, was attempted at St. Lawrence's, Pudsey, in Yorkshire, and during the ringing two of the band, Smallpage and Mortimer, of Leeds, who were ringing the 3rd and 5th, shifted. The conductor, J. Hewitt, of Wakefield, did not notice it, but Joseph Tebbs, who was outside, did, and sent word to Hewitt and told him so. Hewitt waited until he came to one of his observation places and stopped the bells after they had rung about six hours.

There is a tale that John Cox was once listening outside to a peal rung by a rival band, and when they came out of the tower, well pleased with themselves for having scored a peal, he greeted them with the remark, 'Better luck next time!' Something had gone wrong, either with the ringing or the calling, and the conductor had faked the peal, thinking that no one but himself would know about it. But if William Cooter may be believed, Cox at times was not above doing such things himself.

When William Pye called the record peal of London Surprise, 14,112 changes, at King's Norton in 1903, Mr. Harry Withers took down the calling as it was rung.

Some years ago an attempt for Holt's Original was arranged at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and Mr. James E. Davis was to have called it, but at the last minute he could not stand in, and another well-known conductor was substituted. Mr. Davis arrived outside the tower after the bells had been ringing for some time. He listened, picked up the calling, and presently said that a bob had been missed. And so it was, for the bells soon afterwards stopped.

The day after the Central Council meeting at Shrewsbury a party went to Coalbrookdale and rung a peal of Stedman Caters. An hour or two after they had left Shrewsbury, three or four others followed to hear the finish of the peal, and among them were Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher. Walking up from the station, they heard the bells ringing, and Mrs. Fletcher began to note things, and presently she said, 'A course end is just coming up, and it will be so and so.' She followed the ringing, and presently the calling of the last part of the peal and the turning course were worked out, and the forecast proved correct. She also said who was ringing one or two of the bells, and proved right there, too.

To be able to check change ringing outside the tower is a special gift which is not possessed by many ringers, even good ones, but no doubt readers know of other instances besides those mentioned.

The earliest case on record, Thomas Crane's attempt to check the first peal of Stedman Triples by counting the strokes of the tenor, is described on another page.

## WILLIAM COOTER'S FEAT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. James Hunt's note in your current issue, recording an example of the keen ear of the late Mr. Henry W. Haley, is very interesting. The late Mr. William Cooter furnished a similar example, and as the story appeared in print nearly 52 years ago, many of our younger ringers may not have heard it. Perhaps, sir, you may think it worth reprinting.

Mr. Cooter's portrait and memoir appeared in the Christmas number of 'Bell News,' 1888. This is the story told in the memoir:—

'A sketch of Mr. Cooter's ringing career, no matter how incomplete, ought not to be without the following remarkable circumstance, which our readers may depend upon as being absolutely authentic in every particular.

'Some years ago—we forget the date, but it is immaterial—our friend had one day reached his place of business just after the dinner hour was over, when he was waited upon by the late Mr. John Cox. Mr. Cox stated that he had that evening to call a peal of Stedman Caters at Horsleydown, but owing to another engagement he could not stay till the finish. He proposed to commence calling the peal, and wished Mr. Cooter to come up and, taking the rope out of his hand, finish it. At the time, Mr. Cox handed to him the figures of the peal—a level 5,000.

'Mr. Cooter consented. His business being over in the evening, he wended his way to the church. Taking stock from the outside how far the peal had progressed, he ascended, and the ringing chamber being entered by a trap door, immediately under the rope of the 6th. Having knocked at this trap door, the ringer of that bell—Cox himself—stepped one side, and Mr. Cooter entered.

'Divesting himself of coat and waistcoat, he took the rope out of Cox's hands, the latter disappearing through the trap door as soon as possible. That peal Mr. Cooter finished without a hitch, the good striking being unimpaired, and we think this episode is unique in the annals of ringing. Unfortunately, the composition turned out upon examination to be false, and thus has never been recorded.'

Many years ago I recalled this to the late Mr. Matthew Wood, and his comment was, 'Yes, I know it to be true, and not a word passed between Cox and Cooter when they changed over on the rope.'

CHAS. E. BORRETT.



## THE ANGELUS.

### THE HISTORY OF ITS OBSERVANCE.

The semi-liturgical uses of bells in the Middle Ages grew up gradually and without any general regulation, consequently we have little or no information concerning them. But of the Angelus some particulars have come down to us, though they are rather conflicting.

A distinction should be made between the recital of the Ave Maria as a general form of religious devotion and the particular devotion known as the Angelus. Urban II., the Pope who preached the first Crusade (1096-1100), is said to have directed that three times a day a bell should be sounded in order that the faithful might recite the Ave Maria and by that prayer beseech God for the recovery of the Holy Land. The custom fell into disuse and was revived by order of Pope Gregory IX. (1227-1241).

The modern Continental observance is usually said to have been begun by Pope John XXII., who directed that the Angelic Salutation should be recited every evening in honour of the incarnation of Christ. The Council of Sens, 1347, decreed that the ordinance made by Pope John for the saying of three Ave Marias at the time or hour of curfew should be inviolably observed; and the statutes of Simon Bishop of Nantes ordain that the parish priests shall at the customary time cause bells to be rung in their churches for the curfew, and shall instruct their parishioners at each ringing to say on bended knee the words of salutation Ave Maria, and thereby they gained ten days of indulgence.

In 1369 the Synod of Beziere ordained that henceforth at dawn of day three strokes should be struck with the clapper on the larger bell, 'and let everyone hearing it whatever his station of life say three times Paternoster and Ave Maria.'

The mid-day observance was introduced by Pope Calixtus III. (1455-1458). 'He gave orders that God should be supplicated every day and that a bell should be rung about noon to give the people notice that they should join in prayer for the Christians against the Turks.'

Finally the full observance three times a day at morning, noon and night was ordered by King Louis of France in 1472, in order, it is said, to gain assistance against his enemies.

The modern devotion may, therefore, be said to be French in its origin and development, though it was adopted to some extent by other parts of Christendom.

Writers usually assume that the Angelus bell was generally rung in England before the Reformation, but I am greatly inclined to doubt if it were so. Of course, the 'Hail Mary' was used here as elsewhere as a form of devotion, and there were various directions for its use, as when Archbishop Arundel, towards the end of the 14th century, ordered one Paternoster and five Ave Marias to be said at dawn. In the diocese of Salisbury and elsewhere a bell was tolled three times, either before or after divine service, and was called the Ave or Pardon bell. This obviously was a summons to a devotion, and evidently a call to the recital of the 'Hail Mary.' It is said to have been called a pardon bell because of the indulgences which were attached to the devotion.

In 1538 Nicholas Shaxton, Bishop of Salisbury, issued a set of injunctions to his diocese which contained the following: Item, that the Pardon or Ave Bell, which of long time hath been used to be tolled three times after or before divine service, be not henceforth in any part of my diocese any more tolled.

This clearly, though somewhat similar, was not the same as the present day Angelus or the French use, for the times of ringing were different, and apparently it was tolled only on Sundays and such holy days on which there was a full service. And evidently it was not regarded as a Catholic use, but as a local custom which was within the province of the diocesan to regulate; for though Shaxton was one of the early reformers and was actively engaged in reducing the many superstitious habits and beliefs which had grown up in connection with the use of images and relics and in public worship, as yet there had been no changes in the official doctrine of the Church, and he would hardly have ventured on his own authority to have forbidden it if it had really been considered a Catholic custom.

The bell was rung in other parts of England besides the diocese of Salisbury, and until quite recent times it survived in many places, though its original meaning had long since been forgotten. This survival was sometimes called the 'pudding' bell, obviously a corruption of pardon bell.

Several detailed instructions for the ringing of bells in parish churches still survive from the century just before the Reformation. The curfew is mentioned and the service ringing, but never the Angelus. Nor do the injunctions which were issued later to forbid 'superstitious' ringing say anything about the Angelus.

As I pointed out above, the 'Hail Mary' was recited in England, as elsewhere, as an act of devotion, and some form of the Angelus

(Continued in next column.)

## FAMOUS RINGER OF PAST DAYS.

MATT. WOOD, OF BETHNAL GREEN.

Last Tuesday was the twenty-eighth anniversary of the death of one of the most outstanding personages of the London Exercise in the nineteenth century. Matthew A. Wood came of an old ringing family, his grandfather and great-uncle being notable members of the Society of Cumberland Youths in its early days.

Matthew Wood was born on September 22nd, 1826, at Bethnal Green. When he was a boy of three years old his father removed to Church Row, hard by St. Matthew's Church. Here he lived all his life, and here he died.



MATTHEW A. WOOD.

In early life Wood followed the trade of a weaver, which was, and for long had been, the staple trade of the district; but industrial changes and the development of power looms in the towns of the north killed the weaving of the London suburbs, and Wood was glad to accept an opening in the hop trade offered him through Edward Lansdell, a Kent ringer who was employed in the Bermondsey hop market.

Matthew Wood's father was the steeplekeeper at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and this introduced him in early life to the belfry. His instructor was John Cox, and a fellow learner was

William Cooter, with whom he was associated throughout his ringing career. He succeeded his father as steeplekeeper at Bethnal Green very early, and held the post for nearly 70 years. During that time he won the regard and esteem of Dr. Winnington Ingram, formerly Bishop of London, who was at one time Vicar of St. Matthew's, and who recalled his memory when speaking at the notable tercentenary dinner of the Society of College Youths.

Matthew Wood's first peal was one of Grandsire Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on February 18th, 1846, for the St. James' Society, and during a ringing career of more than 60 years he took part in 380 peals, a large number in those days. Some of them were rung with the Cumberlands and the St. James' Society, the others with the College Youths. They included the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major in London, and more than one long length, such as the 7,524 of Stedman Cinques in 1851, the 8,580 in the same method in 1861, and the 15,848 of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1868. These were all record lengths at the times.

Matthew Wood was one of the men who rang in the first peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques. He was also one of the four who rang the first silent peal of Stedman Triples in hand. There are many people still living who recollect Wood, and they remember him as a skilful ringer, a first-class heavy bell man, and one who was not only a good striker himself, but who did not tolerate bad striking or slovenly ringing in others.

## THE ANGELUS.

(Continued from previous column.)

may have been used in places, especially in monastic houses, but we must remember that the custom became general in France just at the time when French influence was very much less felt in England than had been the case for many centuries. England had lost all her Continental possessions except Calais, and was mainly preoccupied by domestic affairs, the dynastic disputes, and the Wars of the Roses. We may see the effect of this in contemporary church architecture. For many years the churches of England had been built in much the same style as in Northern France, but while the French used the Flamboyant style, the English developed the totally different and strongly national Perpendicular style.

Whence then, it may be asked, came the custom of ringing a bell at certain set hours, which, until comparatively recent times, was common all over the country? We are usually told that these were survivals of the Angelus bell, which continued to be rung long after the meaning had been forgotten, and after other and secular reasons had been associated with it. The real explanation is that these were not bells originally rung for religious uses which in time became secularised, but they were from the first and all along secular uses which were also for a comparatively short time associated with religious uses. The curfew was not, as it has been called, the 'last angelus.' It was the secular evening bell, rung as such long before there was such a custom as reciting the Angelus at eventide, and it remained the evening bell long after the recital of the Angelus had ceased in England. So, too, the early morning bell and the mid-day bell were secular uses.

In any case, between the beginning of the Angelus as a popular devotion in France and the Reformation in England there was little more than half a century, which is far too short a time to establish a traditional custom.

J. A. TROLLOPE.



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Woolwich, on Saturday, August 31st. Handbells available from 3 p.m. at the Rectory, Rectory Place. Service at 5 p.m. Business meeting and social evening later. Half-fares will be paid according to rule.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere, Kent.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—The district invites members of the Derby and Loughborough Districts to join them at Cole Orton for a social meeting on Saturday, August 31st. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. It is hoped to arrange for either Rectory or Hall grounds to be open after tea.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Calverley on Saturday, August 31st. Handbells in the schools. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Special attention to learners. All ringers invited.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Shrewsbury on Saturday, August 31st. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Programme according to circumstances.—W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—The quarterly meeting proposed to be held at Wonston on September 7th, is reluctantly cancelled.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, E.C., on Tuesday, September 10th, at 7 p.m. Handbells after the business.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 14th. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Tea will be provided if possible. Send numbers by Tuesday, September 10th at latest.—E. F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

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**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION**

**HANDBELLS AND SILENT TOWER BELLS AT ST. PETER'S, ST. ALBANS.**

Although numbers were small, a quite enjoyable meeting was held on Saturday, August 17th, at St. Peter's, St. Albans.

Members and visitors were present from St. Albans Cathedral, St. Peter's, Redbourn, Harpenden and a visitor from Ealing. Mr. C. Taylor, of the Watford District, turned up with a nice peal of handbells, these being rung in addition to the peal belonging to the tower.

At the kind invitation of Mrs. Fergusson, a most enjoyable tea in ideal weather conditions was partaken of on the lawn at Hall Place Gardens, and afterwards the formal business of the meeting was quickly disposed of. The place of the next meeting was discussed, and the arrangements were left in the hands of the hon. secretary.

Ringling in various Triples, Major and Caters methods gave good practice to some who previously had had little opportunity in handbell ringing. Two members of H.M. Forces were present and expressed their pleasure at the help they were given.

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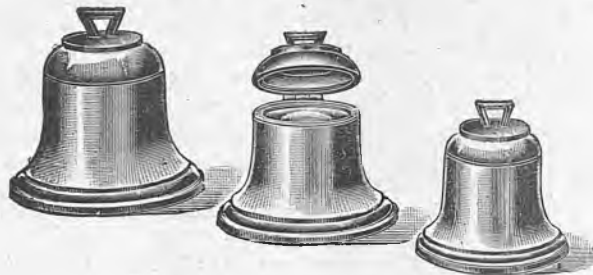
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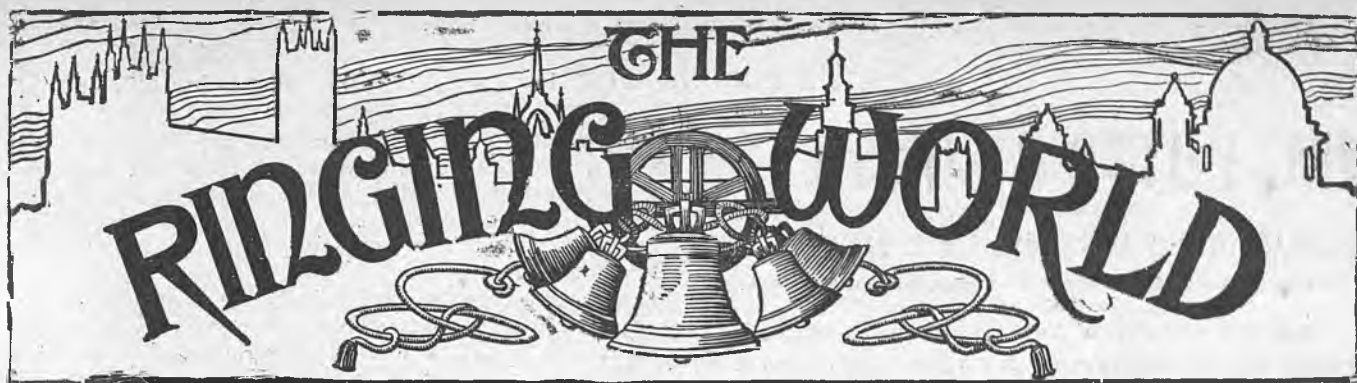
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## DIOCESAN HELP.

The old adage, 'Out of sight, out of mind,' has often been applied to ringers, particularly when someone has wanted to eulogise the ringers' contribution to Church work and has tried to find an excuse for the little attention which authorities usually pay to their interests. Not that ringers have any great desire to be in the public eye, if they can be left alone to practise their art, but there are times when some recognition of their aspirations and their requirements would be appreciated. In the present days there is a still greater likelihood of the ringers being forgotten. In the past, if they could not be seen they could be heard, but now they cannot either be seen or heard. It is refreshing and encouraging, therefore, to find a diocesan journal devoting some space to drawing the attention of both clergy and laity to the work which has been done by the Diocesan Guild and laying emphasis on the silence of the bells, which has brought a blank into the lives of many people—particularly of people who still value the English Sunday. There is no doubt, as the 'Guildford Diocesan Gazette' points out, that the bells of our churches are sadly missed.

By directing attention to the work of the Guild the official 'Diocesan Gazette' is rendering the ringers' organisation useful service at a time when its activities are under a cloud, and it would be in the interests of other ringing societies if they could get their diocesan journals to take some notice of their existence. It is much more necessary now than when, in happier times, the energies of the associations were being kept at full blast. At the present moment such publicity will be a reminder that, despite the grievous blow that has befallen church bell ringing, the ringers themselves are by no means disbanded, neither is their art dead. When the time comes that the bells may once more be heard, the good offices of those who are responsible for the life of the churches may be necessary in many places to help replace the depleted personnel of the belfry and it is just as well that churchpeople should know that the nucleus of organisation and the enthusiasm of the men and women who remain are only awaiting the opportunity to come again into service. There seems to us, however, no reason why we should have to wait until the end of the war for this revival of ringing, at any rate for Sunday services. The utter uselessness of the ban is growing more and more obvious as the weeks pass and what is needed is a strong lead on the subject. If representations were made in the proper quarter the Church itself might provide effective support, but if a policy of *laissez-faire* is followed by those who should direct the policy of the Exercise nothing can be expected. If, how-

(Continued on page 422.)

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ever, the interest of the Church, as represented by the higher authorities, could be obtained, there would, at any rate, be a prospect of bringing the present position under review in responsible quarters. Nothing can happen to secure a modification of the ban unless the ringers themselves first move.

In the meantime the church bells are silent and if only to let it be known that ringers are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to get to work again the help of the various diocesan journals and, indeed, of the Press in general should be invoked wherever possible. An example of what can be done locally was quoted in our columns last week, and what has been done in Buckinghamshire can be done elsewhere. Public opinion can be influenced in this way, if the question is tactfully handled, but the most hopeful channel through which to get anything done is a direct approach to the proper authorities by official representatives of the ringing organisations. There is a strong case for the modification of the ban on ringing. There should be no difficulty in showing how ineffectual would be the 'warning' which bells can give; how impossible it is to secure the ringing of the bells in all churches in any case, and how unnecessary it is, if bells must be used for the alarm, to ban them entirely for other purposes.

### COUNTING STROKES OF THE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Something like 50 years ago the late Mr. Henry White, of Basingstoke, was engaged to instruct a village band in Hampshire in the art of ringing. The band got on very well and could ring Grandsire Doubles. One night Mr. White did not turn up. The ringers said, 'What are we going to do? We can ring it, but we have no one to call it.' A youngster who attended the practices regularly, although he was not a learner, said, 'I can call it.' They doubted his word, but he said, 'Let me try.' And away they went and he called the 120. The ringers were amazed and asked him how he managed it. 'I've been counting the blows of the tenor when Mr. White has been calling,' was the answer. Afterwards that youngster became a good ringer.

The following story may also interest your readers. In the early part of this century I was sent from Guildford, Surrey, to carry out certain work in Rudgwick, Sussex. During my stay there I spent some very pleasant evenings with the local band of ringers, who could ring Bob Minor very well indeed, and also with the ringers at Slinfold. The captain of the Rudgwick band was Mr. Tate, the local shoemaker, who was carrying on his father's old business. Mr. Tate told me his father used to be their conductor and they had a band who could ring a 720 Bob Minor. No one, however, could call it except Mr. Tate, sen. He used to call the old 720, Wrong, Right, Wrong, twice repeated, with Single at half-way and end. When he set out to call it he had a boy sitting in one of the church seats (they rang on the ground floor adjoining the seats at the west end) and nine candles were lighted. As Mr. Tate called a bob the boy blew a candle out, and when all nine had been extinguished, Mr. Tate knew he had to call a Single at the next 'right' of the tenor. Then the candles were relit and the last half proceeded in the same way. J. HUNT.

Taunton.

This reminds us of the practice of a conductor in a Sussex village who, when attempting peals of Grandsire Doubles, had 42 stones on a chair beside him and knocked one off at the end of each six-score.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.



**THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.****THE ST. MICHAEL'S PEAL.**

Thomas Melchior discussed at length the merits of the two rival compositions, and there it is possible to follow him but haltingly, for we have lost the key to most of his allusions. 'I'll tell you, Ned,' he says, 'I am of the opinion that you would have rather made your peal without alterations than with, had you known how. You have owned that I was the first man that ever turned the sixth and seventh; but let me tell you that they are all turned as well as those, else they would not be every bell a course alike, which takes away all pretention of keeping your bells as in Grandsire.' He appeals to Stedman's statement that in the Doubles every bell has a course alike, and he added that if John Garthon had been alive 'he would have laughed at your ignorance in assigning hunts to Stedman's Triples.'

Amid much that is obscure, one thing is clear. The rivals based their compositions on two distinct plans. Crane took as his model Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples, with its hunts and regular parts. Melchior tried to reproduce the distinctive qualities of Stedman's six-score of Doubles. The controversy mainly turned on which of the two was 'proper' Stedman Triples. To-day we should admit either or both, provided they would give 5,040 true changes. Neither Crane nor Melchior had any doubts about the truth of his own peal or that of his opponent's.

Melchior got in another very shrewd knock in an allusion to 'that Wise Gentleman who was your prompter before you found that nice way of nailing your paper against the wall to call your bobs by (though to no effect).' Perhaps we should not make too much of this. Melchior was not intentionally unfair, but he was giving no quarter, and he made the most of any rumour that he heard. Both bands had an extra man in the belfry to act as referee and to testify, if need be, to the truth of the peal. It would have been well if those referees had been strictly impartial, but in the circumstances that was hardly possible. They were strong partisans, just as keen as any of the band on the peal being scored, and, like John Webster at St. Peter's, ready to lend a helping hand if it were needed. Who the Wise Gentleman was we do not know, but evidently he had been talking at large in the taverns round St. Michael's.

Many conductors who have mistrusted their memory have had a temptation to nail a paper against the wall to call the bobs by. The practice has usually been looked upon as not quite a fair one, and it has been condemned by the Central Council as 'undesirable.' The chief objection to it is that usually, as at St. Michael's, it is 'to no effect.'

Meanwhile the Coslany band had been trying to ring their peal. Eleven times they made an attempt and failed, but at last, on December 6th, 1731 (which, after all, was only six weeks later than their rivals), they succeeded. The peal was not without incident. There was a lot of excitement and party feeling in the city, and someone paid the bellman to go round the streets and cry the following 'scandalous' verses:—

This is to give notice to all sorts of people  
That the ringers that practise at St. Michael's steeple  
Have craz'd their brains by setting forth false pretences,  
That it is to be feared they have quite lost their senses.  
Therefore let 'em repair to John Foster's and 'tis plain  
There's those that can help them to their senses again.

The bellman or town crier was one of the institutions of Norwich in olden time. He wore a cocked hat and a gold laced coat, and carried a large hand bell. He was appointed by the Town Council, but anyone could employ him to make announcements at the street corners. In my young days he still existed, but now I suppose he is a thing of the past.

Before the ringing began, a crowd of several hundred people gathered in the streets by St. Michael's Church. Many of them belonged to one or other of the parties and were interested in the ringing. But many were idle fellows, looking for a little fun and excitement, and there was plenty of the riff-raff from the yards and courts of St. Martin's and St. Miles. The crowd knew very little about Stedman Triples, but that would not prevent betting on the result of the peal. When it began to look as if the attempt would be successful, some of the rowdier of the Mancroft party began to make a noise, and some threw stones on to the church leads. One man, bolder than the rest, climbed the low wall that separates the churchyard from the street, and tried to get through one of the church windows. This led to blows and a street fight, in which the Coslany partisans, being on their own ground and numerically stronger, drove their opponents off the field 'to their shame with bloody noses.'

When he published the account of the peal in the 'Gazette,' Edward Crane charged the Mancroft company with instigating these disorderly scenes, but that Melchior hotly denied. 'For I must tell you that St. Peter's ringers scorn to act or encourage any such thing, which they are ashamed to hear of, much more to act.' And we can well believe him. Men who can write and speak as he could, do not need to descend to personal violence. The riot was unpremeditated, caused by the rougher elements which are usually found in any crowd.

The affair of the bellman was another matter. Melchior could not deny that he knew something about that, 'the intent of it (as I am informed) was to animate your fearful hearts at the dreadful approach of your alterations. For who could have thought that the sight of those dismal changes could have defeated such old veteran ringers and put them out eleven times together as you have lately been at St. Michael's.' It was a good joke, and Melchior thoroughly enjoyed the fun.

The Coslany men had scrutinised the peal at St. Peter's, and had made much of the trips and faulty striking. It was now Melchior's turn to pick holes in the St. Michael's peal. 'You say you have rung 5,040 Stedman's Triples, but it was rung no otherwise than with changes alike. Witness your 4th bell dodging behind with the 3rd, 2nd and 7th backstroke instead of 2, 4. These things are not to be found in your paper as you pricked it.'

This is obscure, and the writer's meaning is not clear. There is a possibility that the printer has made a mistake, and I suppose what Melchior means is that certain bells and especially the fourth dodged the wrong way behind, a thing which is not unknown in Stedman Triples.

But it was the composition that the two men were mainly contending about. Crane challenged Melchior to meet him 'before any gentleman who is a proper judge of the art and belongs to neither company, and I will lay down my peal at length, and he shall do the same, and let us dispute it out which is the properest peal according to Stedman's own rule on five bells.' Melchior preferred

(Continued on next page.)

a public discussion. 'As you accused us in public, it is reasonable you should dispute us in public.' However, their the exchange of a couple more letters, he gave way. 'I will take your advice and in a short time send you word who shall be your judge, and where I will dispute with you in private as you desire.' And so, as far as we are concerned, ended the controversy. Whether the discussion took place, and what verdict the judge gave, we do not know. We do know that neither man altered his opinion and neither gave way to the other. Nor could we expect that they should.

Both the Mancroft and the Coslany companies put up boards to commemorate their performances, and each reiterated its claim to have rung the first peal of Stedman Triples. Both boards still exist and are among the oldest and most interesting in the country. On the Mancroft board are some lines by a man named William Scott which have always struck me as being about the best of the many doggerel verses written at different times in praise of some peal or other.

As for the sweet and pleasant Treble, she  
By Melchior well was rung that bell, and call'd the bobs so free;  
Blofield the second; Palmer the third did ring,  
Ather rung fourth, and was not loath; but made her for to sing;  
Gardener the fifth did sway; Foster the sixth did play;  
The seventh round Chris. Booty bound, and made her to obey;  
The tenor fine and neat, brave Porter so compleat  
Did ring her out and turned about that Cymbal loud and great.

People ought not to write doggerel, but if they must, it is well to do it properly, and there is a movement and a jingle about William Scott's lines which make them quite attractive.

And now the interesting question arises: Can we admit the Norwich Scholars' claim to have rung the first peal of Stedman Triples and was either or both the compositions true?

The general opinion in the Exercise has long been that both were false. William Shipway summed up the views of the London ringers when he wrote in 1816 that 'the Norwich peals are entirely discredited.' Jasper Snowdon said that 'the claim made by the second performance to be the first true peal, must be accepted as a strong reason for condemning the previous peal as false, but we have no means of deciding whether the latter peal was itself correct.'

F. W. J. Rees, an indefatigable collector of records of the doings of old ringers, roundly called the Mancroft peal false, and every other person who has referred to these performances has done so in similar terms. The peals have been judged and the verdict has always been 'guilty' or 'not proven with a strong presumption of guilt.'

When we seek for the reason on which these judgments are based we find (apart from the fact that if the second was the first true one, the first was necessarily false) they amount to these—The peals are very early ones, the figures of the compositions are lost, the first peal believed to be true was not rung until 1799, and the first known to have been true was not rung until 1803. Men were entirely ignorant of everything connected with the Norwich peals and they took their ignorance as proof that they could not possibly be true.

It is possible, however, to come to a reasonable and considered conclusion on the matter.

For a peal to be true there must be two things: the composition must be true, and the actual ringing must be correct within the limits which separate merely faulty striking from actual shift of course.

So far as the actual ringing is concerned we have more evidence for the Norwich performances than for an average peal rung in recent times. Both peals were rung in the hearing of hostile critics, and both were sharply challenged at the time. Let us see what the charges amount to.

The chief objection to the Mancroft performance was Thomas Crane's sworn testimony that only 4,860 changes were rung. That we can dismiss at once. Crane was honest and quite thought he had counted correctly, but it is far more likely that he made a mistake in his tale than that the peal was short. It was, of course, quite easy for Melchior to miscall, but then it would have been most unlikely that the peal would have come round.

The other objection was made when John Webster was under cross-examination before the magistrate, but when the most is made of that it does not amount to more than evidence that there was one bad place in the striking which cannot be said to have invalidated the peal. The fact that nine men took part in the performance, though it may, to some extent, lessen its merit, shows the difficulties under which it was rung, and the bad going of the sixth.

There was no trouble of that sort at St. Michael's, where the bells were in excellent order, as the 10,080 of Treble Bob Major in 1727 shows. No serious criticism was brought against the ringing of Crane's peal of Stedman Triples. Melchior did indeed say that 'it was rung no otherwise than with changes alike. Witness your 4th bell dodging behind with the second instead of 2-4'; but he does not suggest that the two bells came away from the back in the wrong order.

So far as the actual performances are concerned these two peals are far better authenticated than almost any of those of past years, with the exception of Oxford men's Grandsire Caters. Thomas Hearne did not listen any more intently than did the Norwich critics, but he was impartial.

When, however, we face the question: Was either or both of the compositions true? we are in a different case. The figures are lost, and that fact in itself has largely condemned them. 'Mr. Holt's peals,' says Shipway, 'are still admired by the best judges of the art, while the Norwich peals, not being demonstrable, are entirely discredited.' Other people, remembering the early date, conclude that they could not possibly be true and dismiss the matter without further consideration.

At the time neither Melchior nor Crane had any doubts of the truth of either his own or his rival's composition. Each was trying hard to discredit the other's work and to show that it was not 'proper' Stedman, and yet neither could prove that his opponent's peal was false, though that would have settled the dispute without further question. There would have been no need for Thomas Crane to take oaths about the number of changes rung, nor for Melchior to make jokes about 'alterations' or to argue whether hunts are allowable in Stedman Triples. All that either need have said was: 'Here are your figures. In this place is a certain change, and in that place it turns up again.' Moreover, there was money to be made. Each side had offered to wager on the truth of their peal: the others had but to accept the wager and claim the money.

That neither could do so is good evidence that the peals were not obviously false, even though it may also show

(Continued on next page.)

**WILLIAM COOTER'S FEAT***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Borrett tells us that the peal in which William Cooter took over the calling from John Cox afterwards turned out to be false. Most ringers will say, 'A jolly good thing too.' Such things ought not to be done. And since it was planned beforehand and both men knew the composition and where one would relieve the other, there was nothing wonderful or remarkable in the performance.

The general rule of the Exercise has always been that the same men who start for a peal should complete it without any outside assistance of any sort, except that the ringer of a heavy or bad going bell may be assisted or relieved, provided it is stated in the published record.

Once you allow things such as Cox and Cooter did there is no knowing where some people would stop. One day, when James W. Washbrook was ringing a peal at Arklow, he bethought himself of something he wanted to tell an outside man. He was ringing the seventh. He turned to the sixth man, took his rope and told him to go over and take the fourth, where Washbrook's son was ringing. Then the latter was sent out with the message and instructions not to be too long. Whether the peal was rung I forget, but how would it appear in the published report? We hear sometimes of men changing ropes or attempting to change ropes in a peal. I would not say that such things are not allowable, but a report should not be published that so and so has rung a tenor to a peal, when as a matter of fact he not only did not do it, but proved that he could not do it. 'NEMO.'

**THE NORWICH SCHOLARS***(Continued from previous page.)*

that neither Melchior nor Crane had efficient methods of proving compositions.

Shipway and the London men rejected the Norwich peals because they were ignorant of them. 'It is remarkable,' he says, 'that of the three peals, said to have been rung at St. Peter's Mancroft, not one can be found to ascertain the truth.' The argument is not really a sound one, and can be used on the opposite side. 'It is remarkable,' we might say, 'that of the early Norwich peals not one can be shown to be false.' The Grandsire Triples we know was true. The Bob Triples and the Treble Bob Major we have good reason to think were true. Why should not the Stedman Triples have been true also?

**LEAD HEADS AND LEAD ENDS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article on 'False Course Ends,' which appeared on page 88 of your issue of February 23rd last, would you be kind enough to explain how to find out the lead heads and lead ends of a method from the half lead. Thanking you in anticipation.

**MUCH INTERESTED.**

It is necessary first to have the two rows when the treble is lying its whole pull behind. These are (for instance) in London Surprise the following:—

24367851

42637581

Compare these two rows and you will find that one bell occupies the same position in both. In our example it is the 7th.

Next write down rounds, 12345678, and under it put the place-making bell in the same position:—

12345678

7

The other bells consist of three pairs, and in each of the pairs the two bells are transposed. In our example 4 and 2 are transposed, 6 and 3, and 5 and 8. Transpose the bells in each of these three pairs and write them out under rounds thus:—

12345678

14628375

That will give the handstroke row when the treble is leading its whole pull at the lead end.

Every method has two variations, one when seconds is made at the lead end, the other when eighths is made. If we make seconds in our example, we shall get:—

14628375

14263857

Which is the first lead end of London Surprise.

If we make eighths we shall get:—

14628375

16482735

As a method this is of no value, because it makes four bells lie still behind. In many methods, however, both variations are useful.

As soon as the first lead end and lead head are produced, the rest can be found easily by transposition. In our example the first lead head is 4263857. This transposed by itself gives 6482735, which is the second lead head. That again transposed by 4263857 gives 8674523, which is the third lead head. And so on.

When you have got the lead heads you can find the lead ends by transposing the lead heads by either 2436587, if it is a second's place method; or by 3254768, if it is an eighth's place method.

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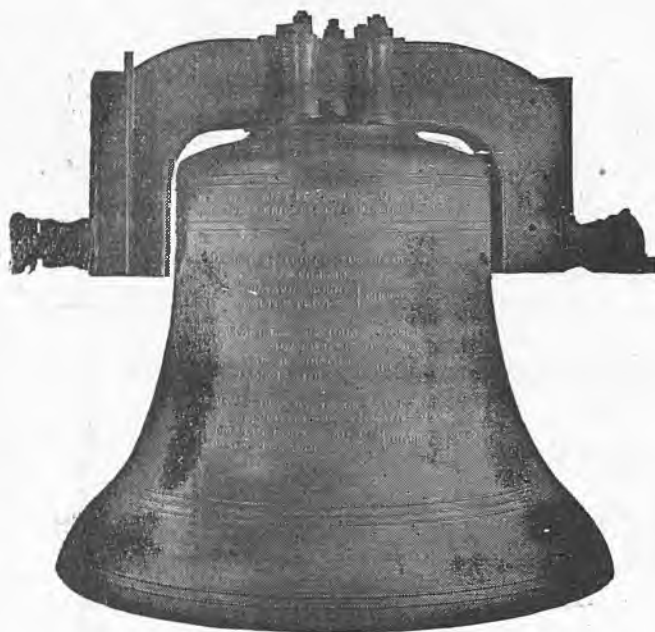
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. Hugh McMullan, president of the Norwich Diocesan Association, is resigning the living of St. Peter, Mancroft, Norwich, and is taking up the incumbency of Christ Church, Epsom, which is in the Diocese of Guildford. His active participation in the affairs of the Norwich Diocesan Association should be an assurance of his interest in the Guild of his new diocese.

A farewell gathering is to take place at Norwich on September 28th, when the members of the Diocesan Association intend to make him a parting gift.

Four Lord Mayors of London have been at one time or other members of the Society of College Youths, and one of them, Sir Henry Tulse, was Master of the society in the same year that he was Lord Mayor. He lived in the stormy and critical times of Charles II. and James II. and took a prominent part in the political struggle in the City of London. He died on August 31st, 1689, and was buried in his family vault in the Church of St. Dionis, Backchurch, Lime Street. When the church was pulled down the stone which covered Tulse's grave was removed to the adjoining burial ground, which (as in the case of the other demolished churches) was not built upon. It is there now and the inscription has been recut and a bronze tablet added by the Ancient Society of College Youths.

On September 1st, 1753, an advertisement appeared in the 'Ipswich Journal' stating that 'Mr. John Holt, of London, having at length discovered a method of ringing 5,040 Grandsire Triples without changes over again,' he was willing to communicate the same to the world, and that subscriptions to the proposed broadsheet could be sent to Mr. John Cundall in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street. The only copy of the broadsheet now known to exist is at Downing College, Cambridge.

The Junior Society of College Youths rang their first peal on September 2nd, 1820, when they opened Bishop's Stortford bells with a peal of 5,039 changes of Grandsire Caters. Henry Symondson rang the treble and called the bobs.

One hundred and thirty-three years ago to-day the Coventry Youths rang on 'that harmonious peal of bells' 6,140 changes of Titum Bob Royal, composed and conducted by Joseph Keene.

The College Youths rang 6,144 Oxford Treble Bob Major on September 7th, 1830, at St. Peter's, Walworth.

The first peal on twelve bells in the diocese of Winchester was rung on the old ring at the Cathedral on September 7th, 1923. It was conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

## AN ANCIENT PRAYER.

From the parish magazine of a Surrey village, Stoke D'Abernon, we reproduce the following ancient prayer, which we, like the magazine, hope may help us to keep a sense of perspective and a spirit of buoyancy, even in troubled times:—

Give me a good digestion, Lord, and also something to digest.  
Give me a healthy body, Lord, with sense enough to keep it at its best.  
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord, to keep the good and pure in sight,  
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled, but finds a way to set it right.  
Give me a mind that is not bound, that does not whimper, whine or sigh,  
Don't let me worry overmuch about the fussy thing called I.  
Give me a sense of humour, Lord; give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some happiness out of life and pass it on to other folk.'

## DIOCESAN APPRECIATION.

The 'Guildford Diocesan Gazette' for September prints extracts from the Guildford Diocesan Guild's report, and does so, it says, 'that the work of our bellringers may be remembered.'

'The whole diocese,' says the 'Gazette,' 'owes a great debt of gratitude to the Guild, of which it is justly proud. All churchgoers appreciate the beautiful ringing which proclaims the hour of worship and sounds out a summons and a welcome to our churches. The Guild and its members may like to know how greatly their services are valued, how much their skill is acknowledged, and how valuable an asset it is to the Church to have as church workers so enthusiastic, so industrious and so devoted a band of ringers.'

'Sad, indeed, it is that the church bells are stopped. We miss their cheerful sound; we miss the music of the tower; we miss the glad summons to worship. And it is a *very real* miss, too. The loss is great. It does us all good to hear the music and joy of the bells. We bow to military necessities, but, though the bells are silent, let us not fail to remember our ringers and the good work they have done. We look forward to the day when once again we shall hear the joyful sound of our church bells.'

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**CHURCH BELLS AS 'BATTLE CALL.'****REPORTED PLAN OF LINCOLNSHIRE G.O.C.**

'The Daily Telegraph' has reported that the G.O.C. troops in Lincolnshire has issued instructions on the use of church bells to incumbents of all parishes in the county. It is stated that in the event of an attempted invasion a general alarm would be rung by the sounding of every church bell throughout the county—perhaps throughout England—as a tecessin.

The bells, it is explained, would be rung loudly and confidently as a call to battle, the peals continuing for five minutes.

In London, the newspaper states, nothing is known officially about a general alarm. It was quite possible, it was said, that there would be a general alarm for a county, but it was improbable that there would be any ringing of bells throughout the whole country.

If authentic, this report seems to be only one more example of the confusion which exists in official quarters as to the possibility and utility of using church bells as alarms. We are safe in saying that it would simply be impossible to ring every bell throughout the county 'loudly and confidently' for five minutes as a call to battle.

Ringers know quite well that even on days like the King's Coronation it is not possible to ring 'loudly and confidently' all the bells throughout England at the same time; and the amount of ringing which actually was done could only be done after weeks of arrangement and preparation, and then by ringing at one church at one time, and at another church at another time. There are hundreds of bells in London, for instance, but never, either on Sundays or on days of rejoicing, are they ever, or can they ever be rung all at the same time. The bells could not even be chimed all at the same time and that would be a very different thing from the 'tossin,' 'rung loudly and confidently as a general alarm and a call to battle,' which the Lincolnshire military instructions appear to call for.

If the use of bells as an alarm would be effective, no one, certainly not ringers, would raise the slightest objection; but if the military authorities are depending on it for any vital purpose, they are running the grave risk of depending on something which would prove to be a complete failure.

**WASTE OF TIME.**

Here is another example of the futility of the scheme. In a certain town not a hundred miles from where 'The Ringing World' is printed—a town in whose populous centre there is not a church with more than a ting-tang—the Home Guard have instructions to assemble at their posts when they hear the church bells rung. Unless they happen to be at home when the warning is given and that home happens to be within 50 yards of a church, not one of the Home Guard will ever hear the warning. The supplementary instructions say that if the members do not report within a certain time, they will be called by messenger. Why waste time at all; why not call them at once by messenger?

It passes the wit of man that, in these all too anxious times, responsible officials should base what are presumably vital plans upon surmises which they have not tested and upon which, it seems almost obvious, they have consulted no one.

Has the Lincolnshire G.O.C. ever asked anyone with practical knowledge whether every bell throughout Lincolnshire, let alone throughout the country, could be rung 'loudly and confidently' at the same moment; have the leaders of the Home Guard in that other town to which we have referred ever taken the trouble to find out if their men are even within earshot of a church bell? If the times were not so serious it would be a huge joke.

**PASSING OF A VETERAN WELSH RINGER.****DEATH OF MR. DAVID THOMAS.**

Mr. David Thomas, of Penarth, one of the very few original members of the Llandaff Association, passed away on Thursday, August 22nd, at the ripe age of 80.

He had lived all his life at Penarth and as a boy sang in the church choir. The last peal rung on Penarth bells, on December 10th, 1938, was specially arranged to mark his 65 years as a ringer at the church, where he was the captain for 50 years. There were many people at the funeral on Monday, August 26th, including members of his craft (that of a carpenter) and the local ringers. Mr. J. W. Jones represented the association.

Dai, as he was generally known, was Master of the association in 1902. He rang in the first association peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on November 25th, 1893, which was the first by all except the conductor, Mr. F. E. Ward. His many peals included one of Bob Royal, which was the highest number he rang on.

His favourite number of bells, especially for peal ringing, was six. He was invariably the conductor. On November 19th, 1898, he called the first peal of Minor in seven methods ever rung in Wales. He was very musical and good company, and after a peal or a meeting during the social hour he kept the company alive with his songs. He had many talents and played the euphonium in the All Rifle Band and the Artillery Band. He was a colour-sergeant in the 3rd V.B. Welsh Volunteers, and was a good shot, winning many prizes at Wimbledon. His genial personality will be greatly missed by his old associates.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****AIR INVASION WARNING DISCUSSED.**

The August meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held on Saturday at Calverley.

Before the meeting, which was held in the Church School, handbells were rung. The chair was taken by the president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) and members were present from Arncliffe, Bramley, Bradford Cathedral, Bridlington, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Pudsey, Rothwell, Shipley and the local company.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for permission to hold the meeting and to the local company for the other arrangements was proposed by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who spoke of the old ringers, whose names were only a memory, and of the times when the rivalry between Calverley and some of the nearby towers was watched with great interest. He hoped that when the present troublesome times were passed we should again see the same keenness for good striking.—The motion was seconded by Mr. Baxendale.

It was suggested that if towers were holding handbell practices they should notify the secretary, who, in turn, could inform the members, and it was hoped that they would communicate with the towers concerned if they were to attend, as the 'black-out' conditions made practices very uncertain.

The next meeting is due to be held at Rothwell on September 28th, and will begin at 3 o'clock with tea at 5 p.m.

A lengthy discussion on the present uncertainty with regard to the bells in case of invasion served to show how keen all ringers are in wanting this matter straightened out and the responsibility fixed for ringing. It was hoped that some authoritative statement would be published as to the duty of the public when the bells are heard.

Some towers in the district have individual schemes planned, the best arrangement made so far appearing to be that at Pudsey, whose local commander of the Home Guard approached the Vicar, who immediately took the L.C. of H.G. into the tower and showed him the danger of non-ringers having access to the belfry, and advised that the local secretary be interviewed.

As a result it was arranged that when the verger is notified by the Home Guard he will proceed to the church and await orders to ring. On receipt of these orders he will toll the treble bell from the church or base of the tower.

The Local Commander is furnished with the names and addresses of all the ringers not employed in other A.R.P. services. On hearing the bell the officer will issue instructions for a motor-car to collect the ringers from their homes (or work according to time) and take them to the church. After ringing for the stated period, the car will be available for the homeward return of the ringers.

**DEATH OF MR. H. S. HAWKINS.**

The many friends of Mr. Joseph S. Hawkins, the well-known captain of the St. Andrew's, Holborn, ringers, will sympathise with him in the loss he has sustained by the death of his father, Mr. Henry Stephen Hawkins, of 32, West Street, Marlow, who passed away peacefully on August 14th at the Harley Nursing Home, Southall, Middlesex.

The deceased gentleman died on his 88th birthday. In his younger days he took a great interest in ringing, and was a member of the band at the Parish Church in his old home, Boxford, near Newbury. He always attended the annual outing of the St. Andrew's, Holborn, ringers, and looked forward to the occasion.

The funeral was at Holy Trinity Church, Marlow.

**SINGLE HANDBELL RINGING.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—While on the subject of single handbell ringing, it would be interesting to know of any peals rung single-handed.

My old friend, the late A. G. Rivers, who resided in this district many years, told me that, when living at his native place, Sproughton, Suffolk, having only a peal of six tower bells, they used to practise on handbells single-handed. They also accomplished some peals, among them, if I remember rightly, London and New Cambridge Surprise Major. Incidentally, I believe, this band also rang the first peal of London Surprise Major on tower bells in Ipswich. Happily the conductor of these peals, Mr. Charles Mee, is still with us, so perhaps he or some of my Suffolk friends can give us some further details of these interesting peals.

My thanks are due to Mr. Trollope and other writers who, by their research, give us much knowledge of bygone days. We are thus able to draw our own conclusions and compare the ability of the men of generations ago and of the present. In my opinion, the heavy bell men in those far off days had no harder task than those of the present generation. That their bells went well is quite certain, or the peals could never have been rung.

But there was one man who stood far above all others in any age as a ringer of heavy bells, the late W. Pye. One could almost fill a book about his wonderful feats, but they are so well known to most of the present-day ringers that no comment of mine is necessary.

E. G. HIBBINS.

23, Hemingford Road, Cambridge.

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

'A HIDDEN FALLACY.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—There is a hidden fallacy in Mr. Street's argument.

Consider first the theoretical case in which there is no friction. The bell will start with barely perceptible motion from vertical, and will continue to gain in speed until it reaches its maximum at the point where the bell points vertically downwards. From this point there will be a retardation of speed equal and opposite to the previous acceleration, and in short the time of the upward swing will be exactly the same as that of the downward half-revolution.

Now in practice obviously there is always some friction. As Mr. Street says, the initial speed will need to be greater in consequence (increasing, in fact, with increasing friction), and the speed at any place in the downward path will be greater than in the first case, and the time taken for the first half-revolution less as a necessary consequence. On the other hand, the retardation of speed in the second half will be much greater than in the frictionless example, and moreover greater than the acceleration in the first half against the friction. So much so that the combined times of downward and upward swing will be more than in the ideal frictionless bearing, and the total time will be lengthened if the friction be increased.

Some other explanation must be sought to account for the slower revolution of bells on ball bearings, if, in fact, there is any substance in the commonly held theory that the natural speed of bells on ball bearings tends to be slower than that of the same bells with plain bearings.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

### ENERGY AND FRICTION.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that many ringers besides myself would like Mr. R. O. Street to explain more fully why he thinks ball bearings cause slower ringing. He may be perfectly right, but it is rather difficult to agree with him.

He tells us that it requires a greater output of energy to cause a bell with the clapper tied to swing from the upright position round to the upright position when the bell is hung in plain bearings than when it is hung in ball bearings, because the friction on the gudgeons is greater. I agree with that fully and so will everybody else.

Then he tells us that the greater the amount of energy exerted by the ringer, the faster the bell will travel. With that, too, we shall agree, provided other things are equal.

But when he goes on to say that the extra amount of energy exerted to swing the bell in plain bearings will result in the bell travelling faster throughout its journey, I cannot quite follow him. I should have thought that that extra amount of energy was taken up in overcoming the extra friction and was not available for causing the bell to travel faster, except, perhaps, at the beginning of its journey.

My belief is that the rate of ringing does not depend either on the rate at which the bells travel, or on the amount of energy that is exerted by the ringers, but on the height at which the bells are rung. Two different men will ring the same tenor to a peal in the same method and at the same rate, and one will exert perhaps twice as much energy as the other. The quality of the striking may be equal.

There is usually a certain rate at which a peal of bells can best be rung, and there are definite limits to the rate of any peal. But a good band can, if they want to, vary the rate within very wide limits. An ordinarily hung ring of eight can as a rule be rung as quickly as 2 hours 45 minutes and as slow as 3 hours 30 minutes (e.g., for a muffled peal). The band must be a good one. Probably the tenor-man would exert just the same amount of energy in ringing at the two rates. With heavy bells, where what one may call the *vis inertiae* is so much greater, the tenor-man has not nearly so wide a margin of speed.

F. H. SMITH.

### DO THEY ADD TO DIFFICULTY OF RINGING?

Dear Sir,—The subject of ball and plain bearings for bells interests me enormously and I consider it is one which requires immediate attention before, as Mr. J. Hunt says, ball bearings have come to stay.

It is over 20 years since I rang my first peal, and during that period my wanderings in the cause of our art have taken me into many towers, with bells of all numbers and weights, and with both types of bearings.

I am totally unbiased as regards any particular bell hanger, and I am only interested in the future of ringing, but I feel I shall not be so interested, say, 20 years hence if all rings are hung in ball bearings.

In the August 2nd issue Mr. Hunt says, 'Ball bearings are here for good, because they do not require a man of much experience to fix them.' His presumption may be nearer the truth than he imagines, which makes me wonder whether there is a lack of men experienced in hanging bells in plain bearings. The other reasons which Mr. Hunt gives are, I'm afraid, not very weighty in favour of the continuation of ball bearings.

In the issue of August 9th Mr. L. W. Bunce takes the domineering attitude, which rather spoils his letter, and although I have read his remarks several times, I cannot decide whether he is or is not in favour of plain bearings, especially when he concludes by saying, 'Bell hangers and architects have all the say in the matter. The

(Continued in next column.)

## HANDY TOUCHES OF TRIPLES.

FOR THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.

We give a few short touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples in a form that an ordinary conductor can use at a moment's notice. The proper way for a conductor to learn his touches is, of course, to have the figures and study how the bells work, but very often he wants to call something at a minute's notice, and if he has something like the following in his pocket book he will not be at a loss.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

168

Call a single at the second lead end and at every alternate lead end until the bells come round. Queens will come up at the second Single and Tittums at the fourth Single.

280

Call the 7th Before with a Single, the 6th in and out, and the 7th three times home the last time with a Single.

504

Call the 7th in and out twice; the 6th in and out twice; the 7th in and out twice; the 6th in and out; the 7th in and out; and the 6th in and out.

672

Call the 6th in and out; the 7th in and out twice; and the 6th in and out. Twice repeated.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

72

Call one bob on 6-7; one on 7-4; and two on 4-6; or call the seventh —6-7 up; 6-7 down after quick; in and out quick.

216

Call treble—out quick; in slow; last half-turn; out slow; make bob; in quick; twice repeated.

252

Call treble—out quick; 6-7 up; 6-7 down; make bob after slow; twice repeated.

216

Call treble—out quick; in slow; last half-turn; out slow; make bob; in quick; twice repeated.

504

Call treble—out quick; last half-turn; in slow, twice repeated.

The last four touches have Queens and Tittums as part ends.

1,260

Call treble—out slow; out quick; first half-turn; out quick; in quick; four times repeated.

An inexperienced Grandsire conductor will find it a very easy and useful service touch to call himself in and out of the hunt. He will have to do it three times, and it does not matter which bell he is ringing except that, if he is ringing the second, he must call himself out at the first lead and in three leads later. If he is ringing the third, he must wait until the fourth lead before he calls his first bob, and if he is ringing the fifth until the fifth lead. It will mean that the touch is false, but that is no very great matter in short service touches. A variation is for the conductor to call himself Before with a double three times. The ringer of the second, who is in the hunt, of course, cannot do this.

In Stedman Triples for two courses, call yourself in and out quick twice, or in and out slow twice. And for three courses call yourself in and out quick, then in and out slow twice, and then in and out quick again.

### BALL BEARINGS.

(Continued from previous column.)

ringers don't count. They have to take what is given them.' But why should they?

I have also noted Mr. Peter Laffin's remarks, which appear neither for nor against ball bearings, as he bases the 'go' of a ring entirely upon the rigidity on the tower and frame. Mr. R. Alsop appears interested only in the rate that changes can be rung, when hung in ball bearings.

Mr. Charles Borrett, a man of great experience, is apparently against ball bearings. My own experience, however, has shown me it takes longer to ring a peal on bells hung in ball bearings, due quite possibly to the care the ringers have to take in handling.

The greatest pleasure I derive from ringing is to hear my bell well struck, and I find I can only strike my bell accurately when I have it under control. When ringing a bell in plain bearings I am a little surprised if I cannot put it where I want it, but I have found over and over again that a bell hung in ball bearings wants to be the boss, and it is only with difficulty and great care that I can eventually get the better of it.

There must be, surely, thousands of ringers who are not in favour of ball bearings for precisely the same reason as myself, but who quietly submit and accept what is given them.

Quite naturally, we all have, and are all entitled to, our own opinions. But from my point of view I know of several towers which contained heavy rings on plain bearings and which gave me much pleasure in ringing on them. To-day they are hung on ball bearings and (as far as I am concerned) are as tricky as Old Nick. I never wish to ring on them again. So much for modern improvements. Arguments on compositions, rows and call changes concern a few of us. Bearings concern the whole of us and is a matter which can be settled by the ringers if they want to. But it must be done now.

'SILLY SUFFOLK.'

**BILL AGAIN.**

HANDBELLS AND A.R.P.

Perhaps some of your readers will remember that in the good old days, after the war had started but before the blight of compulsory silence descended upon church bells, I wrote of my efforts as a district secretary to arrange a meeting at a place I was not allowed to mention in case it got to the enemy's knowledge. It may also be remembered how difficult it was to induce my old friend Bill—whose other name, for the same reason, I was not allowed to reveal—to fall in with the suggestion that we should meet at his tower, and how, in the face of certain modest contributions to the national war effort by way of Excise duty, Bill eventually came to look with limited approval on my proposal.

That, of course, was some time ago, and all I need now add about it is that the meeting duly came off and was really a success. But this ban on church bells puts a different complexion on ringing meetings. Down our way we are not much of folks at handbell ringing, so that that offers little attraction. Give us a rope end and a sally to handle, and a bell up aloft that will turn with the pulling, and we can be happy and put up a show not to be despised. Without the church bells, however, a meeting in our district is a horse of another colour, if I may be allowed to mix the metaphor.

However, being district secretary, I thought it my duty to see how the land lay, if I may mix it a bit further, and so I paid another visit to Bill. By the way, as I have previously indicated, visits to Bill are not entirely profitable to me, with beer at its present price, and it is an expense that cannot conscientiously be charged to the district accounts. I think I mentioned before that Bill is an ardent A.R.P. fan, and now that the bells have got to be used as a warning in the event of air invasion, Bill is also earmarked to sound the tocsin.

Despite his multifarious responsibilities, Bill found time to come round to the Pig and Whistle (for obvious reason I cannot give you the real name of the establishment) while we discussed the pros and cons of a meeting. It was some while, however, before we came to the real point—'Shall we or shan't we hold a meeting?' Before we could get to that stage Bill had to unburden his soul on the subject of the ban on the bells. If Hitler could have heard how deeply Bill felt about it I believe he would call off the war at once. Bill's views were really blistering and it required more than a couple of tankards to extinguish the heat of his rhetoric. The sum of it all was that life without the bells is hardly worth living; that the cause of the trouble ought to be back in his ancestral home where eternal fires are raging—and in the basement at that—and that the gentleman who thought of silencing the bells had—well, made a mistake, anyhow.

When we could come to the point, however, Bill was all for holding the meeting, which, in a way, rather surprised me.

'Let's hold one,' he said. 'It'll be an experience if nothing else. A ringers' meeting without the bells 'll be like going to a funeral without a corpse, but,' he added, 'there'll be more time for a social at the—' well, as I told you, it is not really called the Pig and Whistle. 'Of course,' said Bill, 'we shan't make much of a fist of handbell ringing, but, perhaps, I can show 'em what I've learned since I've been on A.R.P.'

I pricked up my ears at this, for, although I have reported briefly what he said, Bill had been meandering on at no inconsiderable length. I thought Bill had been practising the 'all clear' after a gas attack, or whatever it is the wardens are going to tinkle a handbell to denote, and somewhat timorously I put the question.

'Lor' no,' he snapped.

'What have you been learning then?' I asked him.

'Why,' he said, 'there ain't much anyone can do when they're on duty and the raiders aren't about, so in my stokehole outside the tower where I keep watch—it's better than walking round the village in the dark and I can always pop out if I'm wanted—I keep a couple of handbells. I've taken out the clappers and I ring those bells up and down in Grandsire Triples like I've read about in "The Ringing World" and like I've seen the experts do it at our association annual meeting. I've only got as far as 1-2 in a plain course and sometimes I get mixed up a bit, but if we get a meeting here I'll show 'em what I can do and perhaps some of the others will try and learn the same as I have done.'

Well, the upshot of it all was that we fixed up the meeting and collected our forces. I dared not advertise it, for Bill wouldn't hear of that. There must be nothing said that would give away information to the enemy, either directly through 'The Ringing World,' which Bill thinks may be read by Hitler every week, or indirectly through Fifth Columnists. We held the meeting last Saturday and Bill came along in full A.R.P. war paint, complete with tin hat and anti-gas overalls. He said that was in case there was an air raid warning.

Bill brought out the handbells, and, talking to heart the recent advice in 'The Ringing World,' we spent our spare time in ringing them one apiece—except Bill, who would insist on ringing two. I said 'spare time' because most of the time while the handbells were out was spent in arguing as to who was wrong, Bill or the others. Incidentally I may mention we did not meet until six; the place I have called the Pig and Whistle opened at seven and our hour's exertions badly needed refreshment, so at that hour we lost no time in proceeding to the social side of the programme.

Bill was just beginning to get on the outside of his much needed drink when he stopped, put down his tankard (which is unusual for

(Continued in next column.)

**TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.**

CURFEW NOT DEAD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent X.Y.Z. appears to labour under a misconception as to the purport of my letter. The object in view was not to attempt the revival of old traditional uses, where they have become obsolete, but to ensure the continuance of such uses in places where they prevailed up to the time of the present ban on ringing any bells at all.

The rest of his letter is remarkable for the number of incorrect statements comprised within so small a compass! Though it is true that the curfew was a dying custom 100 years ago, it is by no means dead even now: a larger number of parishes, all told, still maintain the custom during the whole or part of the year—quite a number in this county alone. The death bell is practically universal in this part of England, and is doubtless in common use in many parts. The Angelus, so far from being an innovation, was in regular use in England, as on the Continent, for centuries before the Reformation. The Statutes of Wells Cathedral gave directions for its use in 1337. In a few parishes it was never discontinued; in many it has been revived.

Let me conclude this letter with a reference to two other points.

(a) Mr. E. Coward called my attention to the inaccuracy of the statement in the Salisbury Guild report. The fact is as stated by Mr. Connolly. Mrs. Coward may claim to be the first *resident* lady member to ring a handbell peal.

(b) I recently grasped an opportunity of making a suggestion to one of His Majesty's Ministers with regard to the ban on bells, and was informed that he had 'carefully noted' the points raised. Whether anything will come of it remains to be seen!

F. LL. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

**THE ANGELUS.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—'X.Y.Z.' is not quite correct about the Angelus. It is true that it has become common of late, but it is a restoration, not an innovation, for up to the sixteenth century its use was universal. Although the object of it, to remind people to say certain texts and prayers in memory of the Incarnation, was forgotten, the ringing was kept up in a great many places. In my younger days, towards the end of the last century, the 2nd was rung at Wimborne Minster at 6 a.m. and noon, and the 5th at 8 p.m. as the curfew; and at Dorchester one of the smaller bells was rung at 6 or 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., and I can remember the curfew at many other places.

The earlier bells were probably a survival of the Angelus, and Mr. North, in 'English Bells and Bell Lore,' is of opinion that the evening bell, its use as curfew being no longer needed, was kept up as the Angelus. The fine heavy bell in the Guild Chapel at Stratford-on-Avon was rung at 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. when I was at school there in the '70's,' and some years later, when there for the Old Boys' match, I passed by as the curfew was being rung, rung a few strokes and brought her down. There was not a proper rope, but a great thing over an inch thick, and no sally! The ringer gave the weight as 40 cwt., which was perhaps an exaggeration not uncommon; but it is a fine bell.

W. C. B.

**NEW NAMES FOR OLD USES.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article in your issue of this week, perhaps the following by the Editor of 'Church Bells' in January, 1872, may interest you and your readers. I have always understood that the Bells and Bell Ringing Column in 'Church Bells' was edited by the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe.

'Somebody asks about bells rung at strange hours of the day and called by strange names. They are all lingering relics of the Angelus or Ave bell, which prior to the Reformation was rung in every parish morning, noon and evening when practicable in memory of our Saviour becoming man for us and for our salvation, and of the "morrow" Mass bell. The people had been so long accustomed to their sound and they became so useful for social purposes that they were in many places continued after the Reformation, when they were silenced, and given new names, which would not savour of their ancient religious meaning. The early single bells on Sunday mornings are to be accounted for in the same way.'

'X.'

**BILL AGAIN.**

(Continued from previous column.)

him), held up his finger and almost shouted, 'Hark, what's that? It's the siren.' In the distance was the warble of the warning. Bill slid into his tin hat, which he had placed on the seat beside him, and without a word, stout soldier that he is, nearly ran from the room to take up his post in the church stokehole. But he didn't lose his presence of mind—he took his tankard with him and later sent a messenger for a refill.

I looked in at the stokehole as I left for home, and there was Bill busy with his tankard and his handbells, still waiting for the raiders.

O.P.Q.

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### AN EXPLANATION BY EXAMPLE.

We have pointed out that the false course ends found in the great majority of Surprise Major methods suitable for ringing are confined to the seven included in the two groups A B C D E and B F G. The presence of any other false course ends as a rule makes it impossible to obtain true peals. There are, however, a few methods, such as Lincolnshire, Watford and Guildford, which are exceptions to this, and, as the student who is searching for new methods will probably come across some of these rarer examples, it will be well to give some description and explanation of them.

To do so we will take a method as a sample, work out the false course ends, and see what we find.

Here is a method of the sort that a student would be very likely to work out, and probably it has already been worked out more than once by different people. It has no name, because, although at first sight it seems to be quite a good method with an interesting diagram and capable of producing reasonably good music, when we examine it we shall find that it fails us because no true peal of it can be composed with the tenors together.

Let us work out its false course ends, using the rules given in 'The Ringing World' of February 22nd. Take the first section and compare the first row 12345678 with the third 12537486. As they are of opposite nature we transpose the lead heads of the method by the first and the lead ends by the other. When we compare the results we find among the rows these two: 8674523 from the fourth lead head, and 8573624 from the third lead end. In these two rows 2 7 8 occupy the same relative positions, but 3 and 4 and 5 and 6 are transposed. That gives us 24365 as a false course end of the method, and we know that the second half of the third lead of the course 24365 contains a row which is also included in the first half of the fourth lead of the plain course.

But 23456 and 24365 are in reciprocal relationship, and as the course 24365 is false against the plain course, so also is the plain course false against 24365. Therefore the second half of the third lead of the plain course will contain a row which is also included in the first half of the fourth lead of the course 24365.

Next, transpose the table of lead ends by the first row of the first section and the table of lead heads by the third row. This will give us the false course end complementary to the one we have already got, and as 24365 is complementary to itself we know we shall get it again.

The actual rows we produce are:—

7583624 from the fourth lead end, and 7684523 from the fifth lead head, and again 2 7 8 are in the same relative positions but 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 are transposed.

The first half of the fifth lead of the course 24365 contains a row which is also included in the second half of the fourth lead of the plain course; and the first half of the fifth lead of the plain course contains a row which

is also included in the second half of the fourth lead of the course 24365. Here are the actual sections:—

From the course	From the course
23456.	24365.
4th *18674523	3rd 81647532
81647253	*18674523
18462735	81765432
81426753	18756342
3rd 81537642	4th *18573624
*18573624	81537264
81756342	18352746
18765432	81325764
4th 71325864	5th 17865432
17352846	71856342
71538264	*17583624
*17583624	71538642
5th 17856342	4th 71426853
71865432	17462835
*17684523	71648253
71648532	*17684523

Thus the relationship of the first and third rows of the first section of our method involves the repetition of four separate rows in the plain course and the course 24365. These four are definitely related to each other, and one of them inevitably involves the other three.

This is due to two factors present in all Surprise methods which are considered to be regular. One is the symmetry of the method, the other is the Bob Major lead ends.

This brings us to a general rule which applies to every regular Treble Bob or Surprise Major method. Whenever any one row in a full natural course (or P block) is repeated in another full natural course, there will also be the repetition of three other rows. When, as in the example we have just examined, the false course end is 24365, or when it is either 26543, 25634 or 23456, all the repetitions will be in one natural course. With some other false course ends two of the repetitions will occur in one natural course, and the other two in another natural course. With yet other false course ends the four repetitions occur in four separate natural courses. Why that should be so we shall see as we further examine our specimen method.

But, before going further, we may point out that though each of these repetitions is the result of separate causes yet, since they are all definitely related to each other, we can (given the presence of one of them) deduce the other three.

We first of all ascertained by transposition that our method had the false course end 24365, and that the incidence of the falseness was between the third lead of the course 24365 and the fourth row of the plain course. From that, since 23456 and 24365 are in reciprocal relationship, we can deduce a second occurrence of the false course end 24365, the incidence of the falseness falling between the third lead of the plain course and the fourth lead of the course 24365.

But, as we saw in our article of June 7th, every false course end has its complementary false course end. 24365 is complementary to itself, therefore it will occur on two more occasions, in which the incidence of the falseness will be the same as the two already mentioned, but counted from the course end instead of from the be-

(Continued on next page.)



**NOTICES.**

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—The quarterly meeting proposed to be held at Wonston on September 7th, is reluctantly cancelled.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, E.C., on Tuesday, September 10th, at 7 p.m. Handbells after the business.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 14th. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Tea will be provided if possible. Send numbers by Tuesday, September 10th at latest.—E. F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held in the Church Room, Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., to be followed by handbells and discourses, etc. All ringers, especially beginners, warmly welcomed.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—Quarterly meeting arranged at All Saints', Bingley, on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Church House available during afternoon and evening for handbells, billiards, etc. Conducted ramble through St. Ives Estate, starting from Church House at 3 o'clock. Tea (approx.) 5 p.m. Names may be sent to Mr. A. Hopewell, 15, Westleigh, Bingley, not later than Thursday, Sept. 12th. Business meeting at 6 o'clock. All welcome and a good attendance specially requested.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Handbells available in Schoolroom 2.30 p.m. Short service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and further handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Sept. 12th. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

ginning of the course. There are seven leads, and so the equivalents of the third and fourth leads counting forwards, are counting backwards, the fifth and fourth.

In the new Surprise book the formula used to express this false course end and the incidence of falseness is FS-B, 4-3, 5-4. The letter F denotes the lead end 4263857.

The first section of our method is not a symmetrical one, and therefore it will be necessary to compare the second and fourth rows. But before we do that we will examine the second section which will enable us to develop our explanation in an orderly manner.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Chester Cathedral on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Evensong at 4.15. Tea and business meeting directly afterwards.—H. Parker 64, Church Rd., Northwich.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch.—Quarterly meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, Sept. 14th, at 6 p.m. Discussion as to future and handbells.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, September 14th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Will ringers please bring own tea? Business meeting and social evening.—S. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bletchley.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilsborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Ravensthorpe on Saturday, September 14th. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea will be provided, but please bring sugar. Will all members make a special effort to attend.—H. H. Shrivs, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells will be available. Service in the Abbey at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. Names, please, by Sept. 18th. The Vicar, Canon Solloway, D.D., will conduct those present round the Abbey. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome. Tea can be arranged if required.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**DEATH.**

**HAWKINS.**—On August 14th, at the Harley Nursing Home, Southall (on his 88th birthday) Henry Stephen Hawkins, of 32, West Street, Marlow. Interred at Holy Trinity Church, Marlow.

**APARTMENTS.**

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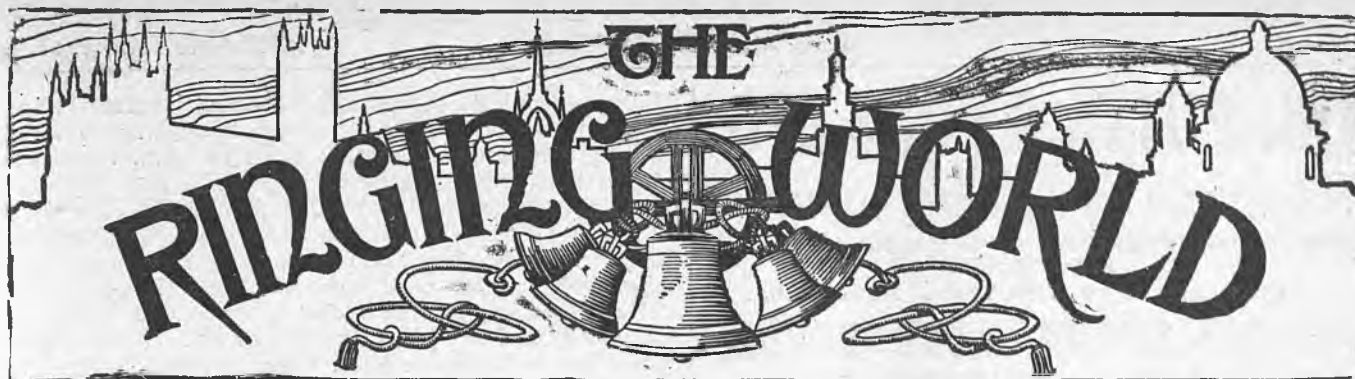
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 1940.

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## TWO WAYS OF HELPING.

It has been gratifying to receive from many correspondents the acknowledgment that, in these days, 'The Ringing World' is more interesting than when its columns contained the records of all the peals rung, and when many 'stereotyped' reports of meetings were printed. We would like to add that the production of a war-time publication, directed exclusively to the interests of a pursuit like bellringing, has been and must continue to be a very difficult matter. In days of peace there was never any lack of material; indeed the difficulty always was to find space to meet the demands, especially when the records of peals grew to large proportions. Now, however, not only are there no peals on tower bells, but there is practically no news of actual ringing. Meetings have been curtailed almost to vanishing point, and columns formerly filled with notices and reports of meetings have to be filled with other articles. The task, therefore, is doubly exacting. Empty space has to be filled at a time when much of the material formerly relied upon has disappeared. That we have, up to the present, been able to provide matter of greater interest than was formerly possible is, of course, a satisfaction, but there is a limit to the resources in this direction. We have been grateful to those correspondents who have ventilated their views on the many topics that have been under discussion, and we appeal to those others among the members of the Exercise who can write upon subjects of interest to give us their help by way of articles or letters and our readers the benefit of their knowledge. In this way, during the enforced idleness of the bells, ringers may still acquire information and help which can be turned to advantage when once more they can get back to the belfry.

And while we seek the assistance of all who are able to help in this way, may we make an appeal in another direction? It is that ringers will do their best to maintain the circulation of the paper. However well the columns may be filled, without circulation the paper cannot be carried on. The closing down of the towers seems in some places completely to have closed down, also, the interest of the ringers. That is bad for the art, bad for the Exercise, and has a repercussion on this journal. We know that many of the hundreds of ringers who have joined the Forces cannot afford, out of their meagre pay, to continue their support of 'The Ringing World,' but their friends left at home can do a kindly act to them and render a service to 'The Ringing World' by adopting the suggestion, recently put forward at an Oxford Guild meeting, to 'buy a copy and send it to a serving ringer.' The importance of main-

(Continued on page 434.)

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taining a ringing journal at this crucial juncture in the history of ringing is fully recognised by all who have the welfare of ringing at heart, it is up to them, therefore, to give that little extra bit of help which may make all the difference between survival and failure. The need for 'The Ringing World' in those days—we hope not far distant—when the Exercise is being reorganised and church bell ringing once more will come into its own, will be essential, but the time to ensure that important end is *now*, and not when the war is over. To do it now is to serve a double purpose. Not only will it preserve 'The Ringing World,' but it will help to keep alive the interest of those who have left the belfry for the Forces. Indeed, those who have gone out to take their share in the country's defence will welcome a copy of 'The Ringing World' each week for two reasons. It will maintain their interest in ringing and give them something which will help to lighten the burden of the hours. It is one of the main concerns of the Government that the men in the Forces shall not, in the coming winter months, suffer from boredom. Ringers can help their friends in this direction by sending them 'The Ringing World' every week, and even a couple of copies purchased for this purpose would not be a heavy burden among a half dozen or so ringers who may be left at home. Here, then, are two ways in which ringers can help 'The Ringing World,' help the art and help their serving colleagues.

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RUPERT RICHARDSON ... .. 3-4 | PTE. A. J. BRYAN WAYMAN ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Miss Enid M. Richardson.

First peal of Bob Major and first peal 'in hand.' Six branches of the Services are represented in the above peal. The ringer of 1-2 is a member of the W.V.S., 3-4 Special Constable, 5-6 Observer Corps, 7-8 Private in the Queen's Royal Regiment. The composer was in the Royal Marines and the witness is a St. John Ambulance Cadet. Mrs. C. McGuinness also witnessed the peal.

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## THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.

### WERE THE PEALS OF STEDMAN TRUE?

We know that the Norwich peal of Grandsire Triples was true. We have good reason to suppose that the peals of Bob Triples and Treble Bob Major were true. Why should we not conclude that the peals of Stedman Triples were probably true also?

Unfortunately, the composition of Stedman Triples is not so easy as that of Plain Bob or Grandsire Triples. It has many traps and pitfalls and without definite evidence we must not assume that either Melchior or Crane avoided them. And there is no such evidence.

The figures are lost, but the advertisements give us a good deal of information, and if we had just a little more, we could reconstruct, not perhaps the actual compositions, but the general plans on which they were founded. Our chief loss is that we do not know what sort of bobs were used. The present day bob is to us



ST. GILES' CHURCH, NORWICH

so obviously the right one, that we have some difficulty in thinking that anyone would ever use any other. But in 1731 there was no precedent for such a thing, and Melchior uses language which seems to preclude its use.

The general ideas in the minds of the two men, however, are clear enough. Crane based his peal on Garthorn's Grandsire Triples with its hunts. It was the only plan that he would allow as correct for all methods. It worked admirably in one, and he did not see why it should not work equally well in all. It meant that in Stedman Triples the peal was divided into four equal quarters, each quarter was divided into equal and regular parts, the big bells came home at every quarter peal end, and at the half-way and end a double was made by the bells in 1, 2, 3 lying still. He made a great point in the fact that at the doubles the same bells were dodging behind, 'as Stedman does on five bells'; and that he had not 'turned the 6th and 7th bells, half one way and half the other, as theirs do.' Stedman, it should be remembered, made his singles on five bells in 2-3, not in 4-5.

Roughly, Crane's peal was on the same plan as that given by Annable in his note book. No true peal of the

kind has ever been composed, nor does it seem that one is possible, and Crane's peal was undoubtedly false, for he used 'alterations' to force up the required quarter peal end; and, apart from the fact that he crowded eight changes into a six, he introduced parts of some Q sets which can hardly have been completed elsewhere in the peal.

Melchior was very sarcastic about the alterations, those 'dismal changes' as he called them, and printed the figures in the 'Gazette.' They certainly introduced work which is not Stedman, but, if they had produced a true 5,040, they might have passed muster as special calls.

On the other hand, Melchior rejected the whole system of hunts as foreign to the method. He maintained that in Stedman every bell worked alike and quoted Doleman—'In this peal every bell hath one and the same course, there being no proper hunt or half hunt therein.'

This Crane denied. Stedman, he agreed, had said 'that all the bells have a like course,' but 'Stedman is mistaken, and so are you.' Melchior, of course, made a good debating point of that. 'Now, if Stedman be mistaken, who was the Master of a College in the University, and a learned mathematician, with Doleman and others, why need I take amiss Mr. Crane's saying I am mistaken too? For he is a learned man and knows *omnia bene* in his own conceit. However, he may look into Stedman and he may see why there are two alterations on five bells.'

Crane stuck to his point. 'You call me to account for saying that Stedman is mistaken and so are you, but, if I be right, it is so'; and he insisted that since two alterations had to be made in the six-score, it was impossible to say that in Stedman Doubles 'every bell hath a course alike.'

Both Melchior and Crane print Stedman Doubles as an illustration, and both print it, not in Sixes, but in Twelves, the end of the division being at the whole pull of the quick bell on the lead. It would have been better and simpler if this plan had been generally followed, and the fourth row of the quick Six, and not the last row, had been taken as the course end of the method.

Melchior's reference to Fabian Stedman is very interesting. The facts are all wrong, but it comes very near to verbal accuracy. Stedman was a Cambridge man, but he was a townsman, not a member of the University. We have no grounds for calling him a learned mathematician, but, as his book shows, he was of the stuff that mathematicians are made. And in 1682 he was elected master, but it was master of the College Youths, not of a College in the University.

We shall probably get as near understanding what Melchior's peal was like as we ever can do from the following:—

It was closely copied from the six-score of Doubles, which consists (as he is careful to point out) of two separate courses joined together.

The twelve changes from the middle of one quick Six to the middle of the next are the 'proper form and grounds' of Stedman Doubles, 'which, being wrought five times over in an expressible denominative course,' produced sixty changes, 'every bell a course alike.' In the same way his whole peal began from every twelfth change throughout the 5,040. This seems to indicate

that he kept his Twelves and probably his courses intact, and, therefore, could not have used the modern bob.

Crane taunted him with 'taking to himself a peal of five bells' and fleeing to Stedman for assistance. I can only explain this by a reference to the traditional way in which the early extents had been developed. It was common knowledge, and Fabian Stedman had pointed it out in his book, that if you take an extent of Plain Bob on any number of bells and put a treble in front of each row, you will have the lead heads and ends of the extent on the next higher number of bells. Or to express the same truth in a different way, if at the course ends of Bob Major you make 234567 work the full 720 changes of any six-bell method in which half the changes are triples, you will have the extent on eight bells.

Melchior had sixty courses of Stedman Triples to join together, and, if he could make five of his bells work a six-score of Doubles at the course-ends, he would have solved his problem as it appeared to him.

Unfortunately, Stedman Triples will not produce sixty true and independent courses as Plain Bob Triples will. Melchior's plan would have given him a true peal of Bob Triples, and it actually was by a similar plan that Annable produced his six-part composition, but there can be no reasonable doubt that Melchior's Stedman was false.

When Melchior accepted Crane's challenge to debate with him in private the public discussion came to an end, and we hear no more of it. We do not know who was the independent umpire before whom the debate took place or what his decision was, if indeed he gave one. Neither of the rivals convinced the other or gave up his own convictions, for such things do not happen. But we do know that the personal breach was healed.

The advertisements in the 'Norwich Gazette' cover a period of only four months, but they give us the most complete and vivid picture we possess of any of the ringers of past times.

The only other things comparable to them are the entries in Hearne's diary and Laughton's manuscript. Hearne was keenly interested in ringing, but he wrote as an outsider. He had neither the personal interest nor the technical knowledge that Melchior and Crane had. Laughton has much more to say than the Norwich men, but he was far inferior to them in all ways—as a writer, as a ringer, and as a man.

The Norwich episode is concerning a quarrel and a hot dispute, the clash of personal ambition, and professional rivalry. The disputants are thoroughly in earnest. They give and take hard knocks, and they fling gibes and personalities at each other. Yet the whole thing leaves a good impression. We feel that these people mean what they say, but they were friends a week or two ago and there is no reason why they should not be friends again a week or two hence. It is different with Laughton. We can see that his quarrel with Annable and the College Youths was too deep to be patched up.

All the principles in the Norwich dispute come out well, even Thomas Crane. No doubt he was not a very brilliant person and he took upon himself a foolish job. But he was honest and truthful. He did not swear that 4,860 changes had been rung because he was trying to invent a tale that would discredit the St. Peter's company. He really had counted only 4,860 changes. If he had counted 5,040 he would have said so. It was a priggish thing for him to tell John Webster that he never

spoke a word in his life, but he would swear the truth of it; but we may be sure that he had a better right to say it than most people. Melchior giped him unmercifully, but it is pretty certain that at bottom he rather liked him.

We have testimony from other sources that John Webster was respected and loved.

Edward Crane was a much greater and more intellectual man than his brother. Born in 1701, he was now 30 years old, and for two years had been parish clerk at St. Gregory's. In those days a parish clerk was an official of considerable importance in the civil and church life of the people. Crane had none of Melchior's brilliance, and as a controversial writer was overshadowed by his rival. When he tried to retort some of the other's gibes he was not very successful, but for the most part he states his case fairly and temperately.

Melchior was the leading man of the piece. A witty and well-read man, he threw himself into the fight with gusto and dealt his slashing blows left and right. But there was no venom in his attack. He calls his opponents 'false malicious brethren' and refers to their 'base, scurrilous and scandalous calumnies,' but the point is that he does look on them as brethren. He banters Tom Crane for swearing what he knew nothing about, and he ridicules his brother's peal—'it must be called Ned Crane's Triples, not Stedman,' but there is no malice in it all. Only once when he seemed rather chagrined at the success of the Coslany peal and irritated by the suggestion that he was at the bottom of the street row, does he show any trace of really bad feeling, and even then he recovered before he got to the end of the letter. He is eager to discuss the question of Stedman composition with his opponent, and though he preferred a public debate at which he was more fitted to shine, he gave way to his request to meet him in private.

Thomas Melchior was a clever man, who had taken pains to study composition as it was known in his time, but he cannot be ranked among the great composers. He was not of the same calibre as John Garthorn, nor was Edward Crane. Both of them, no doubt, did not see any reason why they should not carry on the older man's work and be as successful as he, but they lacked the necessary qualifications, and nearly a century had to pass before the problem they had so confidently tackled was really solved.

## HEAVY BELL RINGERS OF OLD TIME.

### COMPARISONS FUTILE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should not like to say anything to belittle anything the late William Pye did in the way of heavy bell ringing, but most of your readers would hardly say, as Mr. E. G. Hibbins does, that 'he stood far above all others in any age as a ringer of heavy bells.' Some people would say that James W. Washbrook was the leading tenor ringer, at least of modern times if not of all times. Then there are those men of past years referred to recently in your columns by a correspondent—James Marlton, Samuel Muggeridge, and the rest. But comparisons in this matter are 'odorous,' for as a test of physical endurance the weight of a bell is not everything, or anything like everything. It would take more strength to ring some trebles of a couple of hundredweights to a peal than York Minster tenor, and some no man and no relays of men would ever ring to a peal. Skill of handling a big bell is a different thing to strength, but who shall say which was the most skilful of heavy bell ringers? Not, perhaps, the man who rang the most peals or the heaviest bells. There are some men among the College Youths who can turn a big tenor in pretty well as it should be done. And one could name one or two younger men who are really good tenor ringers, as well as some who think they are and perhaps are not. But you won't find out these things by reading the reports of peals that are rung.

'NEMO.'

**CHARLES HENRY HATTERSLEY.****A FAMOUS YORKSHIRE RINGER.**

Yesterday was the ninety-sixth anniversary of the birth of Charles Henry Hattersley, who for years was not only one of the best known ringers of Yorkshire, but of the whole country.

He was born at Sheffield on September 12th, 1844, and came of ringing stock, for his grandfather, William Booth, was a leading ringer in the early years of the nineteenth century. It was he who first introduced Hattersley to the belfry, for he carried him up the stairs of the steeple at Sheffield Parish Church when he was only four years old to show him the ringing.

Charles Hattersley's first practical acquaintance with bells was when, as a youth, he used to chime the bell for evening prayers, and a little later he was skilful enough to take part in prize ringing, though it was not until 1862 that he and his brother Thomas were elected to the Sheffield company. In that year he rang his first peal, one of Stedman Caters, and soon took a prominent part in conducting, calling his first peal when he was only 19 years old.

In 1864 he was made a College Youth on the occasion of ringing a peal of Stedman Triples at Bethnal Green with a band that included Matthew Wood, Henry Haley and George Muskett. On his first visit to Birmingham in 1867, he met Henry Johnson, and between the two men, who had much in common, a warm and lasting friendship sprang up.

Charles Hattersley was a manufacturer of silver plated goods, and in the pursuit of his business he travelled to all parts of the country, which brought him in contact with many ringers. He will still be remembered by older people for his genial personality and his almost endless fund of anecdotes.

He rang something like 200 peals and among them was the long length of Stedman Caters (13,041 changes) at Cheltenham in 1888. It was a fine composition, containing the 120 course ends by Henry Johnson, and it was finely rung, not a word being spoken for five hours.

His other notable performances included 9,238 Stedman Cinquses at Birmingham in 1881, the then record length in the method; 6,595 Stedman Caters at Sheffield in 1886; the first non-conducted peal of Stedman Triples on tower bells, at Burton-on-Trent in 1886; a peal in the same method and at the same church, in which each ringer called a part (three courses) in turn; and 15,227 Grandsire Caters at Cheltenham in 1889. He composed and conducted the first peals of Stedman Caters and Cinquses, and the first peals of Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major for the Yorkshire Association. He represented the Yorkshire Association on the Central Council from the time of its foundation until his death.

Thus he stood in the first rank as a practical ringer, but it was as a composer that he most earned fame.

His compositions included peals in Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Duffield, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise, but probably it was in Treble Bob that he most excelled, though his peals of Stedman Caters and Superlative Major were of great merit and are still rung.

He had no patience with the people of his day who talked about composition having been all worked out and that there were no new peals to be had. 'To talk about composition being played out,' he wrote, 'is all moonshine and nonsense, as the possibilities of composition are almost of surpassing belief. I have been interested in change ringing for the past 60 years, and if I had another 60 years to live I should still keep on being interested.'

From 1862 to the day of his death Hattersley was connected with the Sheffield Parish Church Society, and they have commemorated his work by the establishment of a library, of which his books and manuscripts form the nucleus.

As we have mentioned, Charles Henry Hattersley formed a very interesting link with the Sheffield ringers of past generations. His grandfather, William Booth, who was born in 1783, made his mark in ringing at a very early age, and in 1804 took part in the last 5,000 on the old peal of ten and in the first on the new bells. In 1811 he rang in the first peal ever accomplished on handbells, one of Treble Bob Major, and later on in the first handbell peals of Treble Ten and Treble Twelve. He was one of the band that opened the twelve at Liverpool in 1814, and in 1816 he stood in a peal at Shoreditch with a mixed band, which included William Shipway and the younger George Gross.

Charles Henry Hattersley died on October 21st, 1915, and was buried at Eccleshall, Sheffield.

**'RETAINED IN HAND.'**

Sir,—Would someone kindly explain the words 'retained in hand' in reports of handbell peals? In what other way *could* a peal be rung?  
W. C. B.

In reply to our correspondent's inquiry as to the object of the use of the phrase 'retained in hand' in the reports of handbell peals, it may be pointed out that in days gone by a good deal of 'lapping' of handbells was done—passing them on from lap to lap of the ringers to produce the changes—and when peals were rung in which the ringers kept the same pair of bells throughout, they were distinguished by the description 'on handbells retained in hand.' But as the 'lapping' of handbells has now almost entirely gone out of practice, 'retained in hand' has fallen into disuse.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

# John Taylor & Co.

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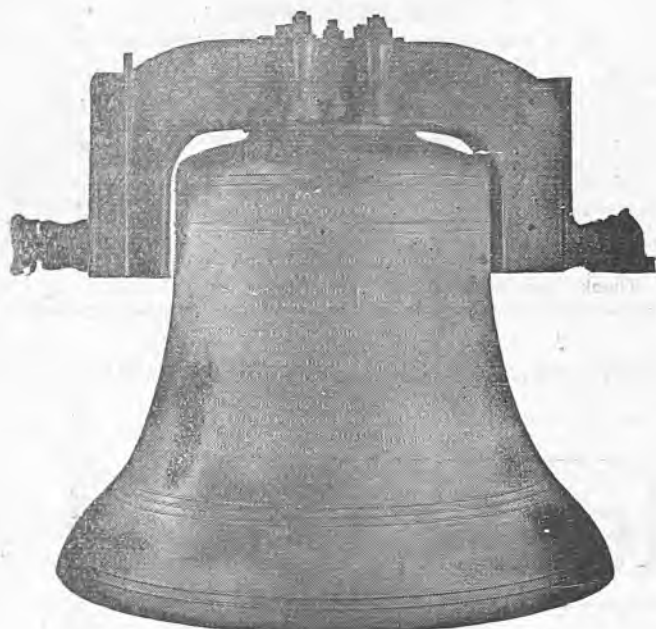
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. A. B. Peck, hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, informs us that the next meeting has not yet been definitely fixed, but it is expected that it will be held on Saturday, September 21st. There will be an hour's ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry from 3 p.m., and the meeting at 4 o'clock with handbell ringing afterwards.

Last Tuesday was the 199th anniversary of one of the earliest true peals of Grandsire Triples ever rung. The band, which Theodore Eccleston had got together on his country estate at Crowfield in Suffolk, rang at Coddensham 5,040 changes of 'Gathrine's Triples, being the first true peal that ever was pricked with two doubles only.' Eccleston rang the treble and John Foster called the bobs. Gathrine was John Garthorn, of Norwich, and Foster was the man who had been the landlord of the Eight Bells at Mancroft, both of whom figured largely in our recent accounts of the Norwich Scholars.

On September 15th, 1844, the ringers of Christleton in Cheshire rang 5,376 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, composed by I. J. B. Lates, of Birmingham. It was the first peal in the method away from the Eastern Counties and the Metropolitan area.

Charles D. P. Davies was born at Tewkesbury on September 12th, 1856. During a long ringing career he rendered many services to the Exercise. He was honorary secretary of the Central Council from 1902 to 1920, he was the first man to investigate the problems of composition on the modern scientific lines, and he was the author of two of the books in the Jasper Snowden series, 'Grandsire' and the first edition of 'Stedman.'

On September 13th, 1802, William Shipway called at St. Mary's, Islington, the first peal of Major in a new system introduced by himself, which he called Place ringing and which had no dodging. He had previously called a peal of Place Triples at Hackney and he afterwards called a peal of Place Caters at Shoreditch. No other peals in the method have since (we believe) been rung.

On the same date in 1823 the Junior College Youths rang the first peal on the bells, which William Dobson, of Downham Market, had recently hung in the new Church of St. George, Camberwell.

Charles Middleton died on September 14th, 1886.

The first recorded peal in Birmingham was one of Bob Major rung at St. Philip's on September 16th, 1755.

Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A., hon. secretary of the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, who joined the Army only about five or six weeks ago, has undergone an operation in a military hospital, and is now recuperating satisfactorily in a convalescent home somewhere in Surrey.

## DEATH OF MR. ALFRED BOWELL.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Alfred Bowell, bell-founder, of Ipswich, who died after only a short illness on August 29th at the age of 66 years. The funeral took place on Monday of last week at Ipswich.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with a recent correspondent that 'The Ringing World' is getting more interesting, by the various topics discussed since the ban on church bell ringing, much to the grief of all, and much more so to the large numbers of us who have been carrying out our Sunday service ringing regularly for so many years.

However, we have to submit to the powers that be and must do our best to keep our associations and guilds together and get as many as possible to air their respective ideas by 'copy' to fill up what would otherwise be called the peal columns. So far, I think, ringers have responded by the various opinions on 'call changes,' 'ringing speed,' 'ball versus plain bearings' and many other items, not overlooking the able reply by the Rev. E. Bankes James on the little query as to a peal of Grandsire Triples in ten parts with two ordinary singles half-way and end.

Last week I read with great interest the letter by Mr. C. E. Borrett, of Norwich, which brought back to my memory a certain peal of London Surprise (in which he took part) on the old ring of eight at St. Peter's, Brighton, in July, 1899. This peal is still talked of when certain of us get together in Brighton. His remarks on speed in ringing and on ball versus plain bearings proves he is still as exacting as to speed and striking as he was over 41 years ago.

No doubt there is a proper 'beat' or 'compass' for the speed of all bells to sound their best. But I think it all depends on the human element, and if you want good striking, whether ringing tenor or treble, you can only obtain it by ringing your bell as fast as the slowest ringer sees the method. I know of many such instances, and how irritating it is to those who see quickly and to others who always seem to want to get it over. Just the opposite was a remark made by the late Frank Hopgood, of Reading, in his dry Berkshire brogue, after stepping off the box at Romsey Abbey after a peal of Superlative: 'Well, I've enjoyed every change of that peal, in fact I was sorry when they were coming round.' This was on one of our ringing tours many years ago.

With Mr. Borrett's remarks on ringing a small bell to Maximus I quite agree. Give me plain bearings for ringing accurately and with ease, and as a correspondent said the other day, about 90 per cent. would agree. But, as our old friend Jim Hunt says, there is no doubt but that ball bearings have come to stay.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants. **GEORGE WILLIAMS.**



## CHURCH BELL ALARMS.

### MYSTERY OF THE WARNING.

Last Saturday night, while London was under the biggest air attack launched against it since the war began, there was an alarm sounded on the church bells in Surrey, Devon and Cornwall. No one seems to know why the alarm was given or by whom, and many have been the surmises.

In parts of West Surrey bells of a number of churches were violently rung, calling out the Home Guards. It appears to have been a false alarm and it is reported that the authorities are trying to find out who was responsible for it being given.

Enquiries by 'The Ringing World' have elicited the fact that messages were sent out soon after 10 p.m. to the incumbents of various churches to have the bells rung owing to 'a state of emergency,' and the instruction was complied with. In some cases only one bell was chimed, in others two. At one church, with only one bell, the Vicar's wife undertook the task.

And what was the result? Home Guards, who had previously been warned to 'stand by,' rushed to their posts, but the public were bewildered. They didn't know whether to stay indoors, go to their shelters, or go to help round up the raiders.

In one place, it was reported, some householders armed themselves with such things as garden forks and spades and prepared to defend their homes.

Except that the Home Guards manned their posts no one knew what to do. Why the authorities do not issue instructions, so that people may know what is expected of them, passes comprehension.

In the West of England, warnings are said to have been sounded from Cornwall to the outskirts of Bristol. That, too, was a false alarm and it is suggested it may have been due to a fishing fleet returning to a Cornish harbour through the mist earlier than expected after making a lucky catch.

Another false alarm was given early on Monday, in the West of Scotland, it was reported, and the ringing of church bells took place in five towns. The Scottish Command stated afterwards that they knew of no military reason for the ringing and an inquiry is being held.

The whole position is chaotic and will lead to unending confusion if unauthorised people, with nerves ajump, rush about giving orders to ring the church bells.

### LIFTING THE BAN.

#### APATHY OF RINGING ASSOCIATIONS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It seems to me that, speaking generally, our associations are doing little to justify their existence at the present time. One would expect that, instead of taking it lying down, the associations individually would exert themselves to the utmost until this absurd ban is lifted, at least as far as to permit ringing for, say, Sunday morning service.

I believe the Central Council have made some representations to the Ministry, but in my opinion it would carry far more weight if the Ministry were hammered at by every individual ringing association throughout the country. And your suggestion of enlisting the aid of higher authorities in the Church is an excellent one—this again can only be done by our associations making appropriate representations to their friends in high places in each diocese.

By their apparent apathy in this vital matter the associations are failing in their duty to their members and are neglecting an opportunity of demonstrating that even in war time they can still be worthy of support.

J. OLDHAM.

Loughborough.

### RISK TO CHURCHES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It does not seem to have occurred to the minds of those in authority or even to our own Central Council officials that the exclusion of the use of church bells (or bell) for any but military purposes will specially render the churches assailable as military objectives.

Our enemy would naturally attempt the destruction of the churches by air attack some days before attempting a parachute landing in the same neighbourhood.

Please accept my congratulations on your continuance of the issue of 'The Ringing World,' which I have taken since the first issue, as I did the 'Bell News' for all its period.

Trusting you may be long spared to 'carry on.'

WILLIAM STORY.

## WELL KNOWN ESTABLISHMENT DAMAGED

### MR. AND MRS. A. A. HUGHES' ALARMING EXPERIENCE.

During the raids over London at the week-end damage was done to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's well-known establishment, but we are happy to say that Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes are unhurt despite a rather alarming experience.

Some of the windows of their house were broken during a raid on Thursday of last week, but on Sunday night a bomb exploded in a nearby street with such violence that stone setts from the road were hurled into the air and fell in a shower on the roof of the works, the roof being seriously damaged both by this and the blast from the explosion.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were sleeping at the time in the basement of their home, but escaped injury, the house being very little hurt, except that a paving stone came through the roof and landed in a bedroom on the top floor.

In conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Hughes on Tuesday evening, we found them both cheerful and showing little indication of their experience. Indeed, Mr. Hughes had been to the College Youths headquarters where he met two other members. The formal meeting arranged for the evening had to be abandoned, but the other part of the proceedings customarily observed on these occasions was not omitted.

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

#### JOINT MEETING AT COLEORTON.

On Saturday, August 31st, a joint meeting of the Burton, Derby and Loughborough Districts was held at Coleorton.

The weather was very favourable and a fair number of members and friends were present from Burton, Overseal, Netherseal, Appleby Magna, Ticknall, Ibstock, Loughborough, Copt Oak, Derby, etc.

The association form of service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Stevens, at 4 p.m., Mr. A. E. Rowley presiding at the organ.

Tea was served at the Rectory by Mrs. Stevens and helpers and was very much appreciated.

Very little business was transacted, but the main subject was the possibility of arranging a further meeting before the dark nights and the necessary curtailment of activities owing to bad travelling.

Mr. J. H. Swinfield spoke very strongly in favour of holding another meeting during September, and was supported by several speakers. Mr. Rowley, the secretary of the Loughborough District, asked if the Burton District would give support to a meeting if it could be arranged at Ibstock. Mr. J. W. Cotton, the secretary of the Burton District, agreed with the suggestion, and it was decided to leave Mr. Rowley to arrange one for the third or fourth Saturday in September, of which full notice will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Thanks were accorded the Rector for conducting the service and to Mrs. Stevens for arranging tea.

The Rectory grounds and the Hall gardens were open to the visitors, and the non-ringing ladies of the party thoroughly enjoyed themselves while the others stayed in the Rectory with the handbells. Many members had practice in new methods, and much good work was done.

In spite of there being no tower bell ringing, this meeting was quite a success, both socially and from the handbell ringing point of view.

### CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

#### TWO YOUNG RINGERS' FEAT.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Regarding the recent paragraphs and letters on the ability of ringers to check peals from outside the tower, the following story may be of interest.

Some 18 years ago, in a Sussex village, two lads in their early 'teens were eagerly awaiting an opportunity to score their first peal. Their hopes ran high when a forthcoming attempt for a peal of Grandsire was mentioned one practice night, but, alas, they were evidently not considered good enough by the 'old hands,' and they were not among the chosen eight. Feeling rather 'sore,' they decided that if a peal was rung they would satisfy themselves that it was at least a true one.

On the Sunday afternoon when the attempt was to be made they settled themselves in a quiet corner of the churchyard, one with pencil and paper and the other with a Snowdon's 'Grandsire' to try and trace the composition.

As soon as the bells started into changes they were all attention, waiting for the treble to get back to lead. 'Yes, the 7th has made third's, it's a bob,' so down went 752634, and another wait for the next lead. Another half-dozen leads, and it became pretty obvious that it was 'Groves' Variation,' and as this was not in the book one lad set to work to write out the 360 lead ends, while the other checked them off as they came up. The full peal being written out, they then checked every lead end until rounds came up. By this time their screeness had vanished and they were as delighted as the performers that a peal had been scored.

The point to emphasise is that neither of them thought it in any way remarkable to be able to check a peal by ear.

Ringers are, on the whole, a modest crowd, and it is quite likely that there are many more with this gift than is suggested in your paragraph last week. As the writer was himself one of the lads in the story, the same modesty compels him to sign himself

'NEDBO.'

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## RECOLLECTIONS.

### THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT ADVENTURE.

September the 14th, 1934. It is but six years ago, yet so much has happened in the interval that it might have been a generation since that memorable day when a peaceful British expeditionary force set out on that great adventure to the antipodes, which made bellringing history. But that day, September the 14th, 1934, will remain in the memory of all those who shared in its pleasures and its excitements, until the end of life.

Six years ago that party of twelve set sail in the SS. 'Barrabool' for Australia, upon a bellringing tour the like of which had never before been undertaken, and I am sure that all of us, from time to time, live again through those happy months when we visited strange parts of the world, made a host of new friends in the Commonwealth, enjoyed their lavish hospitality, and gained a wealth of new experiences.

rung on the ocean. Two courses of Stedman Triples called the passengers to service, and afterwards a course of Grandsire Caters was rung.

It was also Bill Fussell's birthday. The day before we sailed he had rung his one thousandth peal and the double event cost him dear. On reflection at this distance of time, however, I think we ought to have treated Bill instead, for was it not he who had organised this adventure; he who had got the party together and made the plans which rendered it possible to put the great conception into operation. But a thousand peals is a thousand peals and a ringer's birthday is a ringer's birthday, and—well there you are. Next Monday Bill will have the good wishes of all his friends, and especially of his fellow voyagers of six years ago, for he will be 79. How this old war horse must be 'fretting at the bit' now that his beloved bells are silent.

It is not my purpose now to re-sketch even the outlines of all that memorable voyage, but in these troublous days, when church bell



THE PARTY THAT VISITED AUSTRALIA.

Standing at back, left to right: J. H. Hardcastle, Rev. E. B. James, Mrs. R. Richardson, J. S. Goldsmith, Mrs. C. Sharples, R. Richardson, W. H. Fussell, G. Martin and C. Sharples. The rest: Enid Richardson, R. Maude, W. Linter.

To-morrow is the anniversary of their departure from these shores, a departure which provided an amazingly enthusiastic send-off from London, amazing because it was so unexpected and amazing from the very nature of it. Representatives of many ringing organisations and ringers in their private capacity were there to bid us 'good-speed,' and who among them will forget the scene—the handbells on Liverpool Street Station with the admiring crowd of spectators who flung pennies into a hat; Bill Fussell singing 'All things bright and beautiful,' while precariously mounted on a baggage truck; the cheering and the waving—as the train steamed out? Then the excitement at the docks, whither many wellwishers had accompanied us; the final farewells and the realisation, as the ship with a whoop on her siren turned her head towards the sea and the uttermost parts of the earth, that we were at last really off on that long talked of expedition.

Next day there was all the novelty that one experiences when beginning a voyage at sea; the strange surroundings, the new faces, the mixture of feelings that can be sensed among those leaving friends behind and setting off maybe for years, maybe for ever from the land they love.

Those who, at the time, read the story of our voyage in these columns may recall how amid all these unsettling conditions a handbell peal was attempted on the English Channel, only to be smothered by a sea mist and the noise of the ship's siren. There was the call at Plymouth and then, when Sunday arrived, we were in the Bay of Biscay.

On that Sunday, probably for the first time, a 'service touch' was

ringing is no longer possible, it is not amiss to recall those happier times, when the world was at peace and ringers were able to travel to distant shores to forge new bonds of friendship and carry the flag of ringing to dominions beyond the seas. To all whom we met in those distant lands, the recollection of whose kindness will ever abide with us, those who went out upon that great adventure extend their fraternal greetings.

Though the seas divide, memories remain.

J. S. G.

### LYME REGIS RINGERS' WEDDING.

The marriage of Mr. Cuthbert W. Powell and Miss Laura Keelcy took place at the Parish Church, Lyme Regis, on Monday, September 2nd, in the presence of many relatives and friends. The ceremony, which was choral, was performed by the Vicar (the Rev. C. Carew Cox), the bride being given away by her father and attended by two small nieces as bridesmaids and a small nephew as page.

Both the bride and bridegroom are ardent members of the local band, and it was very disappointing that, owing to the ban on the use of the bells, no touch or peal could be rung in their honour. Later on, however, as they are both handbell ringers, it may be possible for them to join in a congratulatory touch or quarter-peal.

Among many presents received were a set of table knives from the local ringers, and a set of dessert knives and a beaten pewter cruet from the Guild of Servers, of which the bridegroom has been hon. secretary for many years.

A reception was held at the Tudor Cafe, and afterwards the happy couple left for a honeymoon in London.

## TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

THE ANGELUS.  
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I rather fancy Mr. Edwards is mistaken in saying that the death bell is 'practically universal' or 'in common use,' but perhaps he will give us further particulars. I should like to think he is right and I am wrong, but I believe that the death bell is now so obsolete that the great majority of people do not even know that there ever was such a thing.

Of all the traditional uses of bells, the death bell, or knell, was probably the most venerable and most widely spread. Its beginnings go back long before Christian times into the twilight of human history. In the early nineties of the last century, when I first began to take an interest in such things, it was still rung, but that was a time of great changes, and the age which saw the introduction of the telephone, the bicycle, free compulsory education, and the halfpenny daily newspaper, saw the end of many old customs and among them the death bell. It did not, of course, cease everywhere at the same time.

I can hardly believe that the larger number of parishes still maintain the custom of ringing the curfew. I wish it were so. I do not know of any instance apart from Tom of Oxford and (I suppose) Great St. Mary at Cambridge. The last time I heard curfew from a parish steeple was on one lovely summer evening in 1912. Mr. William Hewitt, Mr. Frank Hairs and I were in a boat on the River Deben, when, away in the distance, Woodbridge tenor was pulled up and rung for some minutes. Very beautiful it sounded across that 'wide watered shore.'

When Mr. Edwards and your correspondent W. C. B. say that the Angelus was in 'regular use in England for centuries before the Reformation,' and that 'up to the sixteenth century its use was universal,' they are repeating an opinion held by many people. Some time ago, for instance, 'The Church Times' informed an enquirer that the Angelus was a far older use than wedding bells. Nevertheless, historically there is no real foundation for such an opinion. Let us, however, be quite clear on the matter. By the Angelus these people mean, and Mr. Edwards and W. C. B. evidently mean, a bell rung at stated times daily, for the purpose of calling people to the recital of a certain devotion. That is the object for which churches ring the Angelus in modern times, but we can, I think, say definitely that no such ringing was generally done in English parish churches in pre-Reformation times. There was, it is true, the ringing of the Ave bell before or after divine service, as I mentioned in my article of August 30th, but that was a different thing. It was also laid down by certain bishops that the faithful should repeat devotions, such as the 'Our Father' and the 'Hail Mary,' when they heard the curfew or the midday bell. But the bells were not rung specially for that purpose, and their inception and continuance had nothing to do with the devotion of the Angelus. It was as if the bishop had told his flock to say a prayer when they heard the clock strike twelve, or at six in the evening. The midday bell and the evening bell, i.e., the curfew, were purely secular uses, begun and continued for the convenience of marking the working hours of the day. The early morning bell, in some cases at any rate, was rung for Prime, and therefore was a religious as well as a civic use.

The object of the Angelus as a devotion was originally, no doubt, as W. C. B. says, 'to remind people to say certain texts and prayers in memory of the Incarnation,' but in actual practice other things were associated with it, as I mentioned in my article, and among the common people the thing most associated with it was the indulgences attached to it.

When the whole system of indulgence was discontinued in the English Church, the devotion came to an end, but that had not the slightest effect on the ringing of the bells.

W. C. B. quotes Thomas North and your other correspondent quotes Ellacombe, who expressed views directly opposite to those I have given. These men are acknowledged authorities on bell archaeology, and are mainly responsible for the opinions held by so many people to-day. It may seem presumptuous to disagree with them, but actually their opinions were based largely on conjecture. Ellacombe and people who were working on similar lines were very much concerned about what they considered the profanation of church bells by their being used for secular purposes. They held that the bells were put in the towers for the sole purposes of the Church and religion, and that in pre-Reformation times they were looked upon as instruments so sacred that no layman might ring them, but only clerics in minor orders properly vested. Secular uses of bells in pre-Reformation times were unthinkable, and it was only in the bad days after the Reformation that such of the old religious uses as still survived were retained for social and mundane purposes.

It all sounds very right and probable, but it is contradicted by such evidence as exists. One of the best authorities on ecclesiastical usage in the middle ages, Dr. Daniel Rock, the author of 'The Church of Our Fathers' and a Roman Catholic, did not believe that the Angelus was generally rung in England.

In any case the modern use of the Angelus in England is neither a survival nor a revival of anything that happened in this country in the Middle Ages. It has come to us from the Continent, and has been introduced and adopted by certain parsons, not because they think it is a traditional English use, but because they think it is a Catholic custom.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

## LEAD HEADS. AND ENDS.

A FURTHER REPLY TO 'MUCH INTERESTED.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the enquiry of 'Much Interested' in the issue of September 6th, there is one point which was not mentioned in your reply. Your enquirer asked how the lead end of a method could be determined from a half lead of a method, whereas in your reply you assumed that a further row was given. 'Much Interested' might like to know how to determine which place is to be made when the treble lies its whole pull behind.

There are, in a Major method, four possible places, 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th, and the following are the seven lead-ends common to all legitimate Major methods with a single hunt:—

A	B	C	D
2	43	65	87
3	25	47	68
4	62	83	75
5	37	28	46
6	84	72	53
7	58	36	24
8	76	54	32

At the treble's whole-pull at lead, whichever bell in column A makes the place (either 2nd's or 8th's), the pairs which change are those given under columns B, C and D.

Similar conditions apply to the treble's whole pull behind. One bell makes a place (1st, 3rd, 5th or 7th), and the pairs shown under columns B, C and D change according to which bell makes the place.

The following are two examples of changes which might occur at the end of a half-lead of a method:—

- (a) 64285371  
(b) 74258631

To ascertain the place to be made, take each bell in 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th place in turn, and, assuming it to make the place, observe which pairs would be forced to change.

In the example (a), if the 6th lies a whole pull at lead, 42, 85 and 37 would change. Referring to the table above, we find that when the 6th makes the place, the pairs which should change to give a proper lead-end are 84, 72 and 53; therefore, a correct lead-end is not produced.

Similarly the 2nd cannot make 3rd's, neither can the 7th make 5th's and produce a regular lead-end. The 5th, however, can make 5th's, since it will be seen that the pairs which will change are 64, 28 and 37.

In example (b) we find that there are two alternatives. Either the 7th can lead or the 3rd can make 7th's.

To determine which lead-end will be produced, all that is necessary is to observe which bell changes with the 2nd at the half-lead. This bell will fall in 2nd's place at the lead-end and the rest of the change will be as shown in the table already given. If the 2nd makes the place the lead-end will be 2436587.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

65, Kingsley Avenue, West Ealing.

## 'BERKSHIRE BELLS.'

ANOTHER PART OF MR. F. SHARPE'S WORK.

A further contribution to 'The Church Bells of Berkshire' is now available in Part II. of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's work, now obtainable at one shilling.

It covers about a dozen parishes and follows, of course, the same meticulously careful lines of the earlier part. The accurate descriptions of the bells, with notes about their founders, make the work which Mr. Sharpe is doing all the more valuable, while the numerous illustrations add to the interest of both the student and the ordinary reader.

It happens that in this newly issued part there are included two bells of more than average antiquarian interest. One is the smaller of two bells at St. Lawrence's, West Challow, one of the earliest existing bells in England bearing its founder's name and also one of the earliest examples of London bell founding. It was cast by Paul the Potter, a London bell founder, somewhere between 1283 and 1312. Previous to the discovery of this bell in 1926, by Mr. A. F. Smith, of Swindon, no example of Paul the Potter's work was known.

The other bell of special interest is an early 14th century saunce-bell at Cholsey. It was discovered in 1932 by the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. For many years it lay forgotten in a dim recess in the tower and now hangs in the south window of the belfry. It was cast by Richard de Wymbish, a member of a noted Essex family of bell founders, at least three of whom were founding in Aldgate in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It is a very thin bell, Mr. Sharpe says. It is 20 inches in diameter, having its strike-note G natural and harmonics unusually high in the scale for a bell of that date. Unfortunately it has lost its canons and is now secured to an elm headstock by means of bolts passing through the crown.

It is gratifying to know that, despite present difficulties, this new section of the 'Church Bells of Berkshire' has been able to appear.



**FALSE COURSE ENDS.****AN EXPLANATION BY MEANS OF EXAMPLES.**

We next turn to the second section of our specimen method.

25174386 -  
52713468 -  
52174386 +  
25713468 +

Here again the first and third rows are of opposite nature, so we transpose the table of the lead heads of the method by the first row, and the table of the lead ends by the other. Among the rows we produce are

7645823 from the fifth lead head,  
and 7654832 from the second lead end;  
as well as 5863742 from the sixth lead head,  
and 5836724 from the third lead end.

In the first of these pairs 6, 7, 8 occupy the same relative positions, but 2 and 3, and 4 and 5 are transposed. The false course end, therefore, is 32546, and the incidence of the falseness is between the first half of the fifth lead of the plain course and the second half of the second lead of the course 32546.

In the second pair of rows 5, 7, 8 occupy the same relative positions, and 2 and 4, and 3 and 6 are transposed. The false course end, therefore, is 46253, and the incidence is between the first half of the sixth lead of the plain course and second half of the third lead of the course 46253.

But both 32546 and 46253 are in reciprocal relationship to 23456, therefore there will also be falseness between the second half of the second lead of the plain course and the first half of the fifth lead of the course 32546. And between the second half of the third lead of the plain course, and the first half of the sixth lead of the course 46253.

Next transpose the table of lead ends by the first row of the section, and the table of lead heads by the third row. Among the rows we produce are the following:

6745832 from the second lead end,  
and 6745823 from the fifth lead head,  
as well as 8536724 from the third lead end,  
and 8563742 from the sixth lead head.

The first gives us the false course end 32546 with the incidence of falseness between the second half of the second lead of the plain course and the first half of the fifth lead of the course 32546; and between the first half of the fifth lead of the plain course and the second half of the second lead of the course 32546. The second gives in the false course end 46253, with the incidence of falseness between the second half of the third lead of the plain course and the first half of the sixth lead of the course 46253; and between the first half of the sixth lead of the plain course and the second half of the third lead of the course 46253. Here are the actual rows:

From 23456.	From 32526
5th 76145823	2nd 76418532
67418532	76145823
67145823	76418532
76418532	67145823
2nd 67518423	5th 76154832
76154832	67518423
76518423	67154832
67154832	76518423

6th 58163742  
85617324  
85163742  
58617324

3rd 85317642  
58136724  
58317642  
85136724

From 46253

3rd 85617324  
58163742  
58617324  
85163742

6th 58136724  
85317642  
85136724  
58317642

A 32546 and D 46253 are complementary false course ends. Both of them are produced by the first set of transpositions and, therefore, both of them are also produced by the second set of transpositions, D in the second taking the place of A in the first, and A in the second taking the place of D in the first. The result is that in the second sections of our method we get two sets of four repetitions, instead of only one set of four as in the first sections. (We are concerned for the moment with the rows in which the treble is in thirds, not those in which it is in fourths, of which more anon.)

At the first sight all these details appear rather complicated and involved, but if the reader takes the trouble to follow them slowly and carefully he will find that they are quite simple and, once understood, almost obvious.

When we are studying a new method with the idea of composing a peal (if possible) it will pay us to make all the transpositions. We shall probably save time in the end and we shall certainly have a better chance of understanding where the liability of the method lies and the best ways of avoiding it. But we could deduce all the false course ends and the incidence of the falseness from the first set of transpositions, as was explained in our last article.

We can go further, and we can be certain from an examination of the section, without making any transpositions at all, that it produces the two false course ends A and D.

For it is a general rule of all regular Treble Bob and Surprise Major methods that wherever in any section two bells which are next but one to each other in natural coursing order make places side by side, then the false course ends 32546 and 46253 are produced, provided that two of the rows with the treble in the same position are identical except for the place making bells.

In our example method 5 and 2 make places side by side. In the natural coursing order of the plain course these bells are separated by 3.

Something similar happens when in any section two bells which are immediately next each other in natural coursing order make places side by side. Then the false course end 24365 is always produced.

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**NOTICES.**

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at Claines on Saturday, September 14th. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Tea will be provided if possible. — E. F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held in the Church Room, Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., to be followed by handbells and discourses, etc. All ringers, especially beginners, warmly welcomed.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Quarry Road, Totley, near Sheffield.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Western Division.—Quarterly meeting arranged at All Saints', Bingley, on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Church House available during afternoon and evening for handbells, billiards, etc. Conducted ramble through St. Ives Estate, starting from Church House at 3 o'clock. Tea (approx.) 5 p.m. Business meeting at 6 o'clock. All welcome and a good attendance specially requested.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Handbells available in Schoolroom 2.30 p.m. Short service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and further handbell practice. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual festival will be held at Chester Cathedral on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Evensong at 4.15. Tea and business meeting directly afterwards.—H. Parker 64, Church Rd., Northwich.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Swindon Branch. — Quarterly meeting at St. Mark's, Swindon, on Saturday, Sept. 14th, at 6 p.m. Discussion as to future and handbells.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, September 14th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Will ringers please bring own tea? Business meeting and social evening.—S. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bletchley.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Ravensthorpe on Saturday, September 14th. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea will be provided, but please bring sugar. Will all members make a special effort to attend.—H. H. Shrivs, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — North Bucks Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, September 21st. Handbells from 5 p.m. Short business meeting including former secretary's presentation at 6 p.m. A good attendance specially requested.—R. H. Howson, Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells will be available. Service in the Abbey at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. Names, please, by Sept. 18th. The Vicar, Canon Solloway, D.D., will conduct those present round the Abbey. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at Nuneaton on Saturday, September 21st. A room in the Parish Hall, Vicarage Street, will be available from 4 to 7 p.m. Tea and light refreshments provided (please bring own sugar). It is hoped that there will be a good muster.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 21st. Service in the Church at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m., charge 1s. 9d. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, by Tuesday.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** — Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome. Tea can be arranged if required.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Saturday, September 28th. Service at 4 p.m., business immediately after. As the business is important will as many as possible turn up.—W. H. Shuker, T. Wilson, Hon. Secretaries.

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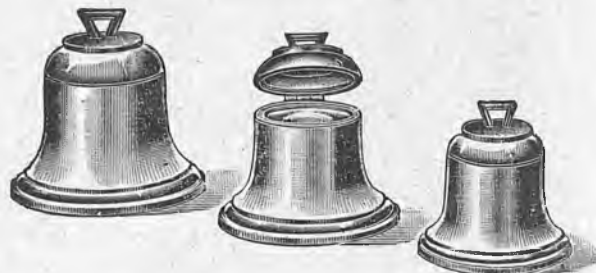
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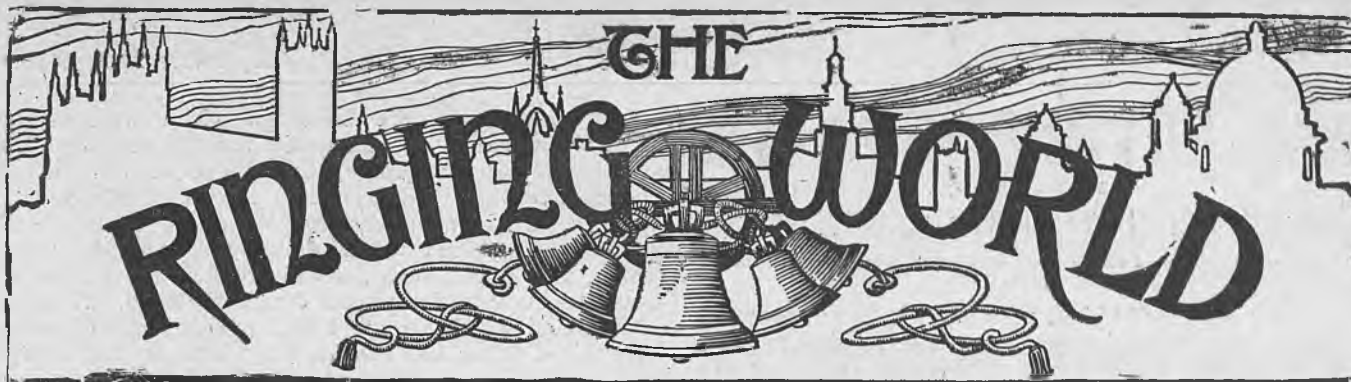
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## WAR EFFECTS.

We feel we need offer no apology to those of our readers who, in these weeks, may experience delay in the delivery of 'The Ringing World.' Many of those who have looked forward to its prompt appearance every Friday morning for nearly thirty years are, we are afraid, suffering disappointment, and no one regrets it more than we do, but the circumstances now prevailing upset all time tables, and no arrangements that can be planned are a safeguard against the contingencies of war. If, therefore, this journal does not turn up at the appointed time, we ask our readers to have patience and to believe that, as far as we are concerned, and those upon whom we rely for the production and distribution of the paper, nothing is wanting to secure prompt issue. But dislocation of posts and traffic consequent on air raids cannot be foreseen, and in this great upheaval delay is but a trivial matter compared with the stark tragedy with which many hundreds of people are constantly faced.

On every hand, indeed, we are face to face with this grim and deadly Battle of Britain, on the outcome of which depends the fate of our land and of our liberties. If ever anyone doubted what the result of this war may mean, unless this country triumphs and the enemy is finally crushed, they can now read it in the brutal subjection of the Continental nations, of innocent peoples massacred, of fair countries ravished to satisfy the greed of the intolerable Nazi lust for power. The ruthlessness of the enemy is now being expended in all its blind fury upon this land of ours and once more it is falling most heavily upon innocent victims. There are few areas in Britain which have entirely escaped the storm, and London, the heart of the Empire, is being battered day after day and night after night. But London is tougher than the Nazis imagined, and London will see it through. She is scarred in places, but a very long way indeed from being 'laid out,' as Hitler and his myrmidons had hoped. The spirit of the people is unconquerable, the power and the will to resist unquenchable, although it is a matter of deep regret that in his blind aggression the enemy has spared nothing. If he vents his diabolical hatred on the lives and homes of innocent people, slaying women and children at random, how much less can he be expected to spare any of our cherished possessions! Information as to several of London's important buildings which have been hit is now being released by the Ministry of Information, and the names of nine City churches have been mentioned as damaged. Some of these churches have been famous in ringing history, but as far as available reports go, their towers, with the bells, seem largely to have escaped. All the churches mentioned, except St.

(Continued on page 446.)

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Giles', Cripplegate, are buildings which were erected after the Great Fire, mostly by Sir Christopher Wren and, happily, in most cases, the damage is said to be of a minor character. Everyone in the land, of whatever creed, has heard with delight of the saving of St. Paul's Cathedral from the threat of a huge delayed-action bomb, which, it is now learned, would probably have razed the whole building to the ground had it exploded. A prayer of thanksgiving has gone up from thousands of hearts that this disaster has been averted, and in that thanksgiving we are sure the heroism of the men who saved the cathedral is not forgotten.

How long this wanton destruction will go on no man can say, but it is obvious that it is having exactly the opposite effect to what was expected by the Nazis. It is stiffening, not breaking, the spirit of the people, it is strengthening and not weakening the determination to fight down Hitlerism and all that it stands for. What one hopes is that when this comes London will still retain the cherished treasures to be found in its ancient buildings and that its famous landmarks may still be seen rising proudly over whatever else shall have suffered at the bloodstained hands of these remorseless foes whose creed is stark terrorism. And what applies to London applies equally elsewhere. Cities, towns and villages throughout the land are suffering, but the nation is stronger now than ever it has been, and no one doubts the issue. The bells will ring again, and ring for victory and peace. When that time arrives ringers will once again come into their own and they will not be found wanting.

## CHARLES MIDDLETON.

THE AUTHOR OF A FAMOUS COMPOSITION.

Last Saturday was the fifty-fourth anniversary of the death of Charles Middleton, the composer of the familiar peal of Cambridge Surprise Major. His has been the curious fortune to have lived an unremarkable and uneventful life, to have done nothing which brought him any notice while he was alive, to have spent his old age in reduced circumstances so that he died in Norwich Workhouse, and yet to have left a name which will be remembered by some people at least for many years, perhaps for centuries.

He was born in 1813 at Marsham, a small village about a mile from Aylsham on the Norwich road. This was a centre of good ringing from early times, and as early as 1730 the Aylsham men claimed to have rung a peal of Grandsire Triples, though Thomas Melchior told them he did not believe it.

Middleton's first peal was 'a touch consisting of seven different peals each containing 720 changes, on December 14th, 1837.' The peals were London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Double Bob, Double Court Bob and Stedman Slow Course. On January 9th in the following year he rang the 6th to 5,440 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Aylsham. Two years later in 1839 he left Marsham and went to Norwich, where the Norwich Scholars were in the last phase of their greatness. Samuel Thurston, who had conducted the first peals of London Surprise and Double Oxford, and the second of Superlative ever rung, died in 1841, and though the company still continued to be one of the very best in England, they had reached their zenith. They rang, however, some good peals while Middleton was one of them, notably the 7,126 of Stedman Cinques in 1844. The others included Stedman Triples and Caters and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major. The list is not a long one, but the Norwich men were never very active peal ringers. They prided themselves on the quality of their striking rather than on the number of their peals. All the evidence goes to show that their standard of striking was a very high one indeed.

Middleton's peal of Cambridge is perhaps the one indispensable peal in change ringing, for there is a large number of Surprise methods in which it and its variations and adaptations are the only possible true peals. Middleton, of course, did not know that nor did his contemporaries. He may have composed the peal after a good deal of experimenting, possibly he tried to vary Reeves' peal of London in the 'Clavis' so as to make it suitable for Cambridge, more likely still he had a piece of good luck, the value of which he did not himself know. For there is nothing else he did in the way of composition which would lead us to suppose that he had more than quite ordinary knowledge of the science of change ringing.

Be that as it may, he has a niche in the temple of fame and has his place, if a small one, among the immortals.



**HANDBELL PEALS.**

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.  
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Tuesday, September 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,*  
At PERRY FARM,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of 42 six-scores in the following eleven methods: A six-score each of Earl Soham Delight, Hudibras, London, Gogmagog, Primrose, April Day and Old Doubles, six of Bob Doubles, one each of Canterbury Pleasure and Antelope, and 27 of Grandsire, with 10 callings.

\*JAMES E. LILLEY ... .. 1-2 | \*CHARLES R. LILLEY ... .. 3-4  
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

Witness—E. H. Lilley.

\* First peal in 11 methods, also by the Guild. It is over 40 years since the conductor rang the above methods. This peal is the result of a weekly practice.

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Friday, September 6, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,*

At 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 13.

\*WILL VIGGERS ... .. 1-2 | MAURICE HODGSON ... .. 5-6  
PTE. JOHN FREEMAN, ... ..  
R.A.M.C. ... .. 3-4 | PTE. RICHARD FULLER,  
Army Dental Corps... .. 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

\* First peal of Major on handbells. † First peal on handbells.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

*On Sunday, September 8, 1940, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,*

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven extents called differently.

\*DANIEL SMITH ... .. 1-2 | HAROLD CHANT ... .. 3-4  
\*PETER WOODWARD ... .. 5-6

Conducted by H. CHANT.

Witness—Raymond Ford.

\* First peal 'in hand' and first attempt. First peal of Minor 'in hand' by the conductor.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Friday, September 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,*

At PERRY FARM,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of 42 six-scores as follows: 120 Morning Star, 120 London Doubles, 40 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles.

JAMES E. LILLEY ... .. 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY ... .. 3-4  
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

*On Sunday, September 15, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,*

At PERRY FARM,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of 42 six-scores of Grandsire, with 10 different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY ... .. 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY ... .. 3-4  
HENRY G. LEWIS... .. 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

**THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.****AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EPISODE.**

One of the most prominent of the early London ringing societies was the Union Scholars, and one of the most important men in the company was William Coster. Although not one of the foundation members, his name is the first that appears in the following year. He held the office of steward in 1716 and of master in 1717; and, being a strong, lusty fellow, was the first man that ever turned a tenor in to a peal of Major. In the year 1733 he was the landlord of the Bell, a tavern in Angel Alley in Little Moorfields, a network of narrow streets, the site of which is to-day occupied by the Moorgate station of the Metropolitan railway.

Thither, as was natural, many ringers resorted, and as Coster belonged to an earlier generation and had rung his peal when Annable and the leading College Youths were but boys, he had both the opportunity and the excuse to talk about the great things he had done when he was young.

Prominent among his customers was William Laughton, who had for some time been nourishing an increasing feeling of soreness with Annable and the leaders of the College Youths. He was himself not the least man in that society, had been steward, and had actually taken part in more peals with the company than anyone else, not excluding Annable. But he was of a roving disposition, his loyalty to the College Youths sat lightly on him, and at any rate was no barrier to his ringing peals with other bands, or consorting with the lower class men who belonged to none of the leading societies, and formed the underworld of the London Exercise. A year or two previous he had taken part in fourteen eighteen-scores on the six bells in the old steeple of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, a non-society peal and a most interesting performance, for it is the earliest six-bell peal of which we have any record. What methods were rung, and other particulars, we do not know, except that one of the ringers was James Newcombe, who joined the Union Scholars in 1729. He was a steeplekeeper at the Abbey, and one of those who showed the tombs to visitors. He died on February 2nd, 1734, and was buried in the Dark Cloister.

The immediate occasion of Laughton's quarrel with Annable does not appear, but the general cause is apparent. Laughton was an excellent ringer, but he was temperamentally unstable and fond of his glass; and, as Thomas Hearne pointed out, a man 'in liquor' will make mistakes, 'and indeed there cannot be any true ringing but by people that come perfectly sober.'

Annable was no puritan, he could appreciate the social side of ringing in its proper place, and even himself sing a comic ballad; but he held that when a man was in the belfry, his business was to ring and not make trips; and we have the testimony of Hearne as to how high his standard was. There was the sharp rebuke for the man who blundered. 'But,' said Laughton, 'whoever rings as well as he can, ought not to be blamed by anybody. If they could tell a mistake before it's made, I'd say they were lucky, but they know no more than the pope o' Room who'll make a fault before it's done, and what signifies calling out then, when the person knows it as well as they do. It only serves to set people fretting and making more mistakes, and too often I've seen the consequences when I've been ringing.'

(Continued on next page.)

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## THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

(Continued from previous page.)

Many another ringer before and since has thought the same thing as Laughton, and often enough he harped on this chord among his friends at the Bell, and especially one evening in November, 1733. There were present six others besides himself and Coster. Three of them were College Youths—John Monger, John Dearmor and Richard Spicer—all of them good ringers, but perhaps of not such importance at the society's meetings at the Barley Mow as they were in the belfry, and so not sorry to be in the more unconventional and unrestricted atmosphere of Angel Alley. The other three were boon companions of Laughton—Jeremiah Gilbert, Thomas Clark and John Chapman.

The suggestion was made — no doubt it arose in Laughton's fertile brain—that visits should be paid to the lesser belfries in the City and suburbs, with the result that an informal club was formed which lasted for sixteen months, met weekly, rang three peals, and many touches at 35 different towers.

Laughton afterwards wrote an account of it and in his epistle dedicatory to Mr. George Carbery he reminds that gentleman—'You are not insensible (being one of those worthy members yourself) that a company of us made an agreement to ring on all the peals of 3, 4, 5 and 6 bells within the City of London and bells of mortality, which we should find ringable, and to ring at a different place every time of meeting if we should think proper.' This has somewhat the air of an afterthought; probably the beginning was a good deal more informal and casual, and it was not until the success of the club was assured that the full programme was agreed upon. The members did not give themselves a name, but adopted one which was bestowed on them in good-natured derision — the Rambling Ringers' Club.

Laughton again would like his readers to believe that the club, having done what it set out to do, had fulfilled its purpose and naturally and voluntarily came to an end. That we may very well doubt. Much more likely it is that it succumbed to outside pressure and opposition.

Laughton's account was never printed, probably there never was much intention or chance of printing it. But it was written in book form and circulated in manuscript among those people who were interested in it and in what it had to say. Little seems to be known about its history. In 1799 it was the property of James Wakefield, of Romford, and it is now in the Guildhall library of the City of London.

The manuscript is in a small volume  $6\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size, and is written in a neat and minute hand with as many as thirty lines to a page. By trade Laughton was a watchmaker, and his eyes and fingers were trained to work on a small scale.

The account is valuable because it is the only diary written by an eighteenth century ringer that has come down to us; it is the only account we have of the ordinary week by week doings of the old London ringers. It gives a description of all the meetings of the Ramblers, the names of the men, where they went and what they rang. Nevertheless, it is a very disappointing document. It tells us much, but little that we really want to know. It is, I suppose, unfair to compare it with Hearne's diary (the education and circumstances of the two men were so unlike) and yet the comparison is in-

evitable and is the measure of our disappointment with Laughton. But, after all, he wrote to please himself and his friends, not us, and most of what we want to know, they already knew. Hearne deliberately wrote for posterity.

Laughton unnecessarily hampered himself by the medium he used. He chose to write the greater part of his book in verse. There have been many people who suffered from the delusion that they were poets, or, at any rate, versifiers, but none surely more pathetic than Laughton. He had not a single quality necessary for the task. His subject did not readily lend itself to poetic treatment, and in the few instances where he tried to be poetical he only succeeded in being banal. Of any rules of prosody, scansion, or rhyme he was totally ignorant.

Yet it is clear that he himself thought that his verse both rhymed and scanned, and, in fact, as he read it, it did rhyme and scan, at any rate near enough to satisfy his ear. Take his opening couplet which is as good as anything he wrote and far better than most.

As ringing is a branch of music

Let none despise those men that use it.

Directly it is seen, either in print or in script, the imperfect scansion of the first line and the faulty rhyme of the second are at once apparent. But if one reads it aloud and fairly quickly, the faults are not nearly so obvious. So it is with the 'poem' throughout; if it is read aloud and quickly, as no doubt Laughton expected it to be read, some sort of metre and some sort of rhyme can be found in it.

The burden of Laughton's song, the object for which he wrote was the praise of the Ramblers, what fine fellows they were, what skilful ringers and how superior to all others in every way. But two other themes run through it, neither of which is of any particular interest to us now. One is the praise of the food they had to eat, the other a querulous complaint of the disapproval of Annable and the leading College Youths.

In the eighteenth century eating and drinking were much more openly and consciously classed among the pleasures of life than they are now, and for Laughton they were almost the most important things. He boasts that he and his companions 'loved their bellies, as you may see,' and no small part of his verse is taken up with a detailed description of what they had for supper and how it was cooked and served. It is amusing and quaint at first, but very speedily becomes a bore.

The allusions to Annable are much more interesting because indirectly they throw a lot of light on the position he held in the Exercise at the time and the general condition of the London societies. Annable is never once mentioned by name. For all that is ostensibly said there might not have been such a person, but as we read we cannot doubt that he was Laughton's bugbear and that Laughton was afraid of him. He gives the impression of a rebellious schoolboy who has broken away from authority, who knows he has done wrong, and is shouting to keep his courage up.

For there is no doubt about it—the Rambling Ringers was a defiance of authority. The old rule of the Esquire Youths by which every member undertook not now nor hereafter to have anything to do with any other company was the rule of all the London societies, whether written or understood, and the man who went off and formed another band was not only guilty of disloyalty to his

fellows, but might easily do them mortal harm. It is not to be wondered at therefore that the official College Youths looked askance at the doings of the Rambling Ringers. At first, when Laughton and his party were meeting at five and six bell towers, where no one else particularly wanted to go, and where there was little ringing but what was paid for, they professed to treat them with contempt. 'Five fools rang at Batses [St. Bartholomew the Great] last week,' said one of the wits at the Barley-Mow, and naturally Laughton heard of it. He was loud in his protestations that he and his did not trouble their heads about 'snarling criticks,' or what people said, but it is quite evident that he did trouble himself very much, and he had not sufficient sense of humour to see that the criticism was a tribute to the success of the club. For successful it was, and from the first. Dearmor dropped out of the party after the first three meetings and Monger and Spicer soon after (it may be under pressure from headquarters), but their places were taken by others, and speedily the club grew in numbers. Only two of the College Youths besides Laughton himself were really active members—John Trenell and John Hayward—but there were some who belonged to other societies or to no society.

A prominent member was George Carbery, to whom, as we have seen, Laughton dedicated his book. He does not appear to have been one of Laughton's close friends as Tom Greenwood and Jerry Gilbert were, and we must conclude that socially he was rather in a better position than the rest. His name does not appear as a member of any of the leading contemporary societies, and the temptation is to suppose that he belonged to the London

Scholars, who, there is reason to think, still existed though nearing their end.

In all, thirty-nine different ringers took part in the meetings, besides three men who were 'odd' (i.e., honorary) members. Many of them came out of curiosity once only, including three prominent College Youths—John Ward, John Pearson and William Pickard—the last two of whom shortly afterwards held the office of master. For the most part the College Youths held aloof, not merely the gentlemen like William Skelton and William Gardiner, but also John Cundell, John Hardham, Matthew East, and the recruits who at the time were joining the society. The majority of the club belonged to none of the leading companies, and with them it was very popular. It had an unconventionality and freedom from restraint which strongly appealed to them. There were no officers, no rules, no ordered ritual, no election for membership. A man had but to turn up at one of the meetings and he was treated as a full member. After a few weeks the social side was developed, a supper became a regular part of the proceedings and towards the end, said Laughton, 'we've scorned to meet unless we had something good to eat.' Often one or another of the members provided the supper. Laughton calls it a 'hang-up,' which was, I presume, at the time a slang word for a treat. I have not come across the expression in any contemporary books or writings, nor does it seem to be noticed in any dictionary of slang words and colloquialisms, but it is interesting to learn from the Oxford English Dictionary that eighty years ago 'hang-out' was a slang term for a celebration, and as late as 1893 was an American expression for a feast.

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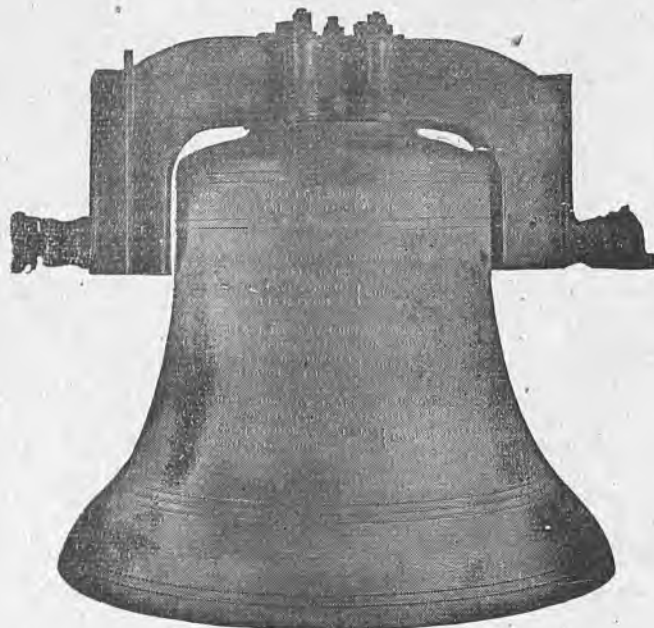
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The prayers of his ringing friends are asked for the Rev. K. C. Davis, who is to be ordained priest by the Lord Bishop of Bristol at Bristol Cathedral on Sunday next, September 22nd.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who reached his eighty-ninth birthday on Wednesday. Mr. Brundle is one of the grand old men of the Exercise. For many years he has been one of the very skilful band at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, who earned fame by their fine performances in Surprise Maximus and other twelve bell peals. Mr. Brundle was one of the band who rang the 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Debenham in 1892, and in 1933, when he was in his eighty-third year, he took part in a veterans' peal at St. Olave's, Hart Street, conducted by Challis F. Winney, in which the combined ages of the band totalled 612 years. He was the senior member of the party.

Excellent use is being made of the opportunities provided for handbell ringing at Aldershot, and a peal of Bob Minor has now been followed by a peal of Bob Major. The unfortunate thing is that this handbell ringing is being done by a 'floating population,' which floats a little too much, and John Freeman, who has been a tower of strength to the party, is now under orders for another place. But if any ringer is in the Aldershot district and would like to have some practice he should communicate with Mr. Will Viggers, 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

On September 17th, 1896, the Oxford Diocesan Association rang 11,328 changes of London Surprise Major at Drayton in Berkshire, of which parish the Rev. F. E. Robinson was Vicar. It was the longest length in the method, beating the 6,720 rung at Burton-on-Trent in 1888. The Drayton peal was made possible by the discovery by Mr. P. Dench that when bobs are made at In and Fifths in every course the method has a clear proof scale, and James W. Washbrook took advantage of this discovery to compose the possible extent on the plan. He rang the tenor and conducted. Robinson rang the seventh. The peal stood as the record length until 1903, when William Pye called 14,112 changes at Kings Norton. A still longer length by Henry Law James has been attempted, but not yet rung.

Matthew A. Wood was born on September 22nd, 1826. On the same date in 1894 the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol, by the St. Michael's Juniors, of Gloucester. The composition was by Mr. E. Bankes James and the conductor was Mr. John Austin. Henry Law James rang the ninth.

The Australian tourists, whose departure was referred to last week, rang the first peal of Bob Major at sea in the Eastern Mediterranean on September 23rd, 1934. The band was Mrs. Rupert Richardson 1-2, Rupert Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Rev. E. Bankes James 5-6, and John S. Goldsmith 7-8.

## IPSWICH LADY RINGER MARRIED.

### HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

Miss Phyllis E. Tillett, one of the brilliant young ringers at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich, was married at St. John's Church, Ipswich, on Saturday, September 7th, to Mr. Cecil Marriott. The bride is the daughter of Mr. John F. (Ben) Tillett, and granddaughter of Mr. Frederick J. Tillett, who are both well-known ringers at the famous Ipswich belfry.

Miss Tillett achieved extraordinary distinction quite early in her career. She took part in the peal of Bob Major at Crayford, Kent, some few years ago, when a band of young people put up a new juvenile record, as the youngest band to ring a peal.

But her claim to distinction in ringing rests on more than this. Before she was 17 years of age she had rung peals of Cambridge from Minor to Maximus, Superlative and Rochester Surprise Maximus, Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus. She was the first lady to serve the office of Master of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, a graceful compliment paid to her by a company of veterans in recognition of her skill and competence.

She has taken part in peals with her father and grandfather, but the family connection with church bell ringing goes back much further than this, for on the maternal side she can claim descent from John Naunton, of Ipswich, who was ringing peals 130 years ago.

Miss Tillett, her father and grandfather, and the bridegroom are all employed by the well-known Ipswich firm of agricultural engineers, Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.

Several members of St. Mary-le-Tower Society were present at the wedding ceremony, and rang three leads of Treble Ten on handbells as the newly-married couple came down the church. Miss Tillett was also the recipient of a present from the society, together with the best wishes of the members.

## PRESENTATION TO NORTH Lincs RINGER.

Mr. Ernest Brittain, who has been a valued member of the Burton-on-Stather company for ten years, has left the village for another part of Lincolnshire. He has been one of the mainstays of ringing in the area in which he lived, and to show their esteem the Burton ringers, joined by friends from Scunthorpe, have presented Mr. and Mrs. Brittain with a silver-plated cake basket.

Although there are no bells where Mr. Brittain is going, the ringers in North Lincolnshire will look forward to seeing him at ringing meetings when happy times return.



## LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

### DAMAGED BY ENEMY ACTION.

The 'ruthless and indiscriminate bombing of London has destroyed or damaged many churches, and it has been disclosed that among those who have suffered are



THE FINE TOWER OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR.

nine of the City churches, though, happily, none of them is seriously damaged.

ST. MAGNUS THE MARTYR, which used to stand out so prominently overlooking London Bridge until it was smothered by the vast bulk of Adelaide House, stands on a site where has been a church from very ancient times. In Stow's time it was a fair parish church which contained the tombs of many men of good worship, but whose monuments were for the most part utterly defaced. There were then 'vj belles commonly

used to be ronge v belonginge to the chyme and a clock bell and a saunce bell.' It was close to St. Magnus' that the Great Fire of 1666 started, and the church was one of those destroyed. The present building, which is among Wren's best, was finished in 1698 except for the tower. The old tower was left standing for a time and was pulled down and rebuilt about 1705. Richard Phelps supplied a ring of ten bells in 1714, the two trebles being the gift of two ringing societies, the Eastern Youths and the British Scholars. Seven of Phelps' bells are still in the tower. The tenor weighs 23 cwt.

The first peal on the bells was 5,088 Grandsire Caters on February 15th, 1725, by the College Youths. It was composed and conducted by Benjamin Annable, and was the first by William Laughton. The Eastern Scholars rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters in 1734. The College Youths rang the first peal of Royal on the bells in 1759, and the first of Stedman Caters nearly a century later. In 1778 the Cumberlands rang the first peal of Real Double Grandsire Caters accomplished anywhere. The roof and ceiling of the church have been damaged by enemy action.

ST. AUGUSTINE, WATLING STREET. At the time of Edward VI. there were 'v greate bells and a little bell hanging in the Steple.' Destroyed in the Fire of 1666, the church was rebuilt by Wren in 1680-87 at a cost of £3,145, the spire being added in 1695. It has now but one bell. The damage from the raid is not great.

ST. DUNSTON'S-IN-THE-EAST. In medieval times the church was spacious and well endowed. In Edward VI. time there were 'in the Steaple v greate bells and a saunce bell and also a clock bell.' The church was extensively repaired and almost rebuilt in 1633 at a cost of £2,400. It was almost destroyed in the Fire of 1666, but was repaired by Wren, who in 1698 rebuilt the steeple. This is one of his most celebrated works. The spire of stone stands on four arches and is very light and graceful in appearance. Its general design is similar to the spires of Newcastle Cathedral and Faversham Parish Church. The body of the church was rebuilt in 1817 at a cost of £36,000.

The bells, a ring of eight with a tenor of 24 cwt., were cast in 1702 by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, and since then several of them have been recast. They are a very fine peal, though their reputation does not stand quite so high as the others cast by Rudhall for London churches—St. Bride's, St. Martin's and All Saints', Fulham. At the time they were 'in the opinion of the ablest judges, the best peal of bells in England.' At St. Dunstan's on September 12th, 1718, the Union Scholars rang Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples under the name of Hick Triples, and this was, except for the London Scholars' peal of Caters at St. Bride's, the first known peal in London. Three months later the same society rang the first peal of Major ever accomplished, 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob. William Coster turned the tenor in single-handed, and Robert Baldwin was, probably, the composer and conductor. A board was erected to commemorate the peal, but when the church was rebuilt in 1817 it was taken down when the belfry was painted and whitewashed and not replaced. The Eastern Scholars rang the third known peal in 1734, one of Grandsire Triples, and very likely the false composition from the J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia. The same society rang the next peal, Bob Major, in the same year,

(Continued on next page.)

## ANCIENT BELLS OF THE CITY.

(Continued from previous page.)

and after that there is a blank until 1752, when the Cumberlands rang Bob Major. The College Youths rang Oxford Treble Bob in 1770, and no more peals are known to have been rung in the steeple during the eighteenth century. The bells were restored in 1817 and the Junior Cumberlands rang Grandsire Triples on them, followed by 5,264 Bob Major four years later. Meanwhile, the senior Cumberlands had rung Treble Bob in 1819.

The present damage to the church is reported to consist of broken windows.

**ST. CLEMENT'S, EASTCHEAP.** This was, says Stow, 'a small church void of monuments.' The Edwardian inventory has the following entry—'Bells. Item, in the stepull of the saide Church ij great bells and one sanctus bell.' The building was destroyed in the Fire of 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1683-87 at a cost of £4,362 3s. 4½d. There is at present only one bell. The damage is said to be 'minor.'

**ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.** We gave an account of this church in our issue of January 5th last. It has suffered considerable structural damage, but the bells and tower are unhurt.

**ST. MARY, WOOLNOTH.** Which stands on one of the most prominent sites in the Empire, was founded not later than the thirteenth century and was rebuilt in 1438. At the time of Edward VI. there were 'in the Steple fyve greatt bells and a littill bell wth a clock and a chyme and ropes to the same.' In 1526 it was ordered 'the Clerke to have for tollynge of the passinge bell for manne, womanne, or childe, if it be in the day 0. 4d. If if be in the night for the same 0. 8d.' On the death of Sir John Rudston, Lord Mayor in 1531, three shillings and fourpence was paid to the sexton 'for knellyng of the bell at his departyng to God.'

In 1666 the Great Fire destroyed everything that could be burnt, but only the north wall and part of the east wall were rebuilt. The rest was patched up as the parish was eager to get the church ready again for divine service; but in 1711 the building was found to be very unsafe, and, as it was feared it would fall, it was pulled down and rebuilt. Hawesmoor was the architect and the design has considerable merit. The steeple contains three bells by William Eldridge, the treble and tenor dated 1670, and the second 1672. The present damage is not great.

**ST. MARY-AT-HILL.** About 1490 the church was rebuilt and the three bells from the old tower were increased to five, one bell being given by Sir John Plomer and another by John Duckling. Duckling was a fishmonger and a prominent parishioner, who evidently took a great interest in the bells, for in 1492 the churchwardens paid him twenty-one pence for 17 lbs. of rope which he had procured for the bells. When he died in 1499 the parish received 6s. 8d. for half a day's knell on the great bell. In 1508 the parish employed a man named Smith to tune the bells, but he made a bad job of it, and Master Green was paid 1s. 8d. for counsel 'how to take action for the cutting of our three bells.' A plaint was entered and Smith was arrested, but, though 'the matter was pleaded to an issue,' the result is not stated. It seems that Smith was ordered to recast at least one of the bells and a scrivener was employed to draw up the indentures of an agreement between him and the parish under the direction of two arbitrators. An

inventory made in 1496-7 gives 'Item v grete belles and a sanctus bell of which v grete belles, the ijth great bell was clere of ye gifte of John Ducklyng flysshmonger as is graved vpon ye bell.'

The Edwardian inventory of 1553 gives 'Item a bell carlled a sacaring bell. Itm. in the steple v gret belles & one Santes bell.'

More information survives about these bells than of those in most of the pre-Fire City churches, but they were all destroyed when the building was burnt in 1666. Wren restored the church, but the old stone tower stood until 1780. Two bells were hung in it after the Fire, and they were replaced by a ring of three from Whitechapel in 1787. Not much damage has been done by the air raids.

**ST. SWITHIN, CANNON STREET.** In Edward VI. time the church possessed 'iiij foure bells and a saunce bell.' The church was destroyed in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1677-87 at a cost of £4,687 4s. 6d. It has now two bells, one of them by James Bartlet being dated 1680. The damage to the church consists of broken glass panels.

Another church of which the interior has been badly burned is stated to be St. Alphage, Walbrook, but there is no such church. The only church in Walbrook is St. Stephen's, a beautiful little building showing Wren at his best. In the steeple is a bell which survived the Great Fire of 1666. It is to be hoped that this church has not been seriously harmed.

## ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL GREEN.

### A FAMOUS EAST END BELL TOWER.

Last week we referred to one of London's churches famous in ringing history. Our readers may be interested to have some further particulars about it.

Bethnal Green was originally a pleasant hamlet in the parish of Stepney. It was made a separate parish in 1743, and St. Matthew's Church, designed by George Dance, was opened in 1746. We have no particulars of the first bells that were hung in the tower, but evidently there was a ring in 1752, for in that year Francis Wood was appointed steeplekeeper.

In 1785 there were eight bells. They may have been installed in that year, or rehung and made available for peal ringing, for on May 7th the Junior Cumberlands rang the first peal in the steeple, 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples. In the same year the senior society rang Oxford Treble Bob and the juniors two other peals, one of Plain Bob and one of Treble Bob.

In the next year the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,440 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. George Gross rang the tenor and conducted, his son rang the fifth, and William Shipway the third.

It was the first peal in the method achieved in London, but it probably was false, either in the composition or in the ringing, for when two years later John Reeves called 5,040 changes for the senior society, the peal was claimed as the first true one 'ever rang in London in that method.' One man, Anthony Cavalier, took part in both performances.

The belfry at Bethnal Green was for many years associated with the family of Wood. Francis was steeplekeeper from 1752 to 1784, his son held the post for 14 years, and his grandson Matthew for almost the whole of his ringing career. Consequently St. Matthew's took a prominent place in the history of London ringing, especially during the nineteenth century.

The Woods were of Huguenot extraction, their name being originally Dubois. Matthew lived for many years in a house in Church Row near the church and his name is still on the door. Hard by was the Whittington and Cat, for very long a favourite meeting place of ringers, and where several handbell peals were rung, both lapped and retained in hand. In the closing years of the eighteenth century it was the headquarters of one of the branches of the Society of London Youths.

Among the more important peals rung at St. Matthew's during the nineteenth century were 5,152 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and 8,448 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1848, and 5,600 changes of Superlative Surprise Major (the first peal of Surprise in London) in 1850. These were by the St. James' Society. On April 27th, 1868, the Ancient Society of College Youths rang 15,840 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 9 hours and 12 minutes, at the time the longest length by any one set of men. The composition was by Thomas Day, of Birmingham, and the bobs were called by Henry W. Haley, who rang the treble. The others in the band were William

(Continued on page 454.)

## DEATH OF MR. ALFRED BOWELL.

AN IPSWICH BELL FOUNDER.

As we briefly recorded last week, the death of Mr. Alfred Bowell, the well-known East Anglian bell founder and bell hanger, took place on Thursday, August 29th, and brought to a close a life of great activity, after only two days' serious illness. He had not been quite himself for some time, but there had been nothing to suggest that his end was so near. He caught a chill while attending to his small garden, and although medical attention was early obtained, pneumonia set in and he passed away peacefully during the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Bowell was 66 years of age and a native of Ipswich, and his death took place at his residence in Wykes Bishop Street, a street in which he had resided 63 years and in which he started his business. There in a small house he used the copper stove for a forge and the kitchen as a workshop. At the age of 13 he went with his father, the late Mr. Henry Bowell, to help him with his first bell work. Not being satisfied to let other people cast the bells for him, Mr. Bowell decided in 1896 to try casting them himself, in spite of the fact that he had never seen inside any foundry or worked for any other firm. After a few attempts he cast one of the existing bells at Old Newton Church, Suffolk, and in 1897 was entrusted with the casting of the five new bells to make a ring of six for Mistley Church, Essex, using an old bell removed from the old church as the sixth bell. This was to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. Since that time he had cast over 400 bells, which are to be found scattered over 18 counties, and one for Madras, India.

### MR. BOWELL'S PROUD BOAST.

It was Mr. Bowell's proud boast that he had personally poured the metal for every bell cast in his works and that he could personally undertake every branch of the trade, from inspecting towers, making drawings and designs, moulding, casting and tuning the bells, do all the woodwork and ironwork; in fact do everything there is to do in setting up a peal of bells except make the ropes. When finished he could also ring them to Doubles or Maximus in all the old standard methods. For some time he also cast many peals of handbells, but of late years he had let go this branch of the business.

In the course of his career he had rung in 762 churches in 24 counties, but he had no great ambitions as a peal ringer, and his total did not exceed 30 spread over 50 years. His first peal was 7-8 to a peal of Bob Major in hand (conducted by James Motts), at the age of 15 years, and shortly afterwards he scored his first tower bell peal, by ringing the treble to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Ipswich. He was for some years a member of the St. Mary-le-Tower company and was one of the band who rang three peals on twelve bells in three methods in one week—two being at Ipswich and one at Cambridge.

Business later kept him from further peals, but he was always, when able, to be found at St. Clement's tower ringing Minor and helping anyone along. With this tower he had been connected for over 50 years. He was one of the few change ringers who have ever rung on the well-known ring of five at East Bergholt Church, Suffolk, which are hung in a wooden cage in the churchyard and are rung by catching the end of the headstocks, there being no wheels or ropes. As the tenor weighs 25 cwt., it is no easy task, and now only the local men are allowed to manipulate them. Mr. Bowell had also rung in the Imperial Institute and at Quex Park, Kent, and was a member of many associations, including the College Youths.

### CLOCKS WERE A HOBBY.

Among some of the best known works he carried out was the rehanging in new oak frame, with all new fittings, of the heavy eight at Stowmarket, Suffolk (tenor 24 cwt.). Included in this job also was the restoration of the heavy spire of the tower and the restoration of an old-fashioned carillon machine in the tower. This was carried out with only local help in 1894 when Mr. Bowell was only 20 years of age, and nothing great has been done there since, although the bells were always rung twice every Sunday for many years. In 1914 he carried out the work of rehanging the heavy ring of eight at Warminster, Wilts, in steel frames. He was never a great lover of ball bearings, but was always willing to use them if required, but he rehanging the tenor of 31 cwt. at Ipswich many years ago with steel headstock and plain bearings, and ringers know well the many peals that have been rung on these bells in recent years. Bramtree, Essex, were rehanging in steel frames and ball bearings.

In 1922 Mr. Bowell carried out the work of recasting the existing six, adding two more bells, and rehanging in steel frames the peal at All Saints' Church, Maldon, Essex. This tower is the only triangular one in England and the job called for much scheming, as the tower was already full with the old six. The present eight are, however, on one level with a perfect circle in the church below.

Mr. Bowell's greatest hobby was his work, and he took no interest in sports, but a lesser hobby was church clocks. He did all the alterations, reconstructions and additions wherever he did the bell work, and some few years ago, when he rehanging the eight bells at Halesworth and the old-fashioned clock, which had the ding-dong chimes, was also in need of repair, he entirely reconstructed the whole

(Continued in next column.)

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I have a few lines in which to reply to your two correspondents?

The Rev. E. S. Powell says that the retardation of speed of a bell in the second half of the swing is increased by friction, and that it is greater than the acceleration in the first half. This is true. Then he states, without any reasoning whatever, 'So much so that the combined times of downward and upward swing will be more than in the ideal frictionless bearing.' This statement I say is incorrect.

Perhaps I can help Mr. Smith. He is right in supposing that the extra energy of the bell is taken up in overcoming friction. But the bell has this extra energy only if its speed is greater, and if its speed is greater its time of swing must be less.

R. O. STREET.

The Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

### EFFECT OF FRICTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In a letter to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Street stated that although ball bearings reduce friction, they tend to make a bell go slower. I don't pretend to be an expert in physics, but on looking through a modern text book on mechanics I saw the laws of friction written down. The first one is: 'Friction always tends to oppose motion, and is sufficiently great to prevent motion altogether, up to a certain limit.' Thus the motion of a plain bearing bell will be opposed more than that of a ball bearing bell, and if the motion is opposed more the bell will go slower. The extra pull that may have to be given to the bell on plain bearings will be used in overcoming the force of friction, not in increasing the speed of the revolution of the bell.

A simple illustration may convince Mr. Street of his error. The frictional force between the runners of a toboggan and a road surface is great enough to prevent motion altogether, but the friction between the runners and a snowy surface is very small, and the toboggan is capable of great speed.

Surely all this is commonsense.

CHRISTOPHER T. BROWN.

## THE BELLS OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

THE OPENING RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice in 'The Ringing World' of September 6th it is stated that the Junior Society of College Youths opened the bells at Bishop's Stortford on September 2nd, 1820. May I be allowed to correct that, for an extract from the history of those bells I have in my possession says that in the year 1820 John Briant, of Hertford, was employed to cast two new and additional treble bells and rehang the whole ring.

The local ringers were provided with a dinner and beer at the cost of £3 1s on the 19th day of July, 1820, and on the following day, when the bells were opened by them, the Constable, John Sayer, received 5s. for keeping order in the churchyard; ten new bell ropes, weighing 55½ lb., cost, with 9s. for sallies, £4 12s. 3d.; and John Briant appears to have received at various dates, terminating in 1820, £89 for his share of the work.

On September 2nd, 1820, the Junior Society of College Youths of London rang a complete peal of Grandsire Caters of 5,039 changes upon the bells, which was conducted by Henry Symondson, sen. This peal is recorded by a tablet in the belfry, which is in good preservation.

HENRY J. TUCKER.

2, Gordon Villas, The Broadway, Summersdale, Chichester.

## THE LATE MR. ALFRED BOWELL.

(Continued from previous column.)

clock and added the Westminster quarter chimes. For the last 21 years he had had charge of a large carillon machine of old design near Ipswich, which plays on 16 hemispherical bells (tenor 10 cwt.), besides the carillon at St. Clement's Church, Ipswich.

The funeral, which took place on Monday, September 2nd, in Old Cemetery, Ipswich, was attended by many old friends and neighbours, among them members of his staff who had been with him many years and some of whom are well known throughout the country, Messrs. H. G. Welham (40 years' service), R. Smith (30 years), V. E. Waters (22 years), A. V. Middleditch (12 years), etc. One employee was unable to be present, as he was too far from home, but he had been with Mr. Bowell for 36 years. The chief mourners were the widow and son (Mr. H. Bowell) and other relatives, Mr. William J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, a life-long friend, who also represented the Essex Association, and Miss E. B. Reeve, representing the Suffolk Guild. Owing to difficulty of giving notice in time, few ringers were able to be present. Mr. George Smith represented St. Clement's Church, and Mr. Fred Keeble the firm of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd., for whom deceased did work for three years in the Great War and also in the present.



## TWO FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

### A NEWSPAPER CONTROVERSY OF THE YEAR 1813.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett sends us the following extracts from a Norwich paper printed in 1813, which will be read with interest as showing the relations between two famous ringers. Four years after these advertisements appeared, Chestnut called the first peal of Double Norwich Maximus, and Thurston rang the tenor (with assistance).

Norwich, April 23rd, 1813.

Mr. Samuel Thurston having challenged any man in England to ring with him for one hundred pounds, the company of ringers belonging to St. Peter's of Mancroft, Norwich, in order to prevent any person from being imposed upon by fallacious pretences, feel it incumbent on them to accept the challenge, although, at first, they were inclined to pass it over with the silent contempt it merits. They therefore announce to Mr. Thurston that they have appointed one of their company to meet him at any twelve-bell steeple, not less than one hundred miles from Norwich, and, in order to secure the utmost impartiality, they propose that eleven men shall be selected from London to ring with each party, and to decide on their respective merits. All expenses to be paid by the losing party, in addition to the wager.

May 6th, 1813.

In which it appears Mr. Chestnut has a very happy knack (called in some places throwing the hatchet) in declaring that S. Thurston would not meet him upon fair and equitable terms; on the contrary, he offered to ring with Mr. Chestnut, for correctness with his (the St. Peter's company) for one hundred pounds, which offer Mr. Chestnut refused, observing there were not six in the company could ring any difficult peal (therefore he has not much to boast of respecting the character of the St. Peter's ringers, which for a considerable time has gone by). S. Thurston will leave the public to judge whether it would not have been a stupid thing in him to have been at any expense in getting ringers from London to supply their deficiency.

S. Thurston, on moderate terms, will wait on ladies and gentlemen with the most musical peal of handbells ever heard in Norwich any evening after seven and on Saturdays from three in the afternoon until eight. Please to direct for him at Mr. King's, the sign of No Where, St. Margaret's.

Norwich, May 13th, 1813.

Mr. Chestnut's name having been introduced to the public in last week's paper by an ambiguous, vulgar and ridiculous advertisement, apparently sanctioned by S. Thurston, but which, from its being totally destitute of sense or meaning, does not admit of being regularly answered, he is under the necessity of referring to the statement of the Saint Peter's ringers, inserted in the papers of the 1st of May instant, and re-asserting the truth of the position therein advanced, that S. Thurston did, as he still does, refuse to meet a person appointed by their company, 'on fair and equitable terms.' The former part of S. Thurston's last advertisement, which it is presumed originated 'No where,' is perfectly beneath Mr. Chestnut's notice, but, in order to expose gross and absurd misrepresentation, it may be necessary for him thus publicly to declare that the whole of that elegant composition is positively and scandalously false. Mr. Chestnut now openly and candidly announces to Mr. Thurston that he is ready and willing to accept his challenge if he (Thurston) will either accede to, or propose, a rational and proper method of obtaining an equitable decision; for this purpose he recommends to Thurston to change his present advocate for one who has sound pretension to understanding and respectability, by whose assistance an arrangement may be formed for bringing the dispute between them to a fair issue; and Mr. Thurston can run no risk of exhibiting to the public a greater instance of 'stupidity' than he has already done by misunderstanding the first address of the St. Peter's ringers to him to convey any thing like an intention of 'getting' ringers from London.

Mr. Chestnut, in justice to himself and the company of St. Peter's ringers, has been induced thus far to trespass upon the public, but he declares that he will by no means further degrade himself by taking any notice whatever of any other illiterate and vulgar composition which may hereafter issue from 'No where,' nor will he hold any further communication with Mr. Thurston through the means of so contemptible an agency.

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## AIR INVASION WARNING.

### PUDSEY'S SCHEME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read of the arrangements made for ringing in the event of air invasion alarm at Pudsey. From the ringers' point of view, the scheme may be satisfactory, provided sufficient ringers can be collected, and they can turn it into a sort of practice. As I understand it the procedure will be:—

First, the verger will be notified by the Home Guard that an air invasion has taken place, or is imminent, and he will accordingly proceed to the church and await orders to ring.

Second, if the invasion has taken place or is imminent, he will in due course receive orders to ring the treble bell.

Third, the local commander of the Home Guard (who presumably will have been responsible, first, for the issue of the instructions to the verger to stand by and, second, issued the orders to the verger to ring the treble bell), on hearing the bell which he has instructed the verger to ring, issue instructions for a motor-car to collect the ringers from their homes or their work.

Fourth, the ringers having first been found (if they are at home or at work—what will happen if they are not at either; that is if they happen to be, say, at the pictures or the Rose and Crown we are not told), will then be conveyed to the church.

Fifth, having arrived at the church, they will proceed to ring to warn the Home Guard (whose commander has already issued instructions to the verger, who has already rung one bell to warn the commander that he must send for the ringers), that an air invasion has taken place or is imminent.

Sixth, the ringers having rung for a stated period (apparently unstated at present, as far as one can gather from your report), will cease ringing.

Seventh, the car (presumably the car which brought them to the church) will be available to take the ringers home again, or to their work.

This statement seems to me quite fairly to set out the procedure which has been agreed upon for Pudsey, and which your report says, appears to be the best arrangement made so far. I wonder!

All this appears to me to be a sheer waste of effort—unless, as one might hope, it is to give the ringers the opportunity of some camouflaged practice. If that is the case—well, from the ringers' point of view, it is undoubtedly the best arrangement that I have heard of yet, for among other things they will have the advantage of being taken to the church by car, and taken home by the same means when they have done their ringing. But one cannot imagine that this is the object behind all these arrangements, and if the purpose is to call out the Home Guard, it seems to me not only to be a waste of effort, but a waste of valuable time as well. To begin with, while the ringers are being collected the Commander of the Home Guard might equally well collect his men; and what is the purpose, anyway, of having a bell rung to warn the Commander of something of which he is already aware? The Germans who land on Ilkley Moor will be in Leeds or Bradford—or Halifax—long before all this procedure can be carried out in Pudsey.

It is all the inevitable delay in and the ineffectiveness of the use of the bells as an alarm which makes us ringers so dissatisfied with the complete suppression of ringing in order to provide a feeble and uncertain warning. All of us hope that your endeavours to get the representative bodies of ringers to move will, before long, have its effect.

'RINGER AND HOME GUARD.'

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

### CELEBRATED WITH HANDBELLS AT BEACONSFIELD.

On Saturday, August 31st, the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, Rector of Beaconsfield, and Mrs. Routh celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding day. As the ban on ringing prevented an attempt for a peal to mark the occasion, a handbell practice was held in the belfry at Beaconsfield. During the course of the practice, a touch, consisting of 336 changes of Bob Major, was rung by H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, W. Lee 7-8.

Several methods were rung, and an attempt was made for 504 of Grandsire Triples, in which the Rector and his two sons took part.

A handbell practice was also held on the previous Wednesday, when a 720 of Bob Minor was attempted to celebrate the 47th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher's wedding day.

ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL GREEN—Continued from page 452. Cooter, James Pettit, Henry Booth, Richard Hopkins, Edwin Horrex, Matthew A. Wood and John Murray Hayes.

The record was not beaten until 1883, when the Ashton-under-Lyne men rang 16,608, although in 1872 a band at Earlsheaton claimed to have rung the latter length in 9 hours and 48 minutes. The men did stand the time, but when the bells should have come home they were not in a position to do so, and were jumped into rounds.

In 1859 St. Matthew's Church was destroyed by fire and the bells and peal boards perished. It was restored and given the appearance which was familiar to many of our readers, and a new ring of eight with a tenor of 14 cwt. was supplied by the Whitechapel foundry. To-day the tower still stands and the bells are intact, but whether it will be safe to ring them again after their recent vicissitude cannot at present be said.



## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6. NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.** — North Bucks Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells from 5 p.m. Short business meeting, including former secretary's presentation, at 6 p.m. A good attendance specially requested.—R. H. Howson, Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Handbells will be available. Service in the Abbey at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 p.m. Names, please, by Sept. 18th. The Vicar, Canon Solloway, D.D., will conduct those present round the Abbey. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting has been arranged to take place at Nuneaton on Saturday, September 21st. A room in the Parish Hall, Vicarage Street, will be available from 4 to 7 p.m. Tea and light refreshments provided (please bring own sugar). It is hoped that there will be a good muster.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 21st. Service in the Church at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m., charge 1s. 9d. — Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.** — Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.** — North-East Division. — Hello, everybody! This is the district secretary calling you to a district meeting to be held at Ardleigh on Saturday, Sept. 28th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by a light tea, kindly provided by the Vicar. Ringing will have to be done on handbells, but, never mind, come along and try your skill. Remember this is as much for the single-handed ringing folk as those who have acquired the skill to ring two. Let it be a social gathering as well. It is sincerely hoped that all who can will come and then we can hear your views about such gatherings in the future. There is a good rail and bus service. Send your names to me by Wednesday, Sept. 25th.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome. Tea can be arranged if required.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Saturday, September 28th. Service at 4 p.m., business immediately after. As the business is important will as many as possible turn up.—W. H. Shuker, T. Wilson, Hon. Secretaries.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Shinver (D.V.) on Saturday, Sept. 28th, 3 p.m. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting for election of officers, etc., when outstanding subscriptions should also be paid. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. and after meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.** — The next meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells, etc., in the Church Institute from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for all those who notify Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, Leeds, not later than Wednesday, Sept. 25th. Business meeting to follow tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Branch.—A business meeting to discuss the future proceedings will be held in the Schoolroom at Hinton-on-the-Green at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28th. It is hoped that all towers in the branch will be represented.—J. E. Newman, The Cross, Hinton-on-the-Green.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Business meeting at 6 p.m. prompt, to be followed by handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

## APARTMENTS.

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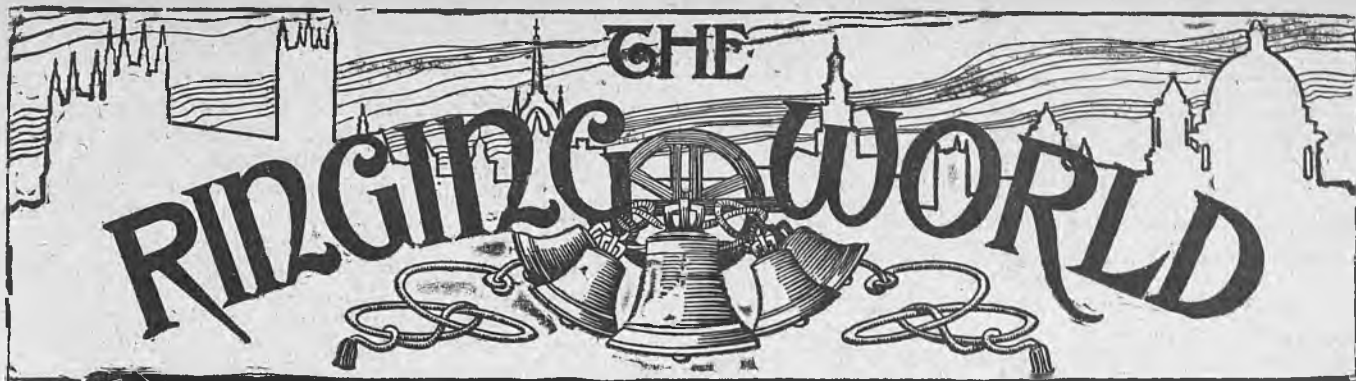
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No. 1,540. Vol. XXXV.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1940.

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## AN 'ADOPTION' SCHEME.

In furtherance of the proposal under which towers are invited to buy a copy of 'The Ringing World' each week to send to a member serving in His Majesty's Forces, a correspondent suggests that an 'adoption' scheme should be inaugurated, which would aim at sending a copy of the paper each week to ringers who would not otherwise obtain one. We shall obviously be only too glad to do all in our power to promote this proposal, which has the twofold purpose of keeping serving ringers in touch with what is going on in the Exercise and of giving valuable support to 'The Ringing World.' The plan, which has already been put forward, inviting towers to send copies to members of their own band who may be away with either of the Services, need in no way be interfered with under the proposal of our correspondent. Ringers serving their country will appreciate the thoughtfulness of their colleagues if they receive the paper direct from them—a weekly reminder that they are still in the thoughts of those who are left at home. There are, however, many ringers whose towers may be unable to extend this gift to their members, and in such cases the adoption scheme would fill the gaps, as well as providing for all those who desire it an opportunity of showing interest in serving ringers, just one of those gestures which mean so much and cost so little.

Our correspondent has suggested that under the adoption scheme we should select the recipients of the paper. We would gladly do that but for certain difficulties. We do not, for instance, know the names of all the ringers who are serving, or of those who are unable to purchase the paper on their own behalf, and therefore it would be impossible, we think, for us to make a satisfactory selection from among those who should participate in the scheme. We hope to hear the views of individual readers or towers who would like to join in. For our part we suggest that towers should announce that they are prepared to adopt one, two or more ringers, but that they should themselves choose the men to whom they would like the paper sent. There are, of course, many ringers with the Forces whose interest in ringing continues strong as ever, and who are still obtaining their copy of 'The Ringing World' regularly. Those whom it is most desired to bring into the scheme are those whose interest in the art is undiminished but whose circumstances are such that they are unable to continue to take the paper. Those are best known to the ringers of their own district, and they can best be selected by them. If ringers individually or collectively will join in this scheme we will do our utmost to further it, and

(Continued on page 458.)

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tute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peter-  
borough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's,  
Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

we would like to publish the names of the ringers and towers who adopt service members, but without giving the name or names of those to whom the paper is to be sent. The scheme, of course, refers more particularly to those who would have the paper sent through the post direct from this office, but we will willingly include in this roll the names of those who prefer to adopt a ringer and forward the paper themselves.

This scheme carries a step further the proposal made to members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, at the recent Wokingham meeting, and, quite apart from any help this may give to 'The Ringing World,' it is a proposal which may have a valuable influence in restoring the art when once more the ringing of church bells is possible. In this period of restriction, the great danger is loss of interest, especially among those most out of touch with the belfries, as serving ringers are. Anything that can be done to keep this interest alive in these difficult times should be done by all who have the survival of ringing at heart. To these service men there is at present little or nothing that can be offered, and their contact with ringing can now only be maintained through 'The Ringing World.' Some are unable to keep up that connection for reasons over which they have no control, and this 'adoption' scheme, therefore, is something that may help to re-establish the Exercise when the war is over.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 18, 1940, in Two Hours,

At 9, PEMBROKE ROAD,

### A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

MISS L. K. BOWLING ... .. 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON... .. 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON ... .. 3-4	JOHN AMBLER ... .. 7-8

Composed by GEO. WILLIAMS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

Attested by Miss N. M. Askham.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 18, 1940, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**  
Being seven extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWARD COWPERTHWAITHE 1-2	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. 3-4
CYRIL CROSTHWAITHE... ..	5-6

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

\* First peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand' by all the band.

## A FALSE 'PEAL' OF TREBLE BOB,

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I regret to have to inform you that the composition of the peal of 5,056 Kent Treble Bob Major, which I conducted at Wath on Saturday, April 6th, 1940, is false. I, therefore, express my deep regret to all those who took part in it, and especially two of the band, for whom it was the first and only peal of Major.

DANIEL SMITH.

## PEALS AT COALBROOKDALE.\*

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am trying to get a complete list of peals rung on Coalbrookdale bells. They were opened July, 1854. The first peal I have any record of was rung on October 17th, 1859, Treble Bob Triples, 5,040 changes, all local ringers. I remember someone telling me that the late Samuel Spittle, of Dudley, took part in a peal at Coalbrookdale about that period, but I have never been able to trace anything. The next one I have a record of was rung on January 25th, 1890, Bob Triples, all locals. I am wondering if any of your readers can give me information as to any peals rung between 1854 and 1890. If so I shall be very grateful. I think I have got the list complete from January 25th, 1890, and I think I am not far out from October 17th, 1859.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS.  
Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.



**HANDBELL CLASSES FOR SCHOOLS.****AN OXFORD GUILD SUGGESTION.****Education Committee to be Approached.**

The Central Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held a quarterly meeting on September 14th at Stone. Fourteen members were present, and also a well-known representative of the N.U.T.S., who was a very welcome visitor, fresh from a solitary tower-snatching (?) raid in the Cotswolds.

The ringers were welcomed by the Rev. W. H. Wiggett, Vicar of Stone, who gave a very interesting and helpful address during the service, based on 'Four notes from the Book of Psalms.' His text was given out in a somewhat original manner, with the ringing of a lead of Bob Minimus on 1, 4, 6, 8 of a peal of handbells.

The hymns were accompanied by a viola player, which carried the thoughts of those present back to the good old days when every village church had its string band, before heavy-handed organists were suffered to creep in and drown the efforts of honest singers.

Tea was a picnic affair in the A.R.P. Wardens' room. Every man added to the common feast whatever seemed good in his own eyes in the way of food and drink, and the mixed talk of big bells, prodigious potatoes and bumper harvest prospects was punctuated by the telephone bell and raid warnings of many colours.

A short business meeting followed, presided over by the Rev. George Dixon, chairman of the branch, and supported by Mr. Frank Gibbard, secretary, and the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild.

Plans were discussed for the winter activities of the branch, and the next meeting was provisionally arranged to take place at Dinton, on the very appropriate date of December 14th—the King's birthday.

It was agreed to carry on as far as possible with weekly practices on tied bells.

The Chairman also made the interesting suggestion that now would be a suitable time to arrange for the instruction of school children in the art of handbell ringing, so that when the bells could once more be rung open, there would be a supply of recruits available who would have some knowledge of change ringing. He offered to arrange for such a class to be opened in his own school at Waddesdon.

Subject to the approval of the Education Committee, the class would take place during school hours.

The Deputy Master, in accepting an invitation to act as instructor to such a class when formed, remarked that a course of instruction in both handbell and tower-bell ringing was already in progress within the branch territory, at the Technical School for the Blind, which had been evacuated to Dorton. The boys here were taking very well to campanology. Many of them were learning to be piano tuners, and their keen ears and good sense of rhythm made them very apt pupils in handbell ringing.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Vicar of Stone for the kindly way in which he had welcomed the ringers to his parish, and to the chairman of the branch for conducting the service and the business meeting.

This branch holds four meetings a year, and since its formation twelve years ago, the Rev. George Dixon has missed only two meetings—surely a model example for all branch chairmen to follow!

The business was followed by handbell ringing, when two members of the branch had their first, very successful, attempt at ringing a pair in Grandsire. During the afternoon and evening 120's of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung on the tower bells with clappers lashed, a style of ringing which makes conducting a sinecure. Although the comment that Stone bells are notoriously wanting in resonance was too obvious to be avoided, the suggestion that the method rung on them ought to be 'stoney' was felt to be a quite unwarranted labouring of a hoary pun.

**DEATH OF MR. A. H. GOAD.****A WELL-KNOWN EXETER RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur H. Goad, of St. Thomas', Exeter, who passed away in the Devon and Exeter Hospital on August 5th after a short illness. For many years he was one of the mainstays of St. Thomas' band and gave his services unsparingly to promote the art of change ringing.

He was not a great peal ringer, having rung about 20 peals, chiefly on the tenor. He was considered one of the best tenor ringers in the Devon Guild. He had been a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years.

At the funeral service in the Parish Church on August 8th, several members of the St. Thomas' band were present with ringers from other towers, and among the many wreaths was one from the St. Thomas' band. He leaves a widow and daughter in bereavement.

**BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I think bells hung on ball bearings do tend to go slower than bells hung on plain bearings. The reason, in my opinion, is the friction in ball bearings is less than in plain, and therefore the bells are rung higher, i.e., at the speed which suits the ringers best.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

Olivers, Haslemere.

**PRACTICE VERSUS THEORY.**

Dear Sir,—I do not doubt that Mr. R. O. Street is right, but I am still in a difficulty. If the extra energy is taken up in overcoming friction, how can it be available for increasing the speed of the bell throughout its full journey? In actual practice much of the energy exerted by the ringer is expended in counteracting energy he has already exerted, i.e., in holding the bell or preventing it from running up too high or cutting it down to get a quicker blow. Do theoretic considerations actually affect the speed of ringing?

F. H. SMITH.

**'COMMONSENSE IS NOT ALWAYS CORRECT.'**

Dear Sir,—Mr. Brown uses a toboggan to convince me that I am wrong; I am endeavouring to return the compliment.

I assumed that a bell was given just sufficient speed to bring it to rest at the vertical, so we will suppose that a toboggan is given just enough speed to make it do a run of, say, 100 feet before it comes to rest; and to make the problem as easy as possible we will suppose the surface is level and uniform.

For a fairly smooth surface a small initial speed will be enough. Suppose we find by experiment that 5 feet per second is right. If friction is constant the speed will decrease uniformly and its average value will be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet per second and the time of the run will be 100 divided by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , or 40 seconds.

If, however, the surface is much rougher, as in the case of a badly-going bell, a larger initial speed will be required. As an illustration, suppose it has to be 20 feet per second. The average speed will now be 10 feet per second and the time of the 100 foot run 10 seconds, or a quarter of what it was when the surface was much smoother.

Mr. Brown can take any figures he likes and use a slope instead of a horizontal, but provided the toboggan just comes to rest at the end of the run, the result will always be that the rougher the surface the shorter the time.

Thus what is commonsense is not always correct.

R. O. STREET.

**HOW RINGERS AFFECT THE SPEED.**

Dear Sir,—As I am now serving in H.M. Forces, and receiving 'The Ringing World' generally a week late, through postal disorganisation, I have been unable to read as punctually as usual the very interesting letters lately. I am particularly interested in the question of the speed of ringing peals, as I am one of the 'culprits' who thoroughly enjoy putting the footnote, 'Quickest peal on the bells.' At the same time, I also enjoy ringing a slow peal. There are two reasons for slow peals—one, the tenor and 7th men keep a steady beat with a clear and distinct blow over each other when dodging behind and on the front. The little bells respect this beat, with the result that an excellent peal of, say, 3.20 to 3.25 is rung. This is good. The other reason is because either the 7th and tenor men (or both) are notoriously 'slow' ringers. There are 'gaps' in the dodging, as they always take their own time and can't be hurried. The result is a ragged peal, with no beat or compass about it at all, and the time about ten minutes longer than is necessary. To my way of thinking, the really good tenor ringer is the one who, even though the little bells are ringing too fast and won't slow down and can still strike his bell with no semblance of a gap at all. Admittedly it is the tenor man's job to set the pace, but if the little bells won't hold up, he should be able to go with them.

If the tenor man is helped by a good 7th man, who 'cuts in' at backstroke, there is no reason at all why an excellent peal—the quickest on the bells—should not be rung. I have 'knocked off' as much as 15 minutes from the previous quickest time, and there were no complaints about the striking. The only thing is that to ring a quick peal the back bell men must work. And that seems to me to be the real reason why so many 'slow' peals are rung.

Anybody with a small experience of heavy bell ringing can ring a tenor to a peal, if he is allowed to take his own time, and this might be a matter of 15 to 20 minutes longer than was necessary. But I don't think there is very much credit in that if the small bells have to 'ring round' the back bells.

As regards ball bearings and plain bearings, give me the latter every time. There is far less tendency to 'over pull' on a plain bearing bell and much less to worry about.

With all good wishes for the future and hopes of a speedy 'back to belfry' movement.

Sig. A. P. CANNON.

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## THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

### SOME OF THEIR PEREGRINATIONS.

The procedure of the Rambling Ringers' Club was quite simple. They agreed to meet at a certain time at a tavern. After a drink or two they went to the belfry, rang a 720, or one or two six-scores of Doubles, and then returned to the tavern to finish the evening, sometimes with a supper, but, if not, with smoking, drinking, telling tales, handbell ringing and occasionally singing and dancing. As for getting permission to practise at the different churches, there seems to have been no more formality about that than merely asking for the keys. Once only they had trouble. It was at St. Peter-le-Poor in Broad Street, a church that has since disappeared, but then had a ring of five bells. The sexton was a very stout lady with a short temper and a sharp tongue. It is possible that Laughton may have interrupted her in some domestic duties. Anyhow, he met with a curt refusal, but he got his way by calling on the churchwarden and procuring from him the necessary leave; and, to punish the lady, he wrote a most unflattering description of her in his 'poem,' which I regret I cannot reproduce.

It is hardly requisite to go through the doings of the Ramblers in any detail. The first meeting was at St. Benet Fink on Thursday, November 29th, and then for ten weeks they did not miss a meeting on a Thursday. They did not meet on February 7th, but after that they continued weekly throughout the year. The interval was probably due to the fact that in that week an official attempt was made by the College Youths to ring a peal of Bob Major on the heavy eight bells at St. Mary-le-Bow. It was rung on Monday, February 11th, in four hours and three minutes. It was the heaviest peal of Major yet rung, and in that respect has never been beaten, although in the same steeple a peal of London Surprise has been rung singlehanded, with Mr. H. R. Newton at the tenor, and after that Mr. Charles Kippin turned the same bell in to a peal of Kent Treble Bob, the composition of which unfortunately turned out to be false. These two later peals were rung with Phelps's bell, which was about the same weight as the earlier one by Hodson.

Eleven men were needed for the 1734 peal. Spicer Dearmor and Trenell rang the tenor, Cundell and Mobbs the seventh, Annable conducted from the sixth, and the other men were Richardson, Pickard, Laughton, Watson and Ward. It was the best band the society could produce, and contained men belonging to every faction that then divided it. Laughton never again stood in a peal with Benjamin Annable.

Meanwhile he was pretty well satisfied with the Rambling Ringers. One Sunday he, Tom Clark, William Egles, William Nash, George Carbery and Trenell walked out to Newington, and at St. Mary's Church, which has since been pulled down, rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. It was not rung for the service. Afterwards they went to the Peacock and drank beer. They were joined by the sexton and his man, whom Laughton, in poetic vein, called Simple and Æsop. Simple, being an elderly man, was moved to expatiate on the doings of his youth, telling tall tales of the long peals he had rung, and the gentlemen ringers he used to consort with, until his man could stand it no longer, but roundly gave him the lie. Then the two old men started

to quarrel, and a desperate fight was toward had not some message come for Æsop, and so peace was restored.

As the summer drew on and the days lengthened, the Ramblers extended their journeys. They marched across the fields to Hackney, but, though the place itself delighted them, they found the bells hard to ring, since the ropes slipped the wheels.

They went westwards to the Abbey and rang 720 Plain Bob and 360 College Single there. So far they had confined themselves to five and six-bell towers, but now they aimed at bigger things. On Sunday, March 7th, eight of them walked over to Camberwell with the intention of ringing a peal of Bob Major, but they found the treble out of its bearings, and so came back by Lambeth, and at St. Mary's Church they rang 1,008 changes. Laughton says they rang the touch for their pleasure, which no doubt was perfectly true, but he would not have mentioned so obvious a thing had he not been under the impression that 'pleasure' rhymes with 'Bob Major.'

On Easter Tuesday the same band resolved to make another attempt. They met at the George in Houndsditch and walked to the Artichoke in Camberwell. Then they went to the steeple and proceeded to rehang the treble, and to do it they had to take the wheel off and, afterwards refix it. Then all the ropes were too low, and that had to be put right and the bearings oiled. That done, they went down to the belfry and tried to pull the bells up, but Trenell found something was wrong with the tenor, and when they came to look the gudgeon was loose in the stock. Nothing could be done, and so they went to St. Mary's, Bermondsey, where they rang 5,040 changes of Bob Major.

The band was Jeremiah Gilbert, Thomas Greenwood, Thomas Clark, Joseph Bennett, James Benson, William Laughton, John Hayward and John Trenell. No conductor is mentioned, but probably Laughton called the bobs.

Before the peal they called in at the Fox and Goose, and afterwards they went back to Houndsditch, where they had supper, and twenty-six of them sat down to it.

Rather less than a month later they rang another peal of Bob Major at St. Andrew's, Holborn. It was the second peal on the bells, and the first in which the 28 cwt. tenor had been rung singlehanded. They were not the same bells that are now in the steeple, but the remains of a ring of eight cast at Whitechapel in 1587 by Robert Mot and probably the first, and certainly one of the first, octaves erected in England. The band was the same as at Bermondsey except that Thomas Smallshaw rang the treble instead of Gilbert, and George Carbery replaced Joseph Bennett.

On May 16th the Ramblers visited St. Botolph's, Aldersgate, and Laughton is loud in his complaints of the bells and belfry. One thing he says strikes us nowadays rather curiously. There we no straps to put one's foot in—a very great inconvenience. Foot straps are very seldom used to-day even in ringing very heavy tenors; that they were used then for light rings of five shows how much harder the bells sometimes went and how much more pulling they required.

To Rotherhithe the Ramblers went by boat, rang a 720 of Plain Bob and an eighteen-score of Treble Bob, and then returned to Milk Alley to supper, after which

every man, according to custom, drank a dram, then told a tale or sang a song.

William Ibbot, of Islington, having died, they went there on June 7th to ring a muffled peal for him according to the method which they had decided was most suitable. Ibbot was not a Rambler, but an old acquaintance, a wheelwright and a very civil person. Laughton takes the opportunity of moralising on the subject of muffled peals. It is the last respect, says he, that a ringer can pay to a ringer, and so it would be a pity to neglect it. Most ringers when they die expect it, and besides, there are many people who like the solemn sound and will come miles to hear a funeral peal.

It used to be the custom in many parts of England that the bells of the parish church should never be rung even on one of the great festivals if there was a person lying dead in the parish. An instance of this is related by Laughton, for he and his friends went to Greenwich on a Sunday afternoon, but they could not ring because two burials were to take place there that night; so they went on to St. Nicholas', Deptford, but found the bells in bad repair.

On Sunday, August 11th, eighteen of them walked down to Mitcham in Surrey. They stopped at the Stag's Head and had dinner in the garden under the fruit trees. After dinner, they drank brandy and smoked, while some of them rang a course of Caters on the handbells, and then a party went to the church and rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise. They paid their reckoning and were getting ready to start for home when Gilbert declared he was not going without another drink. That agreed pretty well with the general sentiment, so they finished the day there. It so chanced that a brazier

came in, and after a while he and Laughton proceeded to toss up for drinks. A shilling was spun, but on coming down it rolled beneath a rail, so that the tinker queried the fairness of the cast, whereupon Laughton in the most truculent mood threatened to beat him and knock off his head if he did not pay, which he thought prudent to do without further words, 'otherwise,' says Laughton, 'I'd have surely milled him, unless two or three had not held him from me.'

When at last they started for home they were all pretty well far gone 'in liquor,' and they did not reach town without incident.

#### RINGING DURING AN AIR RAID.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sending you a report of what is, I believe, the first quarter-peal to be rung in an air raid. It was rung on September 21st in Brasted belfry, and as this is, under normal circumstances, soundproof, the first indication the ringers had of the raid was not the siren, but the noise of fighting planes overhead; nevertheless, they carried on, and special praise is due to the conductor, aged 14, who was calling her first quarter-peal of Major, and to the ringer of the tenors, who has been ringing handbells only since the ban. The band was as follows: Miss M. J. F. Richardson 1-2, Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Miss B. M. Richardson 5-6, F. W. Garner 7-8. Rung in 38 minutes; tenor size 14 in D.

Two 720's of Plain Bob Minor have also been rung recently, the first, on August 7th, in 17 minutes, tenor size 15 in C: Miss M. J. F. Richardson 1-2, Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, Miss C. J. Richardson 5-6. This was Miss C. Richardson's first 720; she is just 11 years old. Another member, F. W. Garner, rang his first 720 on August 12th with the following band: Miss D. T. Richardson (conductor) 1-2, Miss B. M. Richardson 3-4, F. W. Garner 5-6.

The clappers of the 4th and 5th at Brasted have been removed in order to give practice to beginners, and P. N. Bond, the local 'parashot,' has copied 'O.P.Q.'s' friend Bill, and has become quite proficient at ringing skeleton touches of Bob Minor on the 4th.

The band have also found another war-time occupation, namely, 'plane' hunting, a sport made possible by the activities of the R.A.F.

(Miss) BRENDA M. RICHARDSON.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal at Highweek, Devon, on September 15th, leaves the conductor, Mr. C. R. Lilley, with only two dates out of the 366 which go to make up the calendar on which he has not rung a peal.

The Rev. A. S. Roberts, curate of St. Aldhelm's, Edmonton, has been appointed by the Bishop of Truro priest-in-charge of the Conventional District of Carbis Bay, near St. Ives, Cornwall. He began his duties at Carbis Bay on Sunday, September 15th. The Church of St. Anta and All Saints at Carbis Bay was built about ten years ago, when an anonymous gift of £7,000 was made for the purpose. The church is not yet complete. So far the chancel, lady chapel, transept, vestries and a little more than the two lower stages of the tower have been built. The nave has yet to be built and the upper stage of the tower completed.

The Conventional District of Carbis Bay was formed out of a part of the parish of Lelant, the Parish Church of which is about a mile distant and contains a ring of six bells.

On September 21st, 1880, Mr. Edwin Shepherd, Ringing Master and churchwarden at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The ring of eight at Braughing in Hertfordshire was opened on September 25th, 1745, and on September 30th, 1746, the local men rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. Here in 1779 a famous long peal of Bob Major (12,240 changes) was rung. As the peal board says:—

'It was long each man did stand with zeal

And ardent union performed the peal.'

One of the problems which the early composers of Stedman Caters tackled was to produce a peal with the full 60 courses with the big bells in the bittums and the treble fixed in second's place. In 1844 Henry W. Haley composed 7,025 changes and called the peal at All Saints', Poplar. This had 60 full courses between two singles. Next year John Cox composed 6,701 without singles, in which there were 60 course ends, but one of the courses was incomplete. He called the peal at St. James', Bermondsey, on September 25th, 1845. A controversy then arose respecting the merits of the two rival compositions. We know now that the peal both men aimed at is an impossible one.

On September 27th, 1913, Mr. W. H. Barber called at Gosforth, Northumberland, a peal in a method called Dublin Complex Major. It has several interesting and novel features. The treble is a plain hunt and the bobs are made as in Treble Bob with what is called a 'lengthening lead.' So far only one other method, Double Coslany Court Major, has been rung on this plan.

The first Surprise peal in Scotland was London Surprise Major, rung on September 27th, 1924, at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh.

To-day is the fiftieth anniversary of three peals. On Saturday, September 27th, 1890, the College Youths rang Stedman Triples at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green. Isaac G. Shade conducted and the band included M. A. Wood, James Pettitt and the younger Henry Haley.

The St. Michael's Juniors of Gloucester rang Grandsire Caters at Painswick. Among the band were E. B. James, H. L. James, Ernest Bishop, of Swindon, and R. J. Wilkins. William J. Sevier conducted. Many of our readers will remember him as something of a 'character.' Among other things he was a prophet.

Arthur R. Aldham called Holt's Ten-part at Nuneaton, with Robert Christian, of Yarmouth, at the second, and Mr. J. H. Swinfield at the fourth.

Fifty years ago A. Percival Heywood (afterwards Sir Arthur) was publishing his 'Investigations into the Construction of peals of Stedman Triples,' and the Editor of 'The Bell News' was collecting subscriptions towards his projected republishing of the 'Tintinnalogia,' the book that everybody then thought was written by Fabian Stedman.

## MR. JAMES GEORGE.

### LEAVES THE CONVALESCENT HOME.

We have received a letter from Mr. James George and learn with pleasure that he has now been able to leave the convalescent home, and is now living at 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, which will be his home in future.

He wishes to thank the secretaries of the various associations and the many other ringers who have sent him letters of sympathy in his serious operation. These letters have been so numerous that it has been impossible to reply to each individually.

Though naturally Mr. George feels the loss of his leg, he has made a marvellous recovery, and his many friends will unite in wishing him many more years in which he can take an interest in ringing, even if it must perforce be outside the belfry.

## HANDBELLS AT BURBAGE.

Since the restriction on church bells, handbell practices on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings have been held at Burbage, Leicestershire, and on Sunday, September 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung by A. Jordon 1-2, A. Ballard (conductor) 3-4, W. Clough 5-6. It was the first quarter-peal of Doubles by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6. Any ringers stationed in the district will be welcomed at these meetings, which are held at Stedman, 128, Sketchley Road, Burbage, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, and on Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock.



## CATTISTOCK BELLS DESTROYED. FAMOUS DORSET CARILLON TOWER BURNT OUT.

Fire has destroyed the famous carillon at Cattistock Church, Dorsetshire. The church remains standing, and is not seriously damaged, but the tower was almost gutted, and the enormous clock, as well as the bells, has been lost.



CATTISTOCK CHURCH.

The fire was first noticed early on Sunday afternoon, September 15th, when smoke was seen coming from the belfry. When the alarm was given the local fire party turned out and got to work with hose connected with a hydrant, but they had difficulty in getting the water to a sufficient height to reach the fire. Dorchester Fire Brigade had also been called, and on their arrival they pumped water on to the fire from a river about a quarter of a mile from the church.

The flames by this time had obtained a very firm hold and the whole of the woodwork inside the belfry was burning fiercely. By erecting a ladder on the vestry roof the Dorchester firemen were able to direct a jet of water into the belfry and get the blaze under control. Afterwards they were able to tackle the fire from inside the belfry and finally to extinguish the flames.

The only portion of the woodwork inside the belfry remaining is the first floor, from which ringing takes place.

So intense was the heat inside the tower that the 35 bells were cracked and partly melted.

While the blaze was at its height church ornaments from the altar, books and chairs were removed for safety. The Rector also had some of the furniture removed from the nearby Rectory, as serious cracks appeared in the structure of the tower and it was feared the walls might collapse.

(Continued in next column.)

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. WESTERN DIVISION'S WALL CLIMB. Developing the Social Side.

History was again made when the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held their quarterly meeting at Bingley on Saturday, September 14th. Owing to the ban on the ringing of church bells, a ramble was arranged over the heights above Bingley, passing through the St. Ives Estate and round by the 'Druids Altar.' The two dozen members and friends who attended enjoyed this new event, and, excepting for a shower, the weather was delightfully fresh.

Considerable interest was aroused by the old Manor House, but the condition of the lawns showed clearly that the Greenkeeping Research members, who had a station on the estate, apparently had not applied their efforts near at home.

The only hitch in the proceedings occurred when nearing the summit. The way was blocked by a huge 10ft. wall, the gate in which was securely padlocked. All pockets were turned out, but without avail—no suitable key could be found. For a moment the situation appeared hopeless, but when the ladies saw the evergreen Bradford veteran, Mr. George Titterton, aged 85, scaling the wall like a youth of 18, they were not to be outdone. If Hitler could have seen the determination of the ladies in overcoming this obstacle he would have further cause to meditate upon the peculiar insanity of the English, who know not the meaning of defeat.

The scene on the other side of the wall fully merited the efforts of climbing, for this is one of the highest spots above Bingley and commands an excellent view of the Airedale Valley. It was then that the hikers could appreciate the rugged Yorkshire countryside.

The descent was made in record time and all were ready for a well-prepared tea. Following this, a short business meeting was held in the Church House, presided over by the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson), supported by Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A. (president of the association).

In opening the meeting, the Chairman spoke of their pleasure in coming once again to Bingley, which recalled some of the 'good old times' before the present building became a 'Church House.' It was even then a sanctuary for ringers, where they were able to obtain very stimulating encouragement for their art.

Canon Marshall proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing them the use of the Church House and welcoming them once more to Bingley. He said all were greatly indebted to their very able guide, Mr. Hickerigill, for the excellent ramble which had been arranged over the beautiful countryside. Now that they were unable to ring the tower bells, he was pleased to see such a nice attendance for this new departure and was sure it was an afternoon well spent. Besides enjoying the pure fresh air, they had also learnt how to help young and old to climb over big walls.—The motion was seconded by Mr. Sherwood and carried.

Mr. Hickerigill, in replying, said it had been a pleasure to him to take the party round, and if they had enjoyed it as much as he himself had done, he was quite satisfied. He would be only too delighted to do the same again whenever the opportunity occurred. He expressed regret that the Vicar was unable to be present, but promised to convey the meeting's thanks to him.

The Chairman said that owing to the 'black-out' conditions and other difficult problems, it was thought inadvisable to hold the usual December meeting. It was, therefore, decided that the next divisional meeting should be the annual meeting in 1941, and that a suitable venue should be arranged by the committee.

Canon Marshall mentioned that the general committee of the association had arranged a social gathering to be held at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on October 12th, at 4.30 in the afternoon. They felt that as the tower bells could not be rung they ought to make more use of the social side of ringing—a side which had perhaps been rather neglected. This was to be a quite informal affair, and he hoped that as many as possible would take the opportunity of being present and renewing old acquaintances. A notice would be issued in the Press shortly.

This concluded the business, and handbells and billiards were enjoyed until the company gradually broke up to catch their various trains and buses. The towers represented during the day were Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bingley, Bramley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Keighley, Pudsey and Shipley.

## THE FIRE AT CATTISTOCK.

(Continued from previous column.)

Cattistock bells formed the first carillon set up in this country. It was introduced by the Rev. H. Keith Barnes, who was Rector from 1863 to 1875. The bells were actually installed between 1876 and 1899. There were 35 in all, eight of them being hung for ringing. The first 33 to be provided were cast by Severin van Aerschodt, of Louvain, Belgium. The other two were cast by Felix van Aerschodt in 1899. The tenor was 19 cwt. and the total weight of the carillon 4 tons 17½ cwt.

Periodically recitals were given at Cattistock by Josef Denyn, the celebrated carillonneur of Malines, and were the occasion of the gathering of large audiences in the village. On these visits M. Denyn would reset the mechanical carillon connected with the clock to play a series of fresh airs.

## A PSYCHOLOGICAL MISTAKE.

### VIEWS OF A LINCOLNSHIRE VICAR.

There is frequently recurring evidence that, whatever use church bells might be as a means of alarm in case of air invasion, their continued total silence in other respects is unnecessary. The 'Daily Telegraph' continues to give prominence to this view, and under the heading 'Still Silent Belfries—A Psychological Mistake,' published the following letter from a Spalding Vicar, the Rev. Lancelot Smith. It is the more notable from the fact that St. John the Baptist's Church, Spalding, has no peal of bells. He wrote:—

Sir,—It was good to hear from our Prime Minister that, to add cheer in the black-out of winter, the question of brighter streets was to be considered. It is to be hoped that the order which has bolted the belfry door may also be reviewed.

Many of the clergy both in town and village in recent months have met with the remark, 'How I do miss the bells.' It is a sentiment by no means voiced only by churchgoers; more often than not by those who just 'feel' Sunday when they hear the bells.

Perhaps a greater loss has been the bell which daily calls to prayer in those services which the Book of Common Prayer each day provides, and to which might be added the mid-day bell which at the beginning of this war (as throughout the last) had become a general custom. Though few can respond in person to the call of these bells on week-days, many can and do respond in spirit.

By all means let us sound our bells to warn in an hour of special danger with a clash and clanging none can possibly mistake, but equally unmistakable are the bells which call to worship and prayer. Silent steeples are a psychological mistake.

## WISDOM OF THE BAN.

### To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Mr. Oldham must have written his letter to 'The Ringing World' in a somewhat disturbed mood, for, as members make associations, he is blaming every member for taking matters calmly. As the Central Council represent the associations (with whom he feels aggrieved), I am quite content to leave the question under discussion with the executive of that body, in the fullest confidence, and would ask Mr. Oldham to do the same.

In the district in which I live we have siren warnings night and day, together with the aftermath of hurtling bombs and shrapnel, dealing death and also destruction of property, and naturally creating a feeling of unrest, through lack of sleep, to many people. Would he suggest that the bells be rung under such conditions? When the ban was imposed many ringers and clergy were quite naturally perturbed, but we have been spared to see the wisdom of the Ministry's action. So, Mr. Oldham, don't worry about associations 'justifying their existence'; they are doing that already by cheerfully obeying the present law, for when victory comes (and, please God, it will not be delayed) ringers will be found to ring the bells with a long pull and a willing pull in the dear homeland. By obeying the law we shall be doing our part in helping to save our churches and bells from destruction and, maybe, even the lives of ringers.

'AN ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.'

Somewhere in England.

## THE SAFETY OF RINGING RECORDS.

### To the Editor.

Sir,—May I suggest that ringers living in safe areas should offer facilities to any association secretaries or other ringers who have ancient or valuable records that they would like kept in safe places for the duration of the war? Perhaps those ringers who would like to do such a service would send their names and addresses to 'The Ringing World.' I think there are many in this district who will offer their services in the interests of our noble art, and I pray God it will not be long before we are called upon to ring for peace once again.

If I can be of any service to any ringer in any way I shall be only too pleased to do so, if they will communicate with me at the address below.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' every success and all ringers safe keeping.

D. H. BENNETT.

2, Council Houses, Broullys, Talgarth, Breck.

## A.A. SHELL HITS ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

An anti-aircraft shell recently came through the wall of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church. It pierced the 2ft. wall, made a hole in the ceiling of the portico, struck the pavement, and then bounced back into the middle of the portico where firemen retrieved it. The portico damage was small and has now been repaired.

## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The members of the Ancient Society of College Youths were fortunate enough to be able to hold the meeting on Saturday afternoon, and in the enforced absence of the Master, Mr. H. Langdon was elected to the chair.

There was about an hour's ringing on the apparatus at St. Lawrence's and a touch on the handbells afterwards. Warning went as the members were on the way home.

## WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### BUSY WESTERN BRANCH SECRETARY TO CARRY ON.

The postponed meeting of the Western Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Claines on Saturday, September 14th, and, considering the present circumstances, was a very successful one. Twenty-five members were present from Claines, St. John's, Worcester Cathedral, Upton-on-Severn, Crowle, Dodderhill, Ombersley, Kempsey, Suckley, Grimley and Hallow, as well as a visitor from Kidderminster.

The service was held in church at 4.15 p.m. and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. H. G. Clinch), who, in the course of his address, remarked that as in olden days trumpets were sounded on joyous occasions, and for the alarm in times of war, it ought not to be beyond the wit of man to enable the bells to be used in these modern times for church services and to herald the approach of the enemy.

The service was followed by tea, arranged by the Vicar and served by lady helpers. The Vicar presided over the business meeting and opened it by giving a welcome to all.

Mr. E. Cubberley reported that the last quarterly peal, which should have been rung at Kempsey, had not been attempted, owing to the prevailing circumstances.

Mr. S. T. Holt proposed that as church bellringing was banned, the quarterly peals should be rung on handbells, and Mr. T. W. Lewis suggested that Mr. S. T. Holt should try to arrange practices and the quarterly peal. Mr. C. Camm seconded the proposal and it was carried.

The secretary stated that owing to pressure of work he could not devote as much time as he would like to the secretaryship, and if the members thought it desirable he was quite willing to relinquish the job.

Mr. G. E. Large proposed that he should carry on, and this was carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda elicited an interesting and amusing discussion, and after much debate it was agreed that the next meeting should be held at All Saints', Worcester, and the arrangements left to the officers, who would until then remain in office.

Mr. S. T. Holt appealed to all to keep in touch, to get as much handbell ringing as possible and to teach others, so that when times became normal there would be capable members to carry on. He said that no doubt the Central Council would do all in its power to get the ban on church bellringing lifted. One thing he feared was that using the bells as a warning would induce the enemy to treat churches as military objectives. He ended by appealing to all ringers to support 'The Ringing World,' which, in his opinion, was more interesting than ever, and said that if unfortunately it had to cease publication, it was doubtful whether there would ever be another paper printed exclusively for ringers.

Mr. S. T. Holt proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the ladies who waited at tea, and to those who so kindly provided it. The Vicar again expressed his pleasure at meeting the ringers, and remarked that he was convinced that it was quite right to try to carry on.

## DEATH OF MR. JONATHAN PRESTON.

### ORIGINAL MEMBER OF ERDINGTON COMPANY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Jonathan Preston, of Erdington, Birmingham, which took place on Thursday, September 19th.

Mr. Preston had not enjoyed good health for some considerable time, and recently acting on medical advice, went to Rhyl for a rest and change of air. Unfortunately he had a relapse and passed away quite suddenly in hospital.

He was laid to rest on Saturday last in a grave as near as possible to the tower in which he had rung for so many years. Four of his old colleagues acted as bearers, and, in addition to ringers connected with Erdington Parish Church, a number of others attended the funeral, including Councillor A. Paddon Smith (vice-president) and Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), representing the St. Martin's Guild. Mr. W. Davies represented the Aston ringers and Mr. W. G. Anker the Sutton Coldfield ringers. Mr. Leach, of the Sutton Coldfield branch of the British Legion, of which Mr. Preston was a member, was also present.

The service was conducted by a former Vicar of Erdington, Canon Swindell, who paid a personal tribute to the memory of Mr. Preston. In the course of his remarks, he referred to the fact that the bells were installed 36 years ago, and that Mr. Preston was a member of the original band and was appointed hon. secretary. He (Canon Swindell) always enjoyed his company, whether in the belfry or in his study at the rectory, and he was sure that all present believed that although they were laying his body in the grave his spirit would be with them in the tower he loved and served so faithfully and would live on eternally.

Mr. Preston was elected a member of the St. Martin's Guild in 1905 and had held the office of auditor since 1927. He was an active member of the Guild and his genial presence will be sadly missed.

Floral tributes were sent by the Erdington Parish Church ringers, the Aston Parish Church ringers, and St. Martin's Guild.

## BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### HANDBELL RINGING TO BE ENCOURAGED.

The September meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Felkirk. Tingles were rung on handbells during the afternoon in the old Schoolroom, which stands in the churchyard. The members attended a service, conducted by the Vicar, the Right Rev. J. H. Dickenson.

Tea was afterwards served in the Schoolroom, and the business meeting followed, with the Vicar in the chair. After the usual business had been transacted, including the election of one new member (Kenneth Bryant, of Felkirk), a proposal was put forward to arrange a handbell ringing contest, the idea being to induce more of the members to take up handbell ringing and thus encourage this interesting form of ringing.

It was eventually decided to arrange this contest in the afternoon of the annual meeting of the society, which is to be held at Barnsley in January. The method to be rung will be any Minor method, and it may be rung either single or double handed or mixed, but will be confined to members within the society's radius.

It was also decided to arrange the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, October 12th.

Mr. Moxon (Sandal) moved and Mr. Gill (Wath) seconded a vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address at the service and for presiding at the meeting, also to all who had helped to make the meeting a success.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was pleased to welcome the ringers once more and hoped it would not be long before they would come again. He also hoped that the church bells would soon be heard again.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and in social intercourse. The towers represented were Hoylandswaine, Wath, Sandal and a good muster of the local company. The attendance was rather small, but under the existing circumstances was as much as could be expected. It was a happy little gathering and was without a doubt worth while.

## ADVENTURES OF A 'TOWER SNATCHER.'

### FINDING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES.

It is reported, on good authority, that a certain member of the N.U.T.S., on hearing of a ringing meeting with lashed bells in the Central Bucks area the other day, succeeded in getting a week's holiday on the strength of it, and set off on the preceding Sunday to be in plenty of time. Owing, however, to the lack of signposts and certain irregularities in the maps which he carried for which this person in famous, he eventually arrived at the village in question with only half an hour to spare before the meeting was due to begin.

Right from the first day he pedalled up to every church he saw with the idea that in the end he must strike the right one. It was hopeless to ask, for few of the folk he met seemed to have heard of Buckinghamshire, let alone the tiny speck on the map that was the real goal.

All enquiries as to present whereabouts seemed to bring such replies as Stratfield Say, Hurstbourne Tarrent, Littleton Drew, Cow Honeybourne and Wyre Fiddle, not to mention Guiting Power, a couple of Slaughters, a couple of Swells (an Upper and Lower of each) and a few Rollrights.

Finally, when the destination was eventually reached, the poor wanderer was very nearly hauled off to the local lock-up by one of the largest and most muscular women in the county, for daring to take the very necessary photo of the tower. This good person was quite convinced that this suspicious looking stranger, in the garb of an overgrown schoolboy, was nothing less than a fifth columnist taking photos of churches to send to Hitler, so that the Fuehrer could make a point of bombing them. However, the visitor eventually managed to prove his innocence to some extent, but not until the lady had informed him in no uncertain voice that she didn't think it ought to be allowed, and that anyway she hadn't let her son take his camera to the zoo in case he took something he hadn't ought to!

We understand, too, that the ringer in question was in no doubt about whether the tower should count as 'one in the bag' or not, and by all accounts he is prepared to take the matter to court if this addition to his list is contested. He suggests that other members follow his example, and he wouldn't contest a 'silent' peal rung with silent bells, provided there were several silent witnesses there. Anyway there were no moans about bad striking, which is more than can be said about the all important first touch at some new towers that have been 'wiped off the map'! (especially when the first is a rise in peal).

When the time came for the party to break up after a very enjoyable meeting, at which voices and handbells had been by no means silent or idle, the enthusiast was able to obtain genuine information on a real short cut home, and instead of doing about 400 miles and taking six days over it, he was able to get back in 30 miles. On the way he had to introduce, as usual, an extra short cut of his own which led over a very rough track on a very lonely common, but as he had by then become an accustomed star gazer, it all came out right in the end, and he was able to go home and do the necessary booking up in the well-thumbed Tower Book.

R. D.

## TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

### THE DEATH KNELL IN NORTH DEVON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The death bell, or knell, is far from being obsolete in the country districts of North Devon, where, I am glad to say, tradition dies hard. In my native village and in many more in the locality a knell is always tolled as soon as the sexton has been informed of the death of a parishioner. In some places—South Molton, I remember, is one—the number of strokes tolled equals the dead person's age.

In this connection the story is told of a certain vicar who, during one Lent, preached a series of sermons on the rather surprising text 'Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever.' One evening he was returning home after a day with the hounds, and as he came in sight of the tower of his church heard the unmistakable sound of a knell proceeding therefrom. There was no serious illness in the village as far as he knew, and he could only suppose that some dreadful accident had overtaken one of his flock. Spurring on his tired mare, he hurried down the hill to the churchyard gate, where he met the sexton coming away. 'Whoever is it that has died, John?' he enquired anxiously. 'Peter's wife's mother, sir!' came the prompt reply.

Another widespread custom in that part of the world is the ringing of the eight o'clock bell on Sunday mornings, and a warning bell of some kind one hour before morning and evening service. At my home each bell was chimed three times, beginning with the treble. Ringing for service began half an hour later, and it is, therefore, quite likely that this was meant as a summons to the ringers.

If ever the curfew was rung in those remote districts (which I doubt, since country dwellers have no need to be told when to go to bed) it has died out, but one tower where Mr. Trollope may be interested to know it still survives is Newbury, where, with a fine disregard for such man-made devices as Summer Time, it was rung at nine o'clock (I think) by the sun all the year round.

In your issue of September 6th the astonishing opinion was expressed that nobody ought to write doggerel verses about ringing. Surely your contributor can never have heard those delightful verses which are sung every year on March 4th at Appleton? I wonder whether you could possibly resurrect and reprint some very good lines recounting one of the record peals of the College Youths. The only lines I can remember are, I think, about Matthew Wood, and run:—

'And who was he who rang the sixth with so much ease and grace?  
From the treble to the tenor he was never out of place.'

My old friend, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, recited these, and many more, to me a year or two ago, and perhaps he could produce them for the benefit of your readers. If he will permit me to say so, I am sure that all who have ever had the pleasure of ringing with him will agree that the above lines might well have been written about himself.

Shipley, Yorks.

E. J. TAYLOR.

## ORDINATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—About a year ago it was my pleasure to be able to announce through your columns that two ringers were to be ordained deacons. Now the time has come for these men to be shouldered with the full responsibilities of priesthood. Their ordination to this higher office took place on Sunday at Bristol Cathedral.

The ringers referred to are the Rev. K. C. Davis, of All Hallows', Easton, Bristol, and the Rev. M. Melville, of St. Paul's, Swindon, both of whom have by now made themselves well known to fellow ringers in their respective districts. Besides conscientiously carrying out their clerical duties, we can confidently look to them, in common with the other ringing clergy, to uphold the cause of their unseen friends in the tower whenever these more humble members of the church are in need of a voice of authority on their behalf.

R. DARVILL.

St. Albans.

## CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

### A STORY FROM MR. GIFFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following story was told me by my old friend, Mr. Gifford.

They were going for a peal of Cambridge Surprise on one of their tours and he and a well-known Oxford ringer (I forget his name, but he was the composer of the long peal of Cambridge with the tenors parted) were listening outside. After the bells had been going for well over two hours they went into a public-house and stayed there for some time.

When they came out the bells were still ringing, and he thought that they would soon be coming round, but his friend pricked up his ears and exclaimed, 'Why, they are ringing the first part again. They must have broken down while we were in there.' 'Are you sure?' asked Mr. Gifford. 'Certain,' replied his friend, 'so they went and put back the dinner that had been ordered and all ended well.'

E. BANKES JAMES.

The ringer referred to by Mr. James was, we believe, Edwin Hims.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'



## WILLIAM SHIPWAY. AUTHOR AND COMPOSER.

Next Sunday is the one hundred and eightieth anniversary of the birth of William Shipway, which took place on September 29th, 1760, in the city of Bath. He was apprenticed to a Mr. Handcock, a cabinet maker, who also held the office of sexton to the Abbey Church, which gave Shipway access to the steeple. There he formed the acquaintance of the ringers and soon became much attached to the art itself. The band was sufficiently skilled to be able to ring Treble Bob Royal, but they did not progress so rapidly as the novice wished, and he left Bath for London, hoping to get in touch with one of the famous companies of that city.

He reached the Metropolis on July 29th, 1785, and almost at once joined the Society of Junior Cumberlands, the company George Gross had formed when he quarrelled with his old friends of the 'ancient' Cumberlands society.

With the Junior Cumberlands Shipway rang six peals, including Reeves' 8,448 of Kent Treble Bob Major, the first known peal in the Kent variation in London, and 5,440 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, a performance which, however, appears to have been false in some way or other.

When the band of the Junior Cumberlands was broken up through quarrels, Shipway went to the 'ancient' society, and with them took part in many notable peals. They included the second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung and two others in the same method, 6,334 changes of Stedman Cinques, the then record length; 5,220 Double Norwich Court Bob Royal; 7,104 Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark, and the same length at Christ Church, Spitalfields; and 5,112 Grandsire Maximus at Southwark.

### INSTRUCTOR AT QUEX PARK.

When John Powell Powell built his tower at Quex Park and installed a ring of twelve bells, he got Shipway to go and live at Birlington and act as instructor to his band, but after a while home sickness and boredom overcame him and he returned to London.

William Shipway holds a distinguished place as a composer. His best work was done in long peals of Treble Bob Major with the tenors parted, and in methods like London and Superlative Surprise. He was the first man to compose a true peal of Cambridge Surprise, but he had to part the tenors. In Grandsire he produced a five-part peal with all triple changes. It was an adaptation of Holt's Ten-part and had a sixth place bob in each part. In Stedman Triples he composed a half-peal on the 'proper' plan, that is with never more than two consecutive calls, and later on peals on the multi-bob plan.

It was as the author of a text book on ringing that Shipway most earned fame. The 'Clavis' had been published in 1788, and Shipway set himself the task of producing a better book. In many ways he succeeded, and, taking it on the whole, his work was the best book on ringing until Jasper Snowden wrote. It is only fair, however, to say that without the 'Clavis,' Shipway's book could hardly have appeared, and as a writer he was not in any way the equal of the older authors. He had, however, a methodical mind and he selected and presented his methods and peals in the best way for his purpose.

He divided his methods into twelve systems, and each system contained the single, reverse and double variations of a method. It was a notable attempt to introduce proper classification into scientific ringing, but it may perhaps be doubted whether it was worth while. Single and Reverse Norwich Court Bob Major and Royal for instance, or Double Union Triples, Caters and Cinques, are methods nobody has ever wanted to ring, nor are they ever likely to be of any use. The space they and other methods take up in the book could have been better filled with other matter. Shipway, however, did give us Double Norwich Caters, an excellent method, perhaps the very best possible on nine bells, and one which has never received the practice it deserves.

Shipway tried to introduce what he considered the even bell equivalent of Stedman's Principle, but the absence of a covering tenor, which alone makes the music of Stedman tolerable, is a defect without any compensation.

### AN IMPROVEMENT IN NOTATION.

One improvement introduced by the book has been of lasting benefit. 'To facilitate the knowledge of peals given by course-ends,' he says, 'I have placed dashes under letters and figures denoting the place where the bobs are made in each course; the want of which has been so much felt by persons having the "Clavis" who were not thoroughly acquainted with course-ends.'

Shipway's 'Campanologia' had a great influence in maintaining and developing change ringing, but was not a source of financial profit to its author. Instead he is said to have lost £50 by it. Later on he published a broadsheet of peals of Stedman Triples, the cost of which no doubt Powell met. Whether or no a copy of this broadsheet still exists we do not know, and we should be glad to hear if any of our readers know of the existence of one. Jasper Snowden gave an account of its contents in his history of Stedman.

For some years Shipway was beadle to the Society of Cumberland Youths, succeeding the younger George Gross when the latter quarrelled with the company and went over to the College Youths. In after years Shipway himself joined the rival society. He died in 1842 at the age of 82.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Departure from the Diocese of the Rev. Hugh McMullan, President of the Association. A farewell meeting will take place at Norwich on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells in St. Giles' Hall, Cow Hill, 3—7.30 p.m.; six of St. Giles' bells (minus clappers!) also available during that period. Tea (bring sugar!) 4 p.m., followed by business meeting, including presentation to president. Kindly broadcast this notice and send all donations to the Testimonial Fund to F. Nolan Golden, General Secretary and Treasurer, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — North-East Division. — Hello, everybody! This is the district secretary calling you to a district meeting to be held at Ardleigh on Saturday, Sept. 28th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by a light tea, kindly provided by the Vicar. Ringing will have to be done on handbells, but, never mind, come along and try your skill. Remember this is as much for the single-handed ringing folk as those who have acquired the skill to ring two. Let it be a social gathering as well. It is sincerely hoped that all who can will come and then we can hear your views about such gatherings in the future. There is a good rail and bus service.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting on Saturday, September 28th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, from 4 till 8 p.m., for social talk and handbell practice. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, on Saturday, September 28th. Service at 4 p.m., business immediately after. As the business is important will as many as possible turn up.—W. H. Shuker, T. Wilson, Hon. Secretaries.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Shinver (D.v.) on Saturday, Sept. 28th, 3 p.m. Service in church 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting for election of officers, etc., when outstanding subscriptions should also be paid. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. and after meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Rothwell on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Handbells, etc., in the Church Institute from 3 p.m. Business meeting to follow tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Will all those interested please note that the meeting proposed to be held at Merstham on September 28th has been postponed.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Gen. Sec.



**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Branch.—A business meeting to discuss the future proceedings will be held in the School-room at Hinton-on-the-Green at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28th. It is hoped that all towers in the branch will be represented.—J. E. Newman, The Cross, Hinton-on-the-Green.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28th, at St. Peter's (City). The Parish Hall will be open for handbell practice from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please give your loyal support. All welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton and Loughborough Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at Ibstock on Saturday, September 28th. Handbells in the church from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting and further handbell ringing. Rectory grounds open to visitors.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock, Leicester.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Thrapston Branch.—A meeting will be held at Raunds on Saturday, September 28th. Handbell ringing from 5 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. All welcome.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Business meeting at 6 p.m. prompt, to be followed by handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Barton Seagrave on Saturday, October 5th. Handbells. Service 4.30. Tea (and sugar) after. Please notify me if you are coming.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C. If possible, there will be ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry at 3 p.m. for about an hour preceding the meeting, and handbell ringing after the meeting.—A. B. Peck.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, October 5th, at 3.30 p.m. Social talk, handbells and business. Election of officers, etc. Please make special effort to attend. Members of H.M. Forces welcome.—Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—On account of the Snowdon dinner being postponed, a meat tea (2s. 6d. per head) is being arranged to take place at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, at 4.30 p.m. prompt, on Saturday, October 12th, followed by a social evening until 9 p.m. Tower secretaries are asked to make these

arrangements as widely known as possible, and let me know how many of their members intend to be present not later than Saturday, October 5th. The committee hope that all members who are able will come, as it is more necessary than ever that the interest and life of the association should be maintained through these difficult times.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**—It is hoped that the society will be able to continue its activities during the forthcoming year. Attention will have to be concentrated on handbells, of course, but silent practices at New College will be resumed if permission can be obtained for the removal of the clappers. Any ringers coming up next term are asked to get into touch with either J. E. Spice, New College (Master), or W. Leese, St. John's College (secretary).—J. E. Spice.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Will members of this society who are serving in H.M. Forces kindly send their names, rank, etc., to the hon. secretary? Perhaps the local captain of bands may know of ringers who will not see this notice, in which case I shall be glad if they will be good enough to forward me the desired information.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The Rev. A. S. Roberts has removed from Edmonton to Restormel, Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall.

#### HANDBELL RINGING FOR SERVICE.

At Halesworth Parish Church on Sunday, September 8th, courses of Grandsire Triples were rung for morning service by Granville C. Bixby 1-2, Miss Olive L. Ashbrook 3-4, Frederick C. Lambert 5-6, Harold W. Rogers, S.-Sgt., R.A.O.C., 7-8. First courses in the method by the ringer of 1-2.

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## PLAN FOR THE WINTER.

There is still gratifying evidence that, despite all the difficulties of the times, many associations are carrying on their activities within the limitations which are now imposed by war time restrictions. Reports of successful, if small, gatherings of ringers in many parts of the country continue to come to hand and to show that the fire of enthusiasm is still burning. The spirit of ringers is unquenchable, and we hope to see these meetings carried on wherever possible. The lengthening of the 'black-out' is going to add to the handicap, but it will be overcome, we are sure, by the stalwarts whose support is, and always has been, the mainstay of ringing meetings. The size of the gatherings during the winter may be smaller; indeed, there is no reason why they should not be definitely adapted to cover smaller areas. Districts might be unofficially sub-divided and smaller group meetings run by assistant secretaries — it would obviously be unfair to expect the district secretary to multiply his work two or three times, especially in these days. Neighbouring towers could, however, combine to their mutual advantage and endeavour to cultivate hand-bell ringing as well as the social side of the Exercise, without having to rely upon the presence of members from a distance to make the meeting a success. Even in country districts this could be done; in fact, country ringers could, perhaps, do better in a black-out than townsmen, for they have not been in the habit of having their steps lit for them, and there are still means of transport available. This is the time when a real effort ought to be made to plan a winter programme based, not so much upon ideas of numerical success as upon the desire for neighbourly help and fraternisation. These must be days of small things, but these small things can be no less valuable, both from the point of view of maintaining immediate interest and of securing future development. Because the long days of darkness are ahead, let there be no slackening of effort. Sub-divided districts can keep the art going as well as the larger organised areas under happier conditions.

Not all associations, at least not all the districts of many of the associations, have made a serious effort to keep the flag flying up to the present time; there have been a number of areas where activities have been allowed to lapse. There may have been good reason, but it certainly does seem in some cases that it has been due to a kind of defeatist spirit. It is in these districts, of course, that the greatest difficulty will be found in re-establishing organised life, and it might be a step to—

(Continued on page 470.)

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wards recovery in the future if, in those areas not too badly threatened by the raids of the enemy, something was done to inaugurate these group meetings. They may, as we have said, be only small, but they would serve to keep ringers in touch with one another and with the art, and they would instil life where no life at present appears to exist. What is needed is someone in each group prepared to undertake a little work to get a subsidiary organisation going; an organisation which will be content at first with small results. There is a great deal of room for these little groups to function in the approaching winter months. The fact, however, cannot be ignored that there are some areas so seriously and constantly menaced by the enemy's aircraft that it would be an extremely daring project to plan meetings of any kind. Apart from the risks of direct bombing, there is always the possibility that transport facilities may break down, while travelling on the public roads in itself may be dangerous. We are not going to suggest that in districts such as this ringers should not try to meet informally, but to attempt organised gatherings must be regarded as out of the question for the present. For those more fortunately placed, however, there is no reason why small scale meetings should not be planned even in the autumn and winter months, while in individual towers where effective black-out is possible, there still remains the opportunity of teaching beginners how to handle a rope and of instructing them in change ringing by the use of handbells.

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### YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING AT SELBY ABBEY.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on September 21st and was attended by over 20 ringers from Campsall, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's, Hemingbrough, Hessle, Howden, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York Minster and the local company. During the afternoon the Vicar, Canon Solloway, conducted those present round the Abbey and explained some of the interesting parts of the building.

Evensong, conducted by the Rev. G. Cooper, curate, took place at 4 o'clock, and the Vicar welcomed the association to Selby. Tea was served at the Olde Cross Cafe and was followed by the business meeting in the ringing chamber of the Abbey. As Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president was engaged in church, Mr. P. J. Johnson, the vice-president of the Western District, was asked to take the chair. Owing to the black-out, it was decided not to hold the meeting due in December, and the place of the annual district meeting in March was left in the hands of the vice-president and district secretary.

Mr. F. W. Dale proposed and Mr. H. Bradley seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness in conducting those present round the Abbey and for his welcome to the association, and the chairman spoke of his pleasure at visiting Selby once again. Mr. F. Cryer replied on behalf of the Vicar and the local company.

Mr. P. J. Johnson brought to the notice of the meeting the social gathering to be held at the Conservative Club in Leeds on Saturday, October 12th, and said he hoped as many as possible would be present. He stressed the importance of ringers keeping together as much as possible during the present time. The price of the tea at this gathering will be 2s. 6d., and it is hoped it will be a success.

Further handbell ringing in the belfry ended an enjoyable meeting, the only drawback being the ban on tower bell ringing.



## SOME HANDBELL QUERIES.

HOW EXPERIENCED RINGERS COULD HELP.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Whilst tower bell ringing is suspended and many companies have split or disbanded, the question of handbell practices has become important. Where enthusiasm is to be found among one or two ringers, learners will be forthcoming, and if one out of every five would-be ringers becomes accomplished, the result is gratifying to the teacher. But handbell ringing presents special difficulties, and here are a few experienced by some beginners in this fascinating pastime—it being understood that many companies do not possess even one accomplished handbell ringer in their ranks.

Firstly, the handling of the bells and the monotony of continuous rounds to make the bells strike at hand and back each time. If the bells do not strike, the tendency is to swing the arm more energetically from knee to above the shoulder. Experienced handbell ringers don't want to be bothered by raw recruits, but how can correct handling and rhythm be attained unless somebody with experience keeps pegging away? A good tower bell ringer may be (and often is) an absolute 'dud' at first with a pair of handbells, even for round ringing. One disadvantage is that 'dumb' practice is out of the question where handbells are concerned.

Then there is the apparently simple method of hurting two bells through a course of, say, Grandsire Triples. Take 1-2; we are told to hunt up with the 2nd, the treble following and being one bell wide, and at the 7th's place position, when 1-2 come together, reverse the order, hunting down with the treble, the 2nd following one bell wide, and so on. Very good, but does this method help when a call is made? Surely there are other ways to help raw recruits?

One expert handbell ringer once told a recruit, 'Keep your hands moving and don't think.' This method was satisfactory after many practices, but the other three ringers in the band were accomplished ringers, and the recruit had only to 'fill in the gaps' and do as he was told. But it is not everyone's good fortune to have three experts when learning.

Two things appear obvious—keen sight and a sense of rhythm. To be able to watch the treble and spot when it is at lead in order to know when to dodge needs plenty of practice, and with this method what happens when the treble strays?

Some teachers advise 1-2 when learning Grandsire, others 7-8. Is Grandsire the best method for handbell beginners? Ringing 7-8 for Bob Major is supposed to be as easy as 1-2 or 7-8 in Grandsire, and also to give more scope for the advanced major methods.

Stedman is a first-rate method for handbells once the slow work is mastered, but how can a recruit master the half-turns with one bell whilst double dodging 6-7 behind with the other? Experts will say 'practice,' but how did they overcome these difficulties? Each probably has a pet method or trick and it would be most helpful if the advanced ringers would tell us some of them. There are no hard and fast rules laid down anywhere, I understand.

Assuming a ringer has progressed enough to ring touches of the simpler standard methods double-handed, it is an entirely different thing to attempt ringing Surprise methods. Four or five ringers who can ring, say, Bob Major and Kent, and know nothing of Surprise, will find a great deal of difference when starting on these advanced methods. The old question arises: Which Surprise method is the best to start with? Cambridge and Superlative on tower bells seem the methods, but handbells are probably a different matter.

If some of our well-known and practised ringers 'in hand' would help us by giving simple answers to these queries and also hints and tips in handbell ringing, there are many would-be handbell ringers whose gratitude would be unbounded.

C. D.

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AT ROTHWELL.

The September meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Rothwell on Saturday in the Church Institute. Handbell ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and after the first touch some remained inside while others made a tour of exploration of the district and church. Owing to improvements, renovations and renewals, not much of the original building is left, and, strange to say, the most ancient part is the roof. The interior is worth a visit, as each pew end has a carving of human beings, birds, beasts, fruit, etc.

The walk through the village and local park gave an edge to appetite, and full justice was done to a splendid tea provided by the local company and their wives at a very small charge.

At the business meeting after tea, the president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) occupied the chair, and members were present from Armley, Barnsley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's) and the local company. One new member (Mr. G. Homer, of Rothwell) was elected.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for permission to hold the meeting and to the local company and their wives for the tea and attention at the tea tables was proposed by Mr. G. Titterton and seconded by Mr. Dan Smith.

The Vicar replied and was supported by Mr. Wormald, churchwarden, and by Mr. T. Strangeway.

The next meeting will be held at Bradford Cathedral if possible. Members are asked to watch 'The Ringing World' for the notice.

## THE DEATH BELL.

NOT EXTINCT IN SOMERSET.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the letter headed 'Traditional Uses of Bells,' written by Mr. J. A. Trollope. I am wondering where he gets his facts. The bell he calls the death bell or knell I take to be the ordinary 'passing bell,' rung immediately it is known that a death has occurred. I have not heard that this has ceased to be rung. Certainly we have it rung in Somerset.

Hardington Mandeville Rectory, Som.

R. F. J. SAWYER.

## AN ILLUSTRATION FROM CHARLES DICKENS.

A STORY OF THE GORDON RIOTS.

If we want to know about the customs and habits of the common people of bygone days, we can often learn far more from casual statements in contemporary letters and books than from the pages of formal history. Reference has lately been made in our columns to the death bell, and the following passage from Charles Dickens' novel, 'Barnaby Rudge,' gives us a good idea of its use in the early part of the nineteenth century, when Dickens wrote.

The story relates that one evening in the year 1780 a group of old friends were sitting over the fire at the Maypole in Chigwell, an Essex village, when a stranger entered, who joined in conversation with them, and by some casual words and questions led Solomon Daisy, the sexton of the parish church, to tell his tale, part of which we now give in Dickens' words:—

'It happened that that night an old gentleman who lived in Chigwell Row and had long been poorly, deceased, and an order came to me at half after twelve o'clock at night to go and toll the passing bell.

'It was a dreary thing, especially as the gravedigger was laid up in his bed, from long working in a damp soil, and sitting down to take his dinner on cold tombstones, and I was consequently under obligation to go alone, for it was too late to get any other companion. However, I wasn't unprepared for it; as the old gentleman had often made it a request that the bell should be tolled as soon as possible after the breath was out of his body, and he had been expected to go for some days. I put as good a face on it as I could, and, muffling myself up (for it was mortal cold), started out with a lighted lantern in one hand and the key of the church in the other.

'It was just such a night as this; blowing a hurricane, raining heavily, and very dark—I often think now, darker than I ever saw it before or since; that may be my fancy, but the houses were all close shut and the folks indoors, and perhaps there is only one other man who knows how dark it really was. I got into the church, chained the door back so that it should keep ajar—for to tell the truth, I didn't like to be shut in there alone—and putting my lantern on the stone seat in the little corner where the bell-rope is, sat down beside it to trim the candle.

'I sat down to trim the candle, and when I had done so I could not persuade myself to get up again and go about my work. I don't know how it was, but I thought of all the ghost stories I had ever heard, even those that I had heard when I was a boy at school and had forgotten long ago; and they didn't come into my mind one after another, but all crowding at once, like. I recollected one story there was in the village, how that on a certain night in the year (it might be that very night for anything I knew) all the dead people came out of their graves till morning. . . . Thinking on in this way I began to think of the old gentleman who was just dead, and I could have sworn as I looked up the dark chancel that I saw him in his usual place wrapping his shroud about him as if he felt it cold.

'All this time I sat listening and listening and hardly dared to breathe. At length I started up and took the bell rope in my hands. At that minute there rang—not that bell, for I had hardly touched the rope—but another.

'I heard the ringing of another bell, and a deep bell too, plainly. It was only for an instant and even then the wind carried the sound away, but I heard it. I listened for a long time, but it rang no more. I tolled my bell—how and how long I don't know—and ran home to bed as fast as I could touch the ground.

'That morning Mr. Reuben Hardale was found murdered in his bedchamber and in his hand was a piece of the cord attached to an alarm-bell outside the roof which hung in his room and had been cut asunder, no doubt by the murderer when he seized it.'

When we look behind the unusual circumstances of the story—the wild weather and the murder—to the normal and usual circumstances, we can see what the death bell was. It was a bell tolled immediately after the death of a person, 'as soon as possible after the breath was out of his body,' to let people know that he was dead. It might be tolled at any hour of the day or night, and the sexton or clerk always had a double fee if it was tolled at night time.

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## THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

### ADVENTURES IN SPITALFIELDS AND HOUNDSDITCH.

Four days after the incident at Mitcham on Sunday, August 11th (which was described last week) the Ramblers went again to Camberwell to attempt the peal of Bob Major. They rang about three thousand changes and were stopped by the bad going of the tenor. Then they went to the Crown, had dinner and spent the afternoon playing skittles.

It was not until October 13th that they eventually succeeded in ringing the peal. The band was the same as made the attempt at Easter, except Trenell did not ring and Smallshaw stood in. Hayward was at the tenor, and the time was 2 hours and 55 minutes, which was quick ringing for a peal of Major in those days, though the bell weighed only 7 cwt. No record exists of any earlier peal in the steeple, but, as Laughton makes no claim, possibly some had already been rung there.

The success after so many failures was due, if we may believe Laughton, to the fact that Tom Clark one evening picked up an old horseshoe, which they took with them and nailed over the belfry door and so averted their bad luck—

for witch nor wizard cannot enter  
nor o'er the threshold durst they venture  
where're that magic charm is nailed.

The ringing of the peal, we are told, gave great offence to the Ramblers' enemies. 'Some are griped because they're done and out of spite have called us names,' but, says Laughton, magnanimously, 'we'll not call them so again blackguard scoundrels,' and he assures his readers that for his part he forgives them from his heart, but this much he must say, that the Ramblers behave themselves like men and are not 'afrontine' to anyone, and it's hard they can't be let alone; and after boasting that he and his friends always paid their reckonings, however large, he hints that it would be well if the same could be said of their critics. All of which is evidence of a very pretty little quarrel of which, however, since we know nothing about the other side, we can form no opinion.

To carry out their intention of ringing at every tower where the bells could be rung, the Ramblers went to two churches where there were only three bells. The first was Holy Trinity in the Minories, where Laughton, Greenwood and Benson rang fourteen dozen sixes. They raised the bells, rang them, and ceased them without standing. The ropes were small and had no sallies, so the ringers had to chalk them to know where to catch.

The other three-bell tower was St. Bartholomew-the-Less, then, as now, the church of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and there Bennett, Benson and Laughton rang seventeen and a half dozen sixes, or 1,260 changes, the longest peal ever rung on three bells.

They had to make two attempts, the first coming to grief after six and a half dozen sixes through the tenor slipping wheel.

Though three-bell ringing seems to us nowadays very tame stuff, we must remember that change ringing began on that number, and the men of the seventeenth century got a good deal of sport out of it. But Laughton had rung Maximus, and it is rather difficult to understand the pride he seems to have taken in these performances. He himself said that perhaps his tale might make his readers laugh, and some might say it was a childish

thing to do. But his answer was that they did it to please themselves, which, after all, was a sufficient answer; and there is good sense in his plea for variety in ringing—because there are peals of twelve in town, must the fives and sixes never be rung?

On one Sunday in October William Laughton and his friends walked to Tottenham, and while the more energetic of them went to the steeple and rang 720 changes of Cambridge Surprise, the others went to a 'boozing ken' and drank gin; thirteen quarterns, says Laughton, 'was fairly drunk.'



ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY,  
Whose bells deservedly earned Laughton's praise.

On the way back that night they chanced upon a merry Quaker. 'By Jove, he was a boozing friend, but we stitched him up,' for after supper and talk, 'much upon religion,' the Quaker proposed to toss for gin, and lost. And then — whether because he had begun before the others, or because he had not so strong a head—he succumbed, and the Ramblers left him snoring on the kitchen bench while they continued their homeward journey.

On another Sunday in November they went to Hackney, and the day being the anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth, which was still observed as a ringing day in many churches in Protestant London, they rang a 720 of Cambridge Minor, the first that ever was rung there. More than a score of them afterwards sat down to supper at the Rising Sun, where they had a merry time until ten o'clock, when they started for home with two links (torches made of tow and pitch) before to give them light. Coming through Spitalfields eight or

nine of them called at a spirit shop kept by a Frenchman, and had a second supper with beer and spirits, but when Monsieur's wife wanted to charge them two shillings a pint for the spirits they flatly refused to pay. High words ensued, and after they had 'squabbled about the matter,' they paid just what they thought proper.

Laughton's adventures that day were not yet finished. He and his friends set out for the George in Houndsditch, the landlord of which was Edward Davis, one of the 'odd' members of the club, and, it seems, one of the party. To get there they went through some narrow lanes behind Petticoat Lane, where they lost each other in the dark, and where Laughton stumbled and got over shoes in filth.

The district was a slum inhabited by low class Jews and foreigners. In those days the best streets of London were badly paved, badly lighted, badly drained, and, especially in wet weather, filthy. The lanes in the slums literally stank, and the memory of that tumble in the dirt so incensed Laughton against the 'sluttish tribe' that lived in 'those horrid cribs' that he devoted thirty or forty lines to an indignant description of their mode of living, and especially of what they had to eat. However, in the end he got to Houndsditch, where he sat down and drank a pint of special tippie and so finished for the day.

The Ramblers had now visited every five and six bell tower in town and a good many in the suburbs, and they began to turn their attention to eight-bell steeples, though much of their ringing was still Minor. On the back six at St. Lawrence Jewry, a ring that Laughton deservedly praises, they rang a 720 of College Single. William Coster, whose membership of the club had up to then

(Continued in next column.)

# FRICION AND RINGING SPEED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As the reader who asked the question about ringing speed in your issue of August 23rd, I wish to thank those gentlemen who have so kindly expressed their viws, which have been most interesting, and certainly no 'mere chaff and druff,' to quote Tennyson.

As, however, there is as yet nothing conclusive, I respectfully suggest that a purely mechanical experiment might be tried, one where none of the 'subtleties' which are said to affect ringers can come into play.

My suggestion is that half a dozen ringers of standing, one or two of whom know how to do a little job, shall visit a belfry where there is a bell of, say, 20 cwt., with a perfectly true wheel, having no wobble. The skilled men should devise and fix some reliable braking apparatus, so that the wheel may be efficiently braked on the rim throughout the bell's revolution. This done, they should raise the bell and a reliable man ring her at a set speed previously agreed upon, say at 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28 blows per minute. While this is being done two impartial men should stand by the bell, and after assuring themselves that the right beat is obtained, mark the wheel rim, level with the top of the frame, exactly when the bell completes her swing and turns. Arrangements should be made with a strap rope if necessary, for two men to ring the bell, and a few experiments made with the brake, first getting it to work right, and then applied in earnest, so much so that the two lusty fellows below have all their work cut out to tackle her and keep a true beat as before. The two markers, with the same meticulous care and with a different coloured chalk, should then mark the wheel as she turns. If the Rev. E. S. Powell is right, and the bell, through increased friction, travels on its combined downward and upward swing at a slower speed, she will, in order to strike at the same rate, have to be shortened in her swing and rung perceptibly lower.

I await the report of the men who make the experiment with interest.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

(Continued from previous column.)

consisted in being the landlord of the tavern where they frequently met, showed what he could still do in the way of heavy bell ringing by turning in the 32 cwt. tenor. They also rang a 720 of Cambridge Surprise and, on another visit, a 720 of Morning Exercise, on the largest six bells at Christ Church, Spitalfields. As Hayward rang the fifth, and Trenell the tenor (44 cwt.) single-handed, these were notable performances.

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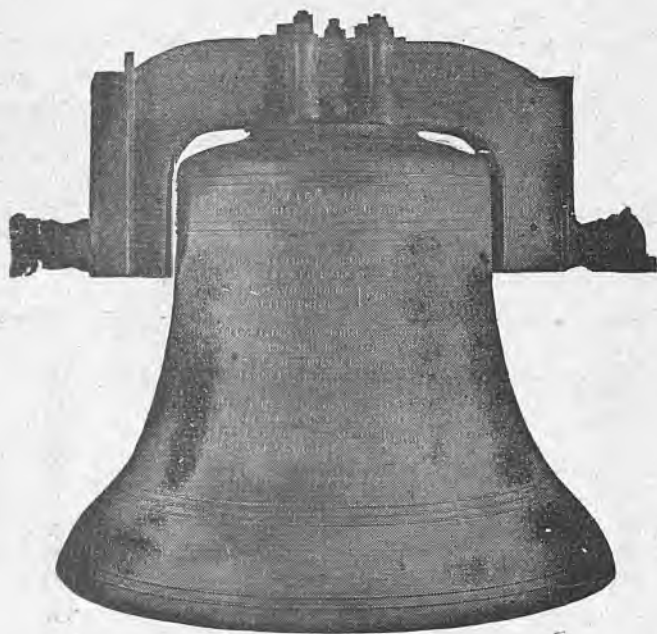
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. W. Dyer asks us to say that if there are any ringers serving with H.M. Forces in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, the local ringers would be very pleased to welcome them at Cook and Withington's, almost opposite the Boys' Grammar School in the High Street, on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. Handbells, including tune ringing, will be practised. Those who get tired of this can enjoy a game of darts or sit down and sip their 'lemonade.'

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. Three of them were Grandsire Triples at Bushey, Hertfordshire, Waltham Abbey and St. David's, Exeter. One was Kent Treble Bob at Handsworth, near Birmingham, and the other was seven methods of Minor at Sandhurst, Berks. Two of the peals of Grandsire Triples were Holt's Original and one Taylor's Bob and Single.

Fifty years ago on Sunday next Mr. E. B. James rang his first peal of Treble Bob Major. It was conducted by his brother Henry.

On October 1st, 1907, the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells was rung at Romford. William Pye conducted and the others in the band were his two brothers, Ernest and Bob, and William Keeble.

On the same date in 1793 the Aston men rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major, conducted by Joshua Short. Reference to this peal was made in a recent article in 'The Ringing World.'

The first peal on the bells of St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, was one of Bob Major on October 1st, 1749, by the Society of Eastern Scholars.

Thomas Hattersley, of Sheffield, was born on October 5th, 1839, and on October 6th, 1849, his grandfather, William Booth, died. William Booth was one of the Sheffield band which was the first to ring peals of Oxford Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus on handbells.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques, 6,204 changes, was rung on October 6th, 1788, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields by the College Youths, conducted by Thomas Blakemore; and on the same date in 1902 the first peal at Exeter Cathedral was rung. The method was Grandsire Caters, Mr. George Williams conducted, and Canon Coleridge rang the tenor with help.

## THE FIRST RING OF EIGHT BELLS IN ENGLAND.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In his recent book on the Church Bells of Berkshire, Mr. Frederick Sharpe says that John Wallis, of Salisbury, by installing a ring of eight bells at Bishop's Canning, Wilts, in 1602, had the honour of hanging the first octave in an English parish church.

Apparently, however, the claim is not a sound one. In the British Museum there is a letter to H. T. Ellacombe from a man who was at one time foreman to Warners, the bell founders, in which he says that he had seen at St. Andrew's, Holborn, a manuscript book with the account and list of subscribers to a peal of eight, with a tenor of 28 cwt., cast in 1587 for St. Andrew's by Robert Mot, of White-chapel.

There is some outside confirmation of this, including the sanctus bell, which was by Mot and has that date and still hangs in the steeple. Whether the manuscript still exists I do not know. I have not heard of any other octave as early as the sixteenth century, for the statement sometimes made that there was a ring of eight at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in pre-Reformation times will hardly stand any test.

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

### DISTRICT MEETING AT ARDLEIGH.

On Saturday a district meeting of the Essex Association was held at Ardleigh attended by 17 ringers from Colchester, Rushmere, Ipswich, Thorington, Mistley, Great Bentley, Ardeigh and Dedham.

Ringing on handbells began at 3 p.m. A service was held in the Parish Church at 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. A. Parker-Mason, who afterwards invited the ringers to tea at the Vicarage. At the business meeting, the secretary, Mr. L. Wright, read a letter from the Master, Mr. G. Waterman, expressing regret at not being able to attend owing to duties in the police force.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of the late Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, who passed away suddenly on August 29th.

After a discussion, Mr. C. A. Andrews proposed and Miss D. M. Andrews seconded that meetings should be continued, and it was carried.

Mr. Alan Andrews proposed and Mr. J. Jennings seconded that it should be left to the secretary to arrange the annual meeting early in December at St. Peter's, Colchester, if possible, or somewhere else in the town.

Mr. Henry J. Millatt proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, conducting the service and for kindly providing the tea, and to the organist for her services.—The Vicar replied and said he hoped it would be possible next time to ring the tower bells and for him to provide a more substantial repast. As things were now that had been impossible.

The ringers then took to the handbells again. During the day 10 methods were rung, viz., Kent Treble Bob Major and Minor, Bob Major and Minor, Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Double Grandsire Triples, York, London and Cambridge Surprise Minor.



**AIR RAID DAMAGE AT IPSWICH.**

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SAFE.

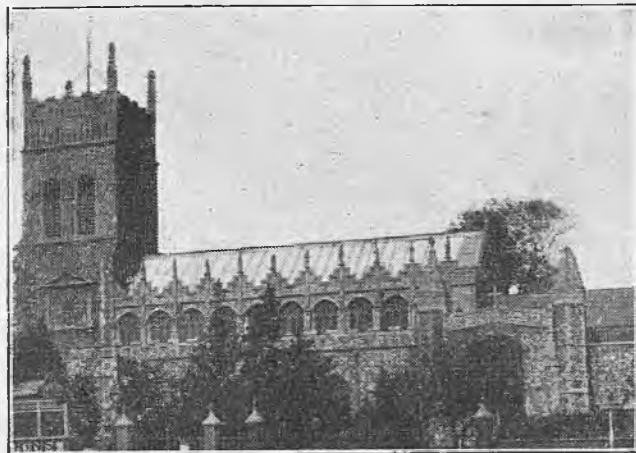
*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The enclosed letter was printed in the 'East Anglian Daily Times' of September 21st, and refers to an Ipswich church with a peal of eight bells.

The steeple is quite all right and the clock is still going. I looked round last Sunday and found one small section of the wall and railing blown into the churchyard and two windows on the south side broken. The concussion entered the porch and forced the windows on either side outwards, bending the leads. A nearby public-house had the roof practically blown off. The church was far from being 'demolished,' as broadcast.

I have received a letter from the Midlands hoping it was not St. Mary-le-Tower that had been damaged. I am thankful to say St. Mary's is not affected.

G. E. SYMONDS.



The Ipswich Church which was NOT demolished.

**AN M.P. ON RUMOURS.**

The following is the letter referred to by Mr. Symonds:—

Sir,—On hearing the B.B.C. announcement that a church in Ipswich had been 'demolished,' I hurried in to see what damage had been done. Many of your readers will know by now that no church was wrecked, but that some glass in a church was broken.

I rang up the B.B.C. to prevent a repetition of a false report, only to receive the reply, 'We are glad the church was not "demolished," but we cannot alter our report as the Air Ministry states it has been '!

So I rang up the Air Ministry and explained the position, including the fact that I had spoken to the B.B.C. The Air Ministry official replied with equal relief that the church had not been 'demolished,' but complained that he could not alter the B.B.C. announcement as the Ministry of Home Security had told the Air Ministry that the church had been!

There I left it—tired of the old Civil Service game of 'passing the buck'; but surely when we are all being urged to avoid rumours and stop inaccurate reports we are entitled to know who told the Ministry of Home Security that the church had been 'demolished.' Who did?

R. R. STOKES, M.P. for Ipswich.

**LONDON CHURCHES DAMAGED BY AIR RAIDS.**

Among the many London churches damaged by air raids is one very well known indeed to ringers, and the headquarters of one of the old Metropolitan societies. It can be identified by its association with a familiar nursery rhyme.

We understand that the early 18th century painted glass windows have suffered severely, but the tower and bells are unharmed.

To the list of damaged City churches given in our last issue must be added St. Mary Abchurch, which has been rather badly hurt. It has at present only one bell.

We are informed that a Devon church, of which a well-known ringing parson was at one time vicar, has been destroyed. The bells were saved by the fact that they hang in a steel frame.

**PUDSEY'S SCHEME.**

BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I read with interest and some amusement the letter of 'Ringer and Home Guard' in the last issue of 'The Ringing World,' in which he rather flippantly criticises the arrangements which have been made at Pudsey for the ringing of the bells in case of an air invasion.

Whether we like it or not, the Government says that church bells have to be used for that purpose, and until the order is rescinded, however much we object to it, we shall have to grin and bear it and do what we can to make the scheme effective, bearing in mind the care of the bells and the safety of the ringers.

These two conditions were uppermost in my mind when I made the arrangements with the local commander of the Home Guard at Pudsey. Obviously it is unnecessary to stress the danger of having bells rung by the uninitiated to a ringer, but as the commanders of the Home Guard do not appear to have been chosen from our ranks, and as they have been given unlimited power over the bells, of which, in the main, they know nothing, it is very necessary that we insist that only trained ringers should be allowed to ring the bells.

The arrangements which we have made may appear to be cumbersome—I do not claim that they are ideal—but I do contend that they are the best that could have been made under the circumstances. It does ensure that the bells (if they are needed) will be manned by ringers and at the same time it frees the ringers from irksome rota duties in the tower.

Four of our band are in A.R.P. services other than the Home Guard and so would not be available to ring the warning, the others live and work a considerable distance from the church and (this is where the motor-car comes in) would waste valuable time in getting to the belfry if they were not transported there. I can assure 'Ringer and Home Guard' that there was no ulterior motive such as a 'camouflaged practice' in my mind when I asked that a car should be provided, although I do not doubt that such a practice would be appreciated by those who could take part in it; being one of the excluded four I should have to be content with listening.

I have no idea where 'Ringer and Home Guard' 'hangs out,' but by the places he mentions in his letter he evidently knows the geographical position of Pudsey. Perhaps he lives not far away! In that case I would like him to know that we (the ringers) meet on the last Thursday evening in each month, not at the Rose and Crown, as he suggests: the name on the sign-board is rather more prosaic, but sounds just as inviting after a peal, and I give him a hearty invitation to join us and will willingly escort him there. The brew is good, the room warm and comfy, and the company congenial. Perhaps he will be able to expound a better scheme than the one we have arranged, in which case I'll invite the local commander to meet him. Better still, he may be able to suggest some other means of summoning the Home Guard which will be acceptable to the Home Office; if he can do that he will have earned the eternal gratitude of all the ringers in the country.

WILLIAM BARTON.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey.

**THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.**

A REPLY TO 'ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.'

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The views expressed by your correspondent, 'An Association Secretary,' do not appear logical. First he states that he is content to leave the question with the Central Council, with whose efforts to get the ban lifted he therefore agrees, and then goes on to approve the wisdom of the Ministry in imposing the ban.

Further, the specific purpose of the ban was not to prevent disturbance of those who needed rest, neither did my letter suggest that if the ban were lifted *all* church bells must be rung. These matters, therefore, are beside the point, as far as the letter I wrote is concerned.

J. OLDHAM.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. SEAR.

A meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on Saturday, September 21st, twenty-two members being present from Drayton Parslow, Newton Longville, Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford, Weston-Underwood and the local company. Handbells were made good use of.

The business meeting was held at the Rectory, and in the absence of the chairman, the Rev. J. F. Amies took the chair.

Very little business was transacted, but a discussion on the desirability of lifting the ban on Sunday service ringing ended in the hope that there may yet be a scheme submitted which the Ministry of Home Security would accept.

The chairman then, on behalf of members of the branch and with their best wishes, presented Mr. Walter Sear with a wristlet watch in recognition of his 25 years' service as secretary of the branch, which were completed on his resignation in June last.—Mr. Sear very suitably acknowledged the gift.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and to the Rev. J. L. Milne for the welcome and the hospitality given ended a very happy little gathering.

J. A.  
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## THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

### DESTRUCTION OF A WEST COUNTRY CHURCH.

It is one thing to read or hear in the news that, as the result of an enemy air raid, 'a church and some houses were demolished.' It is another thing to move among the actual ruins and watch and talk to sad-hearted villagers sorting out the debris. Hitler's ruthless hand spares nothing, and even the peaceful little country village, far from any military objective, is in a few hours deprived of its heritage of 700 years and holds only the blackened ruins of it.

I turned off the main road in the west country a few days ago to such a village, where a well-known clerical ringer had once been the incumbent, and spent some moments looking around a scene of utter destruction. All that remained of what had been a beautiful little sanctuary were the walls and tower. From the top of the latter the weathercock had fallen and lodged half over the parapet, the poor bird appearing to cast a dismal eye over the wreckage below.

The floor of the church was piled high with masses of broken stone from arches, pulpit and roof; every vestige of woodwork, including some of the most beautifully carved pews in the country, had been consumed; jagged bits of stained glass hung from scarred window mullions, and ironwork and pipes were bent and twisted in all directions. An incendiary bomb had fallen direct upon the organ and very quickly the whole church had become a raging furnace, from which nothing could be saved.

Remarkably enough, however, some marble plaques carved with the Stations of the Cross and inset on the walls were intact and perfectly free from any blackening. Also, one could look right up the tower, a mere skeleton, and there was the ring of six bells still in place in their steel frame. Ropes and wheels, of course, had gone, and had the frame been of timber, the bells must have come hurtling down to their destruction. As it is they are probably undamaged and will undoubtedly be salvaged and rehung. It is not so very long ago that these bells were augmented to six and the first peal rung on them.

A magnificent instance of the spirit and hope of the British people faced me as I passed out through the lychgate. With the ruins scarcely cold there hung a large improvised collecting box, headed 'Restoration Fund'. What visitor will resist that? The villagers certainly will have their church again, though not quite the same; and the bells, maybe, shall ring for the triumph of freedom—symbols of the one thing the devil's agents in the world cannot destroy.

C. C. C.

### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNUAL MEETING AT BOLTON.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Bolton on Saturday, and although the numbers were not large, 21 towers were represented as well as the Police and Ladies' Guilds. In the course of a happy little service in Holy Trinity Church, the Vicar (the Rev. H. A. Norton) apologised for the absence of the president, who was detained on parochial business. He gave those present a welcome and in a short address expressed the hope for the future, and said that although we were barred at present from ringing, it would not be long before we were clashing for victory.

Owing to the rationing, arrangements could not be made for tea, and the business meeting was proceeded with. The committee reported that the number of members was about the same as last year, 37 new members had been elected, death had claimed 19, seven of them life members, and 24 members had joined up, one of whom, Mr. C. Forcett, Bowness, is reported missing.

The balance sheet, which is incomplete, shows a loss of £6 15s. on the year's working, chiefly due to subscriptions not being collected. Only about 500 out of 900 members have paid.

There was only one nomination for president and general secretary, and the Rev. A. Scott and Mr. W. H. Shuker were re-elected for another term of two years. It was decided to leave over the question of the alteration of rule re Central Council representatives until a better meeting could be arranged. The place of the next annual meeting was left in the hands of the committee.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and the church authorities.

### AN ENTHUSIAST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Reports of meetings, etc., often state that a set of handbells was provided by Mr. C. W. Taylor, of Watford. Your readers may be interested to hear more about Mr. Taylor, as he is surely one of the most unique personalities of the Exercise.

He is not a ringer, but is passionately fond of bells, in particular of handbells, and has several sets, comprising in all nearly a hundred. To say nothing of tubes, gongs and sets of bicycle bells. He possesses a few of the more expensive books on bells and ringing, and these, with his handbells, are always at the disposal of any ringers who care to ask.

He travels miles to meetings and in one way and another must have spent much of his income on his beloved pastime. His enthusiasm should put many a ringer to shame, as he takes two copies of 'The Ringing World' per week, just, as he says, 'to help the circulation.'

RICHARD G. BELL.

Watford.

### AN EARLY RINGING TOUR.

#### FAMOUS RINGERS' VISIT TO EAST ANGLIA.

Fifty years ago next Monday was the start of one of the earliest of the peal ringing tours which have become so popular in recent years.

It was arranged by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer in Norfolk and Suffolk, and the band consisted of some of the most prominent ringers of the time.

The first peal of the week should have been Stedman Cinques at St. Mary-le-Tower, but illness prevented a start, so a wagonette was hired (it was in the days before motor-cars), and the party drove to Coddensham, where the first peal of Stedman on the bells was scored. The band was J. W. Washbrook (conductor), N. J. Pitstow, Charles Hounslow, P. E. Robinson, J. W. Taylor, E. A. Pitstow, G. F. Coleridge and Capt. A. P. Moore. It probably would have been difficult to have picked a band more representative of the best elements in the Exercise. Canon Coleridge is the only survivor.

Next day Double Norwich was lost at Woodbridge owing to the bad going of the bells and a shift, and later on in the day Stedman Caters was lost at Yarmouth also through a shift.

On Wednesday, Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Aylsham and Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. It was the first peal of Maximus by the two Pitstows, John Taylor, P. E. Robinson, Hounslow and the future Canon. Four local men stood in, including Frederick Knights and George Smith, two first class heavy bell men. Washbrook rang the tenor and conducted.

On Thursday two peals were scored on two of the best rings in the Eastern Counties—Double Norwich at Diss, and Stedman Triples at Redenhall. On Friday, Superlative was lost at Redenhall and Double Norwich was rung at Eye, and on Saturday a second attempt for Superlative at Redenhall was successful.

The band then broke up, but Washbrook, Hounslow and the two Pitstows went on to Cambridge and rang a peal of Stedman Caters with the local men. Two resident members of the Cambridge University Guild rang the 5th and 8th. They were E. B. and H. L. James.

### DEATH OF MR. J. WILKINSON.

#### LIVERPOOL'S LOSS.

The Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association has sustained a severe loss by the death of Mr. John Wilkinson, which took place on September 19th.

Some years ago he underwent a serious operation, which slowed down his ringing activity, and he found peal ringing imposed rather a strain on him. Recently he had to enter hospital again for a further operation and from it he never recovered. Before the interment at Kirkdale Cemetery on September 23rd, a service was held at the Church of St. Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill, where he had rung for so many years. It was attended by many relatives and friends and by his fellow-ringers. At the graveside were many brother Freemasons of his lodge.

Mr. Wilkinson began his ringing career at Walton-on-the-Hill in 1907, and in August rang his first peal at Frodsham in seven methods on the old six. He rang upwards of 100 peals for the Lancashire Association, a large number for the Chester Diocesan Guild and several for the Yorkshire, Irish and other societies. He took part in the first peals of Cambridge Royal and Maximus for the Lancashire Association and the first and only peal of London Surprise Major that has been rung in Liverpool. He conducted several peals of Treble Bob, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, one of the latter being rung on the front eight at St. Nicholas' Church and was the first in Liverpool. Notable among his peals was a non-conducted peal in seven Surprise Minor methods at Walton-on-the-Hill in 1913. His last peal was one of Stedman Caters at St. Nicholas' on November 5th, 1938.

Although Mr. Wilkinson was associated with St. Nicholas' company in many of their best achievements, he always remained loyal to his own tower at Walton-on-the-Hill, where until the recent ban he very materially helped to maintain Sunday service ringing. He was for some years one of the auditors of the Lancashire Association and always carried out his duties with zeal and attention. John Wilkinson had a most lovable and genial disposition and was well known in many parts of the country. He was an excellent ringer on all numbers of bells, and his place will be hard to fill. Much sympathy is extended to his widow and family in their heavy bereavement.

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## A CANADIAN CELEBRATION.

### GOLDEN WEDDING OF VICTORIA RINGER.

On Sunday, August 4th, Mr. A. C. Melhuish, one of the ringers at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia, celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. Melhuish has been a ringer for 54 years, and before leaving for Canada was a member of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association. He has rung in 13 peals of Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Major and Plain Bob. The last ringing he had before his departure for Canada was a 2½-hour attempt for Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Prescott.

Mr. Melhuish was a member of three companies of ringers in Bath, i.e., St. Andrew's, Christ Church, Twerton Parish Church and Bath Abbey.

Mr. Melhuish is now vergier at Christ Church Cathedral and has taken a very active part in training young ringers and keeping up the interest of the others and improving the art of change ringing.

A touch of 840 of Grandsire Triples was rung in honour of Mr. Melhuish's golden wedding, the ringing taking place just before the evening service. The ringers were W. Boniface, — Roberts, Arthur Izard, R. Lane, A. King, A. B. Lomas, E. W. Izard and E. Lake.

Ringing continues regularly at the Cathedral and there is practice at least one evening per week. A full band of eight can always be arranged.

There are many visitors in the belfry, some coming from the United States. One visitor, a very celebrated organist, remarked that the bells and method ringing was the most interesting thing he had ever seen, and the least advertised.

The bells at Christ Church Cathedral have an interesting origin. The back six were the gift of Mrs. Mary Geraldine Mozley, wife of Canon Mozley, in memory of her brother, Capt. Charles Raymond Nutt, and the trebles were given in memory of two honoured citizens of Victoria. The bells are the counterpart of the ring at Westminster Abbey, and, like them, were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, where they were blessed by the late Bishop of London (Dr. Winnington Ingram) as president of the British Columbia and Yukon Church Aid Society.

By consent of Queen Mary, the tenor was given the name of King George V. and also bears the words, 'Christ, Heaven's King, be pleased with this ring.' Queen Mary also permitted her own name to be given to the seventh. The sixth is named 'Charles Raymond,' and the fifth 'Edward of Westminster.' The latter bears the English translation of the inscription which appears in Latin on two Elizabethan bells in Westminster Abbey, 'Praise the Almighty Father with the sounding bells.'

The name given to the fourth is 'Paul, of London, England,' and it bears the same inscription as Great Paul, 'Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel.' The third bell is named 'Our Lady, St. Mary,' and the trebles are respectively inscribed, 'In memoriam, John Samuel Henry Watson,' and 'In memoriam, John Robert Meredith Watson.'

When the bells reached Victoria, they were hung in the north-west tower of the Cathedral under the supervision of Mr. E. W. Izard, who, 25 years before, had done a little ringing in England. As a responsible executive officer in a big Pacific coast shipyard, Mr. Izard brought his engineering knowledge and his latent love of bells to bear upon the task, and a first class job was made of the hanging. Mr. Izard also got together a band of ringers and the bells were properly rung on the occasion of their opening.

Ever since, a company of ringers has been successfully maintained and they have frequently broadcast over the Canadian network. Mr. Melhuish has been one of the English ringers living in the far west who has been able to renew his contact with ringing, and has thrown himself heartily into the work of setting up and keeping together a band at this distant outpost of the art.

## RINGERS' YARNS.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in your leading article of September 13th, especially your appeal to those members of the Exercise able to write on subjects of interest. While not professing to be among the above, may I venture to suggest that amusing stories of ringing exploits would be much appreciated. Letters from 'Yokel' and 'Countryman' are far too few. In these days, when we need all the cheer we can get, I have many pleasant recollections of stories of ringing exploits (many unfortunately not printable) heard during the social hours after a peal attempt.

Who could fail to get a laugh out of the story of four ringers who were attempting a handbell peal and had a well-known ringer as umpire? As the ringing progressed he kept edging nearer and nearer the circle, head craned forward, until he is almost among the ringers, one of whom is not leading as he should. It goes on for some time, and the conductor in his exasperation stamps his foot, bringing it with full force upon the umpire's pet corn. Of course, the peal was lost, and unfortunately the remarks which followed are not fit for print, but I guess most ringers can well imagine them.

There must be lots of ringers who could put many good ringing yarns on paper. I should like to see them in 'The Ringing World.' I am sure most ringers would enjoy them.

'WEST COUNTRYMAN.'

## EARLY DAYS.

### A PICTURE OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL BELFERY.

'Oh, there are the Cathedral bells!' Two small boys, aged seven and five, spring up from the breakfast table and throw open the Deanery windows. They are called back to the table, but are listening to the rise in peal.

The rise was worth listening to. I have often heard it said that the Devon ringers are wonderful at the rise. I have heard them and know that to be true; but the old Crypt Youths in Gloucester were as good as any I have heard. George Wankelyn was their conductor and he always raised the treble. Ben Ethcedge and Joe Clerk came from Malsmore, Jack Thomas and Frank Hart were natives of Gloucester, Joe Yates and Alf Waite were Barnwood ringers, Joe Gough came from Churcham, and Harry Eaketts was a tenor-man. But we are keeping the little boys too long at table. They are let free at last and off they go; through the cloisters, across the nave into the south transept, and so up the spiral staircase to the bell chamber. Seven dashes up at a great pace, but five has to climb all those many steps on all fours; and so at last they both reach the gloomy ringing chamber.

The ringers are all in one corner, and right in front of them, as they come through the door, is the hour bell, Great Peter, majestic in his 63 cwt. And now they watch the dancing ropes, as the ringers lap off a perfect touch of Grandsire Triples, and admire and wonder. They little know that they will both be in the first peal of Stedman and the first of Double Norwich on those bells. Three years later both seven and five were up again to see Great Peter being rung up muffled for the funeral of Canon Sir John Seymour. No light task that! It took eight men to ring her. She was rung from the ground floor, and 80 ft. of slack rope had to be kept under control. There were six tail ropes spliced on to the end, and George Wankelyn stood to catch the sallie. Another man stood by the wheel to steady her in when she had to be set. It was a three-quarter wheel and she would only set at hand. When John Taylor examined her some 20 years later he said that he would never have dared to hang a bell of that size on such small gudgeons. That was the last time she was ever rung up (1878).

Now turn we to the jubilee year, 1887. Seven and five are now at Malvern College. The Priory bells are to be increased from six to eight, and so are St. Michael's bells (the iron church) at Gloucester. Seven is busy drawing up rules for a new society, which was afterwards launched under the name of St. Michael's Juniors, on September 8th; and Sydney Romans was the first Master. Seven afterwards combined all the Lincoln societies in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, of which he became the first Master. E. BANKES JAMES.

## TRANSPPOSITION FOR FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### AN ENQUIRY AND EXPLANATION.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter from 'Much Interested' published in 'The Ringing World' of September 6th, and your reply to same, also a further reply from Mr. E. C. Turner in the issue of September 13th, I, too, have often wondered how the lead heads and lead ends of a method can be found out from the half leads. I was, therefore, very pleased to see it explained so clearly in your column. There is also another point in the article mentioned by 'Much Interested,' which has proved too much of a puzzle for me, viz., that of transposing the table of lead ends by the third row (Example 4), and to find the results given by you. Those of the lead heads transposed by the first row are easily found, but not so with the lead ends.

I should be grateful if you would explain exactly how to find the results there given.

'VERY MUCH INTERESTED.'

The following is the explanation asked for by our correspondent:—

A 12345678	B 2345678	C 4628375
21354762	4263857	6847253
12537486	6482735	8765432
21573468	8674523	7583624
	7856342	5372846
	5738264	3254768
	3527486	2436587

A is the first section of the method.

B is the table of lead heads.

C is the table of lead ends.

The first row of the section is 12345678, and the rows in table B transposed by 2345678 will give the same rows.

The third row in the section is 12537486, and the rows in table C transposed by 2537486 will give:—

E 4867253
6785432
8573624
7352846
5234768
3426587
2648375

The fourth row in table B is 8674523, and the third row in table E is 8573624. A comparison of these two rows will give the false course end, B 24365.



## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### AN EXPLANATION BY EXAMPLE.

In our article of September 6th we examined the first and third rows of the first section of our sample method, and we found that they gave one false course end, viz., B 24365. Later on we examined the first and third rows of the second section, and they gave two false course ends, A 32546 and D 46253. We will next turn 12345678+ back to the first section and examine the 21354768- second and fourth rows. First we transpose 12537486- pose the lead heads of the method by 21573468+ 2354768 and then the lead ends by 2573468.

We compare the results and we get the row 8647253 from the fourth lead head and the row 8537642 from the third lead end.

When we examine these two rows we find that we have got something different from what we found in our previous examples. Then we saw that, in addition to 7 and 8 being in the same position, one other bell was also in the same position, and the other bells were transposed in pairs. But now, although 7 and 8 are in the same positions, every one of the other bells is displaced, and in no instance do two bells exchange positions between themselves.

To determine the false course end produced by these two rows we must put the bells of the first row into the position of the corresponding bells in the second row—6 will occupy the position of 5; 4 will occupy the position of 3; 2 that of 6; 5 that of 4; and 3 that of 2. This will give us 34562 as the false course end, and we know that in the second half of the third lead of the course 34562 there will be a row which is contained in the first half of the fourth lead of the plain course. Here are the actual changes.

From 23456.	From 34562.
18674523	81647253
81647253	18674235
18462735	81762453
81426753	18726543

But as the course 34562 is false against the plain course, so is the plain course false against another course. Up to now in the cases we have examined we have found that this liability to falseness is reciprocal. For instance, as 24365 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 24365. And as 32546 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 32546. But in our present example this reciprocity no longer holds. As 34562 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against another course, but it is 62345 and not 34562. This gives us a second false end, and we know that in the second half of the third lead of the plain course there will be a row which is contained in the first half of the fourth lead of the course 62345. Here are the actual changes.

From 23456.	From 62345.
81537642	18573462
18573624	81537642
81756342	18356724
18765432	81365742

We have now got two false course ends. P 34562 and Q 62345. But, as we explained in our article of June 7th, each of them has its complementary false course end. S 46325 is complementary to P 34562, and R 54263 is complementary to Q 62345. We shall get them if we transpose the table of lead heads by the fourth row of the section, and the table of lead ends by the second row. As a check it is well to do so, but otherwise it is not

necessary. If we do we shall produce the row 7648532 from the fifth lead head and the row 7538264 from the fourth lead end, showing that the second half of the fourth lead of the course 54263 contains a row which is also contained in the first half of the fifth lead of the plain course; and the second half of the fourth lead of the plain course contains a row which is also contained in the first half of the fifth lead of the course 46325. Here are the actual changes.

From 23456.	From 54263.
17856342	71456832
71865432	17465823
17684523	71648532
71648532	17684352

	From 46325.
71325864	17825634
17352846	71852364
71538264	17583246
17583624	71538264

Thus the relationship of the second and the fourth rows of the first section give us four false course ends, P 34562, Q 62345, R 54263, and S 46325. These four form a group, and whenever in any regular method you get one of them, you inevitably get the other three.

The actual repetition of rows with these four false ends is no more than when only one (such as 24365) is produced, but it is spread over four courses instead of being confined to one course. The general law always holds good; whenever the relationship of two rows is such that there is a repetition of one row between the plain course and another natural course, there are always three other repetitions, no more and no less.

There are seven other groups of false course ends which have the same peculiarities as P Q R S. One of them, which consists of T 65243, U 46532, V 36524 and W 52643, turns up now and then in a method, but the others, fortunately, are rarely met with. It is obvious that if in a method there are four courses we must not use in full for every one we do use in full, there will be little scope for peal composition, especially as in these cases we cannot put the sixty courses into groups that share each other's false course ends as the groups A B C D E and B F G do.

We might suppose at first sight that every false course end in which every bell occupies a different position from what it does in 23456, would be a member of one of these groups of four, but that does not always happen. For instance, we might get M 36245 as a false course end, and as M is false against the plain course, so is the plain course false against N 42563. Each of these will have its complementary false course end, but when we work them out we find that the complementary false course end to M is N, and the complementary false course end to N is M. We still get the four repetitions, but two of them occur in different leads of M and two in different leads of N.

We have now established that the first section of our method gives five false course ends—B 24365, 4-3, 5-4, P 34562, 4-3, Q 62345, 3-4, R 54263, 5-4, S 46325, 4-5. If in our peal composition we use the plain course in full we may not use any one of these five in full, and for every natural course we use in full there are five others which we may not use in full. At first sight that would seem to make a true peal impossible, but there are two things which point to a way out of the difficulty.



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Business meeting at 6 p.m. prompt, to be followed by handbell practice and social evening.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Barton Seagrave on Saturday, October 5th. Handbells. Service 4.30. Tea (and sugar) after. Please notify me if you are coming.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Est. 1637).—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C. If possible, there will be ringing at St. Lawrence Jewry at 3 p.m. for about an hour preceding the meeting, and handbell ringing after the meeting.—A. B. Peck.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Priory Church, Dunstable, on Saturday, October 5th, at 3.30 p.m. Social talk, handbells and business. Election of officers, etc. Please make special effort to attend. Members of H.M. Forces welcome.—Edwin A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Quarterly meeting fixed for Oct. 5th at Shiplake. Handbells from 3 p.m. at Plowden Arms. Tea, 1s. per head, at 5.15 p.m. If numbers warrant it, a service will be held at Shiplake Church at 4.30 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—On account of the Snowdon dinner being postponed, a meat tea (2s. 6d. per head) is being arranged to take place at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, at 4.30 p.m. prompt, on Saturday, October 12th, followed by a social evening until 9 p.m. Tower secretaries are asked to make these arrangements as widely known as possible, and let me know how many of their members intend to be present not later than Saturday, October 5th. The committee hope that all members who are able will come, as it is more necessary than ever that the interest and life of the

association should be maintained through these difficult times.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Oct. 12th. Handbells available in Parish Room at 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 5 p.m. for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, Oct. 9th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, nr. Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at Nottingham. Committee meet 4 p.m. in St. Peter's New Parish Hall. Tea at nearby café 5 p.m., followed by meeting and convivial, handbell ringing, etc., in above hall. All members invited to attend and any ringers in H.M. Forces in and near Nottingham are specially invited to spend a pleasant hour together.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—It is hoped that the society will be able to continue its activities during the forthcoming year. Attention will have to be concentrated on handbells, of course, but silent practices at New College will be resumed if permission can be obtained for the removal of the clappers. Any ringers coming up next term are asked to get into touch with either J. E. Spice, New College (Master), or W. Leese, St. John's College (secretary).—J. E. Spice.

**THE 'EXTREME.'**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—One Sunday before the ringing ban was imposed, I visited a six-bell tower in Somerset to ring for morning service. We rang some Doubles, and in the last touch of Grandsire the conductor suddenly called 'Extreme.' Not knowing what to do, I made a bob, but the touch broke down and the conductor called the bells round.

When he had 'stood' the bells I enquired about the 'extreme,' and although it was explained to me in detail by half a dozen rich Somerset voices, I failed to grasp it properly.

Has it anything to do with the 'Hies' that John Garthorn used in his early peals of Grandsire Triples?

Would you explain this, please?

C. T. B.

In Plain Changes, the earliest form of change ringing, the treble alone was hunted, all the other bells lying still except when they had to move to let the treble pass. But when the treble lay its whole pull behind or in front, the two bells which were furthest from it changed places and this was called an Extreme, and after cross peals were introduced the term was for many years used as we now use the term Bob. The band referred to by our correspondent probably practised some traditional variation of Grandsire Doubles with a special call.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

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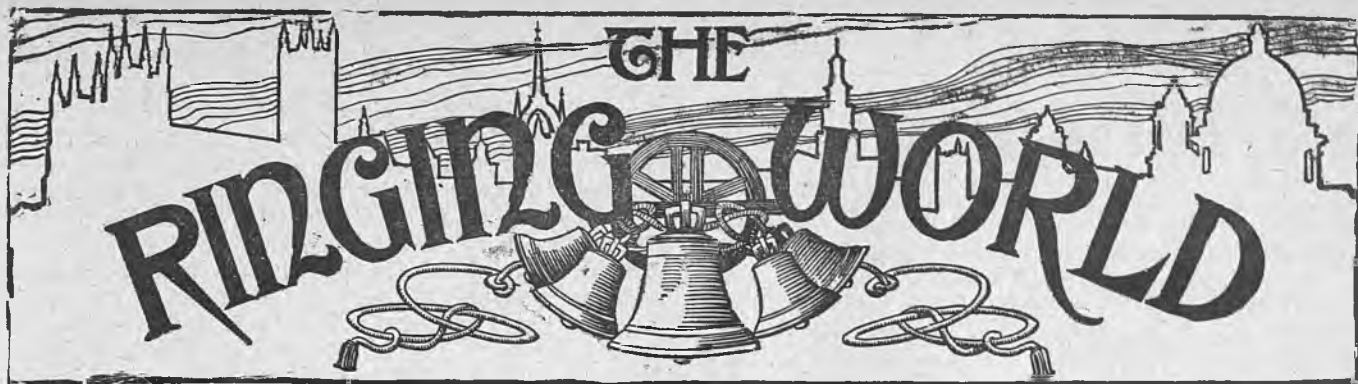
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## LINCOLNSHIRE RECTOR'S VINDICATION

The Lincolnshire rector who was imprisoned for having rung his church bells on a Sunday in June has had his conviction quashed by the Court of Quarter Sessions, and has been awarded costs. 'The Ringing World' has played no little part in securing this result. Without any knowledge of the clergyman concerned and only the briefest details of the evidence presented at the Police Court, the Editor, convinced that an injustice had been done, at once took the matter up with the Home Office, and as a result of this action the release of the rector was ordered after he had served twelve days of the sentence of four weeks' imprisonment passed upon him at Spilsby. What was obvious from the first was that, if the conviction was based upon the Control of Noises (Defence) Order of June 19th, there could have been no offence because the Order had not been made when the ringing took place. Further information, however, elicited the fact that the summons was based on the previous Order of last November, from which, by Home Office authority, bells were excepted, and as a result of which ringing went on throughout the length and breadth of the land until June 18th. Up to that time there had been no question about the lawful ringing of church bells, once the intention of the November Order was realised by the police, and what concerned us after the conviction of the Rev. R. G. C. Graham was the implied liability which all ringers had risked for the ringing they had engaged in in the previous seven months. That there may have been, as now appears, some feeling among the parishioners of Old Bolingbroke was unknown to us and in any case did not concern the issue. The freedom to chime the bell at Old Bolingbroke on Sunday, June 16th, was as important as the right to ring any peal of bells in any church on that day, and it was as a matter of principle that the Editor took the matter up with the Home Secretary. Those who read the report of the proceedings at Spilsby Police Court must have been impressed by the fact that while the summons was taken out under the old Order, the evidence appeared to be directed to obtaining a conviction under the new Order, for when the police witness was asked when the Order was made he said it was made 'a few days previously.' No one apparently took the opportunity of correcting the misstatement, but supposing it to have been correct, was not the sentence of four weeks' imprisonment for such an offence, against an Order supposed to have been made 'a few days previously' a monstrously vindictive one?

A copy of 'The Ringing World' of November 17th,

(Continued on page 482.)

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1939, containing the reply of the Home Office to the inquiry of the Editor, making clear the fact that church bells were not included in the Order of that time, was a convincing piece of evidence in deciding the appeal last week in favour of Mr. Graham. When the rector's counsel produced this copy of 'The Ringing World,' the opposing counsel said he would not further contest the appeal. In giving judgment the chairman of the Appeal Committee said the rector should neither have been prosecuted, convicted nor kept in prison. That is a pretty sweeping condemnation, but in view of the way in which the case was conducted in its first stages, it was not too strong. The mere quashing of the conviction, however, does not compensate the rector of Old Bolingbroke for the shock he must have suffered or the indignity inflicted upon him of being haled off to prison, without even having been given the chance of being legally represented on a charge which, while it probably appeared to him at most only a technical offence, was one which the magistrates dealt with as though he had jeopardised the safety of the realm. At any rate, the rector has been cleared of the aspersions, and 'The Ringing World' has been happy to have had a part in this vindication, not only in the interests of the Rev. R. G. C. Graham, but in the interests of ringing generally and the British love of justice.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 29, 1940, in One Hour and Forty-Six Minutes,  
AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;  
Tenor size 13 in E.

\*MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4  
†PTE. A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN 5-6

Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

## THE EXTREME.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Probably the extreme referred to by C. T. B. in his letter last week was the one shown in the chapter on Grandsire Doubles in Snowdon's book on Grandsire, in which the bell in the hunt lies a whole pull wrong behind, strikes one blow in fourth's, lies a whole pull right, strikes another blow in fourth's and lies a whole pull wrong. The bell that passes the treble in 3-4 lies one blow behind and goes down to make third's and then to lead. The bell that passes the treble in 2-3 makes third's place, and goes up to one blow behind, and then straight through to lead. The bell the treble turns from lead, makes second's place.

C. E. BANHAM.

Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk.

24351  
23415  
32145  
31254  
13245  
13425  
31452  
34125  
43215  
42351

Mr. W. T. Tucker, of Eastleigh, Hants, forwards the same information.

## HANDBELL RINGING.

ALLESLEY.—At the Parish Church for harvest festival on Sunday morning, September 21st, courses of Grandsire Caters by C. H. Webb 1-2, Albert Walker (Birmingham) 3-4, Frank E. Pervin 5-6, Frank Perrens 7-8, John Taylor 9-10.

KERESLEY.—At the Parish Church for harvest festival on Sunday, October 6th, courses of Grandsire Caters by W. A. Stote 1-2, E. Stone 3-4, E. Sibley 5-6, C. H. Webb 7-8, A. R. Webb 9-10. For evening service: E. Sibley 1-2, E. Stone 3-4, Percy Stone 5-6, C. H. Webb 7-8, A. R. Webb 9-10. Thanks are due to the Allesley band, who are mainly responsible for the progress of the Keresley band in double-handed ringing.



## ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

### JOHNSON COMMEMORATION HOPED FOR NEXT YEAR.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, was held on Saturday last at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, the chair, in the absence of the Master (Alderman J. S. Pritchett), being occupied by Mr. Albert Walker, the vice-president. Apologies were received from the Master, who sent a cheery message of goodwill to the members, from Mr. F. E. Haynes, Ringing Master, and from Mr. W. C. Dowding.

The secretary referred to the death of Mr. Jonathan Preston, of Erdington, who was senior auditor and an active member of the Guild. On behalf of the officers and members he had written to Mrs. Preston expressing deep sympathy with her and her family in their bereavement. Mr. G. F. Swann expressed the tribute of the Erdington Parish Church ringers. He said that Jonathan Preston had been secretary in that belfry for 36 years and had always been most thorough in all he undertook. He personally had lost a very true friend and colleague. Those present stood for a moment in silence as a last mark of respect.

Mr. G. E. Fearn was unanimously elected as auditor in the place of Mr. Preston.

Mr. Ernest Stone, of Coventry, was elected a life member of the Guild.

The next item on the agenda was to consider the Henry Johnson Commemoration in 1941 and what form it should take. After some discussion it was agreed that this should be held on Saturday, March 1st, but final decision as to what form it should take to be left over until the next meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, being the annual, at headquarters on Saturday, January 4th, 1941.

The rest of the evening was devoted to social intercourse and handbell ringing. The latter was somewhat curtailed owing to another meeting taking place in the far end of the same room. Those acquainted with the size of the room will understand that this would be possible, and some really good tune ringing by Mr. Webb and his company from Coventry was thoroughly enjoyed and much appreciated. Change ringing on the handbells also took place, and the evening, although somewhat restricted, was very enjoyable.

## SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL RINGING

### ITS VALUE IN TEACHING A BAND.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In your issue of September 6th, Mr. Hibbins suggests it would be interesting to know of any peals rung single-handed.

About 38 years ago there was rung in the belfry of St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds, by eight members of that band, a handbell peal of Bob Major, composed by J. R. Pritchard and conducted by Frederick Hunt. I had the privilege of ringing the 6th.

The account of this was not published in 'The Bell News' for the reason that the other local band, who were keen to ring the first handbell peal for the association, would have disputed it on the grounds that we had no umpire. The matter was left over until the annual meeting of the association, when it was decided that as eight members took part it was no more necessary to have an umpire than for a tower bell peal. The peal was therefore placed in the records.

It may be of interest to young ringers of to-day to know what led up to this performance, and at the risk of boring your readers I will narrate the circumstances. Forty-two years ago, the Rev. W. M. K. Warren, now the Master of the Bath and Wells Association, held a curacy at St. James' Church (now the Cathedral), Bury St. Edmunds. The tower of the church, the Norman Tower, contains a fine peal of ten, tenor 30 cwt. Mr. Warren found that the bells were rung only once a month for divine service. Being a ringer, he tried to remedy this, and formed a band to ring twice every Sunday. He got together about 14 youths, all in their middle 'teens, and, assisted by the late Arthur Osborne, started to teach them.

After many months' practice, often five evenings a week, we were able to ring the ten bells in call changes. Both the late James Motts and Mr. Charles Mee heard us ringing and gave us full marks for striking.

Soon after starting, handbell practice was decided on, but, having no handbells, we used the rope ends while collecting for a set of 17. Many practices were held in my home and within two years we had all rung a 720 of Bob Minor in hand. I mention this because I think a record was created by my youngest brother, who rang the treble to a 720 of Minor before he reached the age of seven.

In our enthusiasm to learn change ringing we regularly practised on the front six of the ten tower bells with the clappers tied. Most of us rang a 720 in this way before we attempted one with open clappers.

After four years of hard work we were able to ring Grandsire Triples and Bob Major for the services.

As will be gathered, we could never have progressed as we did without the use of call changes, handbell ringing and practice with the clappers tied. Were I teaching a new band I should use the same means, which I think could be used to advantage during these troublous times.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

Croydon.

## BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED.

### 'A PARALLEL CASE.'

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Here is a parallel case to that of Mr. Street's toboggan problem, but one that does not require, as that does, the use of integral calculus for its mathematical solution.

Two cars start from town A to go to town B, 10 miles off at the same moment. One travels a level road at a steady speed of 30 miles an hour, reaching its destination in 20 minutes. The second takes a route of the same mileage over a mountain 5 miles up and 5 miles down. Uphill it averages 20 miles an hour. To reach town B at the same time as the other car, if Mr. Street's reasoning is correct, it will need to descend the hill at an average of 40 miles an hour! I leave it at that.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

### THE FIRST BELLS ON BALL BEARINGS.

Sir,—A good deal of correspondence about ball bearings has appeared in 'The Ringing World' in the last few weeks.

One thing I have been trying to get information on is this: the first bells that were fitted with ball bearings. If any of our readers can inform me upon this subject I shall be pleased to hear from them, through your valuable columns.

I claim that Hatfield Parish Church has this honour.

In 1910 the tenor in this tower was unringable, and I was asked to try it, but found it was so false and unringable for a peal and could only be rung for a very short time. The local motor engineers, Messrs. Waters and Son, were asked to do something to this bell. They lifted the bell from the frame and moulded a seating, and placed an ordinary ball race on the gudgeons. The bearings were protected by a strip of iron along the frame. No oil feeder was fitted, but grease was pressed from the side into the ball race.

These ball races were on for 28 years, and were removed in 1938 when our bells were rehung by Taylor and Co.

This method of hanging bells on ball bearings was a very crude business, but so satisfactory that the treble, sixth and seventh were fitted in the same way in 1910.

In 1916 the treble was going very badly, and with pulley blocks, which I obtained from Waters' garage, and with the help of Mr. Arthur Shepherd, one of our local ringers, we hauled the treble up out of the frame and found one ball had split in half. Being war time, nothing could be done about it. Mr. Shepherd was called back to his regiment the next day, leaving me with the treble hanging on the pulley blocks. I obtained another ball race, which I placed on the gudgeon, and placed the bell back in position; where it remained until 1938.

The condition of these ball races was not as one would expect, entirely worn out, although dirt and dust must have been pushed into the bearings with the grease and oil.

Therefore, we claim that Hatfield has the honour of being the first to have bells fitted with ball bearings.

A. LAWRENCE.

### 'DEATH OF MR. RICHARD WILLIAMSON.

#### WELL-KNOWN PYTCHLEY RINGER.

After a very short illness, the death occurred on September 24th at Pytchley, Northants, of Mr. Richard Williamson, a well-known and respected churchman and ringer, at the age of 85. Mr. Williamson was a keen churchman and during his long life had served the church in various capacities. He had been leader of the belfry and sexton for 30 years, choirman, member of the Parochial Church Council and sidesman. The last two offices he performed up to the time of his death.

His interests outside the church were no less varied, for he had been parish constable, fireman and ambulance worker, in addition to his business as village cobbler. Although not a peal ringer, Mr. Williamson was keenly interested in the belfry and had taught numerous learners the first steps in the 'noble art.' Always ready to give a helping hand, he had made up the band several times and ensured that the bells were rung for a 7 a.m. celebration.

He is survived by two sons, George and Reginald. The latter, like his father, has also been a leader of the local band. Another son, Richard, also an enthusiastic ringer, died whilst on active service during the last war.

At the funeral the ringers were represented by Messrs. G. S. F. Brown and S. Munton. An old ringing colleague, Mr. Ted Chapman, of Kettering, was also present.

### RINGER AND CRICKETER.

#### DEATH OF MR. JAMES HEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Hey, of Armley, at the age of 73. He was one of a young band who learnt to ring at Burley somewhere about the year 1885. For the greater part of his life he lived at Armley, and in 1922 he became a regular member of the local band, when the old peal of six was augmented to eight.

Mr. Hey was better known as a cricketer than as a ringer, and played with much success for the old Leeds Albion C.C., North Leeds C.C. and finally the old Armley C.C.

## THE RAMBLING RINGERS' CLUB.

### THE END OF THE CLUB.

At times the Ramblers visited St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. Lawrence Jewry, and St. Giles', Cripplegate, and rang Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and Treble Bob Major. It began to look as if they were going to settle down into a regular eight-bell band distinct from the older London companies; and that, no doubt, proved their undoing. For the older societies could not allow it to happen without the risk of suffering injury, and it is pretty sure that they took disciplinary measures. In what form we do not know, but evidently the Ramblers were given the sharp option of either dropping the club altogether, or being expelled from their societies. And with that the whole thing collapsed. It never had any real strength, for though Laughton boasts of the numbers that had attended the meetings, a large proportion of them, especially towards the end, came only to the suppers, and did no ringing.

They saved their faces very well. The last ringing meeting was on February 18th, 1735, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where they rang three courses of Oxford Treble Bob Major, or, as they called it, Union Bob, the first in the method on the bells. The final meeting was on Saturday, March 8th, at the Bell in Angel Alley, where, sixteen months before, the club had begun, and this was the fiftieth time it had met. Laughton gave them a supper of a shoulder of veal and two plum puddings, and they spent the night talking of what they had done, and reminding each other what fine fellows they were.

When Laughton wrote his panegyric he quite fairly represented the life of the club as a completed whole. We agreed, he tells his readers, to attempt a certain task. We performed it to the full. We met the round number of fifty times. And then, our job ended, we agreed to part. But just for the reason that the thing had been so great a success and still was a success, we can hardly believe it was given up voluntarily. Perhaps the pace was too hot for some of them; and behind we can see the shadow of Annable's personality. No doubt he was tired of Laughton and his ways, tired of the things he was saying about him in taverns and among ringers up and down the town; and he made up his mind to smash him once and for all.

But Laughton did not fall without an effort. There were men, old friends of his, among Annable's supporters. A peal was rung at St. Lawrence Jewry, on May 17th, and it looks as if it was intended as a reconciliation between the official College Youths and the erstwhile Ramblers. Laughton, it will be remembered, had the entrée to that belfry, and, we imagine, arranged the attempt. He and Trenell rang in it, and Pickhard, Hayward, Dearmor, Lucas, Mobbs and Spicer. But Annable refused to take part, and with that performance, Laughton drops out of the history of change ringing and we hear no more of him.

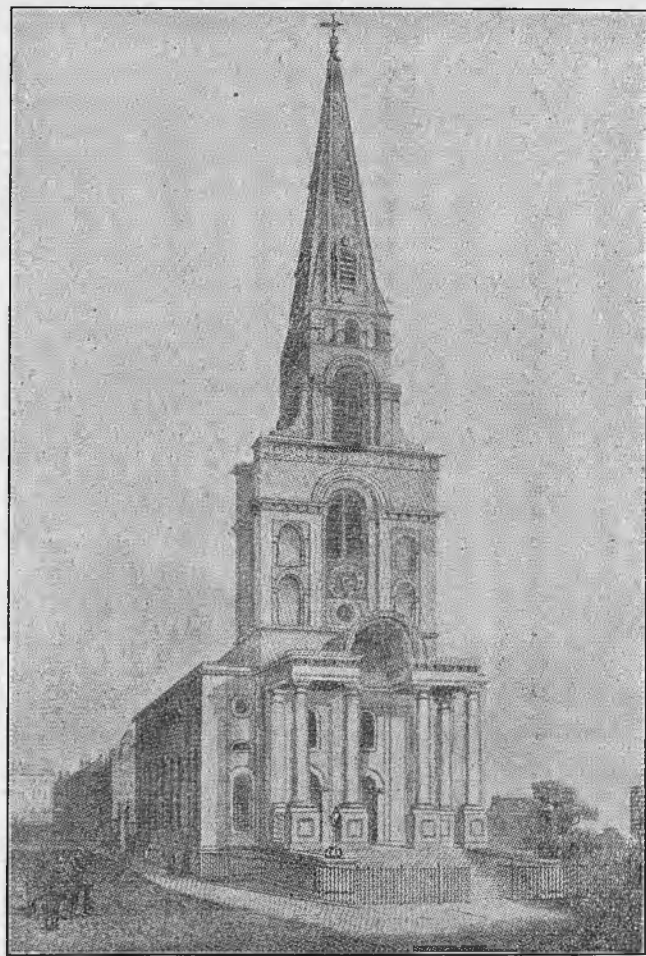
The method was Court Bob Major, the variation afterwards known as Double London Court; it was the first accomplished, and Richard Spicer called the bobs.

It was to justify himself that Laughton wrote his account. All through he is replying to criticisms and hitting back as hard as he can.

'Tis well known,' he says, 'that the first design of the club was not to affront any soul, but only intended

as a little innocent diversion, to ring at a few different peals of bells, though some people [he means Annable and the College Youths] have taken it very "hainously" and been pleased to call names and endeavour to ridicule folks behind their backs.'

He will not cavil at any person in particular [he seems to have been afraid to mention Annable by name] but 'they that have been guilty of such good manners can take it to themselves.' There are some men whose nature is 'to huff and vapour and lord it over their com-



CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS,  
Where the Ramblers rang Cambridge Surprise.

panions, call filthy names, and curse, and damn 'em.' Which is his reaction to Annable's sharp tongue, though probably not literally accurate. He comforts himself with the thought that 'such wretches look odious, that they are hated, despised, and in the end forsook,' wherein the wish was father to the thought.

But how different were the Ramblers! They never quarrelled. They abolished all sorts of discords and ill nature. Among them there was seen naught but peace and love. And a good deal more to the same effect.

The Rambling Ringers' Club was really a very unimportant incident in the story of the London Exercise and interests us mainly because of the light it throws on the more intimate doings of some of the ringers. The famous exploits about which Laughton boasts so much

do not amount to a great deal, even when judged by the standards of those days. Three peals of Bob Major; some touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Treble Bob; some 720's of College Single, Plain Bob, Court Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Morning Exercise, and Cambridge Surprise on six bells; and some six-scores of Grandsire, Plain, New Bob, St. Simon's and Cambridge Delight on five bells—these complete the tally. The Cambridge Surprise is the best item in the list, and this is the earliest account we have of its being practised, though there is little doubt that it had been rung for the last fifty years. Laughton himself was a composer of six-bell methods, but out of the five that are extant, only one will produce a true 720, so it was just as well that his friends did not ring them.

John Trenell had made his peace with Annable and the leading College Youths before the club broke up, and was received back again into favour. For the rest of his career he belonged to the society's regular band, and he took part in the last peal that Annable rang with the company. He did not ring in Laughton's Camberwell peal. John Hayward did. He was included in Laughton's condemnation and, like him, drops out of history, and is heard of no more.

Nor do we come across any further reference to Tom Clark, William Nash, Tom Greenwood, Benson, Bennett, Rippon or most of the other prominent Ramblers. That they gave up ringing with the break up of the club we can hardly suppose. There is reason to think that they formed the nucleus of a company, not connected with any of the known societies, which practised at Spitalfields, and, five or six years later, at Shoreditch, (Continued in next column.)

#### 'KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

##### DISTRICT MEETING IN AIR RAID SHELTER.

On Saturday, August 31st, six stalwarts and the district secretary, representing the bands at Bexley, Crayford, Chislehurst, Dartford and Erith, met in response to the advertised invitation to preserve the continuity of the Lewisham District's quarterly meetings. Five members, assisted by two visitors, enjoyed some handbell ringing during the afternoon in the Parish Room.

By arrangement with the clergy, the usual service was omitted, and the small company repaired to a well-known cafe for tea.

An air raid warning curtailed the stay in the refreshment room, and the remainder of the proceedings were carried out in a public air raid shelter.

An informal discussion resulted in a decision to try to arrange the annual district meeting for Saturday, October 26th, at 3.30 p.m., when necessary business will be transacted, followed by tea and handbell ringing for such members as care to remain.

It was felt that this was the best possible arrangement, as it would enable the affairs of the district to be carried on without necessitating members being abroad during black-out hours.

Eltham was chosen as a suitable rendezvous, the district secretary being instructed to obtain the use of a suitable room for the purpose if possible.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the Parish Room and for arranging for a service was passed, the secretary being charged with the duty of conveying this to the Rector by post.

A little later the 'raiders past' signal was sounded and released the members from their novel meeting place.

Members are asked to let the district secretary know during the coming week of their intentions in regard to the proposed meeting.

(Continued from previous column.)

and from their successors sprang the Society of Cumberland Youths. Jeremiah Gilbert and John Harrington were among the original members of that society, and we also find the names of Robert Green, Samuel Nash, John Costar and John Carbery, who probably were sons of men who had belonged to the Rambling Ringers' Club.

William Laughton himself, as I have said, dropped entirely ought of sight, and evidently he was dead or had given up ringing when the Society of Cumberland Youths was founded in 1747.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

In spite of the adverse conditions, the College Youths managed to hold their meeting last Saturday, though not without the interlude of an air raid warning. Eleven members turned up to enjoy themselves and keep the flag flying.

Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton, the late owner of Quex Park and the Waterloo Tower, left unsettled estate of £94,153. His estate is divided among his family.

Mr. Percy Williams, of Bristol, hon. treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, has recently undergone two operations in Bristol Royal Infirmary. His ringing friends will be pleased to learn that his recovery exceeds the expectations of his own doctor.

A few members of Bristol United Guilds still meet on Sundays, and the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association are co-ordinating with the Home Guard.

Fifty years ago next Monday the St. Peter Mancroft ringers at Norwich rang a peal of Grandsire Caters. Ringing in the city had been for many years at a low ebb, but this was an early sign of returning activity.

To-day is the thirtieth anniversary of the first peal on ten bells rung by parsons. It was 5,067 changes of Stedman Caters, rung at St. Mary's, Warwick, on October 11th, 1910. C. D. P. Davies rang the seventh and called one of his own compositions.

On October 12th, 1754, at Shoreditch, George Partrick called Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples with a band of Cumberlands. It was claimed as the first performance of the composition, but the claim is a doubtful one.

## AN ADOPTION SCHEME.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I suggest that the secretary or ringing master of every tower makes a collection from the remaining ringers, say, a weekly contribution, and forwards the amount on to you periodically together with the names and addresses of ringers serving with the Forces, and that you should send on the paper to *those only* who supported 'The Ringing World' before they left home.

As I had no ringers at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, who supported the paper, I have pleasure in sending herewith P.O. 10s. for you to deal with.

JAMES GEORGE.

49, Anson Road, Wolverton, Bletchley, Bucks.

Contributions have also been promised from Frodsham, and by Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere) and Mr. E. Stitch (Port Talbot).

Those who wish to take part in the scheme should send with their contributions the names and addresses of the ringers to whom they wish to have the paper sent.

## HANDBELL RINGING. S. H. BROWN

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Like your correspondent, C. D., I too have wondered how some difficulties in handbell ringing can be overcome, and so far as I can see there is no other way than finding out for oneself, partly by reading the articles you have been publishing and partly (and mostly) by continual practice.

If an expert handbell ringer did tell a recruit to keep his hands moving and not to think, and if he meant what he said, then he was either a fool or did not wish his pupil to know anything. I don't know much about handbell ringing, but I do know enough to say that that sort of thing will not get anyone very far.

I should not be surprised if your correspondent's real difficulty is that he expects to do in a short time what only a handful of the most expert handbell ringers can do after months and even years of hard work. He talks about a man ringing Stedman after he has rung a touch or two of the plain methods, and then wonders if he should go on to Superlative. By the time he has got so far as to begin to think about ringing Superlative double-handed, he won't want anybody to tell him how to do it.

S. H. BROWN

## THE FIRST RING OF EIGHT BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We in Suffolk have always thought that we had the first peal of eight bells ever hung in the country. Dr. J. J. Kaven, who was a Suffolk man and one of the greatest authorities on bells that ever lived, says in his book that Horham were the earliest that he knew of. I have not got his book by me and I do not remember the date, but I think they go back to the year 1600 at least and perhaps before that.

'SUFFOLK RINGER.'

## THE LATE MR. J. PRESTON.

We are asked to correct two errors in the report sent us of the funeral of the late Mr. J. Preston, of Erdington. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Erdington (the Rev. — Power) and not by Canon Swindell, and the bearers were provided by Messrs. John Jones and Sons, of Rhyl, who conveyed the deceased from that town and carried out all the funeral arrangements.



**RECTOR'S CONVICTION QUASHED.**

REV. R. G. C. GRAHAM WINS APPEAL.

**'The Ringing World' Produced in Court.**

At Lindsey Quarter Sessions, held at Lincoln, on Friday, the Rev. Robert Grant Colvin Graham, the 70-year-old Rector of Old Bolingbroke, appealed against the conviction and prison sentence passed upon him by the Spilsby magistrates for an alleged infringement of the Defence Regulations by ringing his church bell on Sunday, June 16th.

It will be remembered that the case was brought against Mr. Graham for ringing his church bell contrary to the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939, and he was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment.

It was stated at the Police Court hearing by P.C. Peck that on Sunday, June 16th, at 10.50 a.m., he heard the church bell ringing. He went to the belfry and saw the defendant sitting down and pulling the bell rope. Defendant stopped when he saw him. The witness inquired if he did not know that the Minister of Home Security had prohibited the ringing of church bells other than by military authority. The defendant replied that he did not know anything about it, but it would save him the trouble of ringing the bells. In the evening on the same day the witness stated the defendant gave out that he had received a letter from the Bishop of Lincoln prohibiting the ringing of the bells.

In reply to the chairman of the Bench, the witness said the defendant did not say when he received the letter. Asked when the Order was made, the witness said, 'A few days previously.'

The defendant told the magistrates that he said to the constable, 'I have no definite knowledge of this Order, but I have a letter from the Bishop saying that I shall receive notice in due course. I was not notified, and as I am deaf I cannot hear my wireless.'

To the Bench the Rector said, 'I do not plead guilty because I was ignorant that the Order had gone forth. I was waiting for the notice to be served on me. I went to the church and rang the bell for the usual service, not knowing that the Home Secretary had made an Order that bells were not to be rung.'

In reply to the chairman of the magistrates, the Rector said he did not receive definite instructions from the Bishop. He got the Bishop's letter on the Friday, but did not know of the law.

When sentencing the defendant, the Chairman said: 'We have given this case very careful consideration. It is the first of its kind. The defendant is in a position of great responsibility. In our opinion he had notice from his Bishop that the church bells were not to be rung and he rang them. Our opinion is that that ringing was intentional and deliberate. A fine would be inadequate in this case and we shall send you to prison for four weeks.'

**EDITOR'S ACTION.**

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' brought the case to the notice of the Home Secretary, on the assumption that the case had been dealt with under the new Noises Order of June 19th, 1940. He also communicated with the clerk to the magistrates, who then made the amazing revelation that the proceedings had been taken under the Order of October 31st, 1939, which the Home Office at the time had made clear did not apply to church bells. As a result of the approach to the Home Secretary, Mr. Graham was liberated after having served twelve days of his sentence.

Mr. Graham then lodged his appeal to Quarter Sessions.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins represented the police last Friday and laid their case before the Appeal Committee and called evidence.

Mr. Norman Winning appeared for the Rector and produced a copy of 'The Ringing World' of November 17th, 1939, in which appeared the letter from the Home Office in which it was stated 'it is intended that the use of church and chapel bells should be excepted from any restrictions by virtue of clause 1 (b) of the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2 Order), 1939.'

Mr. Jenkins said that in view of that apparently official ruling he would not further contest the appeal.

Judge T. W. Langman, who presided over the Court, said the magistrates had listened to evidence which was inadmissible and apparently had accepted hearsay evidence about the defence orders instead of examining them themselves.

The Judge, in confirming the appeal with costs, told Mr. Graham that he should never have been prosecuted, convicted or kept in prison for the 12 of the 28 days' sentence before being freed by the Home Secretary.

Mr. Graham was congratulated by the Bishop of Grimsby as he left the Court and later told a reporter that he was considering taking further proceedings. 'I am absolutely loyal,' he said, 'probably a good deal more loyal than the people who have been saying unkind things about me in the village. I had to carry on with this appeal to clear my name and prove that I had done nothing disloyal in ringing the bell that Sunday morning.'

**NO DAMAGE TO BELLS IN BRISTOL.**

From the last information which we received we are glad to be able to state that all the churches with bells in Bristol—and they are numerous—are safe in spite of many enemy visits to the city.

Members of the College Youths in Bristol are, however, deeply concerned at the damage done to London churches.

**AIR INVASION WARNING.**

WILL CHURCH BELLS BE USED?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There must be a good many ringers who have charge of bells and who are really anxious to know what they should do if the bells have to be rung as a warning. It is certain that the vicar will turn to us the first thing any order comes. So I, for one, fully appreciate what Mr. Barton is trying to do. But I cannot see what good his plan will be. So far as we know anything about the matter, the intention is to give an alarm if any enemy troops are landed by air. If they do come, any warning to be of any use must be made at once, and how could that be done if a motor-car has to be provided and half a dozen men fetched from different places, especially when no one would know where they are? By the time the ringers were collected and had got up into the belfry the invaders might be in possession of the town or village, or might be miles away, or more likely still might be put out of action by some of our men, who would not wait till they heard the church bells to know what to do with Jerries coming down out of planes.

I rather suspect that the authorities now know that the scheme will not work, and are not depending on it, otherwise they would surely have given us full instructions as to what we are to do. Most likely the matter has been settled in another way. I don't think that Hitler, for all his talk, really means to attempt to invade this country. He did intend some time ago, but now, thanks to our Navy and our airmen, he can see that the plan won't work. And if he can't come by sea he is not likely to drop a few men over here by air, just to be mopped up as they come down. The plan he used in Holland might have worked if England had been like Holland, but it isn't.

But it is a pity that what seems to have been a badly thought out idea by some people in the War Office should have deprived England of the sound of her bells. But never mind, we shall ring them for victory before so very long, and when that comes some of us don't intend to wait to see if the ban has been lifted.

L. W. BUNCE.

**PUDSEY'S SCHEME.**

Sir,—When I wrote my last letter on the subject of Pudsey's scheme for calling out the Home Guard, I did not for a moment think that it had been worked out by one of the ringers. I imagined it was a plan evolved by the leader of the H.G. himself, for who but an H.G. leader (I thought) would send a man to ring a bell to warn himself— But I must refrain from going again all through that tangle of instructions which eventually led me to the Rose and Crown. No, it's not the Rose and Crown in Pudsey, but at any other name 'twould taste as sweet, as Shakespeare has it.

But to come back to Pudsey's bells and the H.G. I still don't know why the leader wants a bell rung to remind him to send a car for the ringers; although I can well understand the value of having a car to get the ringers to the church and take them back to wherever it is they meet on Thursday evenings—it would be giving away official secrets to mention the real name; the Home Guard might get there first.

Anyhow, I think Mr. Barton will forgive my saying that it doesn't need a band of ringers to make enough noise on the bells in these days to let the H.G., or anyone else for that matter, know that there is something afoot (or should it be in the air?). The vergers' efforts ought to be enough to jangle a bell or two and so save the all too valuable time of the Home Guard in getting to their posts. That car for the ringers could, instead, do quite a useful bit of work picking up the Guards and taking them to their appointed places—unless it is that they first have to be given time to get into their uniforms and assemble in front of the Town Hall for inspection.

Don't imagine for a moment that I am poking fun at the Home Guard. I am one myself, but in our company we intend to get to our posts as quickly as we can and we don't intend to stand on the order of our getting. Our job, we have been told, is to round up the parachutists, but it seems to me that at Pudsey they are going to greet them with joy bells before bayonets. But, perhaps, I am mistaken after all, and the Pudsey boys will be up and at 'em just as quickly as the rest of us when, if ever, the times comes.

On the question of the use of bells as an air invasion warning there is still one thing that puzzles me. The Order which has prohibited the use of bells except for this purpose says that they may be rung only upon the instructions of the chief of police or a commissioned officer of H.M. Forces. From all I have heard, however, there are people in quite a lot of places, who are neither chiefs of police nor commissioned officers, who think they have a right to order the church bells to be rung, and on the face of it Pudsey is one of the places where this may be so. In my own district the platoon commander is the local schoolmaster and he has it firmly in his head that he is entitled to order the bells to be sounded. But he is neither a C. of P. nor a C.O. There might, it is true, be a lot of time lost if the Order is to be strictly complied with, but the use of the bells ought not to be at the whim of any Tom, Dick or Harry who happens to be a platoon commander. As you have pointed out so

(Continued on next page.)

## THE BAN.

### LETTER TO MINISTER OF HOME SECURITY.

The following letter has been sent to the Minister of Home Security by Mr. W. Challice, of Quantock, Watchet, Somerset, under date of September 22nd :-

Dear Sir,—At a bellringers' meeting in Somerset last week, the question was asked as to who was responsible for the ban on ringing the church bells, and we were informed that it was by the order of the Ministry of Home Security, and that the bells were only to be rung as a warning of impending invasion.

I should like to ask, if I may, a few questions on this subject. I believe when this order was made it was announced that the bells would only be rung by the military or police. Has it been taken into consideration that a certain amount of skill is required to ring a bell and that it would be extremely dangerous for anyone to try and ring a bell if he had never learnt to handle a rope?

A bell may be chimed, or swung to and fro, but this sound would not carry very far and skill is required to do even this, the bell, to sound its loudest, should be rung, that is swung round into an upside down position when the clapper strikes the bell with full force and makes most noise, but this can only be done by a ringer who has learnt to handle the bell.

Have any arrangements been made with the various towers for the bells to be rung when necessary, and how many bells are to be rung, one or as many as can be rung if the ringers can be found in time?

We have been advised many times that in case of invasion we should 'stay put' until we are told what to do, therefore is not the ringing of the bells going to do the opposite by giving an alarm, causing the people to go out to see what they can when it might be better, for the time being at any rate, to keep them in their homes so as not to hamper the military?

Arrangements can be made for the calling out of the Home Guard by telephone and cyclists from their homes or businesses. This would be a surer method than the bells, as they may not be heard indoors, especially if a wireless set is on at the time. If it is still necessary to keep this regulation in force for the duration of the war, could it not be called off for one day in the week so the bells could be rung for morning and evening service on Sundays? It could be announced in the Press that no notice need be taken if the bells are heard on Sundays.

To the average ringer, and I think many members of the general public will agree with him, it seems a great pity that the church bells should be silent instead of doing what they are intended to do, calling persons to worship, especially at a time like the present.

I ask you to give the matter further consideration.

### A READER'S INDIGNATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Exactly how much longer are we, of the Exercise, to keep up this 'sit down, do nothing' attitude towards the present ban on ringing?

For three months now the silence has been in force, and what have we done about it? Nothing! Absolutely nothing. We, the inheritors of a centuries old art and tradition unmatched in the world have allowed it to be snatched from us at the whim of someone in Whitehall who has probably never seen a bell, anyhow.

Surely it is not asking too much of the Central Council to justify its existence and get something done about it.

I could say a lot more, but I fear that my pen may run away with me, so I'll shut up for the time being.—Keep the old flag flying.

W. E. B.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.**—On Wednesday evening, October 2nd, at Stedman, 128, Sketchley Road, a quarter-peal of Doubles, being 600 of Plain Bob and 660 of Grandsire, all called differently: J. E. Clough 1-2, A. Ballard (conductor) 3-4, W. J. Clough 5-6. First quarter-peal on handbells by 1-2.

### AIR INVASION WARNING.

(Continued from previous page.)

often in 'The Ringing World,' sir, there is need for clarification on many points in regard to the use of church bells as a warning. When it is all over we shall probably learn what was in the minds of the authorities.

Meanwhile we have to carry on, and what we want in an emergency are short cuts to the successful fulfilment of the job allotted to us.

I trust that in practice Mr. Billy Barton's scheme will turn out to be the best fitted to the particular conditions at Pudsey. Somehow I am beginning to think it will, and I hope those Thursday evening meetings will continue so that in happier times I may accept his invitation.

'RINGER AND HOME GUARD.'

## LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

### DAMAGED IN AIR RAID.

Last month, it has now been revealed, German bombers made a deliberate attempt to damage Liverpool Cathedral.

Two sticks of high explosive bombs were dropped, one falling in a line on large houses standing across the road directly opposite the Cathedral steps, and the other along a parallel street. In all, twelve houses were demolished, and several people were killed, but the Cathedral suffered little harm.

Many stained glass windows in the south wall were shattered, and the windows in the Lady Chapel, depicting saintly women of history, were blown in. Ruby and emerald windows in the choir were also broken.

One bomb fell near the side of the south wall, and debris from the houses damaged part of the roof.

Since the choir is exposed to draught, services are now being held in the central space of the Cathedral.

The building of the Cathedral was begun in 1904, and is unlikely to be completed before 1950 at the earliest. It will then be the largest church in the country, and the third largest in the world.

### OTHER WELL-KNOWN CHURCHES DAMAGED.

We learn that during the recent air raids on the Home Counties a church in South Buckinghamshire, which for many years was closely associated with Joseph J. Parker, has been damaged. The bomb fell in a new portion of the churchyard and evidently was aimed at the church.

In North London a church suffered a direct hit, which completely destroyed the building except for the tower and spire, which still stand, a familiar and outstanding landmark in a well-known street.

The church was a typical eighteenth century building, and the belfry was for many years a regular meeting place of the Society of Cumberland Youths, with close associations with William Shipway and in later years Henry Dains. There is a ring of eight bells in the steeple.

Another church damaged is one in a North London suburb, which has a ring of six bells. It was here that the association which eventually became the Middlesex Association was first founded. The tower and bells are intact, but the chancel and interior have been wrecked.

## EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

### MR. ERNEST MORRIS' TALKS.

Much good missionary work can be done and interest in our art aroused by both private and public lectures and illustrated lantern talks on the various aspects of bells and bellringing.

To this end Mr. Ernest Morris recently gave a talk to the Royce Institute Men's Bible Class of some 30 to 40 members. It was illustrated by handbell selections played on 16 bells by Messrs. Sidney Harrison, Ray Hubbard, John Hurst and E. Morris. Needless to say, it was deeply appreciated and a cordial invitation issued for a further talk on the subject.

At a later date Mr. E. Morris gave a talk to Friar Lane Chapel Men's Guild on 'Legends and Traditions of the Bells' (from his book on this subject), the second of such talks he has given there. On Saturday last, at Robert Hall Memorial Church, he gave a lantern lecture on 'Romance of the Bells,' which was deeply appreciated by a good company of young people (including a niece of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff and many evacuees from the Eastern Counties). Recently at Croft, Mr. Morris spoke to members of the C.E.M.S. on 'The History of Bells,' and next month he is to give a talk to the Guild of the Church of Christ on the same subject.

## A LONDON BELL OPENING.

### THE LAST SURVIVOR.

Mr. Frank Dawe has reminded us that the bells of St. John's, Wilton Road, London, where he and the late Challis Winney learned to ring, were opened on October 2nd, 1878. There was a wonderful service at that interesting event, in the course of which the hymn, so frequently used on many similar occasions since, was sung, 'Set between the earth and Heaven. Now our bells are raised on high.'

It was written, Mr. Dawe tells us, by the Rev. B. Smith, who was curate at the church and the prime mover in getting the bells installed.

The ringing was done by the College Youths, and among them such well-known men as Matt Wood, James Pettit, George Mash, Edwin Horrex, J. Murray Hayes and J. R. Haworth, the last named becoming the instructor of the new band that was formed, and which quickly produced some well-known ringers—Messrs. Dawe and Winney among them. These two were actually present at the opening, and Mr. Dawe is the last survivor of the company at that notable gathering 62 years ago.

Mr. Dawe, who rang his first peal at Wilton Road, is unfortunately not now in the best of health, but from his home at Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking, sends his greetings to his friends everywhere.

## TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

### THE DEATH KNELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to know from Mr. E. J. Taylor and Mr. R. F. J. Sawyer that the death knell is still rung in parts of Devon and Somerset. Perhaps they will give us further particulars. Is it a general custom or only a survival among the more conservative villages? And where it is rung is it a general use whenever a death occurs, or only an occasional occurrence? Information from other parts of the country, too, would be welcome. It may have survived to a greater extent than a man whose experience like mine is mainly of towns and the Home Counties would think.

But let us be clear on one point. The knell should not be confused with the funeral bell, which is still generally rung, though (in towns at any rate) not nearly so often as it once was, mainly because the burial takes place not in the churchyard, but at a cemetery, where two or three strokes on what passes for the chapel bell usually suffice.

The death knell was rung as soon as possible after the person had died, and was an announcement of death. It has often been called the 'passing bell' (Mr. Sawyer calls it so), but the passing bell was an entirely different use, which has been obsolete for about two hundred years. It was rung *before* the person had died and ceased immediately it was known he was dead.

The cessation of the death bell throughout the country has had the result that far fewer tenors are cracked nowadays than in olden times. The usual custom of ringing the knell was to toll a bell single strokes at a minute interval for an hour, and finish with the 'tellers' and the age of the departed. As it was a slow and monotonous job, the sexton very often got a boy or some inexperienced person to do it, and with such a person the tendency would be, when the bell was clocked, to give a strong pull on the rope and hold it. It was the ringing of knells that made clocking such a dangerous practice. Ordinary chiming with clocked bells should not be any more dangerous than chiming with Ellacombe hammers.

Perhaps you may like me to include among the historical articles you are publishing one about the use of bells in connection with deaths and burials. It is a rather interesting subject.

When I wrote that the knell and other traditional uses are now obsolete I was quite aware that there are still survivals in places. Customs which have their roots in far back antiquity do not cease all at once even in these days of rapid changes. Only last February a parson who had recently been appointed to a parish in (I think) Shropshire was surprised when on Shrove Tuesday his sexton came to him and asked if he should ring the pancake bell as usual. 'As usual' so far as the sexton was concerned, but so unusual for the parson that he thought it worth while to write to 'The Times' about it, and the Editor of 'The Times' thought it so unusual that he printed the letter.

In the same way I think Mr. Sawyer will find that the ringing of the death knell, which to him is a usual custom, is for the generality of people so unusual that they do not even know that such a custom ever existed.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

### VARIOUS DEATH AND FUNERAL USES.

Dear Sir,—The subject of traditional bells has evoked some very interesting correspondence in your columns. The following notes on the death bell may add to that interest.

Canon Law provides for tolling four times on the death of a parishioner: (a) The Passing Bell, strictly so called 'when any is departing this life'; (b) the Death Bell, 'after the death of the party,' as it is quaintly worded; (c) 'one short peal before and (d) one after the burial.'

Of these the first is intended to serve as a call to the parson, 'who shall then not slack to do his last duty.' I believe this use to have become entirely extinct. It seems that its once familiar name has been transferred in common speech to the knell rung after death, of which the older inhabitants of this village used to speak as 'passing the bell.'

The death bell is, as far as I know, in general use in the South of England, though I do not remember ever hearing it in Lancashire or Cheshire. In this part, at any rate in rural districts, it is practically universal.

The bell tolled at a funeral is still, to the best of my knowledge, in general use: cemetery chapels are provided with bells for the purpose. Tolling after, as well as before, the burial may to some extent have gone out of use. It is at this point, or else at the time of the death bell, that the traditional 'Nine Tellers'—corrupted into 'Tailors'—have for centuries been sounded to signify that deceased was a man, likewise six for a woman.

There is much variation in local usages. Here the tenor is chimed both before and after the burial; in the next village it is rung. At Marnhull (Hardy's Marlott) it is chimed before, and rung up and down again at the end. It is a fine bell and the effect is deeply impressive.

The direction for 'one short peal' is doubtless due to the fact that in the case of wealthier inhabitants payment was often made for prolonged tolling. At Winchcombe, near Cheltenham, it was, if I remember rightly, the normal practice to toll the death bell at intervals for two hours! The 'peal' contemplated in the Canon may not necessarily have been confined to one bell. On the Con-

(Continued in next column.)

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### BURTON AND LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICTS MEET.

The Burton and Loughborough Districts of the Midland Counties Association held a meeting at Ibstock on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, members being present from Burton, Ashby, Overseal, Netherseal, Copt Oak, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Nanpantan and Thrumpton.

The Rector kindly placed a room in the Rectory at the disposal of the ringers, and handbells were in good use soon after 3 o'clock.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. M. R. Newberry, who gave a very inspiring address on the example shown by ringers of the need for team spirit. He said that in other pastimes a member of a team may fall out without seriously affecting the efforts of the whole, but if one ringer is only a fraction out it is audible to all, and he appealed to them to show the same unity during the present crisis so that when the time comes (and may it come soon) for the bells to ring out their message of peace and goodwill, they will be ready to give their services again as solidly as in the past.

Tea was served in the Rectory, some 20 members sitting down to an excellent spread.

The Rector, who presided over the business meeting which followed, was supported by Mr. J. W. Cotton (secretary) and Mr. W. H. Curson (Ringing Master), of the Burton District, and Mr. A. E. Rowley (secretary) and Mr. G. R. Edwards (Ringing Master), of the Loughborough District.

A report of the joint meeting at Cole Orton was given and a discussion took place on further meetings. It was agreed to hold one more, at Whitwick on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Rector strongly advised ringers in each and every parish to try to keep together by forming a band of handbell ringers.

Mr. Edwards supported this suggestion and moved the following resolution:—

'That this meeting recommends that each tower tries to arrange a group of handbell ringers in their parish.' It was seconded by Mr. C. Verey and carried.

It was agreed that a message of goodwill be sent to Mr. J. W. Hopkins, the veteran of the local band, who was prevented by advancing years from being present at the meeting.

Mr. Swinfield expressed the pleasure of all who knew Mr. James George to hear that he was making a wonderful recovery after his recent operation.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for so generously placing the Rectory at the disposal of the ringers and for conducting the service, and to the ladies for arranging tea. In reply, the Rector said he was always willing to assist the association in any way possible, and he hoped a further meeting would be arranged in the summer when the gardens would be available. This will no doubt be borne in mind.

Further handbell ringing followed until the approaching darkness made it necessary to bring the meeting to a close.

### WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £11 2s. Further donations have been received from: W. H. Fussell, Slough, 2s. 6d.; C. Mee, Sproughton, 5s.; E. Rivers, Sproughton, 1s.; J. Cripps, Shoreham, 2s. 6d.; E. Collins, Croydon, 2s. 6d.; E. F. Pike, Brockley, 2s. 6d.; F. E. Dawe, Woking, 2s. 6d.; T. Winney, Fulham, £1; Mrs. Smeaton, £1; Mrs. Judge, Fulham, £1 1s.; H. R. Newton, Earlsfield, 5s.; H. Langdon, London, 2s. 6d.; H. Eden, Ilford, 2s. 6d.; Lieut. G. W. Debenham, St. Albans, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Margaret H. Shurcliff (Miss M. H. Nichols), of Boston, U.S.A., 3 dollars. To all of whom the sincere thanks of the committee are tendered.

A. B. PECK, Hon. Secretary.

### THE DEATH BELL AT ST. PAUL'S.

(Continued from previous column.)

tinant one often hears two or more bells at a funeral, and Mr. Trollope may be able to discover evidence of a similar usage in England in former days. In fact, there are indications that such was the case.

Two further points in conclusion. There is a notable survival of the death bell in the heart of London, namely, the tolling of the hour bell of St. Paul's Cathedral on the decease of certain eminent personages. Here in the case of a death it is the established custom not to toll the bell after sunset, but to wait till the next day. This may well have originated in the desire to avoid the double payment to the sexton, to which reference has been made in recent articles in your paper.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

### THE ANGELUS.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to the letter from Mr. Trollope on traditional uses of bells, how does he square his denial of the existence of the Angelus bell in pre-Reformation days with the fact that Archbishop Arundel (1396-1401) ordered that one Pater Noster and five Aves were to be said at dawn; and to bring this to mind, a bell called the ANGELUS was to be rung? A further extension was the ringing of this bell at noon, as at Cropredy in Oxfordshire. This information is taken from the late Canon J. J. Raven's books on the bells of England in the Antiquary's Books services, published in 1906.

R. F. J. SAWYER.

Hardington Mandeville Rectory, Yeovil, Somerset.



## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### AN EXPLANATION BY EXAMPLE.

In our article of last week we showed that the first section of our example method gives five false course ends, and at first sight that would seem to make a true peal impossible. There are, however, two things which point a way out of the difficulty.

The first is that in all these repetitions one of them always occurs in the fourth lead of one of the two courses involved. Now our method has the lead end 4263857 with second's place made, and in such a method a bob Before cuts the fourth lead out; and if it is done in every course we shall eliminate all internal falseness whatever caused by the first section.

The second thing is that in neither of these five false course ends is either the 6th or 4th at home, nor is the 6th in fourth's place, nor the 4th in sixth's place. It means that so long as the 6th is kept at home or in fourth's, no internal falseness will result from our first section, and we have twenty-four full courses to work with. That will be enough for a peal provided we can put them together. And, of course, we have got the falseness caused by the other sections to take into account.

It was necessary for us to examine all the four rows in the first section of our method, but we need not test more than the first and third, or the second and fourth of the other three sections. Why should this be so?

The answer is that the first section is not symmetrical, but the others are. You can see by noting the position of the places in it what makes a section symmetrical better than by any verbal explanation. When the section is symmetrical the fourth row bears to the third row the same relationship as the second row does to the first row, and consequently if the first and third produce falseness that falseness will be continued by the second and fourth; but if the one pair are true so will the second be also. You will see this if you turn to the changes we have written out to show the repetition of rows. In our last article, which dealt with the symmetrical second section, the rows repeat in pairs, but in the examples we gave in our first and third articles, which deal with the unsymmetrical first section, the repetition is by single rows.

This repetition in pairs of rows does not contradict what we before said that the repetition of a row in a regular method always involves three other repetitions, no more and no less, for in a symmetrical section you get the four-fold repetition twice over.

In reckoning the position of the rows in any section those in the first half lead must be counted from the top, but those in the second half lead from the bottom.

We next turn to the third section of our method.

When we test this by transposing the table of lead heads by the first row, 5273486, 25374168 — and the table of lead ends by the third 23571486 + row, 2357486, and comparing the results, 32754168 + we find that 78 never fall twice into the same relative positions; consequently this section has a clear proof scale and creates no difficulties in composition. We shall probably find it better and even in the long run quicker, to make these transpositions and the reverse ones, but we can be sure that the section has no false course ends without any transposing at all.

Take the different pairs of bells which are next each

other in the natural coursing order of the method—32, 24, 46, 68, 87, 75 and 53. Note the position of 3 and 2 in the first row of the section, and see which bells occupy the corresponding positions in the third row. If they are the same two bells (but transposed), or if they are any other one of the pairs of coursing bells (but transposed), there will be a false course end, but not otherwise. Then take the other pairs and test them in the same way.

In our example 73 occupy the same positions in the third row that 32 do in the first row, and so there is (so far) no false course end. 34 occupy the same positions as 24; 85 occupy the same as 87; and so on. Note that 46 and 68 occupy the same positions in both rows, but as neither is transposed and the rows are of opposite nature, no false course end results. If the rows had been of the same nature there would have been a false course end, and if 86 had occupied the same positions in the third row as 68 do in the first row there would have been a false course end.

The section is symmetrical so we need not compare the second and fourth rows.

The fourth section gives us a group of false course ends which are very rarely met with in any method otherwise suitable for practice. They are 23645, 23564, 25463, 26435.

We first find by transposition that 23645 is false against the plain course; and it follows that as 23645 is false against 23456, so is 23456 false against 23564. The complementary false course end to 23645 is 25463, and the complementary false course end to 23564 is 26435. Here again we have the four repetitions spread over four separate natural courses.

This is one of the groups of four false course ends mentioned in our last article, and if in any regular method one of the members of the group occurs, all the other three inevitably occur also. The peculiarity of this group (shared by one other group of four) is that in all the courses the second is at home, which means that there are only three true full natural courses with the same bell in second's place. It does not require much knowledge of composition to realise how difficult this would make the producing of a true peal.

We can now sum up the results of our investigations into the false course ends of our sample method and see what chances we should have of composing a true peal in it. The false course ends are

B	24365	4-3, 5-4
P	34562	4-3
Q	62345	3-4
R	54263	5-4
S	46325	4-5
A	32546	3-6, 5-2
D	46253	5-2, 3-6
	23645	4-2, 2-7
	23564	2-4, 7-2
	25463	1-6, 6-4
	26435	6-1, 4-6

If we were to write out all the possible sixty natural courses of our method we should find that no fewer than eleven of them contain one or more rows which are also included in the plain course; and for every one of the sixty courses there are eleven others which are false against it. If we tried to compose by using full courses we should not get very far.



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—On account of the Snowdon dinner being postponed, a meat tea (2s. 6d. per head) is being arranged to take place at the Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, at 4.30 p.m. prompt, on Saturday, October 12th, followed by a social evening until 9 p.m. Tower secretaries are asked to make these arrangements as widely known as possible. The committee hope that all members who are able will come, as it is more necessary than ever that the interest and life of the association should be maintained through these difficult times.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Oct. 12th. Handbells available in Parish Room at 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged at 5 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, nr. Barnsley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at Nottingham. Committee meet 4 p.m. in St. Peter's New Parish Hall. Tea at nearby café 5 p.m., followed by meeting and convivial, handbell ringing, etc., in above hall. All members invited to attend and any ringers in H.M. Forces in and near Nottingham are specially invited to spend a pleasant hour together. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. — Preliminary Notice. — The meeting following the above will be held on November 9th, when it is hoped to commemorate the 303rd anniversary of the society by an informal lunch at about 1.30. Further particulars later.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The October quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Grey Friar Inn, Grey Friar's Lane, Coventry (situated at rear of G.P.O.; five minutes' walk Coventry L.M.S. Station; also Pool Meadow bus station). Private room available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Light refreshments served during the evening. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Loughborough District.—All ringers are invited to a meeting at Whitwick on Saturday, Oct. 19th. Handbells in School (near Market Place bus stop) from 3 p.m. Short service in Church at 4.15, followed by tea at 4.45. Please attend if possible, but be certain to send in your names for tea to Mr. E. A. Holmes, Wagon and Horses, Church Lane, Whitwick, Leicester.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**—It is hoped that the society will be able to continue its activities during the forthcoming year. Attention will have to be concentrated on handbells, of course, but silent practices at New College will be resumed if permission can be obtained for the removal of the clappers. Any ringers coming up next term are asked to get into touch with either J. E. Spice, New College (Master), or W. Leese, St. John's College (secretary).—J. E. Spice.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Tonbridge District.—It has been decided that, owing to circumstances over which we have no control, it would be inadvisable to arrange the projected annual meeting, which was to have been held at Tunbridge Wells. — (Signed) Alec E. Richardson, Dis. Sec.; Tom Saunders, John Medhurst, District Representatives.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. George Popnell is now 3, Pant-y-Cefn Road, Markham Village, Blackwood, Mon.

**DEATH.**

**MARTIN.**—On the 25th ult., at Pembroke House, Church Fields, Bromsgrove, Ellen Penrose, beloved wife of John Martin, and mother of Arthur, Harold and Bernard Martin.

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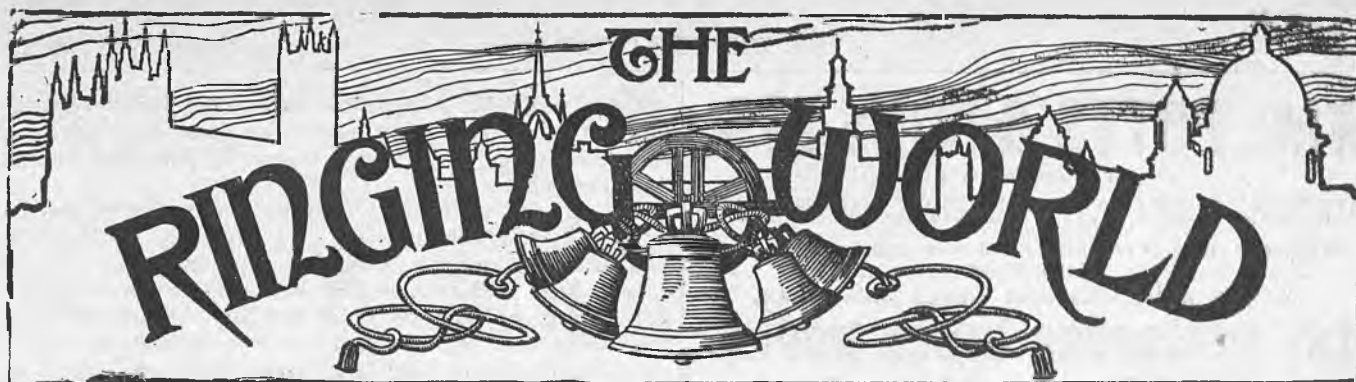
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## **HANDBELL RINGING.**

The prohibition which has been placed on the ringing of church bells has given a wider interest to change ringing on handbells, and in quite a number of unsuspected places there are little parties who are trying their prentice hands and becoming enthusiastic about it, too. Since the war began we have published two series of articles upon handbell ringing with the hope of encouraging greater numbers of ringers to take up this phase of the art. Now the subject has once more been revived in our columns and this week we print further very helpful letters on the practical side of handbell ringing. The subject is admittedly a difficult one upon which to give instruction and differs widely from tower bell ringing in the opportunities it offers for any coaching of the learner while ringing is in progress. A beginner at change ringing on church bells can have someone behind him to give him help, but that is impossible when he is ringing two handbells. Again, the conductor or other members of the band can help a beginner quite a lot when the ringing is on tower bells, but on handbells such advice might be more of a hindrance than a help.

The successful mastery of handbell ringing depends largely on the individual rather than on help that can be given to him during the actual ringing. Most ringers, we are convinced, eventually find their own way of mastering a pair in touch or peal, but that is not to say that there are not certain elementary principles which must be acquired. The secrets of success in handbell ringing are study and practice. One is of little use without the other. There is something different in handbell ringing when one tries to compare it with the application of the science on church bells. It is based on the same principles, but the ordinary rules do not always fit. The ringer himself will usually find his own way to apply what he does in change ringing in the tower to the double task of ringing two handbells.

Many a good ringer, if asked, could not lucidly explain how he rings a pair of handbells. All of them, of course, have a plan, but their plans vary. One 'sees' his ringing in one way, another 'sees' it from apparently a different angle—and yet there must be some coherent idea running through every plan to make it at all possible for three or four or more people to get together and put up a successful performance. In handbell ringing, more even than in tower bell ringing, the team spirit counts, and the outstanding success of certain companies in the past has been due to the fact that they have stuck together and practised regularly and often. Given the necessary ability, any four ringers might sit down and

(Continued on page 494.)

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score a peal; but the people who have really achieved fame at handbell ringing have been those who have had the opportunity of meeting constantly and thus become a unified whole.

The advice and help which has been offered on the subject in our columns will, we hope, be sufficient to induce many more companies now deprived of the church bells to devote serious attention to handbells. It is a fascinating pastime which can fill with interest many spare minutes. The articles and letters have been of an exceedingly helpful kind and, where there are beginners, should enable many of them to realise and overcome the initial difficulties. After that it is a question of practice and again practice. If the ultimate intention is to reach peal ringing standard, those who take up handbell ringing should realise that there is no royal road to success. It is just a case of sticking to it and profiting by mistakes. There are, however, plenty of ringers who do not aim at peal ringing, but who would find double-handed ringing a source of great pleasure and interest. It is for these chiefly that our articles have been written, and we hope that more and more of our readers will, in these dark days for ringing, find it worth while to take up the study and practice of handbells.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

PYRFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 13, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Four Minutes,  
At Southover Cottage,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven extents called differently.

\*JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ... 1-2 | PTE. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. ... 3-4  
†GNR. C. W. DENYER, R.A. ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

\* First peal of Minor on handbells. † First peal on handbells.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,  
At 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven 720's each called differently.

JACK N. A. POMPERY... 1-2 | ALBERT RCUGHT ... 3-4  
WALTER C. MEDLER ... 5-6

Conducted by WALTER C. MEDLER.

## GOOD ROUNDS BETTER THAN BAD SCIENCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I do not mean in any way to discourage change ringing, but well struck 'stoney' is better than badly struck change ringing. I don't wish to discourage any young company, but I do say that no band ought to attempt a long length until they can strike a short one well: nor ought they attempt a more difficult method until they can strike an easy one well. In recent years facilities for learning change ringing are more abundant than they used to be when I began. In years gone by change ringers were much more seclusive than they are now. In those days young hands who were anxious to learn the mysteries of the art crept up to the belfry in 'fear and trembling,' not knowing whether they would receive a welcome or be 'kicked out.' Even when there, they often had to persevere for some years before they could obtain much information from the old hands. Now what was the result? Why this—that only those who had their heart and soul in the matter took the trouble to try to learn at all, and these going in a few at a time with old hands generally became good and careful strikers. But now young companies are formed and pulled through their first 720 of Minor in about six months, and a good length of some seven or eight bell method in less than a year: but with what result? Why, with a few exceptions they are miserable strikers, and, having once got into a slovenly habit of striking, they rarely improve. As soon as they can tumble through a bit of Plain Bob or Grandsire, they want to try Stedman or Treble Bob, which they generally manage to achieve, after a fashion, but, as I said before, the striking rarely, if ever, improves.

'A VETERAN.'



## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### FAREWELL TO THE PRESIDENT.

#### A War-time Review.

The attendance at the meeting arranged to say 'Good-bye' to the Rev. Hugh McMullan on Saturday, September 28th, was extremely gratifying, and it was decided to hold quarterly meetings in Norwich, the next to be held on December 14th.

Members were present from all four branches to express their appreciation of the enthusiastic services which Mr. McMullan has rendered them during his eleven years as Vicar of St. Peter Mancroft and four years as president of the association.

Ten more than had notified their intention of being present sat down to tea in St. Giles' Parish Hall, but the secretary's wife, now well used to such happenings, had catered on a bountiful scale and so each of the 37 went not empty away. No sugar was provided, but there was a comparatively large supply of butter, and Bob, in his usual mysterious manner, produced several lumps of loaf sugar, one of which was placed on exhibition. The Twins were in good form, there being now considerably more ozone per head at Yarmouth than formerly, and a corresponding sufficiency of other sustenance of a liquid nature.

Six of St. Giles' bells were available and several took part in their first 'touch' of 'silent' ringing, a member of the City Police and custodian of the bells being responsible for the security of the clappers. In the Parish Hall handbells were rung, and although they could be heard faintly outside the building, no one appears to have been arrested.

At the meeting which followed the tea, the president was in the chair, supported by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (vice-president), Mr. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), Messrs. W. L. Duffield and W. J. Lee (branch chairmen), J. G. W. Harwood and H. Tooke (branch secretaries), the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, R. W. Cooke, W. C. Duffield (members of the committee), G. P. Burton (hon. auditor) and members from Attleborough, Aylsham, Acle, Bergh Apton, Halvergate, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Giles', St. Miles' and St. Peter Mancroft), Reedham and Wymondham.

Letters of apology were received from Messrs. C. E. Borrett, A. E. Coleman, A. L. Coleman, W. J. Eldred, J. A. Godfrey and A. G. Harrison.

The general secretary reviewed the year's work. He said that in spite of the times, the association appeared to justify its existence. Six meetings, including the annual meeting, were held up to May 4th, when a meeting was held at Fakenham. Wroxham, Pulham, Yarmouth, East Dereham and, of course, Norwich were visited. The attendances, in view of the times, were good, except perhaps that at Fakenham, when very few took advantage of the characteristically hearty welcome ringers receive there. Membership had remained high, but the honorary members, for the most part, had withdrawn their financial support. However, in spite of this, and the loss of revenue from members in H.M. Forces, the association had a small balance in hand after having liquidated all liabilities. The stock of certificates had been replenished. Nine members had died during the year, four of them resident in the diocese. Few peals had been rung, of course, but the handbell band in the Aylsham district had gone from strength to strength. The Central Council meeting fixed for Cardiff on Whit Tuesday had been abandoned, but there was evidence that the Council had not gone to sleep for the duration of the war.

Mr. Golden stressed the need for the continued support of 'The Ringing World,' which was, in view of the recent ban on the sounding of bells, of greater value than ever, in keeping together all those who called themselves ringers. It was to be hoped, and there was some cause for hope, that the ridiculous embargo on bells would be removed by Christmas. Touching on this matter, the secretary read an extract from a letter written by a well-known diocesan ringer, who did duty on alternate nights at his church, waiting to sound the welcome to Hitler's hordes.

Mr. W. C. Duffield thought that the association should write to the Central Council urging representations to the Government to remove the ban, and the meeting decided to take this course.

Mr. W. L. Duffield, on behalf of the association, then presented Mr. McMullan with a cheque and said that a silver bell inkstand, suitably inscribed, would be forwarded to him. Mr. Duffield said that Mr. McMullan had shown the keenest interest in the association's affairs and had been an immense help.

Acknowledging the gift, the Rev. H. McMullan said that but for circumstances arising out of the war, he would not now be leaving Norwich. The only gratifying thing to himself about his move to Epsom was that it was prompted by the present Bishop of his old diocese of Guildford. He felt very sad at leaving St. Peter Mancroft, where he had been most happy. He had been similarly happy with the members of the association. They paid him a great honour in electing him to succeed the late Archdeacon MacDermott as president of their association, and it had been a joy to do whatever he could to help forward bellringing in the diocese. He hoped that the tragedy of war would soon pass and that church bells all over the country might once more ring out a message of peace.

## FUN IN WAR TIME.

### HOW THE MILITARY AMUSE THEMSELVES.

At Aldershot in these days the fun is fast and furious. It must be because there is a 'camp' in campanology that it has become one of the foremost fortresses (of ringing) in the country in the past month or two.

To-day is a special occasion—an attempt for a peal 'in hand' by four serving ringers.

The excitement is tense from the word 'go.' Firstly, after an air raid warning lasting all night, Eileen and A.F.S. crawled to bed at 6 a.m. to awake at 11 o'clock. After a rush breakfast, dinner is just being consumed when A.M.P.C. turns up two minutes ahead of schedule. He is given some handbells to play with and a paper to read, and so, of course, being interested in handbells, he reads the paper.

Next to arrive is R.A.S.C., who, besides being a bellringer, is very proud of his voice and also of the fact that he has been issued with ear-plugs (carried in the alert position), whereas the others have not (no connection between the voice and ear-plugs is intended or implied). Neither of these two is to conduct the peal, so they take it easy and consume tea (soldiers don't usually get a cup of tea after dinner) and wonder where the others have got to.

Then A.D.C. arrives on his camouflaged push-bike (some of it is khaki paint, but some of it is rust) and mentions that he will probably be 'on the move' again soon. He's already been to many parts of the country, assisting in pulling out molars, and we think this is a bit unfair, as there seem to be plenty of soldiers in the immediate neighbourhood to practise on.

Then comes a surprise visit from R.A., who arrives in style on his motor-bike, can't stop a minute, but manages a cup of tea and a touch of Stedman Triples.

R.A.E. (who, by the way, knows a few funny things about Treble Bob) follows a minute or two after R.A., and as he is required as 'ump,' we are glad to see him.

While the Stedman is in progress R.A.M.C. is announced, and as he is the conductor and we've all been waiting for him, we are most delighted to see that the exigencies of the service have not kept him away altogether, but merely made him so late that (as R.A.S.C. has to be on duty at 6 p.m.) much rushing will be required if the peal is to be completed.

Then various conferences as to whether the peal should be rung (a) with or without coats, (b) with or without the electric fire, and (c) the best place to wear Army braces, and, after the chiming had been taken off (memories of a quarter-peal which the chiming clock tried hard to smash), the various members settle down. A start, first of all in the 'inverted home position' and then in the more correct manner is made, but this comes to grief after about 70 minutes' ringing. There is no time for a restart, but nobody seems to mind very much, so soon Caters and Royal are in the air.

A course of Grandsire Cinques is almost spoilt in the last lead by air raid sirens, who ring a course of 'Warbling Winnie Surprise' and then retire in peace. The bells stagger home and for a short while there's some 'do you remember at so and so?' and 'when I was at so and so'—as will always happen when ringers gather. Then a course of 'All Clear Treble Bob' and a good touch of Stedman Caters brings 'time for tea.'

Following this, various of us go to evensong, while others (having been earlier in the day) offer to wash up and generally make themselves useful about the house—and, of course, R.A.S.C. has to go where the 'exigencies' call.

After service various methods are rung and enjoyed, including some 'mixing' of various methods like Plain, Double, Reverse and Canterbury Bob (or should it be 'Bobs') by our chief 'mixer,' R.A.M.C. How it all comes round is a mystery to some of us, but apparently there's more in this 'bellringing' business than meets the eye. Then just to show how easy it is he mixes some Plain and Gainsborough and then some Plain and Little Bob and again it comes round.

Then after something warm to cheer them on their way, the various members of the party (except Eileen and A.F.S., who have no wending to do) wend their various ways through the very black black-out to give various excuses to various 'guards' for not having been in to time.

The peal? Well, some other day perhaps.

The key to the above is:—

Eileen and A.F.S.—Mr. and Mrs. Will Viggers.  
A.M.P.C.—Pte. Len Fox, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps.  
R.A.S.C.—Pte. Frank Shorter, Royal Army Service Corps.  
A.D.C.—Pte. Dick Fuller, Army Dental Corps.  
R.A.—Gnr. Charles Denyer, Royal Artillery.  
R.A.E.—Mr. Maurice Hodgson, Royal Aircraft Establishment.  
R.A.M.C.—Pte. John Freeman, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Warbling Winnie.—Well known to all.

And in case this meets the eye of any Fifth Columnist, they are not all stationed in Aldershot—no, not by a long way.

WIGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Friday, October 11th, at the Asperton, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, 1,260 changes: John C. Firth (first quarter-peal) 1-2, Albert H. Firth 3-4, Cyril Winder (conductor) 5-6.

## OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

ANTHONY WOOD AND HIS TIMES.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The art and science of change ringing was not the invention of one man or of one company; neither did it originate in any particular place. It was a natural growth which developed out of the 'pleasure' ringing of the sixteenth century, which, in turn, grew out of the ritual ringing of pre-Reformation times.

But, as with all other growths, though the seed was broadcast, the development was surest and most rapid where the soil was most favourable. Many things contributed, and it seems certain that by the end of the first quarter of the seventeenth century, not only in the larger towns like London and Norwich, but also in smaller towns and villages in different parts of the country, the first rudimentary stages of the art had appeared.

But nowhere was change ringing earlier practised or more quickly developed than at the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and among the students at the Inns of Court in London.

That is just what we should have expected. At those places were gathered together a number of young men, intellectually much superior to the average person, and just at that time of life when physical sports most appeal. And many of them, when their student days were over, took down into the country the love of ringing they had learned at Oxford or Cambridge and became propagandists of the new art; while the Society of College Youths owed much of its pre-eminence in the seventeenth century to men who had become ringers in their University days.

The art of change ringing began in Oxford much about the same time as it did in Cambridge, and in both places it developed on parallel lines. Both towns gave to the Exercise leaders and eminent ringers, and both produced compositions which have taken their places as standard methods; for if we owe Stedman's Principle to Cambridge, we owe Treble Bob to Oxford.

But the details of the early ringing we possess of the two places are curiously unlike. We know all the peals practised at Cambridge in the early and middle seventeenth century, but of the ringers themselves we know nothing. We have, it is true, one or two great names, but Stedman and Scattergood we know as composers only. With Oxford it is just the opposite. What little we know of the methods rung there comes to us indirectly and from other sources; but it so happens that the two men from whom we learn most of what we know of the ordinary life of the University in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries were both of them keenly interested in bells and ringing.

Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne were men who wrote on historical and antiquarian matters and each kept a diary in which he made shrewd comments on contemporary men and matters. In both, the references to ringing are few and cursory, as might have been expected from its relative importance in the general life of the University, but those remarks written by a master hand do actually convey more real information than pages written by some men.

Anthony Wood, or à Wood as he liked to call himself, was the fourth son of Thomas Wood, of St. John the Baptist parish, Oxford, by his second wife. Anthony

was born in an old house opposite the gate of Merton College, belonging to the college, and held by the Woods on a long lease, and here he lived for practically all his life.

He matriculated at Merton in 1647 and passed through the college without distinction, for he was but a dull scholar. The influence of his family would have been sufficient to procure him a Merton fellowship but for his notoriously peevish temper. His father left him a small annuity, which he refused to increase by going into business. He lived simply and frugally in two attic rooms of the family house and devoted his life to collecting and editing antiquities relating to the city and University of Oxford.

When he was an undergraduate he was taken seriously ill, and when he became convalescent he was sent to Cassington, a village six miles from Oxford, to recuperate; and there on the days he was well enough, he followed the plough, and sometimes ploughed himself. In the evenings he practised music, and he learned to ring on the six bells that had recently been put up in the steeple.

On his return to Oxford he practised ringing with his 'fellow colleagues' at Merton, and throughout his life he never lost his love for the sound of bells, though after a few years he did not ring himself.

Ringing in those days was a young man's sport, much as football now is; and he himself, writing about his uncle, Thomas, who was born in 1581, says 'he was a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was tall and bigge and in his younger dayes verie strong and active in manlie sports and recreations such as football, ringing, wrestling, etc.'

Besides ringing as a sport, which throughout the century was practised by the University men, there was a great deal of ringing and tolling of bells for official purposes, and it shows how much the sound of the bells, parochial and collegiate, was part of the ordinary life of the people, that Wood has over two hundred references to them in his diary. Their sound seems always to have been in his ears; as he took his walks through the city he listened for the tolling bells just as a man to-day turns to the obituary columns of *The Times* or the *Telegraph* to see who of those he knows has passed away. He records that 'he set down the obiits of the persons by the tolling of the passing bell.'

On every notable occasion there was ringing. In 1660 a new Parliament was summoned to meet at Oxford, and when on March 14th the King, Charles II., visited Christ Church 'what with the shouts and melodious ringing of the ten statlie bells there, the colledge sounded and the buildings did learn from its scholars to echo forth his majestie's welcome.'

The bell ringing was looked upon as indicative of popular feeling. In 1683 'most of the bells in the city and colleges rang for the Duke of York. Merton 8 rang at least an hour before he came.' Four years later the Duke had become King James II., and when the news came of the birth of the Prince of Wales, Magdalen were almost the only bells that celebrated the event. James, in his endeavours to further the interests of the popish religion, had by a series of arbitrary acts estranged the University, and only the Roman Catholics, whom he had intruded into Magdalen, saw any reason

for rejoicing in an event which seemed to preclude the possibility of a Protestant King of England.

In 1689 Wood relates that 'Dr. Henry Aldridge had the deanery of Christ Church bestowed upon him, whereupon next day the bells rang.' That was fitting; for Aldridge, by his popular catch, 'The bonny Christ Church bells' has made the ring better known to ordinary people than any other except Bow Bells in Cheapside.

In like manner any important event, either public or personal, was marked by tolling or ringing, and in those commemorations Great Tom bore its share.

We should have liked to have known something about the ringers themselves, but there we are disappointed. Wood, in his notes, which were afterwards incorporated in the second edition of 'Athenæ Oxonienses,' gave a short sketch of Richard Duckworth, and included him among the writers of Oxford University on the grounds that 'he hath written Tintinnalogia or the Art of Ringing,' and this is the only source from which we learn the real author of the book which for so long was attributed to Fabian Stedman.

The only other ringer mentioned is 'one Chilmead one of the town ringers,' who appears to have been a strong partisan in some dispute between the city and Merton College respecting Holywell; and when the city gained the legal victory he presented the mayor with wine and ale 'while the parish bells rang for joy occasioned, as 'tis supposed by the said Chilmead.'

Otherwise Wood has nothing to tell us about the ringers. In truth he was a solitary unsociable sort of person, who enjoyed the music of the bells but, except in his younger days, did not enter a belfry. 'He was,'

said a contemporary writer, 'a person who delighted to commune more with the dead than with the living, and was as it were dead to the world and utterly unknown in person to the generality of scholars in Oxford. He was so great an admirer of solitude and private life that he frequented no assemblies of the said University, had no companion at bed or board, in his studies, walks or journeys, nor held communion with any, unless with some, and those very few of generous and noble spirits.'

With advancing years his morose temper was accentuated by increasing deafness, though Benjamin Cole, a bookbinder, who worked for him, said 'he could when he pleased here very well, tho' he pretended to be very deaf always, and that he hath seen him several times walking under St. Marie's spire and at some other places when they have been ringing, on purpose to hear the bells which it seems he mightily delighted in.'

In the late seventeenth century Oxford had, as now, many bells, and it differed from Cambridge in that the principal rings were in the towers of college chapels. Many bells were ancient, but a process was going on by which old and heavy rings of five were being recast into lighter octaves, and we may perhaps see here an indication of the popularity of ringing as a sport.

#### A QUARTER-PEAL.

On Saturday, October 5th. at Hughenden, Bucks, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells as a birthday compliment to Miss Dorothy R. Fletcher: H. Wingrove 1-2, \*P. Newton 3, \*R. Lee 4, \*Miss D. R. Fletcher 5, \*R. Biggs 6, G. Martin (conductor) 7-8. \*First quarter-peal on handbells. The remnants of the Bearonsfield and Hughenden hands meet regularly on Fridays and Saturdays, with friends from various towers in the district, for handbell practices, and will welcome all ringers who care to come and join them in their attempt to keep the ringing flag flying in the branch.

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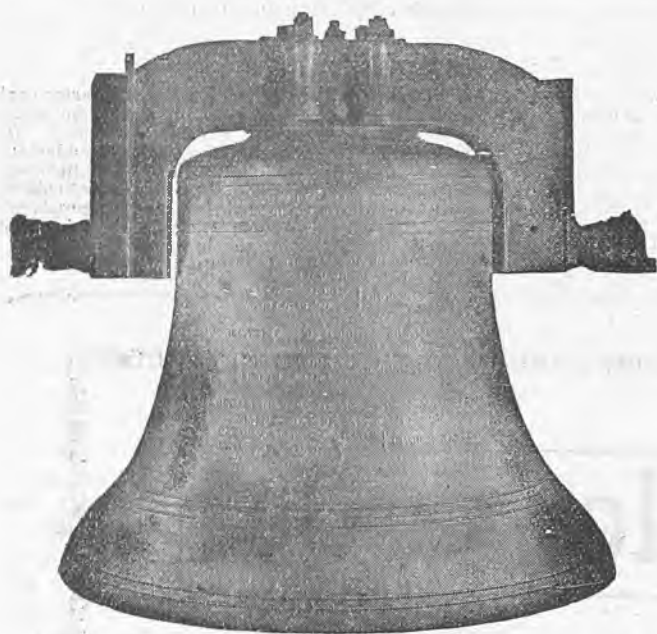
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among the buildings destroyed in recent air raids is the hotel where 50 years ago next Easter the first meeting of the Central Council was held. We learn that the Central London church mentioned in our last issue has again been damaged, but the tower and ten bells are safe. At St. Margaret's, Westminster, a fire started by an incendiary bomb was successfully fought.

Fifty years ago to-day eleven peals were rung. They consisted of 1 in seven methods of Minor, 1 of Bob Triples, 3 of Grandsire Triples, 1 of Stedman Triples, 1 of Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1 of Kent Treble Bob Major, 1 of Superlative Surprise Major, 1 of Stedman Caters, and 1 of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

The Maximus was rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, by the Ipswich men on a visit to London. James Motts rang the treble and conducted, and Mr. Frederick Tillet rang the tenor. The band included Isaac S. Alexander, William Motts, Robert Hawes, William Catchpole and Edgar Pemberton, as well as two well-known London ringers, James Pettit and Edwin Horrex. On the following Monday the visitors rang a peal of Double Norwich Royal at Fulham.

The Stedman Caters was rung by the Cumberlands at St. Luke's, Chelsea. George Newson conducted. The Superlative Major was at F. E. Robinson's church at Drayton. He rang the fifth, Washbrook called the peal and among the others were James H. Shepherd, Charles Hounslow, G. F. Attree (of Brighton) and G. F. Coleridge.

The Kent Treble Bob Major was at Warnham in Sussex and was Mr. James Parker's first peal. He was then living at Crawley.

Edwin Barnett called the Canterbury Pleasure Major at Crayford. The method—'Bob Major spoilt'—had a good deal of popularity about this time. Now it has dropped into a well-deserved oblivion.

John Brady, who rang the third to the peal of Bob Triples at Debenham, was blind, and it was supposed to be the first time that a blind man had taken part in a peal. That, however, was not so. John Incarsole, one of the Cambridge Youths, though totally blind, 'was remarkable for his extensive knowledge of the art of ringing and other musical professions.' On Christmas Eve, 1770, he rang the fourth to 5,610 changes of Grandsire Cinques, the first twelve-bell peal ever accomplished by a provincial company, and he took part in one or two other peals.

On October 16th, 1883, at Birmingham, John Carter called 10,176 changes of Grandsire Major 'in hand.' It remained the longest handbell peal until 1894, when 11,200 of Bob Major was rung at Norwich, conducted by Charles E. Borrett.

The first peal (one of Grandsire Caters) at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields was rung on October 17th, 1726, by the College Youths. Annable called the bobs and William Laughton was in the band.

On October 20th, 1794, George Gross called at St. Giles', Camberwell, Reeves' peal of Treble Bob, 6,720 changes, with the 60 course ends. Shipway, who rang in it, says it was the first time this composition was rung, but there is good reason to believe that the College Youths had already rung it at Kensington.

## A FALSE PEAL OF TREBLE BOB.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Will you please insert a note in 'The Ringing World' to the effect that Peal No. 3,230 in the records of the Yorkshire Association is false. The particulars are as follows: 5,024 Kent Treble Bob Major, rung at SS. Peter and Paul's, Eckington, on Saturday, August 4th, 1928. Composed and conducted by Charles Severn. The repetition occurs between the Before and Wrong positions, in the fifth and ninth courses.

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

## CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER

A STORY FROM THE LATE MR. W. GIFFORD.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The incident referred to in your issue of September 27th in a letter from Mr. E. Bankes James concerned a peal of Cambridge Surprise rung at Thame on September 29th, 1904, conducted by Mr. George Williams. The ringer who took down the figures from outside the tower was the late Mr. J. C. Truss, of Great Marlow, and it was rather remarkable that at that time he was not able to ring the method. He was possessed of a very wonderful ear and could take down anything from outside the tower. As a matter of fact, according to my recollection of what they told me, he and Mr. Gifford must have arrived back at the tower while the bells were in the plain course, for the first course end he took down was 23564 brought up by Before and Home. This probably accounted for his remark that a second start for the peal must have been made, and it would consequently not be finished for some three hours. He took down the rest of the figures of the peal.

G. N. PRICE.

## AN ARMCHAIR 720.

On Saturday, Oct. 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor was rung on handbells at Southover Cottage, Pyrford, Surrey. The comfort of armchairs did not prevent the extent being rung in 13 minutes. The ringers were J. S. Goldsmith 1-2, Pte. J. Freeman (Lincoln) 3-4, Gnr. C. W. Denyer (Aldershot) 5-6.



## HANDBELL RINGING DIFFICULTIES.

MR. C. W. WOOLLEY ANSWERS QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, C. D., has asked for a fairly comprehensive course in handbell ringing, and stipulates that the answers must be simple. This is not easy, since most handbell ringers have gained their experience over a number of years of practice and with a certain amount of hard thinking; for which answers to a few questions, hints and tips, however good they may be, are no substitute.

However, if it is of any help to C. D., here are my answers to his queries. First, as regards handling the bells. Long practice in rounds should not be necessary; nor would dumb practice seem to be an advantage, since it is the reverse which is desired. It must be realised that it is the check at the end of the stroke which makes the bell speak, not force, nor yet a long swing. Just the same applies in chiming a tower bell; once it is going a check only is required, not a vigorous pull, nor is it necessary to swing the bell to a great height. Most beginners on handbells are not nearly easy enough in action; by gripping the bell too tightly and swinging it with too much vigour they render difficult the very check which is needed. If the bells still will not speak when rung easily, it is well to look to the springs and bend them so that they hold the clappers just off the bells, but only just.

Secondly, the trebles in Grandsire after a bob has been called. It is certainly not sufficient only to be able to hunt them in course, but they must still be made to help each other, and not rung as two separate bells. This can only be done by a study of the various positions. These have been dealt with in various articles recently, some of which were perpetrated about a year ago by myself. A ringer who really knows the positions will not be bothered too much by the treble going astray, since he will know when he is due to dodge; provided, of course, that the treble consents to be put right. Even bell methods are better to start on than odd, since the positions are easier. Minor is probably the best, providing plenty of work without the confusion of having too many bells to watch. The tenors to odd-bell methods provide practice at handling two bells, but beyond that are clearly not very useful towards ringing a couple of bells in the work.

### HARD THINKING NEEDED.

I do not think it fortunate to be told not to think. The aim is to be able to perform the various positions without undue effort of thought, in the same way that a pianist plays or a batsman bats; but it is necessary first to learn, and a great deal of hard thinking is required, although this may slow up the performance to begin with.

I do not advise a recruit to attempt to ring Stedman; it is not easy. When he has mastered the work of simpler methods he will have some idea of how it may be done.

I cannot agree that it is an entirely different thing to ring a Surprise method than to ring a simpler standard method. It is a much greater step from ringing 7-8 in course in Bob Major to ringing a non-coursing pair, than it is from, say, Double Norwich to Cambridge, which are very similar methods to ring in hand. Admittedly it is a step up to ring methods with internal work produced by places made when the treble is away from the front, but it is not such a big step if simple methods are tried at first, and Surprise ringing follows by the same system. The more the internal work in a method, the longer the practice required before touches and peals can be rung; and Surprise methods, having twice as long a course as plain methods, have more of this work. There is also room for more complicated work, though some plain methods can easily be more difficult than some Surprise methods.

For Surprise ringing, Superlative or Cambridge are as good as any for a start. The work in each is very regular, and the places are all made 'right' (at hand back), so there is no backward ringing. Many non-standard Surprise methods are in this class and would be just as easy; but Superlative and Cambridge are more familiar to most ringers, which is an advantage.

I hope that these answers, which are merely expressions of opinion, may be of some help to C. D., and I would like to wish him success.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

### MORE 'TIPS.'

Dear Sir,—The following hints may be of some value to your correspondent C. D. with regard to handbell ringing. While I do not claim to be a 'well-known and practised ringer "in hand,"' I have had, during the last three years, a wide experience in teaching ringers of all ages the rudiments of handbell ringing.

First as regards position: sitting is undoubtedly better than standing, and a chair of suitable height should be chosen to enable the wrists to be rested comfortably on the knees. The ringer should always take advantage of this opportunity to rest his arms after each 'back-stroke' blow, for, apart from improving the striking, a ringer who is trained in this habit will be far less tired after a long 'touch' or peal than one who is not. Then as regards holding the bells, they should be grasped firmly by all four fingers round the strap, and the thumb left free to support the bell when it is at 'back-stroke,' not on the rivet which fastens the strap, but on the leather cap over the crown. It is not advisable to put the little finger through the

strap, as this will soon cause soreness between the fourth and fifth finger.

The actual ringing of the bell is done by a twist of the wrist, rather than keeping the wrist rigid, and moving the whole arm from the elbow. The forearm will, of course, be moved, but the necessary jerk to make the bell ring comes from the wrist and not from the arm. Care should be taken to see that the bell is brought well back at handstroke, so that the clapper comes to rest at the upper or near side of the bell.

When the beginner is sitting properly and can ring his bell, he should be given No. 3 to ring in rounds. The number of bells rung will depend on the number of ringers available, but four or six are quite sufficient at first. By using his ears and his eyes he should then keep the same distance behind No. 2 as the latter does behind the treble. When he can manage that all right he should try Nos. 3 and 4 together, and after that 1 and 2. When ringing the leading pair he must be careful to keep the handstroke leads open; but this will have been pointed out to him before he tries it himself.

The beginner will now be sufficiently advanced to try change ringing, the meaning and theory of which should first be carefully explained on paper, following a method like Plain Bob, and then perhaps a demonstration by two or three ringers on the bells.

It is matter of opinion whether a beginner should learn to hunt with two bells right from the start, or to begin with only one. Personally I always start him with only one, and let him ring the treble progressively on 4, 5 and 6 bells. The other bells can be rung all plain hunt at first, and then later to Grandsire and Plain Bob. When he can see what hunting involves while he is ringing only one, then he can attempt two bells, and in this respect it is better for him to ring 1-2 to Grandsire Triples rather than Doubles or Minor, for in doing so he will be given longer, before he gets to the front or the back, to see how one bell comes between him at each change.

### MASTER THE RUDIMENTS FIRST.

Your correspondent asks whether Grandsire is the best method for handbell beginners. I do not want to start a controversy over the respective merits of odd and even bell methods, but I ask, why learn to ring any particular method at first? Why not learn the rudiments of double-handed ringing first, and then apply it to particular methods? This is what I mean: if the ringer writes out the twelve changes produced when six bells all plain hunt, and examines the rows thus produced, he will find that certain pairs of bells are related. For instance, let him write out six separate sets of twelve changes, and on each set draw a line through one of the following pairs of numbers: 1-2, 1-3, 2-4, 3-5, 4-6, and 5-6. He will find that all six pairs of lines are related; in fact, they course. This means that one bell (different each time) is ringing between the pair at each change, except at the front or the back, when the pair itself changes places in the positions 1-2 or 5-6. In other words, the two lines cross each other in 1-2 or 5-6. I call this the 1-2 (or 5-6) position. Similarly he will find, on preparing further sets of changes, and drawing in further pairs of bells, that the following pairs are also related: 2-3, 1-4, 1-5, 2-6, 3-6 and 4-5. These pairs have one bell coursing between them, and the lines drawn through them always cross in positions 2-3 and 4-5. This I call the 2-3 (or 4-5) position. Finally he will find one other relationship, and that is between the pairs 3-4, 2-5 and 1-6. These pairs always cross in 3-4, and the two lines are symmetrical in relation to each other. I call this the 3-4 position.

There are thus only three different positions for a pair of bells to fall into in Plain Minor: the 1-2, the 2-3 and the 3-4 positions, and when the beginner has mastered these three positions, then he has gone a long way towards ringing Bob Minor accurately. So let him first of all examine these on paper, and then ring them with the bells; and he need not always start the 1-2 position from rounds. Let him ring bells 1-2 from the following starts: 142635, 516234, 431625, etc. Or, while learning the 2-3 position, let him start with his own bells in the other related places as well as 2-3.

### PAPER WORK NEEDED.

The beginner is now in a position to write out the whole of the plain course of Plain Bob Minor, and to mark in the lines of the bells 1-2 in two different colours. Personally I always keep to red for the right hand (whether it is 1-2 or any other pair). And here may I stress the value of a plentiful supply of squared paper. With a little practice the lines only, and not the numbers as well, can be drawn out, thus saving a lot of tedious labour. On examining the two lines, the beginner will find that, of the five leads in the plain course, the bells are in the 1-2 position in the leads one and five; the 2-3 position in the leads two and four; and in the 3-4 position in the middle lead. It is the dodging in 3-4 and 5-6 which causes the working bell to change its relationship to the treble, from one to another of the three foundation positions.

Similarly the work of the other two pairs can now be examined and practised. Bells 5 and 6 will be found to remain in the 1-2 position throughout the course, except for the parted lead, when they fall into the 2-3 position; but the bells 3 and 4 will be found in the 3-4 position for the first and last lead, and the 2-3 position for the other three leads. Before attempting to ring any pair, however, the lines they follow in the plain course should be carefully examined. It is only in doing so that dodging 'in-step,' such as 5-6 do, and 'scissor' dodging, carried out by 3-4, can be thoroughly understood.

(Continued on next page.)

## WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### FULL MOON PRACTICES.

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Kinver on Saturday, September 28th, members being present from Brierley Hill, Clent, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Wolverley, Cradley and the local tower.

The proceedings opened with handbell ringing in the ringing chamber, which is conveniently situated on the ground floor and opens into the church, and an excellent course of Grandsire Caters was brought round immediately before the service.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. A. Mercer, himself a ringer, and in the course of an excellent address he dealt comprehensively with the traditional uses of bells through the ages.

An excellent tea was provided by the churchwardens at the Woden Cafe, after which the Vicar presided at the business meeting.

There being no alternative nominations, the officers were re-elected en bloc, viz.: Ringing Master, Mr. John Lloyd; Central Committee representative, Mr. John Bass; secretary, Mr. B. C. Ashford.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Stourbridge on Saturday, January 11th, 1941, and practice meetings at Belbroughton on Saturday, November 16th, and Brierley Hill on Saturday, December 14th, next, the three dates each coinciding with the full moon.

The Secretary referred to the activities of the branch during the past year. Meetings have been held at Wollaston, Wordsley, Halesowen, Hagley, Wolverley and Belbroughton; all of them were well attended considering the circumstances. He thanked the members for their support, and reminded them of the handbell practices at Clent on Saturdays at 3 p.m., which were in the able hands of Mr. William Short. As the clappers had been removed from seven of the tower bells, there was an opportunity also for silent practice. Members who did not already do so were urged to take in 'The Ringing World' to enable them to keep in touch with what was doing, in addition to which they would find it a very instructive and entertaining journal, well worthy of the fullest support of the Exercise.

Mr. C. H. Woodberry informed the members of the marriage of the Association Ringing Master, Mr. S. T. Holt, a few days previously, and it was decided to send him a letter conveying their good wishes.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, Mr. Basterfield, and the churchwardens were heartily endorsed and the meeting was then declared closed, the members devoting themselves to the social side of the proceedings with change ringing and tune playing on handbells.

### HANDBELL RINGING HINTS.

(Continued from previous page.)

What I have said with regard to Bob Minor applies equally to Grandsire Triples; here, too, there are only three positions for the pairs of bells to fall into when hunting. They are: (1) the 1-2 position, where they cross in 1-2 and 6-7; (2) the 2-3 position, crossing in 2-3 and 5-6; and (3) the 3-4 position, crossing in 3-4 and 4-5. This point was explained most carefully in 'The Ringing World' of August 9th, 1940, and needs no further elaboration on my part.

Finally I would urge C. D. that, however simply hints and instructions are put, they will never be understood unless the beginner is prepared to take a lot of trouble with pencil and paper. Do not wait until practice night, but learn all you can at other odd times during the week. Only in this way can the practice be of most help, and you will waste neither your own nor other people's time at the actual practice over explanations which ought to have been done at other times.

'MARYLEBONE.'

### THE OPINION OF ANOTHER EXPERT.

Sir,—To be quite honest, is it possible to teach handbell ringing? You can instruct a man how to hold the bells, but the one thing you cannot teach him is 'sight.' It is said that no two persons see ringing on tower bells alike; that is truer with handbells. Each ringer picks up different ideas in his own particular way. The one ringer I know who may be able to help is the Rev. E. B. James. Some twenty or so years ago he had some good boys at his school, and Mr. C. W. Woolley was one. I am sure he would agree it was the foundation he received at that time which gave him the sight to reach the Surprise stage.

Both C. D. and Mr. Brown have yet to learn that a remark passed between friends looks entirely different in cold print. 'Keep moving and do not think' was a favourite expression of mine. It may have been foolish, but none of my old friends would say I refused to help them. Is it so foolish? If one has the idea of a beat and can swing his bells to it, that will help him to sight, and generally the biggest trouble is not how to think. You cannot split your mind to find out what each bell is doing; you have to find some way yourself. My advice always was to hunt each bell to watch the treble and to dodge back when it leads. It is simply practice.

I wonder how many hours the Pye brothers, the Bailey family and others here and there spent before they mastered it. What would Mr. Brown have called us if he had seen four men sitting in a railway carriage with no handbells, but ringing with their thumbs up. It did not matter when or where we met, Stedman had to go, bells or no bells. I can assure anyone that once you can ring handbells, it is worth all the time and trouble.

A. H. PULLING.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

## THE ANGELUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I had fully considered the cases cited by Mr. Sawyer before coming to the conclusion that the Angelus was not generally rung in English parish churches in pre-Reformation times.

I have not got the text of the injunctions issued by Archbishop Arundel in 1399, but they appear to have ordered the saying of one Paternoster and five Ave Marias at dawn each day. No bell was ordered to be rung specially, and, indeed, such was not necessary, for the early morning bell had already been rung for centuries.

Mr. Sawyer refers to Dr. J. J. Raven's book, 'The Bells of England.' This is what Raven says—'an order came forth from Archbishop Arundel commanding one Pater Noster and five Ave Marias to be said at dawn. To bring this to mind a bell was rung called the Angelus.' This is an almost verbal transcript from Thomas North's books, but Raven, by the alteration of two or three words, conveys the impression that the bell was called the Angelus in the fifteenth century, which North does not say, and for which there is no evidence at all.

Dr. Raven's book is an excellent one in many ways, but a good deal of its detail is inaccurate and slipshod.

In the inventories made in the year 1552 of the goods and ornaments of the parish churches throughout England, the small extra bell which usually is called the saunce bell is, in the case of the Norwich churches, called the Gabriel bell. I have been through many of these inventories in the Public Records Office, but do not remember the term being used elsewhere than in Norfolk. It would be interesting to know why these bells were called Gabriel bells, but it is hardly likely that they got the name (as Dr. Raven suggests) because they were used for the Angelus. When any ringing was done which more or less remotely resembled the Angelus, the saunce bell was not used.

The negative evidence against the Angelus being generally rung is very strong. In the orders for the duties of the clerks at Coventry in 1462, where detailed and precise instructions are given for bell-ringing, no mention is made of the Angelus. Neither is there any in the orders for ringing the bells at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, which were deliberately drawn up in 1467 in accordance with the 'good custom of the City of London.'

It is extremely likely that attempts were being made to introduce into England the custom which had become popular in France, and of this the bequest of the parson at Cropredy in Oxfordshire referred to by Mr. Sawyer is an example, but if it proves anything it proves that the ringing of the Angelus was a custom some people would like to introduce, not one which had already become general.

Probably if it had not been for the Reformation the custom of ringing the Angelus would have become common here as it did in France, but there was not time enough for it to become established; and when the Church of England dropped the system of indulgences and all that is implied in the Roman Catholic doctrine of intentions, the real motives of the devotion came to an end.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

### BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should be very glad if any of your readers could give me information about peals (if any) accomplished at St. Germain's Parish Church, Peel, Isle of Man.

During a holiday on the island in August, 1939, I paid a visit to this church one Sunday evening, having heard previously that it possessed the only peal of bells in Man.

Having obtained access to the belfry, I found a ring of eight bells, cast about 1887, by Warner; the tenor I estimated to be about 8 or 9 cwt. in A flat. The bells, though hung for ringing, are now chimed by Ellacombe's apparatus, the former ringing ropes being used for chime ropes. For a ring cast at that period they are quite good except that the tenor was a little flat (or so I thought). Under the Cambridge clock chimes they sound quite pleasant and musical.

Pursuing my enquiries, I found that according to a local churchwarden Peel had at one time a fair band of ringers who could 'ring Bob Major as well as anybody,' but in 1916 the tower showed signs of weakness, the lofty spire was removed and all ringing stopped. What became of the ringers is difficult to say. One of them is at present official 'chimer,' but as he was ill at the time of my visit I was not able to make his acquaintance. At the request of the churchwarden, I usurped his duties that Sunday and 'went to it' with right good will to the great satisfaction of the good churchfolk of Peel, by some of whom I was thanked most profusely. Rounds, 'Queens' and 'Whittingtons' went down very well.

It appears that a restoration is not out of the question, as the tower has been strengthened and the walls braced with steel struts, but lack of funds is the great stumbling-block.

Incidentally Peel and St. Thomas' Church, Douglas, are the only ones in the Diocese of Sodor and Man which have more than one or two bells. St. Thomas' has a very fine chime of eight bells, tenor 12 cwt., by Taylor, which replaces a ringing peal of eight destroyed by fire. The present bells (which I have had the pleasure of chiming) are a grand job, well worthy of the Loughborough Foundry.

WILFRED E. BOX.

## THE 'EXTREME.'

### HOW YORKSHIRE RINGERS USED IT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent C. T. B. opens up a very interesting subject in his enquiry about 'Extremes,' as this term seems to embrace a diversity of unorthodox calls. Although his query relates to Grandsire, I think it is permissible to point out that, at one time, such a call in Treble Bob Major was generally accepted as proper and correct in the West Riding of Yorkshire, especially in the Heavy Woollen district, and although it has now fallen into disuse, I am not at all sure that, in some respects, its going is unregrettable; it is such a useful call. From a composing standpoint, Treble Bob is sluggish in mobility, certain placed bells cannot be switched from one position to another with ease (for instance, a 5th's place bell cannot be transferred to 6th's place in a full course without parting the tenors). This, together with the length of the natural course, limits the number of short touches which can be obtained by ordinary calling; but by the use of extremes the scope is considerably widened.

An Extreme in Treble Bob Major is actually a sixth's place bob. I have heard ringers argue that it is the proper bob for the Kent variation of the method, cutting out as it does the four consecutive blows in 4th's, which are made at the usual bob, a thing which is tolerated but at the same time condemned by method purists. However, as I have no desire to start a controversy on that subject, I will make no further comment on it.

At the Extreme, 6th's place is made as the treble leads, causing the two back bells to long dodge and the bells under 6th's to continue their work undisturbed; so that, if an extreme is called when the tenor is dodging at home, the 5th's place bell becomes 6th's place bell by a single call. By this it will be seen that a variety of short touches can be produced which are unobtainable with ordinary callings. A very simple touch, favoured by some of the old Treble Bob ringers when they wanted to wind up a meeting or fill in a few minutes, is bob Before, Extreme at Home, giving an eight lead course with the 6th four leads at home and four leads in 5th's.

Extremes can also be used to apply touches of Minor to Major; any touch of Treble Bob Minor can be rung to Major by using the same observation bell, calling the bobs as in Minor, and calling Extremes at, what would be, every plain lead end. This has the effect of keeping 7-8 dodging behind at every lead-end (a most objectionable practice I can imagine some will say). Two courses of Minor become 320 of Major, and a 720 of Minor will run to 960 of Major, with 30 'course-ends'!

Sottanstill, in his book, makes free use of Extremes, both in touches and peals of Treble Bob, sometimes exclusively and at other times in conjunction with fourth place bobs. Whilst many of the peals are of little merit, others are decidedly interesting. One of these compositions, a 5,040 with all Extreme calls, was rung at Christ Church, Liversedge, on January 1st, 1864.

A unique but altogether unorthodox peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by J. E. Jenkinson, was rung at St. Stephen's, Lindley, on March 25th, 1905. In this peal, a 5,040, there are no fourth's place bobs, but there are two types of Extremes, one, the ordinary Extreme at which 6th's place is made as the treble leads, and the other a 'Treble Extreme,' which, as its name signifies, is made by the treble. The treble, after dodging in 5-6 up, makes 6th's place and dodges in 5-6 down, 3-4 down and so on, cutting out its journey into 7-8. By using two of these calls in certain courses the composer produces a three lead course of 80 changes. The peal is really a freak and, beyond the fact that 7-8 are out of the slow hunt in the short courses, has no outstanding merit either from a constructional or musical standpoint.

The recording of this peal in the Yorkshire Association's report bears this footnote, 'Whilst there can be no doubt as to the skill and care demanded in the above performance, the committee trust that it will not be repeated,' which shows that, whilst the committee of that day were prepared to give full credit to those who rang in the peal, they were equally strong in their condemnation of the unnecessary mutilation of the method. The performance has not been repeated!

By the natural extension of a method an Extreme in Royal should be made in 8th's place. I have no knowledge, however, of such a call ever being used, but Thomas Pollitt, of Bradford and Halifax,

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

(Continued from next page.)

Although the false course ends in each of these groups are definitely related to each other, they are not related in the same way as are the members of the groups of four we first mentioned. The presence of one member of the group does not necessarily imply the presence of all the other members. If one false course end appears its complementary false course end will also appear, but there need not necessarily be any other. If we get A we shall also get D, but we need not get B or C or E. B 24365 can appear by itself and indeed is the false course end most frequently met with.

who composed many good peals of Treble Bob Royal, used, in some of his compositions, a 6th's place Extreme. This was used in only one course and for one purpose—to shift the 7th to 6th's place and cause it to course before the 8th. By this method he produced what he termed the 'Tittums Caters' position; why this name it is hard to say (as the bells are coursing in the order of 7, 8, 0, 9 they can hardly be said to be in the tittums), unless it was to distinguish it from the recognised tittum position in Royal produced by a bob 'before,' in which the back bells course in the order of 0, 9, 8, 7; a position which Pollitt used extensively in peal composition. A peal in the 'Tittums Caters' position was rung at St. Peter's (now the Cathedral), Bradford, on Saturday, December 20th, 1890, composed by Thomas Pollitt and conducted by J. H. Hardcastle.

Another use of the term 'Extreme,' hardly as commendable as those mentioned above, but nevertheless effective, was made by a conductor of my acquaintance when calling a service or practice touch. If he was mixed up in his calling or couldn't get the bells round in time, he just waited for the treble to come to lead (in any method) and then called 'Extreme'; his conferees, knowing exactly what was expected of them, then brought the bells nicely round, usually with little or no semblance of a jumble or bell out of place. It was far more effective than an unexpected 'that's all.' When a stranger was in the band, however, well—the result will be better imagined than described.

WILLIAM BARTON.

Pudsey.

## AN OLD LINCOLNSHIRE CUSTOM.

Dear Sir,—Having read in the letter to you from C. T. B. re the 'Extreme,' I would like to tell you that in a village near here 40 years ago the local band used to ring Grandsire Doubles and what they called St. Dunstan's. In it there was a call at every treble head. I remember quite well when I visited that tower seeing them ring the six-score and hearing it called: Bob, Single, Bob, Extreme. Like C. T. B., I enquired how it was made and this is it. There are 32 six-scores obtainable by the use of this Extreme.

54132
51423
Extreme 15432
15342
51324
53142

It is quite a job for the conductor to call the 32 six-scores with a call at every lead. It alone will keep him from going to sleep.

I think 'The Ringing World' is very interesting now.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

Edenham, Lincolnshire.

## HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

### WHO CALLED THE FIRST PEAL?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In my search among our records for items of general interest to ringers, I discovered the following extract in the late Mr. W. T. Cockerill's handwriting:—

'Grandsire,' p. 138.—Holt, as has already been related, called his one-part peal from a manuscript copy and did not take any other part in the performance. We may be sure that many a conductor would feel ambitious to call the peal without such assistance, but it was not until 40 years after its first performance that this object was attained. On Sunday, October 23rd, 1791, the College Youths rang this peal at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, when it was conducted by James Bartlett, who rang the treble, and thus gained the honour of being the first man to conduct the peal and take part in the ringing.

As this conflicts with the fourth item in 'Belfry Gossip' of August 23rd, I should be glad to know which of the two statements is authentic.

A. B. PECK.

It was for many years thought in London that James Bartlett was the first man to call the Original and ring at the same time. The claim is made on the peal board in the belfry of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. But researches by Mr. Samuel Slater in East Anglian papers proved that Bartlett had been forestalled by at least two men.—Editor.

## WADHURST, SUSSEX.

### RESTORATION OF THE BELLS.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have now completed the rehanging and repairs to the bells and frame at Wadhurst Church, and on October 1st the ringers had the opportunity of trying them before the clappers were fixed. Everyone was delighted with the go, and after years of hard work it is now a pleasure to ring, especially at the back end.

During his brief stay in Wadhurst, Mr. John Thomas gave valuable assistance to the local ringers, who, under the able tuition of Mr. H. Stalham, are steadily progressing, with the handbells, in single-handed ringing.

The band were just able to ring plain courses of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor, but at his third and last practice Mr. Thomas got them through 240 of Grandsire. Of course, the striking was by no means perfect, but the boys are steadily acquiring the rhythm.

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

In every regular Treble Bob or Surprise Major method there are 60 in-course rows with 1, 7 and 8 at home. These form the natural course ends of the method, and from each of them a full independent natural course can be pricked in the same way that the plain course is pricked from rounds. The 60 natural courses form the total amount of material we have to work with when we compose peals with the tenors together.

If the method has a clear proof scale all the sixty natural courses are available, and composition consists in selecting certain of these courses, or parts of them, and joining them together into one round block by means of bobs.

But if the method has one or more false course ends then there is a certain amount of repetition of rows between these sixty natural courses, and before we can compose a peal we must know what that repetition is so that we can avoid falseness.

If there is one course which contains rows which are also contained in the plain course, then, for every one of the sixty natural courses, there will be one which is equally false against it. If, for instance, the natural course 24365 contains rows which are also in the plain course, then the natural course 62435 will contain rows which are also in the natural course 64253; 45623 will be false against 46532; and every other one of the sixty will be false in the same way. This will automatically reduce the number of full courses we may use from sixty to thirty.

When the method has two false course ends, then for every one full natural course we use there are two others which we may not use. When there are three false course ends, then for every one full natural course we use there are three which are debarred from use. And in the same way the greater the number of false course ends the greater are the limitations in the material for composition.

At first sight this would seem to make a true peal impossible when the number of false course ends is greater than one. We might conclude that when there are two false course ends, since the total number of available courses is only sixty and for every one we use we are debarred from using two others, we shall have only twenty true courses to work with, whereas at least twenty-three are needed for a peal. Fortunately, however, that does not always happen; it depends on what the false course ends are. In some instances there may be as many as five, and yet thirty true full courses are available.

False course ends fall into certain well defined groups and according to what group or groups its false course ends belong, so has a method a greater or lesser capacity for producing true peals. Let us see what these groups are, and then how they affect the truth of compositions. A good deal of what we are now going to say has been covered by previous articles, but it is well to have the matter stated as a systematic whole.

In the first place false course ends always exist in pairs, each one in a pair being complementary to the other. This is due to the fact that in a symmetrical method the rows are produced from 2345678 going forwards, and in the same way from 2436587 going backwards; and therefore, if there are two incourse rows

which create a liability to falseness, there will also be two out-of-course rows with a similar liability. These two liabilities are similar, but one depends on 2345678 and the other on 2436587, so we must bring them to a common denominator. To do this we transpose 24365 by the false course end which depends on 2345678 and then transpose the result by 24365. Thus, supposing we have the false course end 32546, we transpose 24365 by 32546 which gives us 42635, and that we transpose by 24365 which gives us 46253, the complementary false course end to 32546. Notice that it does not matter which of the pair we start with; the result will always give us the other.

We have said that false course ends always exist in pairs, but to this rule there is an apparent (not a real) exception. Four false course ends, viz., B 24365, O 25634, L 26543, and 23456 are each complementary to itself and exist in both positions. If we transport any one of them by the rule just given we shall see that it comes back to itself.

The reader may be surprised that we have included 23456 among the possible false course ends. How, he may ask, can the plain course be false against itself? Well, it is not easy in practice, but it is possible; and in theory there is no reason why the plain course should not have the same row twice over.

The second division of false course ends is into those which are in reciprocal relationship with rounds and those that are not. Two rows are in reciprocal relationship when A is to B in all respects as B is to A. For instance, as 24365 is to 23456, so is 23456 to 24365. This relationship is important because everything in the natural courses which depend on the course ends is also in reciprocal relationship. There are sixteen rows which are in reciprocal relationship to rounds. In every one of them one bell (and one bell only) is in its natural home position. The false course ends which occur in almost all the methods suitable for ringing are included among these reciprocal rows.

The forty-four false course ends which are not in reciprocal relationship with 23456 consist of eight groups of four and six groups of two. If in any method one member of a group appears, the other members automatically appear also.

The fourteen groups last mentioned are of little practical interest and we turn back to the sixteen false course ends in reciprocal relationship with 23456. These fall into four groups, and outside them are three false course ends (which we have already mentioned) that stand by themselves. The three are O 25634, L 26543 and 23456. None of these three is of any practical interest and we need not discuss them further.

The other thirteen false course ends fall into four groups, two of them consisting of five members and two of three. One false course end B 24365 is common to all four groups.

The groups are:—

A 32546	B 24365	B 24365
B 24365	F 32465	H 45236
C 53624	G 43265	I 32654
D 46253		J 63542
E 65432	B 24365	K 56423
	Y 54326	
	Z 64352	

(Continued on previous page.)



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at Nottingham. Committee meet 4 p.m. in St. Peter's New Parish Hall. Tea at nearby café 5 p.m., followed by meeting and convivial, handbell ringing, etc., in above hall. All members invited to attend and any ringers in H.M. Forces in and near Nottingham are specially invited to spend a pleasant hour together. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. — Preliminary Notice. — The meeting following the above will be held on November 9th, when it is hoped to commemorate the 303rd anniversary of the society by an informal lunch at about 1.30. Further particulars later.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The October quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, at the Grey Friar Inn, Grey Friar's Lane, Coventry (situated at rear of G.P.O.; five minutes' walk Coventry L.M.S. Station; also Pool Meadow bus station). Private room available from 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Light refreshments served during the evening. — D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Loughborough District.—All ringers are invited to a meeting at Whitwick on Saturday, Oct. 19th. Handbells in School (near Market Place bus stop) from 3 p.m. Short service in Church at 4.15, followed by tea at 4.45. Please attend if possible.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Bradford Cathedral. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in the city. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Roads, Leeds 12.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—It has not been possible to arrange a meeting for October as proposed. Members are asked to watch these columns for notices of any arrangements that may be made.—C. A. Bassett, Assistant Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) **AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Chertsey District). — A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Handbells, etc., also available after service. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, not later than Tuesday, Oct. 29th. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Tonbridge District.—It has been decided that, owing to circumstances over which we have no control, it would be inadvisable to arrange the projected annual meeting, which was to have been held at Tunbridge Wells. — (Signed) Alec E. Richardson, Dis. Sec.; Tom Saunders, John Medhurst, District Representatives.

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## WHERE RECORDS FAIL US.

It is a great pity that there have not been through the long history of ringing more people who were able, not only to leave records of the ringing performances of their day, but descriptions of the men who took part in them. With few exceptions, we know little of the appearance or habits of those who laid the foundations of our art, of men like Stedman, or Annable, or the authors of the 'Clavis,' or, for that matter, of Shipway and many men who came later in the nineteenth century; and we are the poorer for it. Can we really picture the men who made ringing history in Norwich or Birmingham or London in the eighteenth century? Mr. J. Armiger Trollope has been endeavouring in our pages during past months to bring back to life some of the figures which had sunk into the limbo of the past, to show us from their achievements something of what he imagines them to have been as ringers; and he has been at great pains to abstract from contemporary sources all that can be ascertained about their activities outside the Exercise. For all his labours ringers owe to Mr. Trollope an immense debt of gratitude. No one before him has made so much research or delved so deeply into the original records as Mr. Trollope, and no one has been able to give the Exercise such readable and convincing accounts of ringers and ringing in the past, with the analytical mind and the deft touch of the true historian, which he has been able to apply. But even writers like Mr. Trollope have to regret the absence of detail in the material available. How much more complete could have been our appreciation of the men who made the Exercise in the first two hundred years of its existence had we been able now to find some record of those personal details which go to complete the historian's picture? Alas, there were so few who were able or thought it worth while to leave to future generations any material of this kind.

Thomas Hearne, among the Oxford ringers with whom Mr. Trollope is now dealing in his engrossing series of articles, was one of the earliest and perhaps the greatest of these, but he unfortunately turned his attention to it only in the concluding years of his life. Just occasionally in the last fifty or sixty years we have found a ringer putting on record his recollections of or his reactions to his contemporaries. Stories are, as no doubt they always have been, passed on from mouth to mouth by ringers concerning those whom they have known, either as friends or rivals, but these stories inevitably become distorted or blurred with the passage of time and lose their value, if they ever had any, in the historical sense. Once

(Continued on page 506.)

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or twice, however, men have put pen to paper and have left us something by which we can get a more or less true glimpse of some of those who in their day and generation left their mark upon ringing, or at any rate attained some local fame. John Day presented us years ago with pen pictures of Birmingham worthies, with whom, boy and man, he came into contact. Samuel Slater, of Glemsford, Suffolk, was another who assiduously collected notes of the same kind and left a valuable heritage to the Exercise which has been carefully preserved by his son, Mr. Theodore Slater. From time to time we have been able to publish information about ringers of the past, supplied to us by Mr. Slater, and in this issue we give a typical extract from his father's notebooks about men who, nearly a hundred years ago, spread the seed of scientific ringing in Suffolk. In themselves these details may not seem of great importance, but as a whole they present a picture of these men of East Anglia which is worth preserving. If only there were more such records existing throughout the country how much greater could be the interest in the performances of the past. Instead of conjuring up ghosts, we could, as it were, clothe their forms with flesh and blood. Are there, we wonder, any ringers in these days who are quietly making notes of the contemporaries they meet, so that those who come after them may get a more intimate picture of the ringers of to-day than will otherwise be the case?

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

on Sunday, October 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes  
IN THE TOWER OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANGES;

*FRANK VARTY ... .. 1-2	THOMAS R. BUTLER ... .. 5-6
ARNOLD BRUNTON ... .. 3-4	*PERCIVAL W. CAVE ... .. 7-8
THOMAS W. HAMMOND ... 9-10	

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

\* First peal on handbells. First peal of Stedman Caters 'in hand' for all except T. R. Butler. First peal of Stedman 'in hand' ever rung in Liverpool. Attested by C. S. Benwell, T. Butler, sen., and G. R. Newton.

## SINGLE HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the letter from Mr. S. H. Brown, I can remember in old volumes of the 'Bell News' seeing two single-handed handbell peals. The first was Bob Triples at Basingstoke, somewhere in the years 1890-2, conducted by the late Henry White; Frank Bennett was one of the band. The second was later at Peterborough. It was Bob Major and Thomas R. Vaughan was in it. Perhaps he and Mr. Bennett can give fuller particulars. E. BARNETT.  
Crayford, Kent.

## CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AT HIGH WYCOMBE.

Without any ceremonial, which might have been associated with happier days of peace, a commemorative panel, presented by the Mayor of High Wycombe (Councillor A. C. White), has been placed in the belfry of High Wycombe Parish Church recording an Empire Day achievement by a party of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. The story is told in the following inscription in gilt letters on the panel:—

'The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Wednesday, May 24th. 1939. In celebration of Empire Day, a peal of Stedman Cinques, 5,019 changes, was rung on these bells in 3 hours 27 minutes: Fred Hayes treble. Mrs. F. W. Housden 2, Alfred H. Pulling 3, Charles T. Coles 4. Ralph Coles 5. John S. Goldsmith 6, Edward R. Coles 7, Thomas H. Francis 8, George W. Steere 9, Leonard Stilwell 10, James Bennett 11, George H. Cross tenor. Composed by J. Carter. Conducted by G. H. Cross. This tablet was presented by Arthur Charles White, Esq., Mayor of the Borough, 1938-39, 39-40. Rev. W. L. P. Float, M.A., L.L.B., Vicar; C. P. Vine, L. Ryland, E. Woodward, F. W. George, churchwardens.'

The panel of teak, designed and made by Messrs. White Bros., of High Wycombe, is hand carved, the text lettering being surrounded by a scroll design in gold on blue background, with Tudor roses in red introduced at each corner. F. H.



## OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING. MICHAEL DARBIE'S WORK IN THE CITY.

Michael Darbie was a bell founder who has gained a somewhat bad reputation. His headquarters were in London, but he did most of his work at the various places he visited. He travelled the country, taking his plant with him, and wherever there was a broken bell or a chance of adding a new one, he called on the authorities and tried to secure the order. He must have been an attractive person with a plausible tongue, for he was



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN  
AND ITS FINE SPIRE.

not a good craftsman, and yet he managed to persuade people all over the country to entrust the recasting of their bells to him.

In 1652 he turned up at Oxford and was given the order to recast Great Tom. What sort of a job he made of it we cannot say, for twenty years later it was again recast.

At New College there was a heavy ring of five which, in the year 1655, Michael Darbie recast into an octave. The new bells were so much lighter that there was enough surplus metal to pay for the recasting. As the present tenor weighs about a ton we may suppose the old

tenor was twice as heavy. A ring of five of that weight would not be of much use for change ringing.

Merton had five bells, some of which, including the second, had been in the steeple since before the church was collegiate. The tenor was a very famous bell. It had the reputation of being the best bell in England, 'being as 'twas said of fine mettall silver found.' It was cast at the same time as the tower was rebuilt, when Dr. Henry Abendon was warden (1421-1438) and his name was on it.

Michael Darbie now called at the college and suggested that he should recast the five bells into a ring of eight, as he had done at New. The warden was away, but Dr. Thomas Jones, the sub-warden, approved the scheme and money was collected to defray the cost. Among those who contributed were Anthony Wood, his mother, and his two brothers.

There were many people who 'were much against the altering of that bell, and were for a treble to be put to the five and to make them six; and old Sarjeant Charles Holloway, who was a very covetous man, would have given money to save it,' but the bell founder and the sub-warden had their way.

The tuning of the new bells was entrusted to Dr. John Wilson, which shows that the tuning of bells in olden times was not always, as is usually supposed, a matter which was left to the hit-or-miss methods of incompetent founders, though they carried out the mechanical part of the operation.

But the bells were a failure; they did not at all please the critical; and several were found to be ugly dead bells. Wood, who never was sparing in his censures, said roundly that it was all due to the knavery of Michael Darbie, 'who stole a great deal of mettle from them,' and Thomas Jones, who, 'they say, was complice with him; and whereas the old tenor was the best bell in England, this now is the worst.' Wood, however, often rang upon them. He had no very high opinion of the sub-warden; later on he accuses him of foul play in the election of a new warden, and he said he was 'ambitious, discontented, covetous and destitute of preferment.' But Wood was always a hearty hater, and his judgment was warped by his prejudices. One does not easily imagine the sub-warden of Merton plotting with a travelling bell founder to steal a few shillingworth of bell metal from the college.

The old five bells were rung from the floor of the chapel; and, what with the weight of metal, the ancient fittings, and the long draught of rope, to ring them was certainly a strong man's job. When Darbie's bells were hung, a new floor was put in the tower a little below the arches, but, like the bells, it was of bad material and bad workmanship; and, later on, it was pulled down and another floor put in, which lasted until the latter part of the 19th century, when the present gallery was erected.

Michael Darbie's bells hung in Merton College steeple for twenty-five years; but in 1678 his Great Tom had either been cracked or could no longer be endured for the badness of it, and Richard Keen, of Woodstock, was ordered to recast it. A seven ton casting is not an easy job, even for the most skilled craftsman, and Keen had no luck at all. Thrice he tried, and thrice he failed. Eventually the job was turned over to Christopher Hodson, of St. Mary Cray, who was making a name as the

(Continued on next page.)

## THOMAS HEARNE'S DIARY. HIS NOTES ON OXFORD BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

best bell founder in the South of England, and is said to have been at the time itinerating in the district.

Hodson was successful. He cast the bell on April 8th, 1680, but it was not until four years later that it was first rung. That was because the ringing peal in the Cathedral tower was at this time increased to ten, and 'Tom was reserved for the tower in the great gate,' which was being built by Sir Christopher Wren.

The Merton people took advantage of the presence of Hodson to have their bells recast, and on February 2nd, 1681, they 'rang to the content of the society.'

These bells, which are still in the tower, were heavier than Darbie's ring, for Hodson was paid above £300 for his work and metal.

It is worth noticing that besides Great Tom being recast, the rings at both New and Merton Colleges were recast and augmented during the time of the Commonwealth, showing that at that time there was plenty of 'pleasure' ringing in the University and, we may assume, in the country.

Anthony Wood died on November 29th, 1695, and was buried in the ante-chapel at Merton. Shortly before his death his propensity for saying bitter things about people got him into serious trouble. He had made some charges against the Earl of Glarendon, the statesman of Charles II.'s reign and, although the earl was then dead, his son was a powerful man in the land. Wood was condemned in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, his books publicly burned, and he himself expelled the university.

The most important man among the Oxford ringers at the close of the seventeenth century was John Sacheverel, a gentleman who lived at Cumnor. He was elected a member of the Society of College Youths, and in 1702 he held the office of steward, having as his colleague John Eccles, a leading musical composer.

Sacheverel was not only an excellent ringer himself, but a fine critic of ringing and an acknowledged authority on bells. 'He used to say that Horsepath bells, near Oxford, though but five in number and very small, were the prettiest tunablest bells in England, and that there was not a fault in one except the third, and that so small a fault as it was not to be discerned but by a very good judge.'

In the year 1718, when Dr. Shippen was Vice-Chancellor, a proposal was made to increase the ring of six at St. Mary-the-Virgin, the university church, to eight or ten. Dr. Shippen 'was mightily for it,' and one of the ringers named Brookland was sent over to Sacheverel to ask him to go and see the Vice-Chancellor about the matter. Sacheverel said that if they were made eight or ten, provided the fifth was recast, they would be the best peal in England, but he neglected to go to Shippen, 'and so the matter was dropt, and wholly laid aside.'

There are still six at St. Mary's, and except that Rudhall recast the treble in 1739 they are the same bells. The tenor is about 25 cwt., and so the ring was quite heavy enough to be increased to eight or ten. John Sacheverel died in 1724 or 1725.

Thomas Hearne was the son of George Hearne, the parish clerk of White Waltham in Berkshire. He was born in July, 1678, and being a clever lad was sent to

school at Bray by Francis Cherry of Shottisbrooke, a great gentleman, a patron of learning, and a leading Jacobite and non-juror. At Bray, young Hearne made the acquaintance of Thomas Wells, the son of the parish clerk there. Both father and son were good ringers, and the son, while still at school, 'delighted much in ringing and was observed to be very strong in the arm.' After leaving school, he went up to Oxford, graduated B.A. from Exeter College, and took Orders, but shortly afterwards died at his father's house of smallpox. He kept up his love of ringing to the end, and we are told that 'he was an ingenious young man and esteemed the very best ringer that ever was or ever will be in England or the whole world.' He proved a strong lusty man, and, being wonderfully good natured, he was much beloved.

To young Hearne, Tommy Wells, with his great physical strength, his skill in ringing and his sunny and lovable temper, was a schoolboy hero, and though, so far as we know, he never rang himself, yet, for the sake of his old friend, he took a lifelong interest in the art.

Unfortunately, though he was in close touch with the Oxford ringers, he did not make any notes in his diary of their doings until after the memorable visit of the College Youths to the city in 1733, when he had but two more years to live. The entries he made at that time are so interesting and give us so vivid a picture of Oxford ringers and ringing that we regret the earlier omissions; still more that he, or another like him, was not living in London and taking notes of Annable and his contemporaries.

At school, Hearne showed such aptitude for learning that Cherry took him into his house, treated him as a son, and sent him up to Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1699 and M.A. in 1703. He was appointed assistant keeper of the Bodleian Library, but on the death of Queen Anne he refused to take the oath of allegiance to George I., desiring, as he said, a good conscience before all preferment and worldly honour. He inherited his strong Jacobite opinions from Francis Cherry, and the sincerity of those opinions is attested by the fact that, though in his later life he was offered several lucrative posts, including the Camden professorship of history, keeper of the university archives, and head librarian of the Bodleian, he steadfastly refused them all.

Entries in his diary show his opinions. On May 27th, 1729, he wrote, 'This being the Restoration of King Ch. II., there was very great and very good ringing of bells in Oxford, but very little and very poor yesterday wch was the birthday of the Duke of Brunswick, commonly called King George.'

An entry relating to Thomas Flaxon, one of the Oxford ringers, shows not only Hearn's interest in ringing, but also his real sympathy and goodness of heart. Flaxon had been found dead in his bed the day after Hearne had met and spoken with him. 'He was a single man and turned of seventy years of age. He was a Taylour by Trade, but very indifferent at that business, minding chiefly ringing at wch he was most excellent being deservedly looked upon as one of the best Ringers in the World. He was a very honest, innocent, harmless man, and one that might be trusted on any account. He was very well beloved but was very poor. He was buried last night in St. Peter's-in-the-East, at which time were rung two handsome Peals, one round ringing (as he was carrying to Church), the other Changes (after he was put in the Ground).'

**NOT SO LONG AGO.****A RINGER'S REMINISCENCES.**

Our Editor very kindly furnishes us with dates of performances and events of other centuries in his 'Belfry Gossip'; he recently published that it was 199 years since one of the earliest peals of Grandsire Triples was rung. Of course, we know that's not 'old' in comparison to some. Others supply us with items of what they do or don't do, and it caused me to throw my mind back to the days when I first became interested in ringing.

I am only a youth compared with some exponents of the art. I was fortunate in living in a district north of the Thames, where there was quite a number of rings and change ringing in every tower. I got opportunities of getting plenty of practice, but the practice was of one method only, Grandsire.

It was the only method rung in the district. If a stranger did happen to visit us, and spoke of Stedman or Bob Major, he was looked upon in the same light as the modern youth looks upon a film star.

A band of us got together and tried Stedman, but we were unfortunate in having a man in the band who never got out of the 'Slow.' He was in charge of the tower, and we dared not drop him, so we who were keen sought knowledge further afield.

I have since asked myself why progress was slow, and several matters presented themselves. Although there were good ringers, their striking and ringing of Grandsire being very good, they could not impart their knowledge to others. When I had learned to handle a bell I was told to stand behind Mr. So and So and watch him, but when I said, 'What does he do?' I was told to watch him carefully and I would soon pick it up. There was nothing difficult about it.

Then again travelling facilities were not as they are to-day; if you visited the next village you had to 'hike' or 'bike' it.

Lack of conductors was then a check on progress, and it still is to-day. The only difference is that then the knowledge of conducting was very guarded. I remember quite well two incidents. One of our young enthusiasts wanted to conduct a peal, so he asked the recognised conductor if he would stand in and keep his eye on the calling. He did. All went well for two hours without a hitch. Then this 'watchdog' set his bell, saying the bells were wrong. They were right, but jealousy prevailed.

In the other incident the 'old hand' offered to teach the 'young hand' conducting for the sum of £1, and his pound's worth amounted to 168 (three Home bobs). Then the contract broke; he was doing too well.

The 'Bell News' was in every tower, but the only interest was the peal columns. Other literature was never thought of. The majority were satisfied to remain in the same groove. A turn in the tide did come, and I firmly believe it came with the publication of 'The Ringing World' and literature issued by the Central Council. 'The Ringing World's' editorials and articles were inspiring. They created plenty of interest and knowledge was sought in the Central Council's publications, and very soon the visiting 'stars' were only like one of us. Since the war broke out, and handbells have come to the fore, we have had some very instructive articles published, and no doubt before long we shall see their fruits.

Handbell ringing brings back memories of a ringer who came from the Treble Bob County to live in our village. He could ring and conduct Treble Bob, but could not ring a lead of any other method on tower bells, yet he could ring any pair of handbells in Grandsire up to 12 bells, the same with Bob Major and Bob Royal, and pick up trips, yet he could not explain how he did it.

Perhaps some of our handbell experts could give us their method of working and put it in 'working lad's' words. A doctor was examining a class of first-aid pupils. He asked one man to describe the circulation of the blood. He said, 'It goes up one side and down the other.' The doctor replied, 'You have got it.'

There is a war on, the bells are stopped, our ringing lads and ringing lasses are away doing their bit, we have very little opportunity of talking 'ringing shop,' but do let us keep our 'Ringing World' going. We shall value it when 'That's all' is called to this mess up.

A COTTAGE YOUTH.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****MEETING AT CAWTHORNE.**

The October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Cawthorne on October 12th, when members were present from Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

Ringing on handbells was practised in Minor and Major methods during the afternoon until 5 p.m., when tea was served at the Spencers Arms.

At the business meeting afterwards the president, Mr. E. Brookes, was in the chair, and Mr. C. Robinson, of Cawthorne, was chosen to act as judge at the handbell contest, to be held at Barnsley in January next.

Further handbell ringing and social intercourse followed, and the time for departure arrived all too soon.

During the afternoon and evening Plain Bob, Double Bob and Treble Bob Minor and touches of Bob Major were rung on the handbells.

The next meeting will be held at Darton on Saturday, November 9th.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

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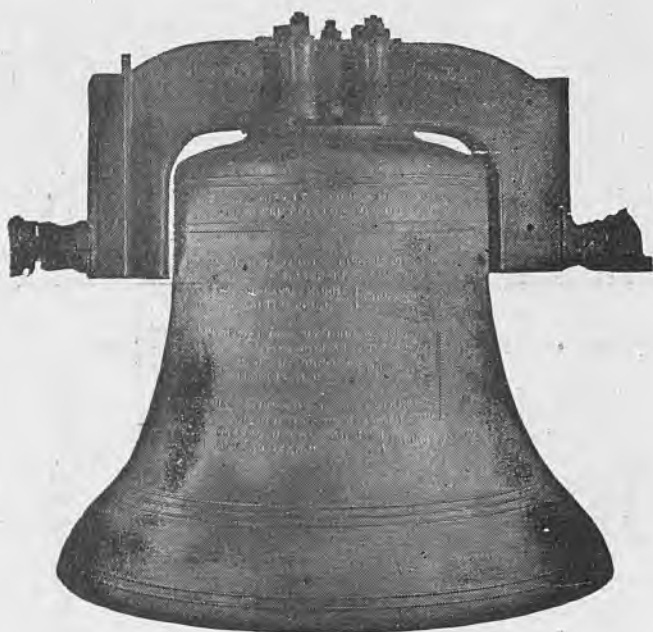
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The older generation of ringers will remember the palmy days of the St. Peter's Society, Brighton, at the end of last century, when largely through the skill and ability of Mr. George Williams the standard of ringing at that tower rose to the highest level. Yesterday was the fifty-first anniversary of the first peal which Mr. Williams conducted in that tower. It was a peal of Stedman Triples rung at the laying of the foundation stone of the new chancel of St. Peter's, and which, when built, brought the church to its present state of completion. Mr. Williams and Mr. G. A. King (who has been living in Canada for many years) are the last survivors of the band who rang the peal.

Exactly 16 years after, on October 28th, 1905, Mr. Williams received from the members a fitting recognition of the long and brilliant service he had rendered to the Sussex County Association.

John Freeman, of Lincoln, who is serving in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C., has been doing some splendid spadework among the enthusiastic handbell party at Aldershot. He has just been promoted corporal—not for his handbell ringing, but for his merits as a member of His Majesty's Forces. And, by the way, promotion came to him as a 21st birthday present; we understand it was the best the sergeant-major could afford.

The many friends of Mr. Jack L. Millhouse, of 32, Ruskin Avenue, Lincoln, will learn with regret that he has suffered bereavement by the death of his father, who passed away on October 10th after a short illness. Jack Millhouse has been in training for the past three months with the Royal Navy and will shortly be transferred to a destroyer.

The first peal at St. John's, Waterloo Road, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, was rung by the College Youths on October 24th, 1825. On the same date in 1934 the band then touring Australia rang at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the first peal of Royal achieved outside the British Isles. It was conducted by Mr. Rupert Richardson.

The Norwich Scholars rang at St. Peter Mancroft the first peal of Stedman Triples on October 25th, 1731, and on the same date in 1790 the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang at St. Philip's the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London.

On October 22nd, 1752, William Dixon rang the treble and called Holt's Original at St. Giles', Norwich. Two months previously the composition (with apparently the same conductor) had been rung at St. Michael's, Coslany, the first time it was performed in which the bob-caller rang himself. On October 23rd, 1791, James Bartlett called the peal at St. Giles-in-the-Fields with a band of College Youths, all of whom except one belonged to St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington. On the same date in 1884 at St. Giles-in-the-Fields a mixed band of College Youths rang it non-conducted for the first time.

On October 26th, 1837, a band belonging to the St. James' Society, with Thomas Tolladay as conductor, rang at St. Martin-in-the-Fields the then longest peal of Grandsire Cinques, 7,325 changes.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was Bob Major and the other four were Grandsire Triples. One of the latter was Hollis' Five-Part, rung at St. Edward's, Romford, by the Essex Association and conducted by William Pye. It was his first peal as conductor. Another, rung at Aldenham, was conducted by Mr. G. W. Cartmel.

Thomas Tolladay died on October 18th, 1843, and a belated muffled peal was rung for him at St. Clement Danes on January 3rd, 1844. Tolladay was for many years one of the most energetic of the London ringers and rang peals for several of the leading societies, but especially for the St. James' Society, which owed its prosperity largely to him. The majority of his peals were Grandsire Triples, and his best performance was to call 12,096 Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1837.

## HISTORY MADE AT LIVERPOOL.

### A HANDBELL PEAL.

The Merseyside, as has been learned from the wireless news, has been one of the most bombed areas in England, but that has not prevented local ringers from meeting and devoting their spare time to handbell ringing.

The result is that this week we record the first peal of Stedman ever rung on handbells in Liverpool, perhaps a small, but nevertheless conclusive bit of evidence that, despite all the enemy can do, the British people are not only not demoralised, but are still grimly but gaily carrying on.

Writing under date of October 13th, Mr. George R. Newton, one of the three ringers who attested the peal, says:—

'History has been made in Liverpool to-day by the ringing of a peal of Stedman Caters. The band have been practising together since the outbreak of war and had tried several times previously to ring it before to-day, but had not succeeded. An excellent peal has now been rung and we hope it is the forerunner of others.'

'It may be of interest to the Exercise to know that handbells are rung in the vestry at St. Nicholas' Church prior to evensong on Sundays.'



## HANDBELL DIFFICULTIES.

A CORRESPONDENT SATISFIED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—My letter to you a few weeks ago regarding the difficulties experienced by many would-be handbell ringers has brought such excellent replies that I must first of all thank you, sir, not only for publishing my letter, but also for dealing with the subject in your leader of the current issue. Of course, the articles which have appeared in previous issues have been most instructive and useful, but I venture to point out that any new recruits will have little or no opportunity of reading these articles, and I do not know of any text books on the market relating to handbell instruction.

I also sincerely thank those gentlemen who have responded to my appeal and taken so much trouble to give useful hints and tips, and I assure them that there are many raw recruits (and a larger number of the 'not so raw' recruits) who will find the advice they give most helpful.

To Mr. Brown I would like to point out that the tendency to want to run before walking is a common complaint in ringing generally, and experience and practice will teach all beginners in the art the validity of this statement. Again, perhaps Mr. Brown did not read my letter very carefully before sitting down to comment on it. It was stated that Stedman is a first rate method for handbells—not that it was desired to try to ring it after only a touch or two in plain methods. My query re Surprise ringing was an afterthought, as I know several capable plain method ringers who intend trying Surprise before long.

The expert who advised 'keeping the hands moving and don't think' is most certainly no fool and has always been very helpful towards keen learners. He really meant, of course, that over-concentration is detrimental to progress and also whilst the hands are kept moving it is helpful for the conducting, whilst a long pause and constant hesitation is certainly fatal. I think, therefore, that Mr. Brown's remarks about the expert were perhaps rather strong. No expert ringer is a fool, and I venture to add that no doubt Mr. Brown will have learned quite a lot from the views given this week by experts. It is as well to know that there are expert handbell ringers who can still remember some of the difficulties which they had when learning and how they overcame them, for, alas! too often capable ringers have forgotten all about the stumbling-blocks that tripped them in the early stages of ringing. C. D.

## PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to the letter from Mr. Wilfred E. Box in the last issue of 'The Ringing World' as to the ringing in the Isle of Man, I believe only three peals have ever been accomplished on the island, and all have been rung at St. Germain's Church, Peel.

The first two were conducted by Mr. C. H. Hatterley, of Sheffield ('Harry' to most of us), and I remember were rung in the summer of 1887. One was Stedman Triples and the other Kent Treble Bob. Mr. A. Thomas, of Birmingham, took part in them. The first of Grandsire Triples was called by me in the year 1889 or 1890 and was a College Youths' peal (Mr. R. T. Woodley was secretary at the time), and if my memory serves me these are the only peals that have been rung there. In 1888 we had attempted Grandsire and got within two or three calls of the finish when our tenorman gave up. He was a local resident, Harry Radcliffe, whose father was a builder, and built the pretty church, mostly of red sandstone and having a tall spire which was severely damaged some time after by a very heavy storm and had to be taken down for safety. I remember large cracks in the tower in the ringing chamber, and it all appeared to be of frail construction.

Anyhow, the bells, a nice little ring of eight, by Warner, have not been rung for many years, and during the last few years I have made several visits there, but have had to be content with 'chiming' plain courses of Grandsire Triples and a few times for morning and evening services.

I have been very ill lately, so I am unable to 'dig up' the old numbers of 'The Bell News' of those periods, but am certain that three will cover the number of peals ever accomplished in the Isle of Man. At the period I am speaking of there were eight bells at Douglas, but afterwards the back six were retained for chiming for some years. I took part in some ringing there with the late Messrs. Law James, Freeman Ball, of Chester Cathedral, and W. W. Gifford, of Salisbury, but when the peal was rung at St. Germain's the ringers were mainly from Liverpool (Messrs. Fisher, Davies and others being amongst them), and it appears in the College Youths' Peal Book at that date. F. E. DAWE.

2, Rosebery Crescent, Woking.

## THUMBS UP!

At Thorne, Yorks, after an attempt for 720 Bob Minor had failed, 360 in the same method was rung by T. Leask 1-2, J. Thorley 3-4, C. Thorley 5-6. Also several six-scores of Grandsire and Bob Doubles. Last, but not least, a touch of Bob Minor on thumbs!

## HENRY HUBBARD.

AUTHOR, COMPOSER AND RINGER.

Wednesday, October 9th, was the fifty-ninth anniversary of the death of Henry Hubbard, one of the comparatively small number of men who have earned fame as authors of text books on ringing.

Hubbard was born on Tuesday, August 25th, 1807, at Norwich, and learnt to ring at one of the six-bell towers in that city. His first peal was 6,680 changes of Oxford Treble Bob at Alburgh in 1827, conducted by Samuel Thurston; and in 1829, when Thurston left for London, he was elected one of the company of twelve at St. Peter Mancroft.

With the Norwich Scholars he took part in several peals of more than ordinary historical interest. They included the first peals of Double Oxford Bob Major and of London Surprise Major, the second of Superlative Surprise Major, and the longest at the time of Stedman Cinques. Other performances were 6,160 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 1831, one of the earliest peals in the method, and the first half-peal of Stedman Triples rung double-handed on handbells.

In 1856 Hubbard removed to Leeds, where he joined the local band and where he rang a few peals, the last being one of Kent Treble Bob Major at Guiseley on August 23rd, 1868, which he conducted. He died on October 9th, 1881, and was buried at Hunslet, Leeds.

Hubbard had some claims to distinction as a composer. His ten-part peal of Bob Triples, though a rather obvious composition, was a very useful one when the method was practised, his peals of Treble Bob Major have considerable merit, and in Stedman Caters by fixing the sixth's in second's place, instead of the treble, he made a real improvement on the old style of titium peals.

In 1845 the first edition of his 'Elements of Campanalogia' was published. It was a rather modest little book, consisting mainly of a lead of each of a few chosen methods with a selection of touches and peals, mostly composed by himself. Nine years later a second edition appeared in a larger and more elaborate form.

In 1864 the printer who had been employed to produce the 1854 edition issued another impress without consulting the author, and the same thing happened to a great extent in a fourth edition issued in 1868. In 1876, however, Hubbard, with some assistance from Jasper Snowdon, brought out the final and best edition of the book. William Banister's work, which appeared in 1874 and again in 1879, was largely based on and copied from Hubbard.

Henry Hubbard has no claims to be considered a writer and had none of the literary ability of Richard Duckworth, the author of the 'Tintinnalogia,' or William Jones, the author of the 'Clavis.' Intellectually he was far inferior to Fabian Stedman, the author of the 'Campanalogia.' His book is less ambitious than Shipway's and is copied from it in many ways. Nevertheless, within its limits it is a good and successful work, far superior to the books of Benjamin Thackrah and William Sottanstill.

## DARTFORD CHORISTER AND RINGER.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD MORGAN.

Yet another old North Kent ringer has gone from our midst by the passing of Richard Morgan, of Dartford.

A native of Chelsfield, Richard Morgan became a choirboy at the age of nine, and later learned to ring on the five bells at Chelsfield Church. He was still a chorister and bellringer when he moved to Dartford some 37 years ago, and he immediately joined the choir and bellringers at Holy Trinity Parish Church. He retained an active interest in both, until his death at the age of 72 years on October 7th. He had thus been a chorister for 63 years and a ringer for something over 50 years.

Before moving to Dartford, Richard Morgan had become an efficient five-bell ringer at Chelsfield, where they practised several methods of Doubles. At Dartford and the neighbouring towers of Crayford and Erith he soon became an efficient eight-bell ringer, and for many years he took an active interest in peals and practices.

When in reminiscent mood he would recall his activities, particularly of practices and peals under the able guidance of the late Edwin Barnett, of Crayford.

Deceased, who was a safe ringer and a good striker, had rung a good number of peals in various methods up to Double Norwich. During recent years he had restricted his activities to Sunday service ringing and an occasional practice, but retained a first-hand knowledge of the affairs of the moment through 'The Ringing World.' His death has taken from us a devoted servant of the Church whose place will be hard to fill.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

## 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

To the Editor.

Sir,—I had no intention of continuing this correspondence, but the Rev. E. S. Powell's letter contains two misstatements of fact which should be pointed out.

The problem of the uniformly retarded motion of any body in a straight line does not require for its solution the use of integral calculus as he states, and the simple solution of the toboggan problem I gave recently is correct. Further, his so-called parallel case of a car going uphill five miles and then downhill five miles compared with one going 10 miles along a flat road is not a parallel case. I am afraid that I must leave your readers to take my word or his, for the columns of your paper are no place in which to explain the subtleties of dynamics.

It is, perhaps, fitting to recall the origin of this discussion. One correspondent wrote stating that there was a widespread opinion among ringers that when bells were fitted with ball bearings they went slower, and asking if there was any scientific explanation of this. I showed how, under certain conditions, if other things remained the same, a reduction of friction must cause a slowing down of the motion. There are naturally many other factors which affect the speed of ringing.

R. O. STREET.

The Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

## PEALS AT CRAYFORD SPEEDED UP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. A. Lawrence's claim that Hatfield were the first bells to be hung in ball bearings may be correct, but I remember Mr. Selby, of Westerham, writing my father about the same time regarding their tenor, which was to be rehung. Messrs. Taylor suggested ball bearings, and Mr. Selby asked father's advice about them, as these were unheard of for bells at that time.

My father replied that he had no doubt Messrs. Taylor would not do anything that would not be perfectly satisfactory, but at the same time he advised safeguarding the churchwardens by an understanding with the founders that if it were not so, they would replace them with plain bearings.

Whether they were used I am unable to say, but, if so, it was one of the first occasions, if not the first time, ball bearings were used professionally.

I have not followed this correspondence closely, but I certainly cannot agree with whoever said ball bearings tend to make bells run slower. Our bells were rehung in ball bearings in 1923 and subsequent peals were 10 to 15 minutes quicker than those rung previously. Peals of Major used to take anything from 2.55 to 3.5 to ring and Triples from 2.50 to 2.55. The first peal afterwards was Double Norwich in 2.45, and the second, Stedman Triples, was 2.37.

Some years later, with no intention of creating a record, but simply to see how quickly they would run to a peal, we rang a peal of Stedman Triples in 2.14 and Bob Major in 2.17. The first was, and, I believe, still is, the quickest peal on eight bells. Both these could have been rung even faster with a slight rearrangement of the band. I well remember the remark of a well-known local ringer when the merits and demerits of ball bearings were being discussed. He said, 'Ball bearings are not wanted on bells up to half a ton, and over that they are no good.'

E. BARNETT.

Crayford, Kent.

## STEDMAN TRIPLES.

ANOTHER LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In my book on Stedman I refer to a legend that George Partrick had composed a peal of Stedman Triples and that £50 had been paid him for doing so by the Norwich ringers. The first notice of this legend (which is entirely baseless) is in an entry in Robert Southey's 'Common Place Book,' said to have been copied from a sporting magazine dated 1796. It is interesting to compare this with the following extract from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' which Mr. Charles E. Borrett has sent me:—

'On Tuesday, February 1st, 1791, the body of Mr. George Gross, a celebrated composer of church bell music, was interred at Bethnal Green. He has left £50, the reward paid to him for the composition of a remarkable peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes, by the ringers of St. Peter Mancroft in this city (whose bells and performance are esteemed the first in England) to pay the expenses of ringing Shoreditch bells annually on his birthday and funeral day for ever.'

This account cannot be true. George Gross died in 1805 and was buried at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. He never rang in a peal of Stedman on any number, and certainly did not compose a peal of Triples.

It would be interesting to know where the legend of the Norwich Scholars paying £50 for a peal of Stedman Triples came from. It cannot be true. Everything we know about the Norwich men forbids us to believe it. But why did 'The Norfolk Chronicle' repeat it? One would have thought that they should have known the truth.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

## LONG MELFORD BELLS AND RINGERS

EXTRACTS FROM SAMUEL SLATER'S NOTEBOOK.

In a history of Long Melford, Suffolk, it is stated that in 1547 there were five bells and a Sanctus bell in the steeple of the Parish Church and that in 1582 or 1584 they were taken down and sent to the Bury Foundry and there recast into eight. These bells were said to weigh: No. 1, 3 cwt.; No. 2, 4 cwt.; No. 3, 6 cwt.; No. 4, 7 cwt.; No. 5, 9 cwt.; No. 6, 12 cwt.; No. 7, 17 cwt.; No. 8, 21 cwt.

These bells remained until 1709, when the steeple and bells were destroyed by fire caused by a storm.

When the new tower was built a new ring of eight bells were put in, tenor 16 cwt., and all cast by Thomas Lester, of London. Only two of these bells remain. Horham bells were made eight in 1672.

The treble of Hadleigh bells were cast in 1678 and the others in 1680 by Miles Graye.

Framlingham bells were made eight in 1718 and Bungay old eight the same year.

The following interesting information about ringers living in Long Melford, Sudbury and the neighbourhood is kindly supplied by Mr. T. E. Slater, from the notebooks of his father, Mr. Samuel Slater:—

In the year 1851 a peal of Bob Major was rung on the bells of Long Melford Church, the treble of which was rung by Hirham Ambrose, a weaver by trade.

This Hirham Ambrose had two sons, Amos and Arthur, and in due course they were taught to ring and became able to ring Bob Major double-handed. Arthur conducted a 6,160 of Bob Major rung on handbells in 1869 at Cavendish.

As they progressed, some other young men were taught to ring, and in 1866 Annable's peal of Bob Major was rung on Melford bells. Josiah Rogers, of Hepworth, rang the 7th bell in this peal, and soon after went to live at Burton-on-Trent and was a member of St. Paul's Society. From there he went to Pendleton, Lancashire, and there he died. He was a blacksmith by trade. This peal of Bob Major was conducted by James Strutt, of Sudbury.

Afterwards the band went into practice to ring the old peal of Treble Bob (Oxford) and got on well with the practices, but Strutt was fee-d to miscall the peal. So it was never completed true, and he did miscall it.

These failures caused the band to be made the height of fun, and their nicknames were put into couplet form thus:—

Butt'ny, Dillihey, Slow, Slack,

Brushley, Bentlin, Squeaks and Hack.

Butt'ny was James Strutt, a silk weaver by trade, and while the band were learning to ring Treble Bob he said trade was bad and he had no shoes to wear. So the Melford men bought him a pair of shoes in which to walk from Sudbury to Melford to call the peal. His conduct in this matter caused him to be expelled from Melford.

Dillihey was Thomas Bonney, Slow was Walter Bonney, Slack was John Bonney.

These Bonneys were brothers and all were silk weavers and lived and died at Sudbury. John Bonney, sen. (Old Slack), had a son, John Bonney, and he afterwards went to live at Bethnal Green, London, and used to ring there with the late Matt. Wood and other leading lights of the College Youths, who used to frequently visit St. Matthew's. He died at Bethnal Green. The other Bonneys died at Sudbury. Their names are also spelt Boney.

Brushley was Henry Duce, a horsehair presser by trade, and when this trade declined he got a living by hawking and selling nuts and sweets at home. When he was 20 years of age he married a lady one year his junior, and they lived together 63 years. They had by their marriage one child only, a son, Charlie, who died at Long Melford at the age of 49 years from consumption and left a widow and 18 children.

Henry Duce was a fine built man about 5ft. 9in. in height, had a nice fresh complexion and was very clean in his manners, dress and conversation. He was a very good ringer and struck a bell perfectly, and could ring 5-6 to Plain and Treble Bob. He used to ring the fifth, but in his latter years rang the 2nd. He lived and died at Long Melford.

Bentlin was Amos Ambrose, a horsehair weaver by trade, son of Hirham Ambrose, who was known as Old Shady. Amos was a very little man, about 5ft. in height, and weighed about 8 stone; a very good ringer and striker, and could ring the trebles double-handed to Plain and Treble Bob. He always rang at the little end with a short rope. He always had a very neat appearance, although very poor, and died in very poor circumstances and was buried at Long Melford.

Squeaks was George Perry. A fret-sawyer by trade, he was a short, stout man and could ring the tenor to Bob Major very well. He was the first man to ring the present tenor bell in Melford tower to a peal in 1866. He lived and died at Long Melford.

Hack was Arthur Ambrose, a son of Hirham Ambrose, a horsehair foreman. A thin, spare man, a good ringer on six and eight bells, he rang the trebles and conducted 6,160 Bob Major on handbells at Cavendish in 1869. He resided at Cavendish at that time and also took part in a peal of Minor in seven methods on both Cavendish and Glemsford bells. He died in 1883 and was buried at Long Melford.

Mr. T. E. Slater knew Henry Duce and Amos Ambrose and saw them ring many times. He also knew George Perry, but that was after Perry had given up ringing.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

### PROGRESS DESPITE THE BAN.

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in St. John's College on Wednesday, October 16th.

The president (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) was in the chair. In his report of the previous term's activities, the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, New College, said that he was satisfied with the progress that had been made. Attendances at the practices on muffled bells at New College each Wednesday evening had been quite good, and ringing meetings on Saturday afternoons at various towers around Oxford had been popular, and some useful work had been put in. The society's Sunday ringing started at St. Mary Magdalene, and the members then dispersed to various of the city churches with the aim both to swell their numbers and also to gain valuable experience.

The society was especially grateful to Miss M. R. Cross, of St. Michael's and All Saints, Oxford, who had helped on all possible occasions and had initiated several members into the more subtle methods of ringing. It had been hoped to close the year with at least one peal to the society's credit; the first attempt failed, though the full extent was rung, and the second was frustrated by the Government's ban on all ringing except to herald invasion. Nevertheless, the year as a whole had been most successful, and was well up to pre-war standards.

Nearly half of last year's members are still up at the university, and with a fair number of fresh enthusiasts, prospects for the coming term are good. Silent practices are to continue at New College, where permission has been obtained to have the clappers removed from the bells to prevent any embarrassing accident, and handbell ringing on Sunday mornings will take the place of ringing for service. Other meetings may be arranged later.

The meeting closed with a handbell demonstration, in which all members participated, for the benefit of those who were unacquainted with the art of change ringing.

## THE BACHELORS.

### ANOTHER FALLS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Those who remember the sensational revelations by 'Kate' in our correspondence columns, about eight years ago, after eight bachelors had rung a peal of Cambridge Surprise at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on Leap Year Day, will be interested to learn that another of the band has fallen by the wayside—or nearly. The marriage is shortly to take place of Mr. Alfred Howkins, the junior member of the company.

He is only the second of the band to surrender. There are still six of them who have eluded the charms of the ladies—perhaps it will be a kindness to them not to mention names.

Reading again the story of their escape on that memorable day (or night) in 1932, it looks as if they were in a state of funk all the time. Here is the story of their adventure as told at the time in 'The Ringing World':—

'They have escaped again, but surely the Ladies' Guild could not have known about it! On Leap Year Day eight mature and eligible bachelors, well known in ringing circles, after sleepless nights of growing anxiety, spent many hours in trepidation. It is said they dared not venture out until dark for fear of being waylaid and captured by those cave-women who on this day of special privilege seize their prey by the hair—if they have any—and drag them off to a lifetime of matrimonial bondage.

'But these eight, although timorous, are wily birds—their age proves their experience, or is it their phenomenal luck that has saved them thus far?—and when they did set out for a clandestine meeting they sallied forth disguised as married men.

'By devious routes they arrived at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, but it was not until they had locked themselves in the tower and had searched every nook and corner to make sure that there was no hidden siren who might yet hook one of them, that they were able to breathe freely.

'And then, to celebrate their escape, they rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, which in future is to be known as "Bachelors' Joy."

The following week came a bombshell from a representative of the ladies. Signing herself Kate, she wrote: 'I rather think that your correspondent who wrote about the above (it wasn't you, surely?) could not have known the band. One of them, it is true, is a handsome, intellectual looking person such as any woman would be proud to own, but for the rest! Oh, my gosh! No wonder they are bachelors!'

## THE DEATH KNELL.

### THE KNELL AT GUILDFORD.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The death knell was a regular thing at our own church up to about 10 or so years ago. Before the last war it was carried on as follows: The tenor was chimed three times three for a man, three times two for a woman; if it was a child the treble or second was muffled up and struck every minute; a young person the fourth or fifth, and the older ones the seventh. The tenor was and still is pulled up only for the death of the King or Archbishop of Canterbury. The Grammar School, Guildford.

A. H. PULLING.

(Other letters on this subject will appear next week.)

## A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

### AN INTERESTING COMPOSITION BY MR. A. J. PITMAN.

We publish the figures of a peal of Stedman Triples by Mr. A. J. Pitman, which should interest Stedman conductors and those people who study the problems of composition.

The composition of Stedman Triples presents certain features and difficulties which are peculiar to itself and therefore has always appealed to the most skilful of composers. Readers of Jasper Snowdon's history of the method will be familiar with the various stages which ultimately led to the production of Thurstans' famous masterpiece, and those who have followed Sir Arthur Heywood's 'Investigations' will remember how he unravelled the secrets of composition on the twin-bob plan.

Peals on the twin-bob plan are all based on a set of course ends which are known as Hudson's course ends, from the fact that they were first used by William Hudson in a peal composed early in the nineteenth century. We gave some particulars of that peal in our issue of August 9th.

Thurstans' peal and the majority of peals which have been rung in recent years are based on Hudson's course ends, but composers have always been trying to find some other set of course ends which would enable peals to be composed on different plans. John Carter's odd bob peal is an example. It is based (intentionally or unintentionally) on the plan of Thomas Edwards' composition, the earliest which we definitely know to be true.

Another very interesting peal by Henry Cooper was rung as far back as 1819. It is given in Davies' Stedman, but is false as there printed. Mr. J. W. Parker pointed out the correct arrangement, and it was printed in 'The Ringing World' of December 18th, 1932.

In Cooper's peal the seventh is undisturbed throughout, and though it has as many as 350 bobs, 230 common singles and two special singles, it was on a plan which was capable of producing a variety of good peals.

In the year 1845, after Hudson had produced his peal and when the Birmingham men were busy trying to introduce improvements into it (which in the end led to Thurstans' four-part composition), Cooper gave to Henry Johnson a very interesting peal, the figures of which are printed in Davies' 'Stedman.' It is based on Hudson's peal and has 240 bobs, and every time the seventh lies its whole pull behind after slow a double is made by the bells in 34567 lying still. Two other doubles are made when the seventh is lying its whole pull behind after quick.

In 1898 Mr. John O. Lancashire produced a 5,040 in which there are never more than two consecutive calls, and now Mr. Pitman has further developed the plan by composing the following peal, which is very regular in its construction.

As in Mr. Lancashire's peal, a single is always made when the seventh lies its whole pull behind, whether after quick or after slow. In Cooper's peal the singles are always made after slow, but are occasionally omitted after quick.

In Mr. Pitman's peal the sixth does a regular work which is completed every three courses, and the composition is put together by varying the positions of calls which do not affect the sixth or seventh.

It was first rung at the Church of St. Peter, Pentre Rhondda, by the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, on January 9th, 1932, conducted by the composer.

### MR. A. J. PITMAN'S COMPOSITION.

231456

51243	A	B	C
43512	C	B	C
12435	C	B	C
34215	C	B	D
15342	C	B	C
42153	E	B	C
53421	C	B	C
21534	C	B	C
35124	C	B	D
24351	C	B	C
54132	F	G	C
32541	H	B	C
41325	H	B	C
25413	H	B	C
13254	H	B	C
45231	I	G	C
31452	H	B	C
52314	H	B	C
14523	H	B	C
23145	H	B	C

	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	13
A	S	—	—	—	S	—	—	S	—	—
B	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
C	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
D	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
E	S	—	—	—	S	S	—	S	—	—
F	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
G	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
H	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—
I	S	—	—	—	S	S	—	S	—	—

## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### HOW THEY AFFECT COMPOSITIONS.

In a number of recent articles we have discussed the question of false course ends; and we showed from a method chosen as an example how they can be worked out, and how they are related to each other. We picked the method because it gave us an example of every sort of false course end that can be found in any method. For the purposes of illustration it was an excellent method, but we could soon see that it was hopeless to try to use it for composing true peals. With few exceptions, only those methods are of any practical value whose false course ends are confined to one or other of the two groups ABCDE and BFG. We will next see how the presence of those false course ends in a method affects its capacity for producing true peals.

In every Treble Bob or Surprise Major method there are sixty in-course rows with 1, 7, 8 at home. These form the natural course ends of the method, and from each of them a full natural course of 224 rows can be pricked, in the same way that the plain course is pricked from rounds. These sixty natural courses constitute the material at our disposal, and from which we can construct our peal. Our task is to join together a sufficient number of them, or of parts of them, by means of bobs.

When the method has a clear-proof scale we can use freely any or all of these sixty natural courses, and so long as we do not use the same part of the same course twice over, our peal will be true. But when the method has false course ends we know that among the sixty there is one or more that contains certain rows which are also contained in the plain course, and that, in a similar way, every natural course has one or more other natural courses false against it. Before we begin to compose our peal we must, therefore, set down our sixty natural courses so that we can distinguish those which are true with each other from those which are false.

When we are composing there are two general plans we can adopt. The first is to consider the whole of any particular natural course as true or false for our immediate purposes. Suppose our method is Superlative. The two natural courses 43265 and 32465 contain rows which are also included in the plain course; therefore, as we want to use the plain course, we must consider the two courses 43265 and 32465 as false and strike them out of the material available for our use.

Similarly, if we intend to use the natural course 23564 we must strike out 53246 and 32546, and for every course we select for use there are two others which must be struck out.

When we have gone through the sixty natural courses and struck out those which are false, the remainder will form the material from which we can compose our peal. This plan is composing by full natural courses.

But though one natural course may contain rows which are also included in the plain course, every lead of that course is not necessarily false against the plain course, and it may be possible, and often is, to use parts of courses which, if used in full, would be false. When we divide any course into that part which we may use and that part which we may not use, we do not divide it by leads, but by the positions at which bobs can be made. We treat all that part of the course down to the Middle as one unit and consider it as either true or false, as the case may be. Between the Middle and the Wrong is

another unit; and between the Wrong and the course end a third unit. These divisions are somewhat varied when bobs Before are used, and of course in some methods the Wrong comes before the Middle.

When a peal is composed entirely of the whole or parts of true courses it will be true for every method with the same lead ends and the same false course ends. When it is produced by bobs M, W and R (I, B, O) only, in the majority of cases it will be true for every method with the same false course ends, whatever the lead ends may be, and whether the method is a second's place or an eighth's place method. We propose, therefore, for the present, to confine ourselves in this explanation to composition by true natural courses only, and to ignore what can be done by using the true portions of false courses. We will assume that our method has the three false course ends B24365, F32465 and G43265. These are the false course ends of New-Cambridge.

We must first of all see how many of the sixty natural courses are true and available, and how many are false and must be struck out.

Our peal starts with the plain course, and that at once automatically rules out the three courses 24365, 32465 and 43265. Similarly for every other course we use there are three which are debarred us.

But, there are only sixty natural courses in all. If for every one we use we must strike out three, how are we going to get twenty-three true courses which is the minimum number required to produce five thousand changes? This is where the fact of the false course end of a method belonging to either of the two groups ABCDE or BFG helps us.

The rows in each of these two form a cyclical group based on 24365. If we set down a similar group of natural course ends based on 23456, we shall find that the courses false against the second group are all included in the first group.

23456	—	24365	32465	43265
42356	—	43265	24365	32465
34256	—	32465	43265	24365

The same courses as are false against 23456 are false against 42356 and 34256. So that instead of considering that we have three true courses each with three other courses false against it, we can consider that we have a group of three true courses and another group of three false against it.

In the same way the sixty courses can be set down in ten groups of three true courses, each group having another group false against it.

This will give us thirty true courses from which to compose our peal.

## THE EXTREME.

### USED IN THE WEST COUNTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The 'extreme' referred to by your correspondent C. T. B. is probably the following. It is still used fairly extensively in the West Country and also in Gloucestershire for Grandsire Doubles.

54132  
51423  
15432  
15342  
51324  
53142 etc.

While hardly an 'extreme' in the sense in which that term was used in the early days of ringing, it is nevertheless a very useful call, since, with its aid, a 5,040 of Doubles can be had with each of the 42 six-scores called differently.

BERNARD C. ASHFORD.

We thank the other correspondents who have written to us, replying to C. T. B.'s question about extremes. As they all say much the same thing, we have printed only a selection of their letters.



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—Annual district meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Eltham. Business meeting at 3.30 p.m. Details next week, if possible. — A. G. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Saturday, Oct. 26th. Meeting at The Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Excellent opportunity for those wishing to practise on handbells. Pleasant room; tea can be arranged. Room open from 4 to 8 p.m. for practice and social chats. All interested in ringing are welcome, whether handbell or not.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at Bradford Cathedral. Handbells in the belfry from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained in the city. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Roads, Leeds 12.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Express Dairy Company's restaurant, High Street, Eltham, on Saturday, October 26th. Private room available from 3.30 p.m., when the business meeting will commence.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—It has not been possible to arrange a meeting for October as proposed. Members are asked to watch these columns for notices of any arrangements that may be made.—C. A. Bassett, Assistant Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. N. Sargeant, 58, Eastbourne Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than October 29th.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—A short meeting to discuss the question of monthly ringing practices during the winter will be held at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, November 2nd. There will also be handbells and a social gathering. Meet at Star Inn, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held on November 2nd, at St. Peter's. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. The Parish Hall will be open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Plenty of DARTS if you like.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) **AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Chertsey District).—A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Handbells, etc., also available after service. Notifications for tea should be sent to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, not later than Tuesday, Oct. 29th. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A luncheon to commemorate the 303rd anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 9th, at 1.30 p.m., at 4s. per head. Will members who intend to be present kindly send their names to reach me by November 4th. Business meeting afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**BIRTHS.**

**FIELD.**—On October 12th, at the County Hospital, to Joan Philippa Sidney (nee Davidson), the wife of E. T. Paul Field, Ridouts, Stoke Wake, Blandford, the gift of a son (Paul Alexander Charles).

**FERNLEY.**—On Sunday, October 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. James Fernley, the gift of a daughter, Carol.

**MARRIAGE.**

**KERSEY—BAILEY.**—On September 28th, at St. Margaret's Church, Leiston, Reginald Charles Kersey to Agnes Muriel Bailey.

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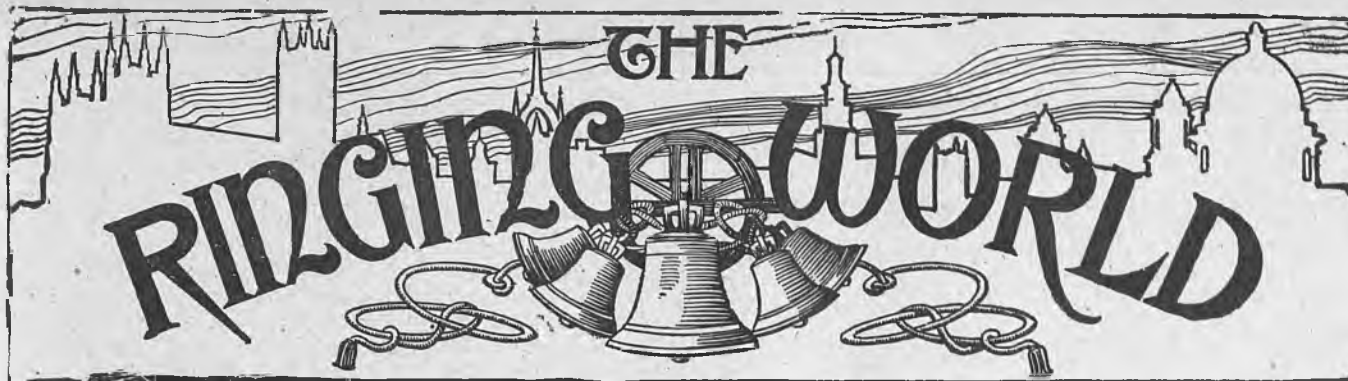
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## RINGERS AS BIOGRAPHERS.

The article which appeared in this column last week has probably set a good many ringers thinking. Every man can, in a way, become a biographer. Even if his literary style does not come up to that of great writers, there is a certain fascination in putting on paper one's opinion of one's contemporaries and, perhaps, years after, turning over the notes to recall people and incidents in bygone days. Such notes may be of little interest to others in the lifetimes of the writer and the subjects; it is with the passage of the years that they become of real value in providing reliable material for filling in the historical picture of the period they cover. There are many ringers we know who, if they could have their time over again, would keep a diary; and by 'diary' we do not mean just a bare record of performances, but thoughtful comments on the ringers and their times. This is the stuff of which living pictures of the past can be made by those who come after us, yet how few ringers there are who have ever attempted anything of the kind. We always feel that one of the greatest opportunities for this sort of thing was lost by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson in his book 'Among the Bells,' which could have left us with a much greater insight into the ringers and ringing in the last quarter of last century had there been more of the human side of ringing introduced into this story of his long career. This catalogue of peals and bells and names is but a cold recital of bare facts which might have been made amazingly interesting had the author given to it just that touch of life which could have been applied if the interesting and outstanding men he had met, and with many of whom he had often rung, had been portrayed.

We know it is sometimes difficult to 'put into print' the real truth of what one thinks about living personalities. There are susceptibilities to be thought of and personal criticism is then in poor taste, but when it comes to writing private diaries, or something less pretentious which can be locked away and added to as occasion arises, there is nothing to prevent a man setting down exactly what he thinks of his contemporaries. As long as such opinions and criticisms are just and honest, they may later fit into a background which will help to give a complete picture of our times as far as they relate to ringing.

We do not expect that every ringer, even if he has the opportunity—and there are few who have in these days—will sit down and begin to write his reminiscences or try to put on paper what he thinks of the ringers he has known in the past, or whom he knows to-day. But if

(Continued on page 518.)

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and when any member of the Exercise should try his hand at this kind of thing we would remind him that the recording of his recollections and opinions is not the only thing that matters. He will doubtless carefully preserve his manuscript during his own lifetime; but he must also ensure its safety after he has gone. It is here that one of the uses of belfry and association libraries comes in. These libraries should ultimately become the repositories for these manuscripts. Not always are the treasures of the ordinary ringer appreciated by those who afterwards have to deal with them. Many things have gone on to the rubbish heap or the bonfire which might have been to us of surpassing interest. Old ringing books, whose preservation would have proved a great acquisition to modern libraries if only because they were survivals of the past, have been lost by hundreds. To-day there is greater appreciation of their value and ringers are more alive to the importance of their preservation. But what has happened in the past to books is much more likely to happen to manuscripts found among a ringer's papers when the final clearing up comes.

Anyone, therefore, who begins to keep notes, as, for example, Samuel Slater did, which, while they may seem commonplace to-day, are likely to be of interest and use to future historians, should take proper steps to ensure that his accumulated manuscripts should find a safe resting place after he has gone. If only one ringer here and there were to take up this task of recording impressions about his contemporaries with a view to their preservation, we believe a considerable service would be rendered to the Exercise. These are days, of course, when ringing celebrities can be read about in the columns of this journal, and for that reason it may be thought that the thing we have here suggested may be unnecessary; but we do not take that view. What appears in print seldom contains that intimate personal touch which can be given in the private notes of a friend, or the candid opinions of a rival. That gap in our ringing records to which we referred last week could be at any rate partly filled, for future generations, by acting upon the suggestion now made. But we wonder how many of our readers really will make a sustained effort to provide those who come after with their views on any of the ringers of to-day whom they know?

### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

#### LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

Those ringers who consider war-time meetings (and handbell meetings in particular) a waste of time would have been very much surprised if they had chanced to go to Whitwick on October 19th, the occasion of the meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association. Handbells were in great demand in the school during the afternoon up to the time of service, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. G. Hogarth), who gave a splendid address on the important work of the ringers.

Tea was served at the Wagon and Horses, when 15 members sat down, representing Copt Oak and The Oaks, Hugglescote, Ibstock and Shepshed, with visitors from Anstey, Burbage, Croft, Earl Shilton and Hinckley.

The meeting (presided over by Mr. G. R. Edwards) was very brief, and in view of the number present it was agreed to hold another one at Copt Oak on November 9th.

Thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the Schoolroom and for conducting the service, and to Mr. A. E. Rowley for presiding at the organ.

The handbells were soon in use again to a variety of methods, ranging from Grandsire and Stedman Doubles to Grandsire Caters.

Those present were unanimous in voting the meeting as one of the best held in the district. The ringing was quite good and plentiful and to suit all tastes, while the social part of the meeting was excellent. It is by meeting together like this that friendships are made which will never be broken.



**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.****Request to Central Council.**

Considering the present difficulties, a most successful meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Nottingham on Saturday, October 19th. Although Newark was provisionally chosen, it was felt by the committee that this place would be difficult of access to many members, therefore St. Peter's, Nottingham, was decided on in its stead. A few members, arriving early, ascended the tower and on handbells rang (more or less successfully) courses of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, etc. Welcomed most heartily were the 'veterans' who turned up, viz., J. H. Swinfield (Burton), W. E. White (Cotgrave), A. H. Ward and J. Pagett (Derby), and, just to keep them in order, Pte. Sid Harrison, of the Leicesters, came, complete with rifle and ammunition!

The ringing ought to have been good, there were enough handbells for each one present to have four apiece! In addition to two local sets, the hon. secretary brought along the association's bells (13) and also 16 belonging to Pte. S. Harrison. In the afternoon the committee met in St. Peter's Church Hall adjoining, and representatives were present from Burton, Derby, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham. In the absence of the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert (president), the chair was taken by Mr. Colin Harrison (vice-president), supported by Mr. W. E. White (hon. treasurer) and Mr. Ernest Morris (secretary).

The Chairman, in welcoming the members, said that although the business to be transacted was small, it was encouraging and inspiring to all to meet together at such times as these, not only to keep going interest in the art, but also to cultivate the social side of their activities.

Notice had been given that moneys invested in C. of E. Building Society would in future bring in 3 per cent. interest instead of 3½ per cent. as hitherto.

The secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council requesting that body, as the premier representatives of the bellringers of England, to approach the heads of the Church, the Archbishops, Bishops and other influential ecclesiastical personages, with a view to securing the rescinding of the present ridiculous ban on church bells, especially as applied to service ringing. There is now a new Minister at the head of the State department concerned, and if pressure was made through the clergy or other influential bodies, something might be achieved. 'We, as individual ringers, with nothing stronger than the fact that it is our art that is concerned, bear very little weight and more often than not would be ignored.'

The next general meeting, at which auditors are elected and other important business is transacted, should be held in January, and, after discussion, it was decided that it should take place at Derby on January 11th. Local district secretaries are asked to note this and fix their annual meetings accordingly.

This concluded the business, and tea was then partaken of at a nearby cafe, following which further handbell ringing in St. Peter's belfry closed a very happy meeting.

**IN DAYS GONE BY.****MAKING A NIGHT OF IT!**

Bisley bells had just been rehung and we fixed up a band to try for the first peal on them. I started from Gloucester and walked up with Willie Brunson. The rest of the party were coming on bicycles and in a spring-cart. It is seven miles to Bisley, and our route took us through Painswick. We got to Bisley at five o'clock and raised the bells, but had to wait about until seven o'clock, when we went into changes. The method was Double Norwich, and all went well until 9.30, when there came a smash. Though vexed, we took the opportunity to give some of the local ringers some short touches of Grandsire Triples. Then one of our party said, 'What a pity to go back without the peal!' And one of the locals said, 'Why not start again?' and he offered to go and ask the Vicar's permission.

Canon Keeble himself came down to see us and asked the whole party up to the vicarage to have refreshments before starting again, an invitation which we were glad to accept. We got into changes again soon after eleven, and the bells came round at half-past two. (It was Jim Groves' first peal of Double Norwich on an 'inside' bell.) No sooner had the bells come round than a door in the corner of the tower, which had escaped our notice, opened and two policemen put in an appearance. We wondered what was coming, but they were quite harmless. One of them was a native of Gloucester, and they said that they had much enjoyed listening to the bells. This encouraged us and someone asked if they could find us any refreshments. They thought they could and conducted us to the village 'pub' and knocked up the landlady, who certainly took it very well. I was glad to return home in the spring-cart.

The Painswick ringers went up to Bisley a few weeks later, and an angry looking gentleman came into the belfry and asked if they were those fellows who had come up and rung all night. Mr. Hale told me that he looked quite vexed when they said that they were not, and seemed inclined to disbelieve them.

E. B. J.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.****EXETER BRANCH.****Ready to Resume when Ban is Lifted.**

The activities of the change ringers in Devon have been suspended since the official ban has been in force. Hence the meeting of the Exeter Branch last Saturday was welcomed. Members assembled at St. Sidwell's Church and a renewal of old fellowships was made possible. Some 20 of the older members came to the belfry and for a couple of hours engaged themselves in handbell practice. The chairman (Mr. E. J. Ryall) and the secretary (Mr. W. H. Howe) welcomed the president of the Guild, Preb. E. V. Cox, and the acting general secretary. It was a pleasure to see Mr. C. R. Lilley so active again and to observe that Mr. Laver had sufficiently recovered to be present. Mr. Laver was formerly general secretary of the Guild, but resigned at the last annual meeting in consequence of ill-health.

At 4 o'clock the Rector, the Rev. M. V. Narracott, welcomed the company in the ancient parish church and conducted the short official service of the Guild. It was indeed a pleasure to all present to be able to join in the service, and there was a feeling of hope that once again the activities of the branch might be renewed.

Tea was provided at Deller's Cafe in High Street, and at the business meeting which followed, the Chairman explained that it was with some diffidence that he and the secretary had called the meeting. He expressed pleasure at the presence of so many members.

The company stood in silence when the deaths of the Rev. Lanyon-Owen and Mr. Gold were announced.

After discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on February 22nd at Exeter.

Two new members, the Rev. M. V. Narracott and Mr. E. Holwill, were elected.

The meeting expressed its pleasure at the election of the president, the Rev. E. V. Cox, to a prebendal stall in Exeter Cathedral.

Preb. Cox thanked the Exeter Branch for its initiative in calling the meeting. He thought it was cheering to feel that they were moving towards happier times when they could renew old friendships. Though there was a ban on their greater activities, considerable private work was being done, and they would be quite prepared to resume when the ban is removed and better days come. He hoped that soon the ban would be lifted, not only for ringers, but for the sake of the public, who loved to be called to the worship of God by the voices of the bells.

Another very old friend of the Guild in Mr. Edwin Shepherd was heartily welcomed. He recalled the days, 60 years ago, when the Guild was young and only one tower, in the city of Exeter, practised change ringing. The bells up and down the county in those days were often neglected and in bad condition. Now the keeping of the bells was a parochial pride and he thought much of this was due to the efforts of the Guild. He warned the Guild that there was danger in being too big and cumbersome because on occasions of festivals individual members could not get opportunities of ringing.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the service and to Mr. Read, the organist, concluded the meeting.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****WARM WELCOME AT BRADFORD.**

The monthly meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Bradford Cathedral on Saturday and was attended by members from Armley, Bramley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's), Shipley and the local company.

Owing to a service in the Cathedral, which prevented the belfry from being used, the meeting was held in the old Parochial Hall. Members were slow in turning up, but the time was filled in by the thoughtfulness of Mr. J. Hardcastle, who brought his Australian Tour snapshots to the meeting for all to see. While thus visiting the warmer climes the party were able to forget the cold weather outside and they congratulated themselves that last minute alterations gave them a warm comfortable room for the handbell ringing, which continued until the advertised time of the business meeting, over which Mr. J. F. Harvey presided.

The Chairman announced the loss of two members who had passed away during the last few weeks, namely, Mr. James Hey, of Armley, and Mr. Harry Smith, of Leeds Parish Church.

Happier thoughts were then introduced by the birthday congratulations to Mr. Joseph Broadley, who was 81 the previous day.

The routine business of the meeting was then transacted, and the vote of thanks to all concerned was expressed by Mr. Tom Kendall, seconded by Mr. Sam Helliwell.

Mr. Hardcastle, in reply, said he would pass on the thanks to the Vicar. Mr. Hardcastle, referring to the present times, said he hoped that happier days were not far off when the society, along with the Yorkshire Association, would be able to accept an invitation to hold a general meeting at the Cathedral and have a 'right good do.'

The next meeting is due to be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 30th, when owing to the earlier 'black-out' it was unanimously agreed to start ringing at 2 p.m., with the business meeting at 4 or 4.30 p.m.

Further handbell ringing afterwards took place.

## OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

### THE COLLEGE YOUTHS VISIT THE CITY.

During the second quarter of the eighteenth century there lived at Fulham, in a big house near the church, a man named William Skelton. He was a College Youth and an important man among the Metropolitan ringers of the time; and the modern London Exercise owes him a debt of gratitude, for it was through him that Rudhall's beautiful bells were hung in Fulham steeple.

The big house in Church Row had been built by Skelton's father, whose name also was William, and who laid the foundation of his fortune and that of his family in a curious and remarkable incident which happened when he was a boy.

When James the Second was King of England the Bishop of London was Henry Compton, a somewhat masterful man who was a younger son of a noble family and a powerful man in Church and State, one of the leaders of the Revolution which put William III. on the throne of England and finally decided that Parliament should be the governing authority in this country.

Like all the Bishops of London for a thousand years, Dr. Compton lived at Fulham Palace. He had made his will and in it he had bequeathed a legacy to all his servants, including his cook. Now the cook was a man not much younger than the bishop, and he reflected that his chances of inheriting his share of the legacy were not very good, and certainly not very immediate. So, as the best means of handling the money within a reasonable time, he mixed poison with some broth he had prepared for his lordship. Young Skelton, who was a boy employed in the kitchen, was sharp enough to detect the attempt, and the cook was discharged.

This brought Skelton to the notice of the Bishop, who had him educated as an ecclesiastical lawyer, and in the end the boy, by diligence and good fortune, arrived at an honourable position and considerable property in the parish.

Skelton's son William, who was born in 1696, was sent to Oxford, where he matriculated on July 19th, 1712, and became a commoner of Christ Church. He followed his father's profession, and was a proctor in the Court of Arches, becoming Registrar to Dr. Gibson, the Bishop of London.

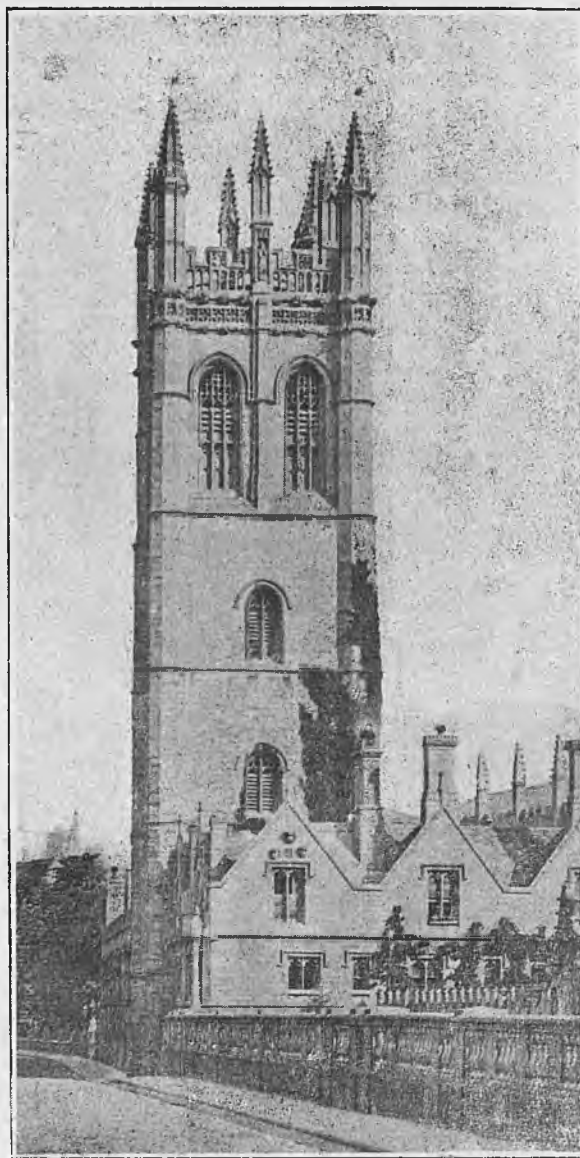
In his university days he practised ringing, and probably had learnt to ring on the old six bells at Fulham under the tuition of Hudnott, the parish clerk, whose portrait, painted in oils on a large wood panel, still hangs on the walls of the belfry.

As Registrar to the Bishop, Skelton issued and signed the faculties for the casting and hanging of several of the famous rings of bells in London, including that at St. Saviour's, Southwark. He was given the name of an excellent ringer by Thomas Hearne, and he joined the Society of College Youths in 1715, though he never stood in a peal with them.

When the old bells at Fulham were recast Skelton was not only the leading man in the committee appointed to carry out the business, but he gave two bells himself, and remitted the fee due to him for the faculty. Later on he paid for the hanging of two other bells given by Theodore Eccleston to complete the ring of ten.

In the year 1733 Annable and the College Youths decided to go to Oxford for their annual outing, and naturally they turned to Skelton to make the arrangements.

Although we have no record, it is quite likely that this was not the first visit of the society to Oxford. In 1723, among the names of new members, appears that of Arthur Lloyd, carpenter and bellhanger, and the chief man in the band that did the not inconsiderable amount of paid ringing in the town. Lloyd may have been on a visit to London, but it is at least as likely that the society was on a visit to Oxford.



THE TOWER OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

On the Saturday before Whitsuntide William Skelton rode down to Oxford to prepare the way, and very early the next morning Benjamin Annable and his party, fifteen ringers in all, set out to follow him on foot. The distance is 63 miles, and three miles an hour, including stops, is pretty good going for such a journey; so that even if they started soon after midnight, it was very late in the evening that a tired and footsore party crossed Magdalen Bridge and made their way up the famous High Street. It was their wont on these occasions to

stop and ring at places on the route. Whether they did so now we do not know, but if they did it would be at a church by the roadside such as High Wycombe.

On the Monday the Oxford ringers rang a short touch at Magdalen as a welcome and another at Christ Church in the evening, the Londoners resting during the day to recover from the effects of their long walk. On the Tuesday (May 15th) they rang a preliminary touch of about 1,500 changes of Grandsire Caters at New College, starting a little before eleven in the morning and finishing at noon, and the same at Christ Church in the evening. Next day they started at Christ Church for a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,040 changes. They began at a quarter to twelve and rang until two o'clock, about 3,200 changes, 'incomparably well,' when, the gudgeons being bad, the tenor fell down, but lodged in the pit.

In the evening they went to Magdalen. It is not clear whether they started for a peal there or not, but, in any case, they could not proceed above half an hour owing to two or three ropes breaking. Hearne does not tell us what method they rang, but if it was a peal attempt, almost certainly it was Bob Major.

On Thursday they went to New College and started again for the Grandsire Caters. They began a little before twelve and rang about three-quarters of an hour, when one of the ropes broke and so they were stopped. Afterwards they dined at 'Weer's beyond Friar Bacon's Study,' and then some of them walked the couple of miles to Ifley and rang a 720 on the six bells there.

The next day, Friday, was their last chance of attempting the peal. They started again at New College and again just before noon. This time they rang two minutes short of two hours, and again a broken rope

put an end to the attempt. On the Saturday they started for home and took two days on the journey.

Hearne, who was a competent and critical judge of ringing, is emphatic about the quality of the Londoners' ringing. Both at Christ Church and New, as elsewhere, it was, he said, 'most surprisingly fine without the least fault from beginning to end, such as never was before in Oxford. If it had not been for the faulty gudgeons and the broken ropes, the peal would have been rung with the greatest ease imaginable, for in the attempts there was not the least fault made. All were very sorry and 'twas a scandal that the ropes should not have been in good order.' Hearne notes that Annable rang the ninth bell and adds that he 'is judged to understand ringing as well as if not better than any man in the world.'

#### ALDERSHOT'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL EFFORT.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It would be interesting to hear from various companies in the country what their ringers are doing and the regiments with which some of them are serving. It is unfortunate that so many of the names we used to see from time to time, either in peal records or meeting reports, have disappeared, though only temporarily, we trust. We read in the Belfry Gossip of the calling up of one or two ringers, but I am sure many of us would be interested in the movements of other readers. Below are particulars of some of my own company who are 'doing their bit' in the present conflict between good and evil, and I hope other tower secretaries will send in similar information.

C. W. DENYER.

#### Aldershot.

Mrs. E. Sargeaunt, A.T.S.  
P.S.M. E. J. Bragg, Grenadier  
Guards.  
Lieut. R. A. Eldridge, Hampshire  
Regt.  
Gunner P. L. Eldridge, R.A.  
Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A.

Pte. T. E. Denyer, The Queen's.  
L.-Cpl. E. Symonds, Hampshire  
Regt.  
Sgt. W. Denyer, Home Guard.  
Pte. R. J. Whitford, Home Guard.  
Volunteer W. H. Viggers, A.F.S.  
Volunteer W. G. Challen, A.F.S.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

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A.D. 1570**  
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of reign of  
Elizabeth).

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Our readers will be sorry to know that Archdeacon Parry, of Bigby, is seriously ill. He had not been very well for some considerable time. He was taken ill some three weeks ago and was improving again until last Monday week, when he had a serious relapse.

Archdeacon Parry is a vice-president of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, which he represents on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Faculties, and is also a member of the Central Council.

Many happy returns of the day to Mr. Bill Barber, of Newcastle, who was born on November 4th, 1876.

Sixty-two years ago to-day the noble ring of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung for the first time.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. Two of them were Bob Major, two were Grandsire Triples, two Grandsire Caters, one Oxford Bob Triples and one Stedman Triples.

The Grandsire Caters included a peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester. It was the first in the method conducted by John Austin and the first rung by Mr. James George.

The first peal ever rung on handbells 'retained in hand' was 5,088 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Sheffield on October 30th, 1811.

The Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, on November 1st, 1831.

On November 3rd, 1796, what seems to have been the second 'name' peal ever accomplished was rung at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by eleven Williams. The method was Grandsire Caters and the conductor was William Shipway.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung at Huddersfield on November 5th, 1821. It was composed and conducted by Benjamin Thackrah. On the same date in 1787 6,048 changes of Cambridge Surprise were rung at St. Peter's, Sheffield. As with the other early peals in the method, the composition was false.

Mr. Percy Williams, of Bristol, Hon. treasurer of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, has returned home after his recent operation. He was not due to be discharged from hospital quite so soon, but owing to the requirements for beds, he has been permitted to leave to be nursed at home. Naturally he is very happy to be there and his friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. William Betley, the Ringing Master at the Parish Church, Rugby, is going to Ipswich with the bishop elect. His address will be The Flats, The Bishop's House, Park Road, Ipswich.

## SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO MR. A. H. PULLING.

His many friends in the Exercise will regret to learn that Mr. Alfred H. Pulling, of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, met with a serious accident on Friday of last week. Mr. Pulling was engaged in cutting some dead wood from a tree when the ladder slipped and he turned a double somersault in falling on to some concrete. He had a nasty cut on the head and an injury to his arm. For 24 hours his condition was regarded as serious, fears being entertained as to its effect on the head injury he sustained some years ago. Later reports from Warren Road Hospital indicate that he is making satisfactory progress.

## ASSOCIATIONS AND WAR SAVINGS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—If I remember rightly, a few weeks ago there was an article in 'The Ringing World' inviting suggestions from its readers, and ringers generally, as to the best way by which ringing societies up and down the country could contribute towards winning the war.

May I suggest that a part of the money retained by the districts for working expenses be invested in War Savings Certificates or the Post Office Savings Bank?

During the war, while ringing is at a standstill, it may be possible for the districts of some Guilds to send as much as 75 per cent. of their balance at the end of the year to their general treasurer. In this way the Guilds throughout the country, from the balances of both district and general funds, might raise as much as two or three hundred pounds. This would make a useful contribution towards our war savings effort. The amounts saved would, of course, be shown on both the district and general purposes balance sheets.

W. LINTER, Hon. Treasurer,  
Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

## CHECKING FIGURES OUTSIDE A TOWER.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The reference in your columns to the wonderful ear of the late Mr. J. C. Truss, in the checking of figures outside the tower, reminds me of what happened at Marlow some years ago, after an attempt for a quarter-peal of Stedman had failed.

In the discussion which followed, it was obvious that two bells had shifted, but not even the conductor could quite make up his mind as to which were the two bells concerned.

During the 'inquest,' Mr. Truss, who had apparently been listening to the ringing from outside, arrived in the belfry, and without any hesitation told us that at a certain part end 3 and 5 had shifted. So certain was he on the point that not even the culprits themselves were able to argue any further.

H. BADGER.  
Thame, Oxon.



## DAMAGED LONDON CHURCHES.

### RESULTS OF AIR RAIDS.

At the London Diocesan Conference on Monday last, the Bishop of London announced that 32 churches in the diocese had been destroyed or so badly damaged that they are unusable, and that 47 others had been seriously damaged. Four hundred and fifty to five hundred other church buildings have been damaged.

### TOWERS AND BELLS SAFE.

Three North-West London churches were recently damaged by enemy action. One, a new church, removed from the West End of London, had some windows broken when a land mine fell nearby. The tower and spire, together with the ring of eight bells, is not damaged at all.

The second, an ancient church, had some windows broken by a bomb which demolished some houses in the vicinity. The windows are all 19th century stained glass of no artistic or material worth. The building itself was unharmed and the late fourteenth century tower and its ring of eight bells are safe. The bells have had many peals rung on them, including numerous peals of Spliced Surprise Major.

A third church had some windows broken when a delayed action bomb exploded demolishing a bungalow. The Gospel at early Mass had just begun when the explosion occurred. A pause was made whilst the glass fell and then the Mass was resumed. The church was built 14 years ago and is still incomplete. A generous benefactor has provided funds to erect the tower and marble altar, when building is resumed after the war.

### THE BELLS OF DOVER.

The towers and bells of St. Mary's and St. James' Churches have so far escaped damage, although considerable damage has been done to church property in the town. A shell from the German guns at Cap Gris-Nez burst near St. Mary's and shattered the old valuable stained glass windows over the altar and some of the masonry. At St. James' it has been found necessary to close the new church from September 30th for the duration of war.

### PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Dawe is not quite correct about the above, as Mr. Hattersley's peals were not the first. His were both rung on the same day, July 4th, 1888, and a footnote to the first of the two (Kent Major) said, 'The first peal of any method ever rung in the Isle of Man.' But a fortnight after their publication, July 28th, he corrected this in a letter to 'The Bell News,' saying, 'I am informed that a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Thomas' Church, Douglas, by the St. Peter's company, Liverpool, on their visit to open the bells on December 7th, 1852,' and he added the postscript, 'The bells at Douglas are now only a peal of six.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

A letter has also been received from Mr. E. Jennings, of Bushey, containing the same information.—Editor.

### FROM THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION RECORDS.

Dear Sir,—The records of the Yorkshire Association show that two peals were rung at Peel, Isle of Man, on Wednesday, July 4th, 1888: one a 5,184 of Kent Treble Bob Major and the other Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples, both conducted by Charles Henry Hattersley.

Although these peals must have been rung shortly after the bells were installed, it is quite likely that one or more peals had been rung previously, as neither is claimed to be the first on the bells, but both are claimed to be the first in the respective methods on the bells.

Those who took part were Charles H. Hattersley, Arthur Brearley, David Brearley, Joseph Mulligan, and John Mulligan, of Sheffield; W. Davies, J. R. Pritchard and H. Coley, of Liverpool; A. Thomas, of Birmingham; W. Rock Small, of Tipton; and William Whittaker, of Leeds.

The weight of the tenor according to our records is 8½ cwt.

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

Mr. G. R. Newton, of Liverpool, also sent us information with regard to these peals.

### DOVER RINGER KILLED.

Mr. Cyril T. Playford, whose death occurred through enemy action at Dover Harbour, was for several years a bellringer at St. Mary's Church. He was a choirboy until his voice broke and then he took up ringing. He was 20 years of age and was very interested in the bells, although he had not had the opportunity of getting far in change ringing. The funeral took place at St. Mary's Cemetery on Wednesday, October 16th. He was employed by the 'Bulwark' Engineering Company, Dover.

## AIR INVASION WARNING.

### BRISTOL'S PLAN FOR USE OF BELLS.

#### Ringers' Services Accepted.

##### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent articles published in 'The Ringing World' indicate that much information is still lacking regarding the 'air invasion warning.'

In the past week I have received several letters asking what has been done in connection with the Home Guard in the Bristol district: and in the hope that the following may enlighten many ringers throughout the country, I give the details of arrangements made and completed in and outside the city.

In accordance with a proposal made at a meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association in August, the following letter was sent to the Zone Commander of the Home Guard in the Bristol area offering him the services of its ringers.

Sir,—May we offer the use of our organisation in arranging for competent church bellringers to be at your service? We make this suggestion realising that in some instances it would be dangerous for individuals unacquainted with the craft to attempt such a task.

Also we would suggest that in some instances a 'chimed' bell would not be effective for any reasonable distance owing to shuttering of the louvres. (St. James', Bristol, for example, would hardly be noted at Bridewell, whereas Temple Church, thus chimed, may be heard for three-quarters of a mile, and if rung would perhaps be heard for two or three miles according to the wind.)

Our offer of assistance may minimise other difficulties you may encounter.

If you do not avail yourselves of our assistance, may we suggest that every precaution is taken to preserve the ancient bells, namely, that clock hammers are released before ringing and that bells are not swung out of control.

We enclose a report of our organisation and we could easily make contact with churches having only one or two bells to ensure a widespread system.

In reply, Lt.-Col. A. T. Chapman expressed his willingness to avail himself of the proffered help, and added: 'I would point out, however, that it may be dangerous for a novice to ring a church bell, but far more dangerous to the public to have the Germans landing in the city.'

Following several interviews with the Zone Commander and a special meeting of members, arrangements were ultimately completed covering 30 towers. The scheme adopted is that on receipt of a message (which would come only from the Zone Commander), the ringer or ringers proceed to the church or are conveyed by a dispatch rider if the distance is of any length. Each ringer has been enrolled as a member of the Home Guard without being under any obligation to attend drills, etc. This has been done in order that the ringer may receive full compensation should any accident occur and so that he may be able to pass through the streets. (I understand that no one without authority may go through the streets if an air invasion should take place.)

A recent correspondent writes that the warning is mainly for the purpose of calling out the Home Guard. In Bristol it is to warn the public in the same way that the siren warns them of an air raid. Those members of the Home Guard who are not on duty at the time are to be collected by a mobile unit which is standing ready.

I trust the above will satisfy those ringers who have written to me for information and that other districts may be able to use the information, should they be making any arrangements.

ALBERT M. TYLER, Branch Secretary.

### SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. E. Barnett regarding single-handed handbell peals rung at Basingstoke, in which I took part, as I was a frequent week-end visitor there at that time, may I say that on Good Friday, April 4th, 1890, we rang a 5,056 Grandsire Major, which I afterwards found to be false. The following day we rang 5,040 Bob Major, again on November 29th another 5,040, and on March 27th, 1891, a 6,040. Mr. H. White rang 7-8 to all these and called two of the Bob Major. On April 19th, 1890, the local hand rang Grandsire Triples. Mr. White rang 1-2 and called Holt's Ten-Part, Mr. W. Bulpitt ringing 7-8.

But those were not the first peals published. In referring back to the old volumes of 'The Bell News,' there is recorded a 5,040 Bob Major, rung on February 6th, 1886, in the belfry of St. Giles'. Reading, eight ringers taking part. See 'Bell News,' February 13th, 1886. Again on February 13th a peal of Bob Triples rung at the Queen's Hotel, Derby, Mr. H. C. Woodward ringing 7-8 and conducting it. Probably this was the peal Mr. Barnett had in mind.

I cannot say if any other peals were rung after these and ours of 1890. I've no knowledge of the peal at Peterborough Mr. Barnett mentions. If he would like the full particulars, I should be most pleased to give them.

F. BENNETT.

37, Port Hall Road, Brighton 5.

## EIGHTY-EIGHT NOT OUT.

### MR. J. WILLIAMS' BIRTHDAY SCORE.

Last Tuesday, Mr. Joseph Williams, of Newent, Glos., celebrated his 88th birthday. With the exception of Mr. Robert Brundle, of Ipswich, he is possibly the oldest active ringer.

His birthday was marked by a small gathering of his old friends, and there being no means of suitably celebrating the occasion on church bells, handbell ringing took place. Among the little party were Mr. J. W. Davis, of Lydney, now 73; Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport, who is 75; Mr. J. Clark, of Ross, who is 77; and Mr. John Austin, of Gloucester, who will be 77 on November 19th.

Mr. Williams, who is affectionately known to his friends as 'The Sergeant,' served 32 years in the Gloucestershire Police Force, and for the last 12 years before his retirement was in charge of the Newent Petty Sessional Division. Afterwards for 19 years he was school attendance officer.

'Sergeant' Williams is still an enthusiastic ringer and, but for the ban, would doubtless continue to add to his score of something like 200 peals. The last peal he rang was in June, 1939. He and John Austin ring Grandsire Triples 'four-in-hand' on handbells and have delighted many audiences by doing this while sitting back to back, which is no mean performance.

Mr. Williams is well known throughout Gloucestershire ringing circles. His stalwart figure is always notable in any gathering and his genial nature endears him to all with whom he comes in contact. His many friends will join in congratulating him upon his birthday and hope that he will live to see many more.



MR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS.

## TRADITIONAL USES OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The topic of traditional uses of bells is very interesting. Below I append further information on the subject.

Before the ban on the ringing of bells it was the custom at Daventry to ring the second at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. each weekday—probably a survival from the time when Cistercians occupied the Abbey. Moreover, the curfew was rung at 8 p.m. every day, the sixth being used for this purpose. When the sexton was acquainted with the death of a parishioner, the tenor was clocked. On Shrove Tuesday it was customary at one time to ring the pancake bell.

Similarly, at Towcester the tenor was rung up, struck half-pulls and then rung down for a death, until the cessation of ringing. A bell used to be rung at midday and the curfew at 9 p.m. some years ago. Here, too, a pancake bell was sounded at one time.

From Holy Trinity tower in Richmond (Yorks) market place, curfew was rung at 8 p.m., whilst at Durham Cathedral the tenor was clocked for a few minutes before 9 p.m.—I have heard it termed the 'Mary bell'—and then rung up and down for the curfew after the hour had struck.

LAWRENCE GREENHOW.

Towcester, Northants.

## 5,024 DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

By F. BENNETT.

23456	1	4	5	6
42356				2
25346	—			3
54326	—			
46325	—	—	—	
62345	—			3
32465	—			2
42563	—			
24365	—			1
63425	—			1
52364	—			3
26354	—			3
65324	—			
23465	—	S		1

Repeated

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.—On handbells on Monday, October 21st, 720 Bob Minor: Harold Wood 1-2, Pte. E. Rapley (conductor) 3-4, Cecil Longhurst 5-6. Rung while Pte. Rapley, of the Royal Sussex Regt., was home on leave.

## 'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'

### AN UNFOUNDED LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The other day I was reading a book by Professor Pollard, one of the leading authorities on history, in which he said that the most important qualification for an historian is imagination, the gift of being able to make into living men and living events the dry bones which have come down to us from the past. He rated this gift higher even than mere verbal accuracy.

I agree with him to a large extent, but from my experience I should be inclined to rate almost as high the quality of scepticism, the gift of being able to criticise and disbelieve much of what passes for history and has been told us of the men and the things of bygone times.

I am sure it is so when we are dealing with the accounts of bells and ringing. The pages of the books, even the best of the books, written about them are littered with countless fables and statements which masquerade as facts, but are merely more or less credible conjectures. Some of them most likely are true, others are certainly false; and he who would write the history of bells and ringing must bring them to such tests as he is able to apply.

There is one of these fables, of no importance in itself, which particularly offends my sense of right and truth, and when I find a man stating that the proverb, 'Nine tailors make a man,' is a corruption of the saying, 'Nine tellers mark a man,' I feel a mighty urge to burst rudely into his presence and in a loud and insulting tone say to him, 'You are a liar!' Further to impress on him my utter and complete dissent and contempt for his statement, I would perform that ancient and symbolic ritual which is known as cocking a snook at him.

In February, 1871, a man named J. A. Johnson wrote to 'Church Bells' and suggested that the origin of the saying, 'Nine tailors make a man,' was to be found in the custom of giving three times three strokes 'at the end of the last peal after the funeral' to show that the deceased was a man. It may not have been his own original statement, but apparently this was the first time it had appeared in print. The Editor in a footnote agreed.

Thomas North tentatively repeated the suggestion in his books, other people copied him with more assurance, and finally through Miss Dorothy Sayers' clever novel it has been broadcast to the world as a statement of proven fact.

But the suggestion will not bear investigation for a minute. If anything is certain, it is certain that this cannot be true. There is no evidence that the nine strokes were called 'tellers' except perhaps locally. The old English word teller meant one who counts, and so, if it were applied to anything connected with knells, it probably would be to the strokes which by their number told the age of the departed.

But if it were true that the nine tellers did mark a man, why should that become a proverbial saying? Whenever you have a proverb you have not only the immediate statement of some fact, but also some wider truth, which is the really important thing. 'Empty vessels make the most sound' may be true as a simple statement of fact, but nobody would be likely to repeat it if it had not another and a wider meaning which has nothing whatever to do with vessels and not a great deal to do with sound. No one has suggested that 'Nine tellers mark a man,' if it ever was used, had any other meaning than the literal one.

In the second place, 'Nine tellers mark a man' cannot have been corrupted into 'Nine tailors make a man,' for corruption implies a more or less gradual process and some connection between the two phrases. And there is none. It is true that a word or phrase used in one sense does sometimes become corrupted into something totally different, but never without some connecting idea. Between the 'hoc est corpus' of the canon of the Mass and the word 'hocus-pocus' there is absolutely nothing in common, yet the one could not, and did not, corrupt into the other without a connecting idea in the minds of the people who used them.

Are we to believe that people went about saying that 'Nine tellers mark a man' with so little understanding of what they were saying that one day they found themselves saying 'Nine tailors make a man' with still less understanding of what they were saying? It won't do, and we can see how hollow the suggestion is when we realise that 'Nine tailors make a man' is a proverbial saying, not only here in England, but abroad in France and Germany as well. 'Il faut neuf tailleurs pour faire un homme,' say the Breton peasants, and it would take a very clever man to find in that any connection with the death knell and its 'tellers.'

The proverb had its origin in the curious and universal contempt that all people once had for tailors and their trade. You will find strong signs of this contempt in Shakespeare's plays, and I remember my own grandmother (who was born in 1806) telling me that in her young days people seldom spoke of a tailor without adding the words, 'Good Lord!'

So I beseech all good people, and especially Mr. Edwards, whom I honour and respect for his work on the Literature Committee of the Central Council, not to lend themselves to the propagation of this absurd legend.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

P.S.—An early version of the proverb occurs in one of Thomas Dekker's plays (1607), 'They say three Taylors go to the making up of a man.'

## THE DEATH KNELL.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF A SUSSEX PRACTICE.

The reference to the death knell in Mr. J. A. Trollope's recent letter recalls an experience of my boyhood. Mr. Trollope says, 'The usual custom of ringing the knell was to toll a bell single strokes at a minute interval for an hour and finish with the "tellers" and the age of the departed.' In the Sussex parish of my birth the bell was tolled on the death of an inhabitant, but it began with the tellers and there was nothing to denote the age. The tenor was used for a man, the seventh for a woman and the treble for a child. The tellers were three times three, three times two and three times one respectively.

In those early days little actual ringing was done on the bells and they were always 'clocked' for the services. From a time almost as long ago as I can remember, I was allowed to take part in the chiming—we had two ropes each—and I frequently also chimed the death knell.

The reason was not to enable the sexton to get out of his assigned task, for there was no sexton as such in that parish. My mother, after my father's death, was parish clerk, and, therefore, when it came to the tolling of the death knell I was frequently sent to carry out the task.

The nave of the church was a moderately long one, and, not having a watch to time the minute strokes, I used to march in slow time from the belfry, which was then on the ground floor, up the aisle, round the lectern, which stood on the step leading into the chancel, and back again, between the pulls at the rope, which I used to try to count, although I dare say some of the hours were cut rather short. I did that scores and scores of times, and often on dark evenings when many a boy of my age would, I am sure, have been scared of walking up through the church with its eerie atmosphere and its shadowy outlines. I wasn't any braver than my friends, but that old church was familiar to me in every stone and monument and detail. I don't know whether the death knell is still rung at the church, but this I can say, that neither I nor anyone else through years of clocking ever cracked a bell. J. S. G.

### AN OLD CUSTOM.

Dear Sir,—Here at Sedbergh the tenor is rung immediately the person has died. It is an old custom here; I can answer for 43 years and the present sexton, a man of 60, says his father and grandfather used to ring it before him. Before 1897 there were only three bells, the present eight bells being put in then.

When the bells are rung after a funeral, they are rung deeply muffled. After half an hour or so, the treble is set and some rounds are rung on the remaining seven. Then the 2nd is set, more rounds, then the 3rd and so on till the tenor remains alone. The person's age is then rung on the tenor. This custom I brought from Cambridge. G. F. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

### THE PRACTICE IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the correspondence with regard to the death knell being rung in various parts of the country.

I think it is rung practically throughout Northamptonshire. In my own village it has been rung for as long as I can remember, and it probably has been in use for hundreds of years. When a person dies the tenor bell is rung up very slowly (usually taking five minutes), and then one blow per minute is struck for about 25 minutes, and then the bell is rung slowly down again, the whole procedure taking half an hour. Finally, three blows are struck round on all the bells for a man, and two for a woman, from treble to tenor. It is the custom here not to ring the bell after sunset. At a funeral the bell is tolled.

I was under the impression that the death knell was practically universal all over the country, but apparently, from your correspondence, it is not so. It is not an occasional occurrence here, but is a recognised thing on a death occurring.

Yardley-Hastings, Northampton.

SIDNEY J. ELLIOTT.

### FUNERAL PROCEDURE REVERSED.

Sir,—With regard to the death bell, this practice is still carried on in Wadhurst and most surrounding parishes. Here the undertaker informs the sexton as soon as possible after a death, and the tenor is raised and tolled at intervals of about a minute for a quarter of an hour. Until people living near the church complained a few years ago, it was tolled for one hour. Then the bell is lowered and after a short silence it is chimed, three threes for a man, and two threes for a woman.

At the funeral the procedure is reversed. About half an hour beforehand, the threes are chimed and after a short silence the bell is raised and tolled at minute intervals until five minutes before the appointed time, then the bell is lowered and chimed until the funeral cortege arrives at the church gate.

I should like to endorse the remarks of those who have written to you re the more interesting matter in 'The Ringing World' these days, and wish you continued success.

CHARLES A. BASSETT.

P.S.—Until the ban, a bell was rung here each day from 11.55 a.m. to noon as a call to pray for peace.

## EARLY RINGS OF BELLS.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter in your issue of October 4th, I would be most grateful if your correspondent 'T' would send me the reference of the letter in the British Museum to which he refers.

In regard to the letter by 'Suffolk Ringer,' the date of the completion of the octave at Horham, Suffolk, is given by Mr. H. B. Walters in his 'Church Bells of England' (page 81) as 1672, and the authority quoted for this statement is Canon Raven. Also the earliest recorded ring of eight cast by a London founder is stated there to be that cast in 1680 by Christopher Hodson for Merton College, Oxford. This, however, was not the first ring of eight possessed by the college, for Michael Darbie, in 1655, cast rings of eight for both Merton and New College, Oxford.

While on the subject of early rings, I wonder if any of your readers have details of rings of six earlier than 1611; I am anxious to obtain details of as many as possible. FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

### THE FIRST RINGS OF EIGHT.

Dear Sir,—Since I saw 'The Ringing World' recently I have come across an entry in an old pocket book\* relating to the first ring of eight bells erected in Suffolk, and I venture to say one of the first in England. I hope that it may be of interest to your readers.

T. E. SLATER.

Glemsford, Sudbury Suffolk.

P.S.—I have now sent all Samuel Slater's ringing books and MSS. to the Library, Northgate Street, Ipswich, including a 'Powell' broadsheet of Stedman Triples such as you mentioned last week in the account of Shipway.

\*1547.—Item. In the steeple be fyve bells and a Sanctus bell.

In 1582-4.—The bells having become broken, they were taken to Bury for casting.

In 1680.—There are items for mending the 4th bell wheel, 6th ditto ditto.

In the entries for 1682.—Item, for altering the 7th bell clapper.

In 1683.—Eight well tuned Bells with wheels and Ropes and all other necessarys there unto Belonging. One Saint's bell on which the clock striketh.

### OTHER EARLY RINGS.

Dear Sir,—I am glad to see your extracts from Samuel Slater's notebook include the date of the eight at Horham (1672) and of Hadleigh (1678). These supply the answer to your correspondent. 'Suffolk Ringer,' in your issue of October 11th. St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, were made eight in 1638, and Great Tey, in Essex, earlier than any of the foregoing—according to a letter of Mr. Slater's before me at this moment—in 1670. In Norfolk, St. Peter Mancroft, at Norwich, were eight in 1672 and Aylsham in 1700.

The late Mr. F. W. J. Rees, in his 'Chronology of Ringing,' which he contributed to 'The Bell News' in 1884, gives as his earlier eight's New College, Oxford, 1655, Merton 1657, Cambridge 1667, All Saints', Hertford, 1674, and ten at Exeter Cathedral 1676. A rather curious thing happened about one of Mr. Rees' entries. He gave 1789 as the year when Eye (Suffolk) were made eight, and a fortnight after this appeared the late George Day, of Eye, the bellhanger, wrote correcting it. Mr. Day pointed out the date should be 1721, and—rather remarkably considering his calling—followed on with 'I can find no peal of eight so old in Suffolk except Framlingham, which were made into eight in the year 1719.' And yet, only five miles from Mr. Day's house and home, hung the eight (1672) at Horham!

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

### HORHAM BELLS.

Dear Sir,—The following appears in 'The Bells of England,' by J. J. Raven, page 244: 'The earliest octave known to me is at Horham, Suffolk, where a member of an old Suffolk family, John Cluh, Cloub or Cloube, was rector. Of these the lower four are dated respectively 1605, 1663 (two) and 1568.'

W. HALE.

Gloucester.

J. A.  
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## FALSE COURSE ENDS.

### HOW THEY AFFECT COMPOSITION.

In our last article we saw that when a method has the three false course ends BFG the sixty possible natural courses can be set down in twenty groups, each group containing three courses; and that these groups are in pairs, one of the pair being false against the other, so that if we use any course we are debarred from using all three courses in the false group.

But there are methods whose false course ends, though they belong to the group BFG, do not comprise all the members of that group. B can appear as the only false course end of a method, and the other two can appear together. This has an important effect on the material at our disposal for composing peals, and what it is we will explain by examples.

#### Rutland Surprise Major.

23456 B 24365  
42356 43265  
34256 32465

#### Superlative Surprise Major.

23456 F 32465 G 43265  
42356 24365 32465  
34256 43265 24365

#### New Cambridge Surprise Major.

23456 B 24365 F 32465 G 43265  
42356 43265 24365 32465  
34256 32465 43265 24365

The false course end of Rutland is B 24365. Out of the total number of sixty natural courses thirty are false against the other thirty, but we have a considerable latitude in choosing which thirty we shall use. If we use 23456 we may not use 24365. If we use 42356 we may not use 43265. If we use 34256 we may not use 32465. But if we use 23456 there is nothing to prevent us using 43265 and not 42356; or 32465 and not 34256.

The false course ends of Superlative are F 32465 and G 43265. There are now two full natural courses we may not use for every one we do use. But if we group together the three courses with 5, 6 at home, we find they share each other's false course ends. The three courses with 6, 5 in 5-6 are the only ones which are false against the three with 5, 6 at home; so that instead of reckoning that we have two courses false against every one we use, we may reckon that we have twenty groups of three courses, each group false against another group. When we are composing with full courses we have as many courses to deal with in Superlative as we have in Rutland, provided we do not reverse the bells in 5-6.

New Cambridge has a third false course end. B 24365, F 32465 and G 43265, are all false against the plain course. But these are the three which are false against the group of three which consists of 23456, 42356 and 34256; and the addition of the third false course end adds nothing to the problem as we have just stated it.

We do, however, find a difference when we try to split up the groups. In any method with all these three false course ends, if we use *one* full natural course with any particular two bells in 5-6, we may not use *any* full course with those two bells reversed. But when we have only *two* false course ends it is possible to split up the groups. If we use 23456 we may use 24365; but in that case we may not use 32465, 42356, 43265, or 34256. Instead of a possible three out of six, we have a possible two out of six. The price we pay for reversing bells in 5-6 is to lose one course.

We now come to the second of the important groups of False Course Ends, the one which consists of ABCDE. A close examination of hundreds of Surprise Major methods has shown us that in the majority of those most suitable in all ways for practice in the belfry, one or more of these false course ends appear. We do get good methods with the F and G false A 32546 course ends, and we do (less often) get B 24365 methods with false course ends outside both D 46253 groups, but all of them put together are not E 65432 nearly so numerous as those with the ABCDE C 53624 false course ends.

When we examine this group we find that it has several interesting features. The relationship of the rows is the same as that of a Q set produced by calling five bobs Before with a fourth's place bob, or five bobs Home with a sixth's place bob; and because that is so the coursing order is the same, 1-7-8 only being in different positions among the other five bells. If we start with the course 24365 and call five bobs Before we produce this group.

But more important still is the fact that if we start with 23456 and call a Q set of five bobs Before, we shall produce a similar group of five courses; and when we work out the courses false against this second group we find that they are all contained in the first group.

23456	—	24365	46253	65432	53624	32546
35264	—	32546	24365	46253	65432	53624
56342	—	53624	32546	24365	46253	65432
64523	—	65432	53624	32546	24365	46253
42635	—	46253	65432	53624	32546	24365

The same courses as are false against 23456 are false against 35264, 56342 and the other two. So that, instead of reckoning that we have to deal with five false courses against every true one, we can set down the possible sixty natural courses in twelve groups and these twelve groups will be in pairs, one in each pair being false against the other.

These groups are as follows:—

A 1	23456	A 2	32546
	35264		24365
	56342		46253
	64523		65432
	42635		53624

(Continued on next page.)

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**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 2nd, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—A short meeting to discuss the question of monthly ringing practices during the winter will be held at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, November 2nd. There will also be handbells and a social gathering. Meet at Star Inn, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held on November 2nd, at St. Peter's. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. The Parish Hall will be open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Plenty of DARTS if you like.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION** (North-Western and Southern Districts) AND **GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (Chertsey District).—A joint meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at Kingston-on-Thames. Handbells available at All Saints' Church from 2.30. Tea, with business meeting to follow, at 4 p.m. A service has been provisionally arranged for 6 p.m. Hand-

bells, etc., also available after service. All ringers heartily welcomed.—G. W. Massey, A. T. Shelton and F. E. Hawthorne, Dis. Hon. Secs.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A luncheon to commemorate the 303rd anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 9th, at 1.30 p.m., at 4s. per head. Will members who intend to be present kindly send their names to reach me by November 4th. Business meeting and nomination of officers afterwards. — A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells available in St. Mary's ringing chamber 3 p.m. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5 p.m., followed by further handbell ringing and social evening. For tea please notify me not later than Nov. 8th. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—A handbell meeting will be held at Copt Oak on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells in Vicarage at 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. (approx.). Please bring own sugar. All ringers welcome.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division. — The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 2.15 p.m. Six 'silent' tower bells also available. Service in church 3.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Will all members please make a special effort to be present at this meeting?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

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**RINGING IN DUBLIN.**

At the Church of St. George, Dublin, on October 20th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) for evening harvest thanksgiving service in 52 minutes: D. McGregor 1, H. W. Jones 2, Miss A. C. Dukes 3, O. H. Jones 4, G. Lindoff 5, G. G. Lindoff 6, F. E. Dukes (conductor) 7, W. E. Hall 8. On a previous Monday the same team, with the exception of Mr. Hall (the tenor being rung by J. Magill on that occasion), rang a practice touch of 672 Grandsire Triples on the bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

B 1	42356	B 2	24536
	25463		43265
	56234		36452
	63542		65324
	34625		52643
C 1	34256	C 2	43526
	45362		32465
	56423		26354
	62534		65243
	23645		54632
D 1	54326	D 2	45236
	42563		53462
	26435		36524
	63254		62345
	35642		24653
E 1	35426	E 2	53246
	52364		34562
	26543		46325
	64235		62453
	43652		25634
F 1	52436	F 2	25346
	23564		54263
	36245		46532
	64352		63425
	45623		32654

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## BAN NOT TO BE LIFTED.

The Home Secretary (Mr. Herbert Morrison) was asked in Parliament on Tuesday whether permission could now be given for church bells to be rung, but the spokesman who replied to the question gave an unqualified refusal on behalf of the military authorities. Ringers, and many others, will be deeply disappointed with the answer. Under war conditions many regulations have to be imposed in the public interest, but none, we think, have served, or could serve, so little practical purpose as the ban placed on church bells. That the authorities have felt little regard for this particular child of theirs is, we think, proved by the fact that no official instructions have ever been issued as to the purpose of the Order, which says that church bells shall be rung only on the instructions of the military or police in the event of actual or impending air invasion. That the Government still decline to lift the ban may, perhaps, be an indication that, however small its usefulness, nothing will be done which may even remotely encourage public opinion to take the view that the danger of air invasion is passed.

What has got to happen if and when they are rung has never been vouchsafed to us. Certain sections of the Home Guard have made local arrangements for the ringing of bells, to suit their own particular plans, but of co-ordinated instructions there are none. What exactly the Home Guard, the military, the police, and more particularly the public, are to do if the bells are sounded has never even yet been officially explained by the Home Office. The idea behind the scheme might have been useful in Elizabethan days, but in the twentieth century, when, in addition to aircraft, there are telegraphs, telephones, wireless, and all the other things that go to make up the hectic disturbance of life, to say nothing of the sirens, which in any case would be utilised to notify the presence of the enemy, the ringing of church bells must in any event be of extremely limited use. Long before the bells could be brought into action the telephone and dispatch riders would have summoned all the forces that would be required to deal with any enemy landing from the air, especially as the very people, who according to certain members of the Home Guard the bells are intended to warn, will already have been notified through other official channels.

The silencing of the church bells has seemed to many people, and not to ringers alone, a futile and antiquated procedure to meet, if it occurred, a gigantic need, with which only the developments of modern science could cope. People in many walks of life have publicly con-

(Continued on page 530.)

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demned the banning of the bells. The one cheerful sound which could be heard above the din of the daily clamour; the one beckoning call which could be heard over the countryside on the Sabbath to remind men of those things which the Church is for ever telling us are being more and more neglected—that one sound has been denied us. This is war, and no one would or should ask for anything which in the least degree affects its successful prosecution, but the banning of the bells appears to have been a hasty and ill-considered measure, of which no one in authority has yet explained the exact purpose. Had the Order been withdrawn the people of this country would, we are sure, have been cheered by the welcome sound of the bells once more over town and village.

Even if, when the Order was first introduced, the situation was such that the bells might have been remotely useful, that time surely has now passed. This country is an armed fortress; its troops are spread over the land in millions, its plans for dealing with invaders, however they come, are complete, and no one, even the most humble Home Guard, would now, we imagine, have to rely upon the bells for his orders. If he has, then the defensive system of the country still leaves something to be desired. Apparently none of these facts weighed with the Home Secretary when the answer was given in the House of Commons to the question put by the Member for Guildford.

In the meantime there is still misconception in some official quarters concerning the older Control of Noise Order. We hear of a case in which a Superintendent of Police has prohibited the ringing of handbells in church. No such thing was ever contemplated by the Order of October last year, which, including 'bell' in the definition of 'instrument,' excepts from the Order any instrument sounded in such a way that it is not liable to be mistaken for a signal connected with air raids. A handbell, as everyone in these days knows, is the signal that danger from noxious gas has been ceased (after warning of its possible presence has been given by a rattle) and who can possibly say that handbells rung in changes in church can be mistaken for such a signal? This must be another instance of police misunderstanding, either of the Order, or of handbells.

### OTHER TIMES—OTHER MANNERS !

Mr. Charles E. Borrett sends us the following cutting from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of 1845:—

'On Wednesday, New Year's Eve, 1845, the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Mr. W. Butcher and Mr. Robert Fitch, with a few of their friends, visited the belfry while the ringers were executing their customary peal in honour of the departing year. In the centre of their circle stood the celebrated pitcher capable of holding 17 quarts, moulded by John Dearsley in the year 1749. This the churchwardens filled with punch, the junior churchwarden toasting the company and science of ringing with great spirit. The compliment was acknowledged by Mr. T. Hurry in an appropriate speech, which he wound up by proposing the health of the churchwardens, their wives, families and brother parishioners. It would be injustice to the senior churchwarden not to remark that he pulled the tenor bell (41 cwt.) in a style that proved him to be no novice in the tuneful art.'

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## THE 'ADOPTION' SCHEME.

### LADY RINGERS' OFFER.

#### We Want Names and Addresses.

A number of ringers have readily promised to 'adopt' a serving member of H.M. Forces in order that a copy of 'The Ringing World' may be sent to him weekly. The difficulty, which we pointed out at the time the scheme was first suggested, is to find out the men who should receive these copies and their addresses. They should normally be those who were sufficiently interested in ringing to purchase 'The Ringing World' before joining up, but who now cannot afford to do so.

Will secretaries of towers kindly send us names and addresses of their ringers who come within the category mentioned. It may not be possible to 'adopt' them all, but as and when funds become available the paper will be sent to them. It should help to interest them while away and bring them back to the belfry on their return.

But here is a real plum for someone. A group of lady ringers, who belong to a tower in a much bombed town in the 'South-East,' are anxious to do more than merely send someone a copy of 'The Ringing World' each week. They want to 'adopt' a ringer serving in one or other branch of the Forces so that they can knit him comforts and send him small parcels of cigarettes and chocolates occasionally.

We can imagine a great shout going up at this kindly offer. The names and addresses sent to us by tower secretaries will be forwarded to the ladies and someone is going to be lucky.

## PEALS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

### THE VISIT OF THE YORKSHIREMEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Wilfred E. Box, wants to know about the peals rung in the Isle of Man. As it happens, I can supply the information. In July, 1888, a party (mostly from Sheffield, I believe) went to the Isle of Man on pleasure bent. Among other things, they rang the first two peals in the island at Peel on July 4th. Another peal came to grief, I am told, in the last course owing to one of the ringers being so jubilant that they were nearing the end that he let the rope end slip out of his hand, and the bell stayed up with the rope out of his reach.

Another interesting fact is that handbells were rung on board the boat as they went across, which aroused considerable excitement and comment amongst the other passengers. I have a photograph of the entire party of ringers (eleven in all), but I am sorry to say that it is now so faded that it would not be practicable to reproduce it, and even so it would be of no interest, excepting to those who knew the men in question.

In 1928, during a visit to the island, I went to Peel and tried to find if there was in existence any record of these two peals.

But the tower had been much altered if not entirely rebuilt. The ropes were missing from the bells and there was nothing whatever in the form of any peal tablet on record.

Deepcar, near Sheffield.

JOHN R. BREARLEY.

### LAST RUNG IN 1916.

Sir,—Very many thanks to those of your readers who have replied to my enquiry in 'The Ringing World.'

Personally, I should be inclined to say that C. H. Hattersley's peals in July, 1886, were the first ever rung on Peel bells. The church was erected between 1880 and 1884, and consecrated in 1893. According to a guide book (1897), the bells were given by a native of the city (Peel is actually a cathedral city), 'who made a large fortune in the South African diamond mines.' The date of their casting is difficult to determine—I examined them when I visited the church, but could not make out any date on them in the semi-darkness of the bell chamber.

The last occasion on which they were rung was in 1916; since that date Ellacombe's apparatus has been used. It is doubtful whether they are ringable now, although the tower has been considerably strengthened. There was at one time a local band of some ability, but it is very questionable if any peals were rung before Hattersley's of 1886.

Regarding St. Thomas', Douglas, I cannot reconcile Mr. Dawe's statement that a peal of Triples was rung there in 1852 with his later assertion that there were only six bells. What was the fate of the trebles?

At present there is a magnificent chime of eight by Taylor, replacing the old bells, destroyed by a disastrous fire. These latter were the gift of Canon Catley (prominent in the first recasting of Worcester Cathedral bells in 1868) and his wife, while he was curate of St. Thomas'.

WILFRED E. BOX.

Harborne, Birmingham.

P.S.—Peel tenor would be about 8½ cwt. in A flat, as the Yorkshire Association records state.

## A FAMOUS FAMILY OF RINGERS.

### JOHN PATRICK AND HIS COMPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My old friend, Mr. Charles E. Borrett, has sent me another most interesting extract from an old Norwich newspaper. He writes: I wonder if the following from 'The Norwich Gazette' of Oct. 24th, 1730, is 'another legend'! 'Yesterday morning died at his House in the Old Bailey Mr. John Patrick, Weather Glass Maker whom Dr. Halley in his book of Astronomy, and others of the Royal Society, allowed to be the best of that Profession. Among his Diversions, he used the Art of Ringing, and in that became so great a Proficient that he was the first Inventor of ringing those long Peals which are now in Use, of which a Book of the Art of Ringing is now extant in his Name.'

Snowdon, I see in his obituary at end of his Treatise on Treble Bob, says John Patrick joined the College Youths in 1730 and died in 1796! So there is something wrong somewhere again! C. E. B.

The truth is that Snowdon, and several other people, have done what is so very easy to do when we are writing about ringers of bygone days. They have mixed up more than one man of the same or similar name.

The first John Patrick joined the College Youths in 1679, two years before Fabian Stedman was Master. He became one of the leading men in the company and was steward in 1684 and Master in 1692. He was for long looked on as the greatest authority on composition of his time, the successor of Stedman and the precursor of Annable. When Doleman and the London Scholars brought out the 'Campanalogia' of 1702, Patrick gave his help, and many of his compositions are in that book. His copy is now in the British Museum, and it has several notes in his handwriting, the most interesting pointing out that the 'whole' peal of Grandsire Triples there given is false, though the half-peal 'may do.'

By profession Patrick was an inventor and maker of barometers and thermometers. He advertised a newly invented pendant barometer, which was claimed to be far more accurate than anything hitherto made. He worked for and came into contact with all the leading scientific men of the age, including Halley, the astronomer, and the brilliant but rather eccentric Dr. Hooke.

He lived in Ship Court in the Old Bailey, and the date of his death, October, 1730, as given in 'The Norwich Gazette,' is no doubt correct.

Two of John Patrick's six-bell methods find a place in the Central Council's Minor Collection—London Bob and Albion Delight, the latter under the name of Lytham Bob—but otherwise his compositions have dropped out of the ringers' repertoire.

Fourteen or fifteen of his Minor methods and half a dozen seven-bell methods are given in the 'Campanalogia.' Generally they show a great advance on Stedman's methods in one important thing—the bells work with much greater freedom, and the stagnation of the older methods, where bells lay for several whole pulls in the same position, is avoided. But Patrick did not realise the importance of Bob Major Lead Ends, nor distinguish between the essential difference between a plain lead and a hobbled lead. Knowledge of those things came to the Exercise only gradually and after many years of practical experience.

When Patrick died he left a big reputation behind him, which, when memories became dim and confused, was transferred in part to other men of the same (or similar) name who may have been his descendants.

John Patrick the second joined the College Youths in 1730, was steward in 1733 and Master in 1736. He is the man referred to by Jasper Snowdon, but he did nothing as a ringer that we know of. He took part in no peals and certainly was not a composer. Perhaps it was because he was the son or (more likely) the grandson of the older John that procured him a leading position and rapid advancement among the College Youths.

The next leading ringer of the name was George Partrick, the first Master and virtual founder of the Society of Cumberland Youths. Very likely he was a member of the same family, for the difference in spelling is immaterial and probably only phonetic. The 'Clavis' spells his name Partrick.

He was a composer with a big contemporary reputation, but only one of his peals has survived, the well-known one-part peal of Treble Bob in 22 courses. Jasper Snowdon ascribes this peal to the John Patrick who in fact did nothing.

It was George Partrick (not John Patrick as Snowdon says) who died on June 26th, 1796, and was buried at St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, and about whom the legend is told that he was paid £50 by the citizens of Norwich for composing a peal of Stedman Triples.

Robert Patrick was a later man and possibly, even probably, of the same family. He was a good ringer, a member of the Society of College Youths and one of the band who visited Birmingham in 1786. He lived in Whitechapel and was by trade a cheese factor, but he had married the daughter of Thomas Lester, the bell-founder, and so possibly had an interest in the Whitechapel Foundry. He secured orders for the casting of several rings of bells, but it is hardly likely that he did the work himself. His name is on Bishopsgate bells, but Osborn, of Downham Market, actually cast them. His name also is on Hackney bells, but Mr. A. H. Hughes has evidence which shows that they were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry. His name again appears on Cripplegate tenor, but most likely John Warner cast it.

J. A. T.

## OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING. THE FIRST PEAL IN THE CITY.

The visit of the College Youths to Oxford marks an epoch in the history of ringing in the city. Though it was a failure so far as peal ringing went, it created a vast deal of interest in the art, and stirred up the local men to attempt the first peal themselves. They had no lack of good ringers, collegiate and townsmen, though they were not of the same quality as Annable's band. Their heavy bell men were Arthur Lloyd, who usually rang the ninth, and Nicholas Benwell, the sexton of Christ Church and custodian of Great Tom, who rang the tenor. The conductor was John Vicars, a ringer of exceptional ability. Vicars was the son of a man who had been at one time under-butler at Wadham College, and himself was under-butler at New. He was 'not only very ingenious in the art of ringing and excellent in calling the bobs, but also in managing the music of ringing.' In other words, he was a good composer, and of that we have proof, for he was the author of one of the earliest (if not the very earliest) of the peals of Grandsire Triples with ordinary bobs and singles only, a composition which is still occasionally rung. On the three-lead-course plan it was ultimately a development of John Garthorn's peal, but whether directly or as an improvement of Annable's composition, produced by rearranging the singles symmetrically, we have no means of knowing. The figures were preserved by Dr. Charles Mason, of Cambridge.

The other Oxford ringers were Richard Hearn, a tailor, who usually rang the treble, John George, another tailor, Guy Terry, a potash maker, Thomas Yates, the second cook at Magdalen, William Barnes, the second cook at Christ Church, John Broughton, a barber, and Richard Smith, a glover.

On the Tuesday after the College Youths had left, the tenor at Christ Church was rehung, and the same evening the Oxford men rang all ten and endeavoured to imitate the Londoners, but they were soon out and made poor of it in comparison with the others, so that people said it was more than they could do. But they stoutly maintained the contrary, and, as was natural at the time, a match was made, and money staked as a wager. The test was to ring 5,040 'quater or cater changes'; they were to have six trials, and if on the sixth trial they could not do it they were to lose.

Hearne notes that they were all townsmen, but had received some considerable instruction from Mr. Stone, M.A., a man in Orders, and a good ringer himself. Edward Stone, the son of Edward Stone, gentleman, of Princes Risborough, matriculated at Wadham College on June 29th, 1720, at the age of 18, and graduated B.A. in 1724 and M.A. in 1727. We hear nothing further of him as a ringer.

The first attempt was made at Christ Church on New Year's Day, 1734, and it was successful, so the ringers won their wager. It was the first peal rung in Oxford, and Hearne, who heard the whole of it after the first three-quarters of an hour, and was listening critically, was generous in his praise. 'Take it all together 'twas excellent ringing, and they may glory in it.' But it was not to be compared with the attempts made by Annable and his company. Then there was not the least fault made, but now Hearne observed fifty-two faults,

nine of them considerable ones. The worst was caused by Dr. Gregory, the Regius Professor of Modern History, breaking in upon them to their great disturbance.

On the following Easter Monday the same band attempted 6,876 changes, again at Christ Church. Knowing how interested Hearne was, the ringers sent him a few days' notice of the attempt. They met at ten o'clock and at a quarter or a little more after the hour they began the changes and continued until above a quarter after one in the afternoon, when the rope of the ninth bell somehow or other, happening to twist, the ringer of that bell, Arthur Lloyd, was out, and thereby they were all stopped of a sudden and so they sank the bells, 'which accident,' says Hearne, 'I was very sorry for. For indeed they rang so excellently well that I was even ravished with it, and though they did not quite come up to the Londoners, who rang without fault, yet 'twas really so admirable that I could observe but six faults besides the grand one (which was the seventh and put them out) in all their ringing.' However, had they performed the whole, the six faults were so inconsiderable that the peal might have been said to have been rung without fault.

They rang 4,800 changes, 240 less than they rang before, and 2,076 short of what they started for. Had it not been for the unfortunate accident they would certainly have performed the whole without difficulty.

Hearne relates that he went on purpose to be as nice as possible in his observations and was present from the beginning to the end, choosing to be as private as he could and standing for the most part in Cowley Street, which goes from Christ Church to Milham Bridge, 'which bridge has been down many years.'

'As I do not know that I ever gave greater attention to anything of this nature in my life, as I was critical as possibly I could be, and went without any manner of partiality to judge fairly of the matter and to pass over no faults, I must say I could discover but six faults except the grand one (provided an accident may be called a fault) and that what they did was admirable, much to their honour and credit and greatly to the satisfaction of the auditors.'

This is high praise and indirectly much more so for Annable and the College Youths, whose ringing had surpassed that of the Oxford men, good as it was.

John Broughton, the barber, who rang the sixth, had a brother, an older man, and a bookbinder by trade. He met Hearne two days after the peal attempt, and told him that the tale about the twisted rope was only an excuse; the real reason for the failure was that the ringers were tired out. But they denied it was so, and a little more than a fortnight later they again started for the peal, this time at New College, where the bells are considerably lighter than at Christ Church. Broughton was away from Oxford, attending the dons of Magdalen College on a progress, in his professional capacity, and John George's hands had not recovered from the many blisters he had got in the attempt at Christ Church, so the vacant ropes were taken by Thomas Nash and a Mr. Brickland, a schoolmaster, of St. Michael's parish.

Thomas Nash was a cabinet maker, who had come to Oxford from London. He evidently was an accomplished ringer, for he had been one of the band belonging to the Society of City Scholars, who, in 1732, rang 6,012

(Continued on next page.)

**OXFORD BELLS.***(Continued from previous page.)*

changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate, the then longest length on ten bells.

The peal was begun at a quarter to ten in the morning and continued until five minutes after twelve, when Brickland 'missed a stroke' and upset the peal. The expression is obscure. It may be that he missed his sallie and could not recover himself.

It was good ringing, says Hearne, except for five faults, one made by Richard Hearn at the treble, and the others by Brickland, who was not so good a ringer as the rest, and was not expected by some to be able to perform his part.

When Richard Hearn was talking afterwards to Thomas Hearne about the ringing he admitted that, though he rang himself, yet he minded the faults. 'Upon which I asked him how many there were? He said three before that which stopped them. I told him that there were just five before that at which he admired my niceness.'

**THE DEATH BELL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the recent letters on the survival of the 'death bell,' and it may interest some of your readers to know that it is still rung in this district.

Here, at Earl Stonham, Suffolk, the tenor is raised and rung a whole pull once every five minutes for an hour, then the bell is lowered and chimed three strokes, three times for a man (the 'Nine Tellers'?) and twice for a woman. The bell is rung in day time within 24 hours of a person's death.

At a funeral the bell is tolled one stroke at minute intervals for an hour before the service. It has also been a custom of the ringers for many years not to practise on the tower bells when a death has occurred in the parish, although the bells are rung as usual for Sunday services.

F. L. STERRY.

Stowmarket, Suffolk.

**'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I cannot agree with J. A. Trollope in his dogmatic disputation that 'Nine tailors make a man' cannot be a corruption of 'Nine tellers make a man.'

I go back 60 years clear to my schooldays at East Ilsley, on the Berkshire Downs, when I used to pray that old John Butt or Sarah Bottle would not die until I was out of school.

The custom there was, and is now, that the old five bells were chimed each one from treble to tenor, three times three for a man, three times two for a woman and one blow each for a child. Then the tenor was pulled up and rung slowly for a quarter-hour and lowered.

The parish clerk and sexton was well over 80 years of age, and as soon as I heard that so and so had breathed his (or her) last, I used to run to get the key of the tower to ring the bell, and was always carefully instructed by the old man. Be very 'keerful' about the 'tallers,' my boy. I don't think I was more unfeeling than other boys, but I did hope that the invalids would 'pass out' at midday or early evening.

This 'dead bell' was never rung between sunset and sunrise, and if two people were very ill at the same time and one died, the villagers would say, 'So old John's gone, or old Mary's gone. I counted the tallers.' I have heard the same expressions in the West of England, and shall always believe that 'Nine tailors make a man' is a simple corruption of 'Nine tellers mean a man.'

R. T. HIBBERT.

**ANCIENT 'SPOTTERS.'**

Spotters and fire watchers are now compulsory in certain places under war conditions. But they are not new. Fire spotters were employed in days of old, as Mr. William Hale reminds us, in forwarding the following extract from 'Music and Morals,' by H. R. Haweis.

'At Tournay there is a famous old belfry. It dates from the 12th century, and is said to be built on a Roman base. It now possesses 40 bells. It commands the town and country round and from its summit is obtained a near view of the largest and finest cathedral in Belgium with its five magnificent towers. Four brothers guard the summit of the belfry at Tournay and relieve each other day and night, at intervals of 10 hours. All through the night a light is seen burning in the topmost gallery, and when a fire breaks out, the tocsin, or big bell, is tolled up aloft by the watchman. He is never allowed to sleep—indeed, as he showed in his scanty accommodation, it would be difficult to sleep up there.'

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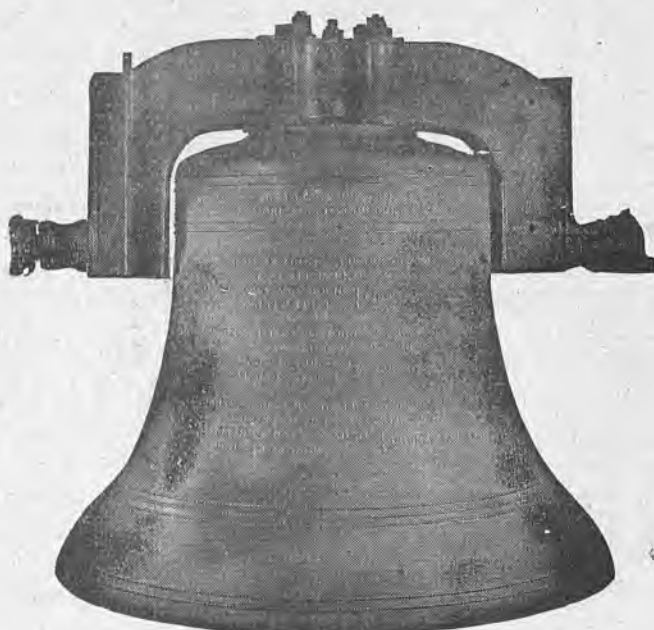
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are glad to be able to tell our readers that Mr. Alfred Pulling, of Guildford, is making satisfactory progress after his recent serious accident. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he is still detained in hospital.

Another invalid, Mr. Frank Dawe, now one of the oldest past Masters of the College Youths, is not so well. He is confined to bed at his home, Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking.

But Mr. Dawe has not lost his sense of humour. The other day, when a visiting nurse made a call upon him, she noticed the fine set of handbells hanging on a stand by his bedside. 'Were you a farmer?' she asked. 'Why?' queried Mr. Dawe. 'Because of all those cow bells,' she said. 'Did you have all those different sizes, so that you could know the cows apart?' Mr. Dawe thoroughly enjoyed the joke and was able to enlighten the lady.

Trooper S. J. Elliott will be pleased to get into touch with any ringers in the Forces stationed in Trowbridge, or any Trowbridge or district ringers, particularly if they are able to do any handbell ringing.

Congratulations to Mr. George Cross, the Master of the Society of Royal Cumberlands, whose birthday is to-morrow.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was in seven methods on six bells, two were Grandsire Triples, one was Stedman Triples and one Stedman Caters. At Upton St. Leonards, Mr. John Austin called Holt's Original and the late James E. Groves rang his first peal.

On November 9th, 1875, the first peal by the Yorkshire Association was rung at Holy Trinity, Hull. It was Holt's six-part peal and was conducted by Charles Jackson.

## DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LADD.

We regret to learn that Mr. George Ladd, of Pinchbeck, near Spalding, in Lincolnshire, passed away suddenly on Thursday of last week. He had not been very well for some time, but had not been confined to his bed. On Thursday morning he cycled into Spalding and later on two ladies from Pinchbeck overtook him on his way home. They stopped and found out that he was not well, so persuaded him to leave his cycle and go home in their motor-car. When he got back to his house he sat down, and soon afterwards passed away. The funeral was at Pinchbeck on Monday.

He had been secretary of the Elloe Deaneries branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild since 1909 and will be greatly missed.

## CANON G. F. COLERIDGE.

All our readers will join with us in congratulating Canon Coleridge on his eighty-third birthday, which falls on Sunday next. He was born at Cadbury Vicarage in Devonshire on November 10th, 1857, and his love of bells and bellringing dates from his boyhood days. He is still very active as a parish priest and regularly conducts the services of two churches.

During his long ringing career the Canon has taken part in many famous peals and in some of the early tours, when all the bells did not go as well as they do nowadays. Here is a tale about one of them. Many years ago one of the very earliest ringing tours was held in Devon, and in the course of it a peal of Stedman Triples was rung on the heavy eight at Plympton, near Plymouth. James W. Washbrook rang the seventh and Mr. G. F. Coleridge rang the tenor. The bells were going pretty badly, and the local men, who were wont to ring the tenor double-handed, were very curious as to how the visitors would manage. When the band came out of the steeple one of them approached Mr. Coleridge and asked him who had rang the tenor.

'I did,' he said.

'All by yourself?'

'Yes, all by myself.'

'Well you must be a marvel to ring that tenor all by yourself. But I bet you got a wet shirt!'

'Not a bit of it,' said the future Canon. 'My shirt is as dry as a bone.'

'Never tell me that. Nobody could ring that bell for over three hours and not get a wet shirt!'

'All right, then, feel for yourself,' said the Canon, throwing open his coat while the local put his hand out to feel.

'Well, you do be a marvel! Ring that bell for three hours and not get a wet shirt!' and he went away filled with wonder and amazement.

'I did not tell him,' said the Canon as he related the story in after years, 'that I had taken my shirt off and hung it on a peg in the belfry!'

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**DEATH OF ARCHDEACON H. T. PARRY.****LOSS TO LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**

The members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and indeed many other ringers throughout the country will learn with deep regret of the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Parry, of Bigby, which occurred on October 28th. For several years he had not enjoyed good health, and although he recovered from a serious illness in 1938, he had since been unable to carry out all the duties his numerous offices entailed.

The Rev. H. T. Parry, as he was then, first became known to the members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild in 1913, when, through his efforts, the bells at Bigby were augmented to six. He was elected president of the Grimsby District of the Guild in 1920, representative on the Central Council in 1924, representative on the Diocesan Advisory Committee in 1932, and president of the Northern Branch of the Guild in 1935. In 1936 he was elected to the Standing Committee of the Central Council.

Archdeacon Parry only took part in one peal, the first on Bigby bells, his practical ringing being cut short some years ago on the advice of his doctor, but the Grimsby District meetings held each year at Bigby were always very happy gatherings. A short time ago a peal was rung to celebrate Archdeacon Parry's 40th year as Rector of Bigby.

Some weeks ago he expressed a hope that he would be spared to help with rebuilding the Guild after the war, but this was not to be. Archdeacon Parry has passed on, but all ringers who were privileged to have known him will treasure memories of a great friend and helper.

He was laid to rest on October 31st under the wall of the church he loved so well, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln performing the last rites. The following members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild were present: Mr. R. Richardson (Master) and Mrs. Richardson, Surfleet; Mr. J. Bray (hon. secretary, Northern Branch), Burton-on-Stather; Mr. H. Mingay (hon. secretary, Grimsby District), Grimsby; Mr. G. E. Feirn, Grimsby; Mr. and Mrs. C. McGuinness, Mr. H. Marcon and Mr. J. Millhouse, Lincoln; Mr. M. Walker, Ulceby; Mr. F. Lord, Scunthorpe; Mr. W. Bramwell, Goxhill, and also members of the local band.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes were wreaths from the Central Council, the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and the Grimsby District, and crosses from the Ladies' Guild and the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

**SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have some recollection of a peal of London Surprise Major being rung single-handed on handbells at Sprooughton, near Ipswich, about thirty years ago, conducted by Mr. Charles Mee. Perhaps some of your readers may have the particulars.

**'SUFFOLK RINGER.'**

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. E. Barnett's letter in 'The Ringing World' of October 25th, I took part in four handbell peals single-handed in Peterborough.

The first one, Bob Major, was rung on May 19th, 1913, and conducted by the late George Jutson, of Peterborough, who rang 7-8.

The next, a peal of Minor in four methods, Oxford Treble Bob (1), Kent Treble Bob (2), Oxford Bob (2) and Plain Bob (2), also conducted by G. Jutson on 5-6, was rung on June 9th, 1913.

The third one, a peal of Plain Bob Minor, seven extents, was conducted by the late Frederick T. Cooke, Peterborough, on October 13th, 1913.

The fourth, conducted by the late Fred Gilbert, of Raunds, was 5,024 changes of Bob Major, rung on August 6th, 1914.

I am unable to say if all the above peals were published in 'The Ringing World,' but it is evident one was, or Mr. Barnett would not have known I was in it.

**THOMAS R. VAUGHAN.**

21, Clifton Avenue, Peterborough.

Dear Sir,—In my young days several of us used to meet two or three times a week and ring 720's of Minor on handbells, from that going on to Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major. At last it was determined to ring a peal, and the late W. J. Williams was asked to sit in the tower and umpire. He, however, said that to give us encouragement he would ring one bell.

On February 6th, 1886, we sat in the belfry of St. Giles', Reading, and rang Hubbard's five-part, 5,040 Bob Major, in 2 hours and 56 minutes, without a trip: A. J. Wright treble, A. H. Evans 2, H. White 3, R. T. Hibbert 4, A. E. Reeves 5, W. J. Williams 6, T. Sweetzer 7, G. Gibbard (conductor) 8.

Mr. H. Evans and myself are the only survivors of this band.

I don't think at that period there were four ringers in Reading who could ring a course of Grandsire Triples double-handed. I may say that we were all very elated and proud of our peal. Messrs. H. White, of Basingstoke, and W. J. Williams were the only adult members of the band, we other six being about 16 to 18 years of age. I have seen a look of wonder on many faces when I have said I rang a peal of Major at St. Giles', Reading, in 1886; the bells not being augmented to eight until 1891.

**RICHARD T. HIBBERT.**

Reading.

**DRAMA OF NORTH-EAST LONDON CHURCH.****LEAD COFFIN MISTAKEN FOR BOMB.**

Fears that an ancient parish church, one of the best-known in North-East London, on the outskirts of Essex, was in imminent peril of destruction from an unexploded bomb, buried in a vault beneath its tower, have been exploded! A lead coffin had been mistaken for the deadly missile.

The church and churchyard, said 'The Walthamstow Guardian,' were closed to the public until recently, after adjoining almshouses and the original schoolroom of a centuries old grammar school had been demolished by a high explosive bomb.

When the vicinity was searched, a gaping hole was found at the foot of the tower. An officer of a bomb disposal unit, who was accompanied by the chief assistant to the A.R.P. officer of the district and a police officer, carried out an immediate investigation in the dead of night.

Climbing into the exposed vault, the army officer soon discovered a metal object, one end of which was rounded, and which had a projection resembling the fin of a bomb. After a hasty consultation, the presence of an unexploded bomb was 'confirmed,' and in the interests of public safety the precincts of the church were roped off and placed under constant police guard.

Some days later a further examination was carried out by another army officer, who reported no trace of a bomb.

Once more the officer who carried out the original investigation entered the vault, and it was then that he discovered the lead coffin which had been mistaken for the 'bomb.'

And so the story has a happy ending. But lest some folk should regard the incident as a joke, it should be stated that there was ample reason for the decision to treat the suspected bomb with respect. The hole at the base of the church tower was of a size sufficient to admit a man, and might well, therefore, have been the means of entry for a bomb. The metal coffin itself, partially buried beneath the dust and debris of the years, was enough like a deadly object to warrant every precaution being taken. Otherwise hundreds of lives would have been endangered had an explosion occurred in the course of a service.

It now appears that the vault was holed by a huge piece of masonry which crashed from the top of the church tower.

The battlements at this side of the tower are down, and a few stained glass windows slightly damaged. The tower contains a peal of ten bells, on which the Cambridge Royal record of 10,440 changes was rung on Boxing Day, 1923. Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the Middlesex Association, has been closely identified with the ringing here for many years.

**A SERIOUSLY DAMAGED CHURCH.**

Another church well known to ringers in the North-Eastern outskirts of London was seriously damaged in a recent raid. The roof at the west end of the church has fallen in, and the interior is damaged by blast and splinter. The tower, which contains a peal of eight bells, appears to be safe, but the small Mission Hall, in which the Middlesex Association have held business meetings, the most recent having been in January last, has been wrecked. It was at this church that the late William J. Kemp, at one time assistant secretary of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association, was Ringing Master.

**WALMER RINGER KILLED.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Herbert Trinder, who was killed at Dover recently by enemy action. Mr. Trinder was a member of the Walmer St. Mary's band, where he and his father, who was wounded in the battle of Arras in the late war, had worked hard to introduce change ringing. After long work and many disappointments, a promising Grandsire Triples band was formed before the recent ban on ringing put a stop to activities in the belfry.

**THE BAN ON RINGING.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As a ringer and one who loves the church and its bells, I would like to ask isn't it time, now that the invasion is off and seems it will never come, an appeal is made to the noise control for the removal of the ban on our church bells?

I think at least they could be rung for church services up to black-out time. As one goes about and hears the opinion of ordinary people one can't help thinking that they want to hear them again, and I'm sure it would cheer us all up. I think that at all times we should 'Praise God upon the well-tuned symbols.'

**J. W. DYER.**

Great Tey.

**HANDBELL RINGING FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL.**

On Sunday evening at the Chapel of the Holy Angels, Bourne-mouth, handbells were rung in the church before the harvest festival service. The ringers were Mr. A. V. Davis and his two children, John and Mary (aged 14 and 10 years), Mr. F. S. Willson and Mrs. F. J. Marshall. The ringing included 360 changes of Minor and a course of Grandsire Caters.

## JASPER SNOWDON'S LAST PEAL.

### A PUDSEY PERFORMANCE RECALLED.

Exactly 56 years ago—on Saturday, November 8th, 1884—six of the ringers of the old Parish Church of Bradford (now the Cathedral) had decided to go to Pudsey for a peal attempt. Their names alone are sufficient clue to the method they were to ring.

There was Joseph Henry Hardcastle, leader and conductor of the Parish Church company (father of 'Young Joe' known to present-day ringers); Tom Pollitt, who was later to become famous as a ringer and composer; and Bob Tuke (close companion of Jasper Snowdon), who had lately left the salubrious country at Ilkley for the more commercial atmosphere of Bradford. Then there was Jim Angus, Joe Cheetham and Jesse Naylor, Treble Bob ringers to the backbone, all of them. True, Hardcastle had rung a peal of Grandsire Triples, but he had had to go to Sheffield for it, and Tuke had rung a few peals of Bob Major at Ilkley, but Treble Bob was their method and they knew how to strike it.

But they were to ring Major. Two more men were needed to make up the band and the rest of the Parish Church company were out of peal ringing just then. Ben Copley was a member of the 'Amalgamated Society' at Bradford, but he was never a member of the old school. He was really a Bolton (Bradford, not Lancashire) man and would, no doubt, be busy with his 'Scholars' (there's not many of those left now, by the way); Joe Broadley had already won his spurs as a Treble Bob ringer, but he also was a Bolton man and had not yet changed his affections, although he joined the Parish Church band shortly afterwards. Ben Lamb, another Bolton man, afterwards of the Parish Church and one of the finest heavy bell men in the West Riding, had not yet started on his peal ringing career.

Two men were needed for the heavy end. Who better to the 7th than Benny Dodson, of Birstall? A good ringer who had already rung 15 peals, 13 of Major, one of Maximus and one of Minor, all Treble Bob. He trundled the 7th at Birstall week by week. Besides, he would probably bring, as he often did, a supply of the long churchwarden clay pipes which he made and for which he was justly famous.

There was still a tenor man wanted and one particular ringer would just do if he was not too busy—Jasper Snowdon. No need to ask if he was up to the job. He had rung and conducted more peals than anyone else in Yorkshire. More even than Tom Lockwood, and he was a great Treble Bob ringer. There were other tenor men, of course, but none to compare with Jasper—he was the man.

Hardcastle was the conductor and he intended to try one of Nathan Pittstow's new compositions, one with the 6th nine course-ends at home. The old Yorkshire Treble Bob ringers used to favour that type of peal; they liked to hear the 6.7.8's spread out as much as possible.

The band completed, they started the peal and tackled the job right manfully. The bells were struck in true Yorkshire style and they ran round in just three hours. And so Jasper Snowdon rang his 129th peal.

No doubt other attempts were suggested after the ringing was finished, but Jasper, who had been a prolific peal ringer for those days (he had rung 113 in a little over eight years), had quietened off considerably. Ten months had elapsed since his last previous peal; he was a busy man and his literary work was taking up most of his spare time. 'Double Norwich Court Bob' was just about to be published and he was hard at work on 'Grandsire.' Peal ringing, therefore, had to take a back seat for a while.

Twelve months and eight days passed after the peal at Pudsey before Jasper's untimely death. During that period he rang no peals; so his 129th became his last.

The ringers of England subscribed to a memorial to his memory. That memorial, a stained glass window, can be seen in Ilkley Parish Church. When the window and its accompanying bronze tablet were paid for there was a small surplus, and with that a peal board was erected in the ringing chamber at St. Laurence's Church, Pudsey. It bears this inscription:—

'Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.  
On Saturday, November 8th, 1884. A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung on these bells in 3 hours by the following members:

J. Angus	...	1	J. Cheetham	...	5
J. Naylor	...	2	J. H. Hardcastle	...	6
R. Tuke	...	3	B. A. Dodson	...	7
T. Pollitt	...	4	J. W. Snowdon	...	8

Composed by N. J. Pittstow and conducted by J. H. Hardcastle.  
Rev. R. B. Thompson, Vicar.



JASPER SNOWDON.

This tablet, which is to commemorate the 129th and last peal of Jasper W. Snowdon, First President of the Association, is in connection with the National Memorial window in Ilkley Church.

It may be interesting to add that 'Copley's Scholars' referred to above was a band at St. James', Bolton, Bradford, which was formed, taught and led for many years by Ben Copley. Many of them turned out to be first-class ringers.

Of those who are mentioned in this article, only Mr. Joe Broadley is still with us. He was 81 on October 25th and is still hale and hearty. Only the ban keeps him from ringing his beloved bells at Bradford Cathedral, which were his constant care for many years.  
W. B.

## JASPER SNOWDON'S WORK FOR RINGING.

Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, who was born at his father's vicarage in Ilkley in Yorkshire on June 18th, 1844, and died on November 16th, 1885, was one of the most notable men in the long history of the Exercise. He was an active practical ringer and did much for the art in the North, where he was mainly responsible for the foundation of the Yorkshire Association, of which he was the first president, though his list of 129 peals would seem small nowadays and was nothing out of the ordinary even in his own time.

It was as a writer that he was eminent, and it is fair to say that among the various causes of the very great improvements which have taken place during the last 50 years in everything connected with the art of change ringing, none has been more potent than the succession of articles and books which he wrote.

He began to write on ringing in 1872, and during the following 13 years he contributed a large number of articles on various subjects to 'Bells' Life,' 'Church Bells,' 'The Bell News' and other periodicals. He published his first book, 'A Treatise on Treble Bob,' in 1878, followed by Part II., a very fine and complete collection of peals in the method. 'Rope Sight' appeared in 1879, 'Standard Methods' in 1881, and 'Double Norwich' in 1884. Though more than 50 years have passed since they first appeared, these are still the standard text books on the various methods, though 'Standard Methods' has twice since been revised, once by his brother William, and again and much more thoroughly by another hand since the present war started.

When Snowdon died his work was still unfinished. He had projected and partly written books on Grandsire, Stedman and the Surprise methods, and had published early drafts of some of the chapters in 'The Bell News.' Fortunately for the Exercise his brother William carried on his work, helped in a large degree by G. D. P. Davies, who was mainly responsible for 'Stedman,' which was a good book, and 'The Surprise Methods,' which was not nearly so good.

Something like between thirty and forty thousand copies of the Jasper Snowdon series of change ringing books have been sold, and their effect on the advancement of the art is not easy to over-estimate.

The Exercise owes a very great debt first to Mrs. William Snowdon and then to Miss Margaret Snowdon, who not only continued the sale of the books after the death of William Snowdon, but brought out entirely new editions, first of the 'Surprise Methods,' and in recent years 'Stedman,' and, as we said above, 'Standard Methods.' Mrs. Snowdon, who has now reached a great age, is, we are glad to say, still alive.

### OTHER AUTHORS.

There have been many books written on change ringing during many years and by a great variety of writers. Naturally they vary much in quality, and it is difficult to say which is the best. In some ways the first of all of them, the 'Tintinnalogia,' which was written by Richard Duckworth as far back as 1668, has never been surpassed. The 'Clavis' (1788), by William Jones and John Reeves, is an excellent book, and in its day did more than anything to advance the science of composition, as well as practical method ringing. The writing, too, reaches quite a high literary level.

Shipway's 'Campanalogia,' not nearly so well written as the 'Clavis,' was still an advance in many respects. Not much good can be said of Benjamin Thackrah's work, nor of Sottanstell's, which is a vast mass of undigested and badly arranged figures, out of which a good book about a quarter of the size might have been made. Hubbard's book had many merits and so had Banister's.

But Snowdon's books were something different from all these, for not only did they deal with particular methods in much greater detail than the other books, but they really did explain ringing in a way that it could be understood. The peculiar merit of Snowdon's writing is not that he had any greater literary ability than some of the other men, but that he could write so that he and his readers fully understood each other and sympathised with each other. Perhaps there is no more useful quality in a teacher. Sir Arthur Heywood's 'Duffield,' which was deliberately modelled on Snowdon's 'Double Norwich,' was probably the best written ringing book that had so far appeared. Heywood was a more careful and polished writer than Snowdon, yet he did not, especially in his other writings, get into touch with his reader quite in the way Snowdon did.

Davies was painstaking and thorough, but his weakness was a tendency to diffuseness and to smother his meaning with words.

The Exercise owes more than it sometimes thinks to its writers, and among them, take it all and all, the one it owes most to is Jasper Snowdon.

## A PIONEER BAND.

### ANNIVERSARY OF A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

The story of modern change ringing may be said to have begun in the year 1880 or soon afterwards. Before that time there had been here and there good bands, and during the previous century and a half many excellent peals had been rung. But the usual thing was when any method of more than usual difficulty was attempted for a band to get together, practise the method until they had rung a peal of it, and then drop it. For ordinary practices and peals what were then the standard methods—Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob and Stedman sufficed. Oxford Treble Bob was almost exclusively rung in the Eastern Counties, and Bob Major occasionally in different places. Even Stedman was looked upon as a method only for the more advanced bands.

This state of affairs did not come to an end all at once, and it was a far cry to the days before the war, when few weeks went by without a peal in a new Surprise method being rung.

Nearly sixty years ago the Exercise began to wake up, and the pioneer band which led the movement was the famous company at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. Two of the original members are still alive. To the delight of the older members of the Central Council, Mr. Joseph Griffin attended the meeting, which was held last year at Westminster, and Mr. John Jagger is still living near Birmingham.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

As early as February 3rd, 1882, both these gentlemen took part in a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, the church which Michael Thomas Bass, the brewer, had built regardless of cost, and where under the influence of Lord Grimthorpe, who was also the architect of the church, a ring of bells was hung with a tenor 26 cwt. in weight and F in note. Decidedly not a good peal of bells and not too easy to ring, for the belfry was very noisy.

William Wakley was the conductor and remained so until his death in 1906, but Mr. Griffin called many peals in all the methods that were rung.

After ringing Treble Bob (they had, of course, rung Grandsire), the band turned its attention to Double Norwich. It was in those days an outstanding, perhaps the outstanding method, and only a very few peals had been scored. The Burton men rang theirs on May 4th, 1882, Wakley calling and Messrs. Griffin and Jagger ringing the fourth and fifth.

Mr. Griffin called the second peal in the method, less than three months later, and Jasper Snowdon rang the seventh. The band then went for the record length and, after a failure at All Saints', Derby, in October, on November 18th they rang 7,200 changes at Beeston in Nottinghamshire.

In 1884 a peal of Superlative Surprise Major was achieved. Not much of a feat some of our younger readers will think, but it was an outstanding performance then. No more than seven had already been rung and those spread over many years. What distinguished the Burton peal was that it heralded the arrival of Superlative as a new standard method for the Exercise. It was rung muffled for the funeral of Michael Thomas Bass and was one of four memorial peals in five days, the other three being Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

(Continued in next column.)

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

### THE TOBOGGAN SIMILE.

Mr. F. H. Lewis (the president of the Central Council) has sent us the result of his investigations into the toboggan illustration which was dealt with by Mr. R. O. Street in our issue of September 27th. It was worked out, Mr. Lewis tells us, on a slow and tedious train journey, and to save our readers a headache in following all the labyrinthian calculations, he gives the following summary of his conclusions, which to us (knowing nothing of physics) appears to bear out Mr. Street's contention of 'the rougher the surface the shorter the time,' which seems to be just the opposite to the conclusions of Mr. Smale that 'frictional forces reduce the speed of any moving body.' Between the two, who shall judge?

Mr. Lewis gives his conclusions thus: 'If a toboggan starting from rest slides down a slope 100ft. long, inclined at an angle of 30 degrees, and up a similar slope to come to rest at the top, without friction or air resistance, the time taken for the run will be 7.0711 seconds.

'If the course be sanded so that there is a retardation due to friction of 2ft. per second per second, and if the toboggan be pushed with a constant force equal to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times its own weight for the first 10ft. of the downward slope, it will just reach the top of the upward slope, and the time taken for the trip will be 5.8802 seconds. Air resistance is neglected in this case also. Acceleration of a freely falling body in vacuo is taken as 32ft. per second per second.'

### WHAT A MODERN TEXT BOOK SAYS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, R. O. Street, states: 'A reduction of friction must cause a *slowing* down of the motion.' I do not remember how he showed this to be true under certain conditions, and I trust you, sir, and your readers will bear with me if I quote the text-book.

'When slipping occurs between two bodies in contact, a frictional force continues to *oppose* the motion, but, in general, the magnitude of the force is less than the frictional force existing just before slipping occurs. Experiment shows that as long as the motion is not too great the frictional force  $F_1$  is directly proportional to the normal (perpendicular) reaction between the surfaces and is independent of the velocity that is  $F_1 = vN$  where  $v$  is the coefficient of kinetic friction. If a body of mass  $m$  rests on a horizontal table which is not smooth then  $N = mg$  (or the weight), and  $F_1 = vmg$  when the body is moving. Suppose  $F_1$  is the force applied to the body. Since  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  act in contrary senses on a body of mass  $m$ , the acceleration "a" is given by  $F_1 - F_2 = ma$  and therefore "a" =  $F_1 - vgm$ .

In the absence of friction the acceleration would have been  $F_1/m$  so that the effect of friction is to *reduce the acceleration*. That is to say, frictional forces reduce the *speed of any moving body*. The words in quotation are taken from a modern text-book.

In the case of a bell with straight bearings there is slipping friction between the axle and the gudgeon and the acceleration, when a bell is 'pulled out' is given by  $a = F_1/M - vg$  where  $M$  is the mass or

quantity of metal in the bell. If by any means we can reduce  $v$  (the coefficient of friction) as by use of oil or grease, the acceleration will obviously be increased, the bell will move more easily and the speed greater.

In the case of ball bearings there is *no slipping* friction because all the surfaces in contact roll and hence 'a' (acceleration) =  $F_1/M$  if the

balls and gudgeon be perfectly rigid. The frictional forces are considerably reduced.

Thus it follows that ball bearing 'gudgeons' reduce the frictional forces opposing the motion of any bell whatever its weight. In practice Mr. Powell is quite right, light bells do go, as theory proves, more tenderly and definitely with a given pull, more speedily. In the opinion of many experienced ringers ball bearings should not be used for light bells, and theory supports their view.

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

Okehampton.

## THE FIRST EXTENT OF LONDON SURPRISE.

(Continued from previous column.)

In 1887 the Burton men added Cambridge and London Surprise to their list, having in 1886 rung the first peal of New Cumberland. This was a method by Henry Earle Bulwer, an excellent method in many ways, but one which, partly because it does not now technically rank as Surprise, is not rung. It fully deserves the attention of go-ahead bands.

Wakley and his men were the first to ring the extent of London Surprise with the tenors together, which amounts to 6,720 changes. They did on November 8th, 1882—fifty-two years ago to-day.

They also scored peals of Duffield Major, Sir Arthur Heywood's method, which somehow has failed to come up to his expectations.

Judged by modern standards, this record may not seem a very striking one, but it would be very foolish to judge it so. You can't have progress unless someone begins it, and where would the Exercise be to-day if it had not been for what the Burton men, or some others like them, did?



## THE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

### PEALS IN METHODS WITH A, B, C, D, E, F FALSE COURSE ENDS.

In our article in 'The Ringing World' last week it was shown that in any method with A, B, C, D, E false course ends the material available for composing peals with the tenors together can be set down in twelve blocks, each of five full natural courses, and that these twelve blocks are in pairs, one block in a pair being false against the other, but against no other block.

At first sight it would seem that, although if we use one or more courses in any block we are debarred from using any course in the alternative block, yet there is nothing to compel us to use one of the alternative blocks more than the other, provided we do not use both. If, for instance, we use B 1 and not B 2, or C 1 and not C 2, we shall avoid falseness; but so shall we equally well if we use B 2 and not B 1, or C 2 and not C 1. When, however, we come to put our peal together we are faced with other considerations which almost entirely restrict us to the use of the first of the two alternative blocks and entirely restrict us to them if our aim is to produce the extent of the changes.

The courses in the table are full, independent natural courses, and to compose a peal we must join together a sufficient number of them by bobs. In so doing we must not lose sight of the possibility of using bobs Before (or Home) or incomplete Q sets, but any such composition would necessarily apply only to a limited number of methods with the same lead ends. For the present we will deal with peals composed by bobs in full Q sets which will be applicable to every method, whatever its lead end, and equally so whether it is a Second's Place method or an Eighth's Place method. Provided, of course, that we use Fourth's Place bobs with Second's Place methods and Sixth's Place Bobs with Eighth's Place methods.

In every natural course in every method there are three positions where bobs can be made without affecting the tenors. They are the Wrong (or In), Middle (or Fifth's) and Right (or Out). It is immaterial for our present purposes in what order they come in the course, and it is equally immaterial that in Eighth's Place methods the members of the Q set come in the order opposite to that in Second's Place methods—e.g., 34256, 42356 and 23456 instead of 42356, 34256 and 23456.

Now go back to the table of groups, and let us see what Q sets can be bobbed in these courses and what the effect will be.

We start with the Plain Course. Here there are three possible positions in which bobs can be made, the Wrong, the Middle and the Right.

If we bob the Wrong and complete the Q set we get the two natural courses 52436 and 35426.

If we bob the Middle and complete the Q set, we get the two natural courses 43652 and 63254.

If we bob the Right and complete the Q set, we get the two natural courses 42356 and 34256.

These three Q sets can be expressed briefly as 00406, 03050 and 00056.

But 52436 belongs to group F 1, therefore we are debarred from using group F 2; 35426 and 43652 belong to group E 1, therefore we are debarred from using group E 2; 63254 belongs to group D 1, therefore we are debarred from using group D 2; 42356 belongs to group B 1, therefore we are debarred from using group B 2; and 34256 belongs to group C 1, therefore we are debarred from using group C 2.

It follows that if in the Plain Course we make a bob in all the possible positions we are automatically restricted to the use of the thirty courses contained in the groups A 1, B 1, C 1, D 1, E 1 and F 1, and all the alternative groups are excluded.

It further follows that the making of bobs in all the possible positions in any course will similarly exclude the use of five groups and therefore only those courses can be called in full which allow of the use of the same five groups. By experiment we shall find that the only courses which will do this are those included within the same group and, therefore, if we call the Plain Course in full the only other courses which can also be called in full are those included in group A 1. Now the five rows in group A 1 are all in the same coursing order (except for 7-8).

Next, let us turn to the rows in the other true groups and see what bobs can be made in them.

If in 42356 we make a bob at the Wrong (or In) and complete the Q set we get 54326 and 25346. But 54326 is in group D 1 and 25346 is in group F 2, and therefore the Q set 00306 cannot be used.

Similarly, if in 42356 we make a bob at the Middle (or Fifth's) and complete the Q set we get 32654 and 62453. But 32654 is in the group F 2 and 62453 is in the group E 2 and again neither is admissible. The Q set 02050 cannot be used.

The bob at Right is one member of the Q set 00056 which we have already got, and it is the only one which may be made in the course 42356.

In a similar way we will go through all the courses in the true groups and mark the positions where bobs may be called. In some instances we shall find that making a bob will produce a course in one of the false groups and therefore it cannot be used. In other instances we shall find that the first bob will produce a course in a true group, but the second one will produce a course in a false group. Obviously this Q set cannot be used, but we may find the first bob useful after the peal is completed to produce a reduction in the number of the changes. For instance, a bob at Right (in a Second's Place method) in the course 25463 will produce 42563 which is in group D 1, but a bob at right in 42563 will produce 54263 which is in group F 2.

(Continued on next page.)

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## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A luncheon to commemorate the 303rd anniversary will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 9th, at 1.30 p.m., at 4s. per head. Business meeting and nomination of officers afterwards. —A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells available in St. Mary's ringing chamber 3 p.m. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5 p.m., followed by further handbell ringing and social evening. A hearty welcome to all.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—A handbell meeting will be held at Copt Oak on Saturday, Nov. 9th. Handbells in Vicarage at 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. (approx.). Please bring own sugar. All ringers welcome.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Handbell ringing in the tower from

## TRUE GROUPS AND Q SETS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Here are the six true groups with all positions in which bobs may be called. The order in which W, M and R come is immaterial:—

	W.	M.	R.		W.	M.	R.
A 1	23456	—	—	D 1	35642	—	—
	35264	—	—		54326	—	—
	56342	—	—		42563	—	—
	64523	—	—		26435	—	—
	42635	—	—		63254	—	—
B 1	42356	—	—	E 1	64235	—	—
	25463	—	—		43652	—	—
	56234	—	—		35426	—	—
	63542	—	—		52364	—	—
	34625	—	—		26543	—	—
C 1	56423	—	—	F 1	23564	—	—
	62534	—	—		36245	—	—
	23645	—	—		64352	—	—
	34256	—	—		45623	—	—
	45362	—	—		52436	—	—

These bobs comprise fifteen Q sets as follows:—

00406	03050	00056
00204	02030	00064
00302	05060	00042
00503	06040	00023
00605	04020	00035

2.15 p.m. Six 'silent' tower bells also available. Service in church 3.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Will all members please make a special effort to be present at this meeting?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A comfortable room at the Plough, Shilton, will be available on Saturday, Nov. 16th, from 3 p.m., for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Please bring own tea and 'eats.' — D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting, followed by social evening, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Meadowcroft, of Newhey, to commence 6.30 p.m. Ringers and friends welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

OXFORD GUILD.—Newbury Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business meeting. Intending visitors requiring tea should notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, by Wednesday, Nov. 13th. — T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

BUSHEY, HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at the Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 2.30. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice (whether learner or professor) in all methods, as well as social chats. Tea can be arranged. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

## MARRIAGE.

COLMAN—HUMPHREY. — On Monday, Oct. 21st, at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, Robert Terrance Colman to Patricia Humphrey. Present address: 22, Hereford Road, London, W.2.

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## 'THE SERGEANT' CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY.

For several years a peal was rung or attempted to celebrate the birthday of ex-Sergt. Joseph Williams, of Newent, Gloucestershire, but for the second time owing to the war this attempt could not be made. The celebration was, however, kept up at the home of Mr. Williams on Tuesday, October 29th, on his 88th birthday.

The party included a few of his oldest ringing friends, namely, John Austin and Sidney Romans, of Gloucester, John Clark, of Ross, and J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon.

A most enjoyable afternoon and evening was spent, and plenty of handbell ringing, including both change ringing and tune ringing, was indulged in.

Hospitality was lavishly extended by Mr. Williams and his family. It can well be said of him that he is 88 years young, full of fun and 'devilment,' and after the evening's amusement, in which a bachelor and spinster were concerned, Mr. Williams even now would make a first-class matrimonial agent.

Although Mr. Williams in his police days was concerned in many courageous actions, he had to admit that he was never so frightened in his life as one night in Birmingham recently, when our 'friends' from over the Channel paid their nightly visit.

The party gathered at Newent enthusiastically 'toasted' Mr. Williams and offered him their best wishes. Mr. Williams, in reply, expressed the hope that they would all be spared to meet him in twelve months' time.

J. W. J.

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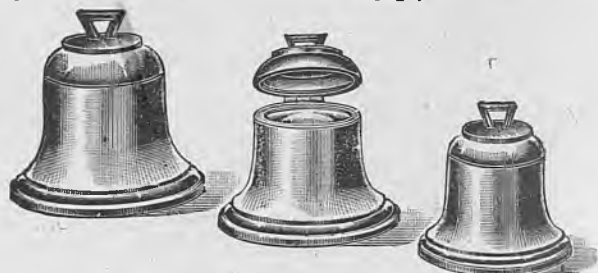
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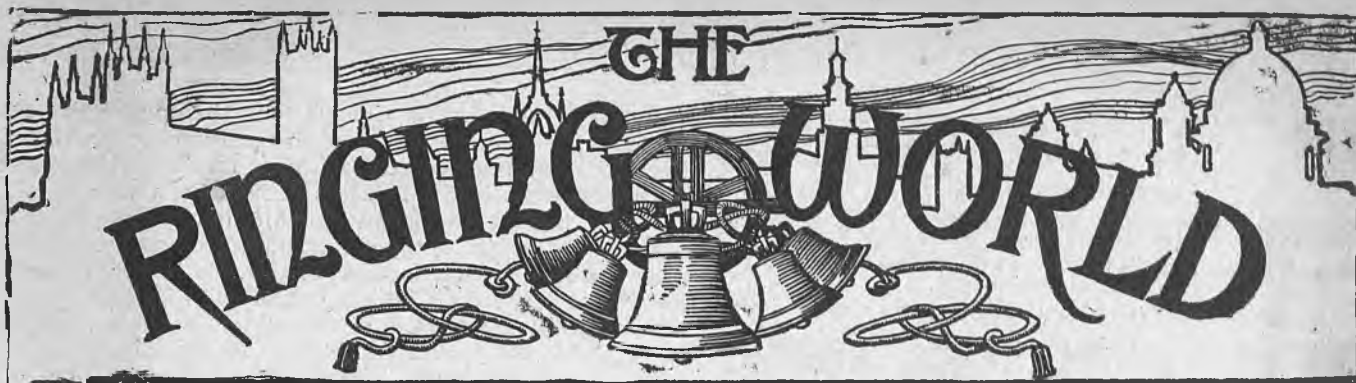
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## **WAR-TIME FESTIVAL.**

Lunching in the City of London, not far from a thoroughfare that bears some of the worst scars of enemy attacks, the Ancient Society of College Youths celebrated the 303rd anniversary of its foundation. Never before has the commemoration taken place under such grim conditions in our national life, and the mere fact that the anniversary was observed is but another tribute to the unconquerable spirit of the country. Even while the luncheon was in progress, London was under an 'alert,' and somewhere in the suburbs bombs were falling. It was not so much the lunch itself as the spirit which prompted it that is the striking feature of this year's celebration. London and the people in it are carrying on, with chins up, and, despite everything, it is amazing how much of London remains untouched. The College Youths have not ceased to hold their regular meetings throughout this war upon the city, and, as they have done without a break for more than three hundred years, they maintained their custom of celebrating their anniversary with a feast. True, during the last war the gathering was for various reasons limited to the inner circle of the society, but tradition remained unbroken and, despite the more trying times, it was heartening to see such a gathering on Saturday, held, as one member described it, during the 'Battle of London.' Hopes were expressed that historians of the future would look upon this gathering as not the least of the society's celebrations. In view of the circumstances, it ought to rank high among the festivals.

Two interesting matters were mentioned during the proceedings. One was that the scheme for the memorial to the late Mr. Challis Winney, one of the society's most notable members in the last half-century, has been advanced to the stage when the design awaits the final approval of the Rector of St. Clement Danes', in the ringing chamber of which church it is proposed to place the commemorative tablet. It will find there a fitting place, because Mr. Winney was associated with the tower for over sixty years. When finally the tablet will be erected is, presumably, a matter of uncertainty. The tower and bells of St. Clement Danes' are uninjured, but the church itself has suffered grievous damage in air raids, and it may not be either wise or practicable to fix the memorial until the danger from further bombings is past. However that may be, it is gratifying to know that a reminder of such sterling character and long and loyal service is to be preserved for future generations of ringers.

The other topic, one of present and future importance, that was touched upon was that of the ban. The hon.

(Continued on page 542.)

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secretary of the Central Council took the opportunity of explaining his recent approach to the Ministry of Home Security. Despite the refusal to lift the ban which was given last week in the House of Commons, this leads to the hope that at no distant date the matter may be reopened. At any rate, the correspondence does not finally close the door for the duration of war. Those who heard the Prime Ministers's review of the war situation, with the indication that grave events still threaten us, could hardly have anticipated any change of the military attitude towards the ban. There must be no relaxation of the vigilance and preparation, and the ban on the bells, except for their specially reserved purpose, is included in this. There seems, however, to be some confusion of thought as to the part which bells can effectively play, and we still think that those in authority who want to use the bells for air invasion alarm are without real knowledge of the limitations of this particular form of warning. It should be the business of someone on behalf of the churches, as well as of the ringers of this country, to explain to the War Office what little dependability there is in their church bells scheme, when minutes, and even seconds, may be vital. Stripped of its misconceptions, the scheme would reveal its ineptitude for the purpose for which it is designed. If this could be done, there might then be a different view taken in high quarters as to the usefulness of the ban. When the time is ripe, it needs a full statement of the weaknesses of the scheme laid before the responsible authorities through a channel which will ensure it reaching the quarters that matter.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 3, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At 37, HIGHFIELD GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5134 CHANGES;

CPL. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 1-2 | PTE. F. C. SHORTER, R.A.S.C. 5-6  
\* PTE. L. FOX, A.M.P.C. ... 3-4 | WILLIAM H. VIGGERS ... 7-8

Composed by J. H. PILKINGTON. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

\* First peal 'in hand' and first of Bob Major. † First peal of Major 'in hand.'

## STOURBRIDGE RINGERS 'CARRY ON.'

NEW MEMBERS ADMITTED.

The annual meeting of ringers of St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, was held on October 21st in the Church Hall. The president (the Rev. Canon Newland, Vicar) presided, supported by the Rev. F. T. Bott (curate) and Mr. W. A. Horne (churchwarden).

The Vicar welcomed four new members to the hand, who were admitted at evensong at St. Thomas' on the previous Sunday.

This was a very pleasing ceremony, both to the ringers and to the congregation.

In spite of the present ban on ringing, the usual enthusiasm of the band was in evidence.

The retiring officers were re-elected, Messrs. F. V. Nichols, leader, A. L. Dunn, deputy leader, and E. S. Bushell, hon. secretary.

It was decided to continue the practice on handbells on Monday evenings in the Church Hall. Any ringer serving in or near Stourbridge will be welcomed to these practices.

It is interesting to note that several of the younger members of the band were congratulated on their rapid progress in handbell ringing by several veterans of the Worcestershire Association at a recent quarterly meeting.

After disposing of the routine business, the president thanked the ringers for their past year's services and remarked on their foresight in adding to their numbers in readiness for the time when the bells would be allowed to ring out again, which he hoped would not be far hence.

Greetings were sent to members serving in H.M. Forces.

Refreshments were served and touches on the handbells concluded another year for St. Thomas' band.



## OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.

### ATTEMPTS FOR PEALS.

Friday, September 27th, being the anniversary of the death of William of Wykeham, the founder of New College and the festival of Saints Comas and Damianus, was a paid ringing day in Oxford, and another attempt for the peal was made. But it was a very poor performance. First, Richard Hearn, the treble man, would not start for the peal and the band had to be rearranged, Vicars taking the treble himself and Broughton, who otherwise would not have rung, being brought in. And then, when they met, three of their best men were 'much in liquor.' Perhaps that had something to do with Richard Hearn's refusal to ring.

The three offenders were Lloyd, Barnes, and (worse than all) Vicars, the conductor. In those days of heavy drinking, to take a drop too much was no great matter provided a man could carry his liquor. It might happen to anybody, and there was plenty of it among the dons and heads of the University. But on such an occasion, as Hearne said, the ringers should have been sober 'and indeed there can never be any true ringing but by persons that come perfectly sober.'

The ringing was bad from the start. Lloyd at the ninth was too drunk to strike his bell, and that, of course, upset the compass. Before they had rung two courses Vicars missed a bob. Still they went on. Whether they forced up the course end or not does not appear. At 600 changes they had a bad muddle and another at 1,100; another at 1,400, then a second missed bob, until at last they got into a hopeless tangle, and the attempt came to an inglorious end at the 2,714th change. Afterwards they rang a touch of 600 changes and finished for the day.

Altogether it was a pretty disgraceful exhibition. Hearne was quite ashamed of them; and so, too, were they of themselves, for they tried to keep quiet who had made the blunders. But Hearne had a genius for finding out details, and he very soon discovered all that had happened.

It would be interesting to discover how he knew about the missed bobs. It was not until some time afterwards that he found out what did happen in the belfry, and yet he records the omission of one bob on the day after the attempt was made. He had a very keen ear and quite likely he was following the calling from the outside.

Had they finished the peal and done it well, he had intended to transmit to posterity their names and their performance in one of his printed books, but as it was so bad (considering the reputation and skill of the ringers) he concluded that it would not be to their credit to have their names mentioned, nor to the honour of William of Wykeham to disclose who were the persons who performed so lamely on the day he died, adding that the day ought to be observed with all possible decorum, and the ringing should be as clear and true as can be. 'For which reason I shall pass over in silence what might be observed.'

It shows how keen was his interest in the ringing that, though it was raining the whole time, he heard every blow of it, walking up and down the parks on the east side of Wadham College.

And then the ringers grieved him in that matter about which he felt more strongly than about almost anything else. For they started for the peal again on November 5th.

It is rather difficult to realise nowadays how much bellringing in the eighteenth century did voice the feelings and sentiments of the people. It was a time when the nation was sharply divided into political parties and when the controversies which centred round the Revolution of 1689 and the expulsion of the Stuarts had not yet burnt themselves out, least of all among the Jacobites and Non-jurors of Oxford, who felt all the more strongly because they were a rapidly declining minority.

The Fifth of November celebrations were a Whig, Low Church and Hanoverian demonstration by the supporters of the Government against the Tory, High Church and Jacobite party, of which Hearne was so staunch an adherent. He could not forgive the ringers for ringing on such an occasion. They were paid for their services, and so their personal views were really not in question, but even so three of them—George, Yates and Broughton—put principle before interest and refused to ring, thus gaining the approbation of Hearne, who said that so they avoided the censure of being poor mercenary ringers.

The defection of the three made room for Brickland, the schoolmaster, and also for William Crozier, a cork cutter and a new man in the company, 'and yet so skilful that he may deservedly be reckoned among the best Oxford ringers.'

The attempt, which was at Christ Church, was lost after 2,000 changes. On such a day Hearne would not dream of listening to the bells rung for such a cause, but he 'happened' to go through the White Walk and he heard several people say 'twas exceeding good ringing, and so when he came to the cloisters he did stand still, but only (as he is careful to point out) to see if the opinion was correct.

For sixteen minutes he listened, and as he did so he counted to his great satisfaction eighteen considerable faults, ending in a breakdown. 'Yet notwithstanding this they boast that 'twas extraordinary good ringing, and that they rang two thousand. I cannot say anything to the number of changes, nor for the goodness of the ringing before the last quarter of an hour and how bad that was I have fairly signified, and yet 'twas good enough for the day. I might likewise remark that the reward of these mercenary ringers was only 1s. 6d. a man.'

The contrast between the ringing at Christ Church and that at New disgusted Hearne. That the bells should have been rung disgracefully in honour of the two Catholic saints and the great medieval churchman, and excellently well in honour of William the Dutchman was more than he could stand. Vicars and his band were ashamed of what they did in September and proud of what they did in November, though they did not get the peal. So to punish them Hearne first of all found out who it was that blundered at New (though they tried to keep it secret) and then he set down their names in full that posterity might know and condemn. To-day we know about John Vicars' extra glass of beer and his two missed bobs as part of his punishment for having taken part in ringing on the wrong political side in 1734.

BOURNEMOUTH. — On November 4th, at 116, Alma Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes (ten six-scores and a 60—three callings), in 29 minutes: John V. Davis (aged 13), 1-2, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 3-4, Mary E. Davis (aged 10) 5-6. First quarter-peal 'in hand' for all.

## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. WAR-TIME LUNCHEON PARTY. 303rd Anniversary Celebrated.

In war-scarred London on Saturday, members of the College Youths celebrated the 303rd anniversary of the foundation of the Ancient Society. Following the precedent of last year, a luncheon was held and it was gratifying to find that even though the conditions are at the moment more difficult, a company of 34 attended the proceedings, which took place at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, in the heart of the city. The Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) presided, and among those present were the Rev. J. P. Pelloe, Messrs. A. B. Peck (hon. secretary), A. A. Hughes (hon. treasurer), G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary, Central Council), E. Alex. Young, E. P. Duffield, G. N. Price, J. E. L. Cockey, J. W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), J. A. Trollope, E. C. S. Turner, T. Groombridge, sen., Stafford H. Green, H. G. Miles, H. Hoskins, W. A. Hughes, W. H. Pasmore, J. Thomas, C. W. Roberts, H. Stannard, R. T. Newman, F. E. Collins, F. G. Cole, E. F. Pike, H. Reynolds, H. K. Markwick, T. Fox, H. Manning, M. Myers, H. Thompson, G. Murrell, W. Murrell and J. S. Goldsmith. Although there are rationing restrictions, they did not appear in the ample menu. During lunch the Master took wine with all who had been members of the society for over fifty years, but only Mr. R. W. Stannard, of Barking, could respond on this occasion.

The Master gave the toast of 'The King,' and then submitted that of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' They had met that day, he said, under trying circumstances and it was very nice to see such a gathering to celebrate the anniversary. Although they were comparatively small in numbers, the historians of the future would not be able to say that, even in the war, the society had broken its continuity (applause).

'Prosperity and Success to the Society' was drunk with enthusiasm. Mention was made of the fact that Canon Coleridge, whose absence was regretted, would be 83 on the following day, and that the birthday of the wife of a well-known member (Mrs. R. T. Hibbert) would also be celebrated on Sunday. The presence of Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon., was also noted, and the members were very pleased to welcome him among them again.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith conveyed to the gathering the greetings and good wishes of Mr. F. E. Dawe, one of the oldest members of the society. Mr. Dawe, he said, was ill and unable to write, but while he was not with them in the flesh, he was certainly with them in spirit.

Mr. F. G. Cole brought greetings from Mr. Alan R. Macdonald, now at Gloucester.

### FIRST ABSENCE FOR FORTY-FIVE YEARS.

The Hon. Secretary read letters from absent members. Canon Coleridge wrote that he did not remember missing a College Youths' November festival during the past 45 years or thereabouts, but he was afraid he had to give it a miss this year—to his great regret. He had promised to take the chair at a small dinner arranged by the Reading and Basingstoke College Youths, as he did last year. He managed it quite well on that occasion after the lunch in town, but rail facilities were not now what they were then, and he was afraid he would not be able to get back to Reading in time. He sent his hearty good wishes to the members, with congratulations to all who were endeavouring to keep the old flag flying. He was sorry to miss their cheering presence, but hoped better days may be in store for all.

Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere) wrote that he was very sorry not to be able, on account of other duties, to attend the lunch. It would be the first time he had ever missed a dinner or lunch since he became a member of the society. He hoped all who attended would have a happy time and he sent his best wishes, in the hope of a real reunion before long.

A letter, conveying good wishes and congratulations to the society on its 303rd anniversary, was also received from Capt. W. H. J. Hooton, now in Inverness-shire.

Regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis, who had been expected, but who had been kept away by unforeseen circumstances.

The Hon. Secretary, in a short report, said the society had been trying to carry on despite the fact that church bell ringing had been entirely stopped. Before the ban they had been able to ring on Sundays. During the year they had managed to hold 25 meetings, at all of which they had made good use of handbells. They had made six new members during the year. It was a small number, but it was surprising that they had been able to make new members at all. Mr. Peck then mentioned the names of the members lost by death during the year, and the members stood for a minute in silence. The dead included many distinguished ringers. Their names are: Messrs. E. F. Poppy, C. F. Winney, A. Bowell, C. T. P. Brice, J. H. Cheesman, W. A. Cave, C. R. Goodburn, R. Rice, W. D. Smith, C. H. Howard, J. Holman, J. Chastey and H. Pankhurst. Mr. Peck concluded by saying that the society looked forward to the time when once again they would be able to ring the church bells of London (applause).

Mr. J. W. Jones said it was always a pleasure to him to meet the College Youths in London, where he never failed to receive the heartiest of welcomes. He said he did not suppose any gathering

in the whole country could be held under such circumstances as those under which they were meeting. What they used to undertake as a pleasure and a duty was now a crime. If they now ventured to ring a bell they would be up before the 'beak' (laughter). He hoped the ban would soon be removed and that they would be able to return to the towers (applause).

### MASTERS OF CENTURIES AGO.

Mr. E. A. Young introduced a silent toast to the memory of Masters of the past. He mentioned particularly James Durrant, who was Master in 1840, William Pickard, Master in 1740, and Mathias Burnaby, who was in the chair as Master 300 years ago. He thought it was a commendable practice to recall these men at their annual festival, with the friendships they must have made and their possible misunderstandings, for it helped to embellish the past. James Durrant of a hundred years ago came into the chair, he said, at a time when there were no outstanding activities to recall, but William Pickard was Master at a brilliant period of the society's history, and his name was included among those who took part in some notable performances. He was made a member in 1730, elected steward in 1735 and Master in 1740. When they went back another hundred years, into the misty distance of the seventeenth century, he could not tell them much about the Master. Mathias Burnaby was one of the first group of five members elected when Lord Breerton was gathering ringers round him at the foundation of the society. He was inclined to think they were five officers and that the names of the generality of the members had been lost. At the Church of St. Martin Vintry, where the College Youths used to ring, a churchwarden for several years in the first quarter of the seventeenth century was John Burnaby, and it pleased him to think that that churchwarden was perhaps Mathias' father. Mr. Young concluded by asking the company to drink to the fragrant memory of the Masters of 100, 200 and 300 years ago.

The toast was honoured in silence.

### CENTRAL COUNCIL ACTION ON BAN.

Mr. G. W. Fletcher, in expressing regret at the absence of the president of the Central Council, whom he had expected to see present, referred to the action which had been taken on behalf of the Council in connection with the ban on church bells. Various steps had been taken to obtain some modification of the ban. They had from September, 1939, endeavoured from the Council's point of view to maintain a friendly atmosphere with the Ministry of Home Security. In this they were successful until the 'blitzkrieg' started and the War Office stepped in and demanded that the bells should be used for one purpose only, to give warning of invasion. As late as November 5th he was in communication with the Ministry endeavouring to obtain some modification. He had pointed out that the defence of the country had, since the ban was imposed, been organised, and that the danger from surprise attack had receded. This particularly applied at week-ends, when most of the Home Guard was mobilised for training. He had received a reply from the Ministry of Home Security, which pointed out that the ban was imposed at the request of the War Office, and only that day the Minister was answering a question in the House whether church bells can sound again. 'I understand,' continued the letter, 'he is to say that he has consulted the Secretary of State for War, who desires that the present arrangements shall continue. I fear, therefore, that no useful purpose would be served by passing on your letter to the War Office to-day, but if you feel disposed to take the matter up at any subsequent time, I would suggest that you should write to the War Office direct.' Mr. Fletcher said he took that as an invitation to write to the War Office at some early date. If he could do anything in the matter they could depend upon it that he would endeavour to do it (applause).

Mr. A. A. Hughes said they all owed a debt of gratitude to the secretary of the Central Council for his efforts to get the bells rung again, if only on Sundays. He (Mr. Hughes) was perfectly certain that if anything more could be done, Mr. Fletcher would do it (applause).

### 'THE BATTLE OF LONDON.'

Mr. J. E. L. Cockey proposed a vote of thanks to the Master and congratulated him upon recovering so completely from his illness. He also congratulated Mr. Fenn on the successful way he had carried out his duties in these extraordinarily difficult times. He hoped when the historians of the future were writing the history of his period of the society's existence, that day's meeting would rank not least among all the meetings which had been held. They had met in the grave and critical times of the Battle of London, and he thought they might say, with all reverence, 'Where two or three are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them' (applause).

The business meeting of the society was then held, the Master presiding, and 'strangers' being permitted to remain.

Among the letters read by the secretary was one from Mr. James George, forwarding a donation to the Challis Winney Memorial. He recalled that Mr. Winney, with both Mr. Peck and himself, were in the notable performance at Sherborne Abbey. Mr. George thanked the society for their kind letter upon his illness, and said that, although he now had only one leg, he was feeling as well as could be reasonably expected at the age when, on November 27th if he still survived, he would be 87.

In response to the request for information of members who had joined the Forces, replies from Mr. Harold Frost and Mr. Clement

(Continued on next page.)

**SOCIETY'S OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Glenn were received. The latter wrote that since the last war he had been in business in France, but was now back again in the Navy. His interest in ringing was as keen as ever, and when this war was over he hoped, all being well, to get back to the ropes (and handbells) again and renew acquaintance with old ringing friends.

Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham, in thanking the society for good wishes conveyed to him, sent his kind regards and good wishes to the members. He added, 'My thoughts are often of you and of the happy times we have had in the past. I am glad to say that I am feeling better now, but, of course, anno domini will tell.'

Mr. G. W. Cecil (junior steward) sent his apologies for absence from the meetings of the society, owing to duties which kept him out of London.

Mr. W. H. Pasmore brought greetings from Mr. Tom Hibbert and Mr. W. Hibbert, and also announced, to the great pleasure of the meeting, that his nephew, Mr. Bert Pasmore (son of the late Mr. H. R. Pasmore), who is a prisoner of war in Germany, was quite well, when he wrote to his mother some few weeks ago.

Mr. T. S. R. Harris, of Shirehampton, Bristol, was elected a member of the society.

The nomination of officers, which had been adjourned from the last meeting, took place, and all the retiring officers were renominated: Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes; hon. secretary, Mr. A. B. Peck; senior steward, Mr. J. Waugh; junior steward, Mr. G. W. Cecil.

Mr. H. R. Newton was again nominated as one of the trustees, and Mr. H. R. Miles was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. C. F. Winney.

Messrs J. E. L. Cockey and G. N. Price were elected auditors.

Mr. W. H. Pasmore suggested that, as there was no competition for any of the offices, the election should take place that day, when there were far more members present than were likely to attend the next meeting.

When the question of breaking the rules was raised, the secretary replied that they had already broken the rules by postponing nomination day, and, in any case, that meeting was the first after the annual dinner, which was the meeting at which the elections should take place.

It was thereupon unanimously resolved to elect the nominated officers.

It was also decided to hold the next meeting at the headquarters (the Coffee Pot) that day fortnight (November 23rd) at 3 p.m.

This terminated the business and many of the members went on to the headquarters room, where handbell ringing was indulged in.

**CHALLIS WINNEY MEMORIAL.****TABLET FOR ST. CLEMENT DANES' BELFRY.**

Progress in connection with the Challis Winney Memorial was reported at the annual meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday. It is proposed to place a tablet in the ringing chamber of St. Clement Danes' Church, Strand, and the wording has been settled. The tablet will be surmounted by a plaque bearing Mr. Winney's portrait in relief.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that the Rector of St. Clement Danes' had sanctioned the idea in principle, and all that now remained was to get his approval of the design. A draft of the inscription had been submitted to Dr. F. C. Eales, secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Churches, who had made some very useful suggestions, and one of the members of the Memorial Committee, Mr. E. A. Young, had prepared the sketch. The tablet would be in bronze with the letters in relief. The artist for the plaque was Miss Muriel Hiley, who made the exceedingly fine bust of their late secretary, Mr. Cockerill.

The sketch of the tablet and the plaster model of the plaque were passed round the meeting for inspection. The tablet is to bear the dates on either side of the portrait: 'Born May 17th, 1858. Died January 16th, 1940.' The subsequent wording is as follows:—

**CHALLIS FREDERICK WINNEY.  
OF STOKE-BY-NAYLAND  
SUFFOLK**

**A TALENTED RINGER AND CONDUCTOR  
AND AN ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBER OF THE  
ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS**

**HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TOWER FOR  
OVER 60 YEARS AND FOR 50 YEARS WAS  
A MEMBER OF THE BAND OF RINGERS AT  
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, LONDON**

**THIS TABLET  
IS ERECTED BY HIS BROTHER RINGERS AND  
OTHERS IN LIVELY APPRECIATION  
OF HIS HIGH STANDARD AS A  
CHURCHMAN, FRIEND AND BELLRINGER**

**FOR ALL GOOD MEN  
PRAISED BE  
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.  
AMEN.**

# John Taylor & Co.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

If Hitler still thinks that Londoners are panic stricken and starving he should have visited the City on Saturday to meet the College Youths. They celebrated their anniversary with a feast and there wasn't any sign of panic, except when it was announced that draught beer was running out.

As to starvation, well, as one member put it after he had finished his meal, 'They say there's a war on, but you wouldn't think it after this lunch.'

Not far from where the College Youths lunched, there was another similar gathering—of less importance. The new Lord Mayor was entertaining his guests, and the Prime Minister was making an important speech.

We are very pleased to say that Mr. A. H. Pulling, of Guildford, continues to make an excellent recovery after his recent accident. He was discharged from hospital last Saturday.

Many happy returns of the day to our leading lady ringer, Mrs. George Fletcher, whose birthday was last Tuesday; and also to Mr. Harry Chapman, who was born on the same day of the month in 1863.

For many years John Reeves' 8,448 of Treble Bob Major was considered the longest peal in the method with the tenors together, but John Thorpe eventually produced a 8,544, which was rung at Liversedge in Yorkshire on November 15th, 1873.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. One was in seven Minor methods, one was Grandsire Doubles, three Grandsire Triples, two Kent Treble Bob Major, one Kent Treble Bob Royal, and one Duffield Royal. The Kent Royal was at St. Giles', Camberwell, George Newton conducted, and the band included Henry Dains, Arthur Jacob, Benjamin Foskett and other well-known Cumberland Youths. The Duffield Royal was at Aston, with A. P. Heywood as conductor. William Wakley and Joseph Griffin from Burton took part, and Birmingham men (among them Henry Bastable, Thomas Russam and Thomas Reynolds) made up the company.

Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal of Major ever rung by men of either university. It was a 5,040 of Bob Major on handbells at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was the first peal in hand by A. H. F. Boughey. H. Law James conducted.

The anniversaries of four interesting Norwich peals fall in this week-end. On November 16th, 1737, Samuel Thurston's 7,360 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, with the thirty 7-8's before, was rung at St. Andrew's; on November 17th, 1760, the first peal of Imperial the Third Major was rung at St. Giles'; on the same date in 1835 the first peal of London Surprise was rung at St. Andrew's; and on November 18th, 1824, Reeves' 8,448 Treble Bob Major was rung at St. Michael's, Coslany. John Webster, who was mentioned in our recent articles on the Norwich ringers, was in the Imperial and at its conclusion he ceased his bell and fell down dead.

Mr. C. A. Phillips tells us that the idea of asking for three of the older members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild to come to the branch annual meeting prepared to give their reminiscences, to fill up the time between handbells, was suggested by the particularly interesting editions of 'The Ringing World' of this past year.

The apparatus used in the belfry at Glasgow Cathedral consists of a clapper stay across the mouth of each bell secured by a wing-nut, with a tripper attached to the headstock, and a half-moon fixed on the wall, connected by a wire to a small bell in the ringing chamber. It is not a war-time innovation, as open practice has never been allowed. It is quite a satisfactory arrangement. A practice meeting is to be held at the Cathedral on November 23rd.

## AIR INVASION WARNING. AGREEMENT IN THE DOVER AREA.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Reading an account in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' of Bristol's plan for use of church bells in connection with air invasion warning, may I ask if a further discussion can be given, in view of the ideal of church teaching and the aim of all associations in the past, that the church bells should be put to their proper use. What does this proper use mean? Are we to believe that the bells were ever placed by our forefathers in the towers to alarm the people of England? I cannot think any ringer would believe it. They are England's greatest gift, let us stand by it. The difficulties were put to the authorities here in Dover in the early stages and of the damage that might occur, etc., and complete agreement was arrived at.

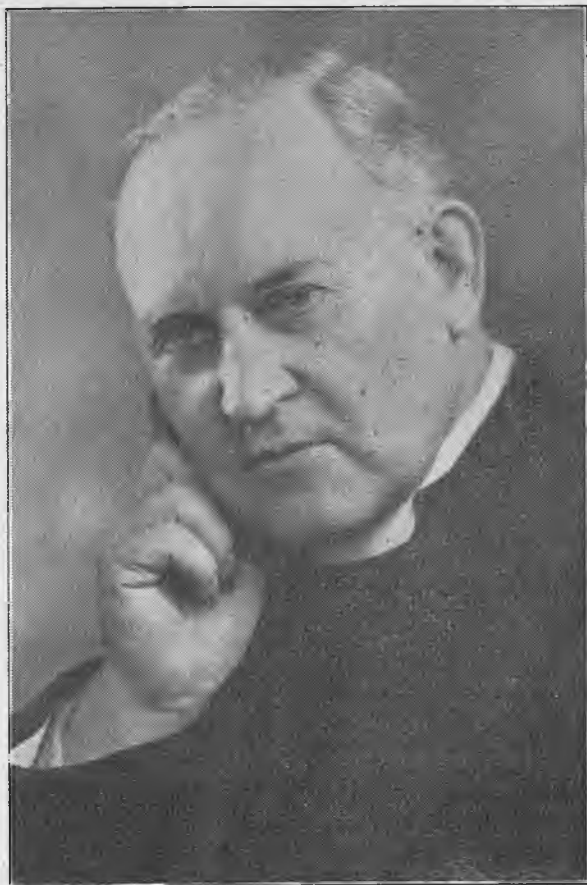
It was further pointed out that it was not required that ringers should be assembled to ring a full peal of bells, although at first the Ministry of Security thought that it might be the best method of alarm. To-day we can see clearly that a peal of bells should not be used. If bells are required, by all means let one bell do the duty. If the full volume of sound is required in any district, pull the bell up. That will meet the situation, but keep assemblies down as far as is possible. The best and most effective alarm is the bugles. Buglers could be moved much quicker by motor-cycle or car and there would be no need for unlocking and locking churches, gates, etc. Valuable time would thus be saved, but I am hoping now that no such action with the church bells will ever have to be taken.

CHARLES TURNER.

Dover.



## THE LATE ARCHDEACON PARRY.



The Ven. Archdeacon Parry, Rector of Bigby, whose death we recorded last week, was vice-president of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and a member of the Central Council.

### SURREY ASSOCIATION.

#### NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT MEET AT KINGSTON.

Despite an extremely small attendance and inclement weather, a few members of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association spent an enjoyable time at the district meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday. After ringing a couple of courses of Grandsire Triples on handbells, those present attended a short evensong, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. B. Scrutton.

Eight members of the district, accompanied by the Vicar, sat down to an excellent tea at the Zeeta Cafe, in the course of which the Vicar welcomed the visitors to his parish.

The company then returned to the tower, where a short business meeting was held, presided over by the District Ringing Master, Mr. D. Cooper.

The Chairman referred to the sad loss to the association of Mr. J. Beams, of Ewell, who died on August 3rd. Mr. Beams had been a member of the association for 50 years and during that time he had been of great assistance to the association.

The problem of the safety of the association's peal books, most of which are in Reigate Church, was next discussed, and finally it was resolved to request the General Committee to consider the matter of a safer depository for these valuable records.

After some discussion it was decided to leave the arrangement of future meetings to the committee.

Mr. E. G. Talbot drew attention to the suggestion in 'The Ringing World' of a week or so ago regarding the holding of meetings of a few neighbouring towers for handbell practice with a view to keeping interest in the association alive in each locality. The meeting considered the suggestion a useful one.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar for welcoming the association and for his presence at tea, and to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne for making all arrangements. Members then dispersed, taking advantage of the last hour of daylight to make their way home.

## THE BAN.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION.

The following is from the Official Report of the Debates in the House of Commons on the subject:—

'Sir J. Jarvis asked the Home Secretary whether he will now permit the church bells of England to ring again.

'Mr. Mabane: No, sir. I am advised by the military authorities that the grounds on which the original order was made still hold good.'

### CHURCH TOWERS AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was much interested to read your leading article in the current issue of 'The Ringing World' on the refusal of the Home Secretary to remove the ban on church bells.

There is another point of view, which to my mind is a very important one, and one the Home Secretary has probably overlooked.

By making the church bells of England a signal for invasion, every church tower in the country has been made a military object of the 'first water,' and the enemy is quite justified in bombing every one of them to pieces. If an army was going to make a surprise attack on a fort, the first object would be to silence the sentinels who were responsible for giving the alarm. That is what our churches are to-day, 'sentinels,' and under the circumstances the enemy are justified in attacking them.

I do not think it will make a scrap of difference whether they are military objects or not, with all the indiscriminate bombing that is going on, but I should like to see the excuse for bombing such 'national treasures' removed.

R. RICHARDSON.

Surfleet, Lincs.

### ASSOCIATIONS TOO DOCILE.

Dear Sir,—The report of the Midland Counties Association meeting at Nottingham in this week's issue of 'The Ringing World' makes good reading, especially the part which reports that the secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council regarding the rescinding of the ban on church bells.

My own feeling regarding the ban is that our Diocesan Guilds have generally been inclined to accept the ruling in far too docile a manner, and it is unfortunate that the Central Council has not been called together to discuss the whole position, and, if thought necessary, give a lead to the various Guilds, in addition to a direct approach to the Ministry of Home Security.

The many difficulties attending the use of church bells in the event of invasion are already well known to all readers of 'The Ringing World,' but it is very doubtful whether those responsible for making the Order have yet been convinced of such difficulties, or have been offered alternative suggestions which are more workable. That is where the Central Council comes in—and in spite of the view that during war time church bells are not vitally important, I think the Central Council should recognise not only the wishes of a large body of ringers, but also a strong feeling on the part of the public, especially in country districts, that the bells should be rung for service on Sunday at least.

It would be easily possible to use the present 'Alert' sirens to give warning of the landing of parachute troops—by varying the signal. At Dover they already do so to differentiate between air raid 'Alerts' and shelling 'Alerts.'

Whilst we may be able to maintain interest in ringing by the use of handbells, etc., there is no gainsaying the fact that our art will be very seriously handicapped by this unreasonable ban. We shall be unable to obtain the necessary recruits—and if we could, we cannot properly teach them.

I am glad, therefore, to note the growing tendency towards more definite action by responsible bodies to get this ban lifted. I hope it will continue to grow, and if we make noise enough I believe we shall succeed. The people who hate the sound of the bells have laughed at us quite long enough!

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

Bath. November 3rd, 1940.

Mr. Smallwood's letter was written before the question put in the House of Commons on the subject. That question, as our readers know, brought a refusal to lift the ban, but the statement of the hon. secretary of the Central Council at the College Youths' luncheon leads to the hope that the door is not entirely shut against reconsideration of the matter in the near future.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

## KILLED IN AN AIR RAID.

### DEATH OF MR. ALFRED BACON

We regret to record the death of Mr. Alfred Bacon, at a Norfolk village, at the age of 57 years. During an air raid, a bomb crashed through the roof of the Church Room, of which Mr. Bacon was caretaker, scoring a direct hit on the billiard table, under which he had taken shelter.

By his death, the Wisbech branch of the Ely Diocesan Association has lost a valued member. He was elected in 1919 and regularly attended the meetings of the branch, which he served for some years as Ringing Master. Although he was always willing to take part in peal attempts (having rung about 200), he was perhaps at his best when teaching beginners, for which he had a natural aptitude.

The association was represented at the funeral by the district secretary (Mr. W. Cousins) and Messrs. E. Barker and J. Buckenham, of the District Committee.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### SOCIAL EXPERIMENT PROVES GREAT SUCCESS.

Instead of holding the usual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, a meat tea and social evening took place in Leeds on October 12th. The General Committee at their previous meeting had decided to try the experiment in view of the fact that the Snowdon Dinner was abandoned for the duration of the war, and also having regard to the ban placed on ringing. It was decided to commence the proceedings at the early hour of 4.30 p.m. in order to reduce to a minimum the difficulties and inconvenience caused by the black-out.

That the committee's decision was fully justified was abundantly proved, as no fewer than 51 sat down to the excellent meat tea provided at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, and more still attended as the evening wore on. Among those present were Canon C. C. Marshall (president of the association), Mr. L. W. G. Morris (general secretary), Mr. W. Barton (peal secretary), Messrs. P. J. Johnson and F. Cryer (vice-presidents), Messrs. R. Rayment and H. S. Morley (district secretaries), Messrs. G. Robinson, J. A. Teale, T. W. Strangeway, H. Lofthouse, J. Hardcastle, H. Davison, W. Woodhead, F. Seager, A. J. Taylor, J. F. Harvey, F. G. Sherwood, W. O. Talbot, Mrs. J. Cotterell, Miss L. K. Bowling and Miss N. Askham.

Afterwards the president explained the purport of the gathering, pointing out that the General Committee in deciding to hold it had in mind the great need for keeping alive the interests of the association in these difficult times. He was glad indeed to see so many present, and it was also a very great encouragement to the officers of the association to note that interest was being maintained so well. Continuing, the President said he hoped all present would enjoy the evening's programme, which, incidentally, consisted of entirely local talent. It would be a 'free and easy,' and all present would have the opportunity of fraternising just as they wished.

The programme commenced with an excellent course of Grandsire Caters on handbells by Miss L. K. Bowling 1-2, W. Barton 3-4, P. J. Johnson 5-6, L. W. G. Morris 7-8, W. O. Talbot 9-10. Among members who contributed to the programme were Miss N. Askham, who delighted the audience with 'I heard you go by,' 'A little coon's prayer,' 'For you alone' and 'Billy Boy.' Mr. John Allison (violin) gave excellent renderings of Fugue (Tartini-Kreisler), Variation on a theme by Corelli (Tartini-Kreisler), Nocturne by Chopin, and 'Souvenir' by Drdla. Mr. Sutcliffe (tenor), a member of St. Chad's choir, Far Headingley, was greatly applauded for his charming renderings of 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes,' 'Linden Lea' and 'Passing by.' Mr. Kershaw Thomas (conjurer) mystified the audience with a large variety of tricks. The more simple he tried to make them appear, the more mysterious they became until one began to wonder whether one was in Leeds or Bradford, or both. More handbell ringing was interspersed among the items, mingled with social chat, and everybody enjoyed the evening immensely. As usual on such occasions, time passed all too quickly, and a memorable and most successful evening was brought to a close by an excellent contribution by the president, entitled 'The Skye Boat Song.'

## YORKSHIRE VETERAN PASSES ON.

### MR. WALTER POPPLEWELL, OF CALVERLEY.

Calverley, a village on the outskirts of Leeds, has lost by death another of its old and valued ringers. Earlier in the year Charles Pratt, doyen of Calverley ringers, passed away; now his most able lieutenant and close companion, Walter Popplewell, has been called to rest. He died on Sunday, November 3rd, after an illness of only four days.

Mr. Popplewell (or 'Walt' as he was more familiarly known) was an excellent ringer and conductor. Keenly critical of bad or indifferent striking, he was, nevertheless, a most likeable man and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a staunch supporter of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society and was a member of the local company at Calverley for nearly fifty years.

Although he was not a prolific peal ringer, his list covered a variety of methods. Amongst them are London Treble Bob, Prince Albert and Rose of England, methods which, although little known and rarely practised in these days, were great favourites of the old Calverley company. He also rang peals of Cambridge and Superlative, in addition to the 'standard' methods. His modest total of 41 peals (11 of which he conducted) is by no means an indication of his abilities either as a ringer or as a conductor.

Mr. Popplewell will be remembered by many members of the Central Council as one of 'Tom Maude's party,' and rang in what is believed to be the only peal on the bells at Stratford-on-Avon, when the party was on one of its Whitsuntide tours.

The funeral took place at Calverley Parish Church, and many ringers were there to pay their last respects to an old comrade. The towers represented were Arncliffe, Bramley, Pudsey, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Guiseley, Shipley and Idle. Four members of the local company acted as bearers.

The president of the Yorkshire Association (Canon C. C. Marshall) assisted the Vicar at the funeral service, and four members of the Yorkshire Association, Messrs. J. Thackray, B. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler, rang a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells in the nave of the church at the close of the service.

## DEATH OF MR. GEORGE LADD.

### LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD'S GREAT LOSS.

The Lincoln Diocesan Guild has lost one of its oldest members and most ardent workers through the death of Mr. George Ladd, of Pinchbeck, who, as recorded last week, passed away rather suddenly on Thursday, October 31st, at the age of 74 years. Although he had been in failing health for some time, he had not been laid up. On the morning of his death he cycled to Spalding, and while there was taken ill and brought home by car. He lay down on the couch and very shortly afterwards passed away.

A native of Pinchbeck, Mr. Ladd had spent the whole of his life in that village, where he carried on a business of painter and paper-hanger.

At the age of 20 he started to ring at Pinchbeck, there being five bells in the tower at that time. As he felt he was not making sufficient progress there, he used to attend the practices at Spalding, where he learnt to ring Grandsire Triples and by perseverance soon became master of other methods.

He was one of the very few remaining members who attended the inaugural meeting in the Chapter House at Lincoln Cathedral in 1899, when the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers was formed. About that time he was elected captain of the Pinchbeck belfry, which office he held until the time of his death. Always willing to teach, he was never so happy as when he could get a youngster on the end of a bell rope and teach him the rudiments of the art.

For the past 30 years he had faithfully filled the office of secretary to the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Guild, during which time he had not missed a single meeting.

In June, 1936, to mark his achieving 50 years of bellringing and in appreciation of his services as secretary, the members of the Elloe Deaneries Branch presented him with a grandmother clock, suitably inscribed.

Altogether he took part in upwards of 180 peals and was one of the pioneers of peal ringing in the early days of the Guild, when peal ringing was peal ringing and often meant cycling 20 or 30 miles each way on an old cushion-tyred bicycle. On one occasion he missed the last train at Heckington and had to walk 19 miles home, arriving about 2.30 a.m. to find his wife waiting up for him.

He was appointed people's warden at St. Mary's Church, Pinchbeck, in 1920 and was chosen Vicar's warden in 1937. During that time he did a great work for the church.

He was one of the prime movers in the scheme for the augmentation of St. Mary's bells from six to eight, and one of his last jobs was to paint the framework of the bells he loved so well.

For over 50 years Mr. Ladd had also been an Oddfellow, being a member of the 'Haven of Happiness' Lodge (M.U.), Pinchbeck, and for the past 30 years had been permanent secretary, always keeping his records in a very efficient manner.

The funeral took place on Monday, November 4th, at Pinchbeck. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. Cresswell Gee, who is president of the Elloe Deaneries Branch, assisted by Canon B. G. Nicholas, R.D., a vice-president. The service was fully choral, and the hymns, 'Let saints on earth in concert sing' and 'Jesus lives; no longer now,' and the 23rd Psalm were sung.

In addition to the family mourners, the service was attended by numerous friends, including many Oddfellows and representatives from practically every tower in the branch.

Being of a genial disposition, Mr. Ladd made a host of friends, and his loss will be felt for a long time to come. He leaves a widow and one son, to whom much sympathy is extended. R. R.

## EWHRUST LOSES TWO RINGERS.

### LONG ASSOCIATION WITH A SURREY TOWER.

Ewhurst, Surrey, has been very unfortunate in the belfry lately, having lost two of its ringers by the death of Mr. Frank Francis and Mr. David Girling. Mr. Francis was knocked down by a car and badly injured. He died as a result in Guildford Hospital on October 22nd. He was interred at Ewhurst on Saturday, November 2nd, when Mr. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) represented the deceased's ringing friends.

Mr. Francis was an old 'Winchester' member, having joined that Diocesan Guild in 1896. He started to learn to ring at Ewhurst at about the same time as Mr. Whittington in or about 1876, and both rang their first 720 of Bob Minor together at Ewhurst in the year 1878, there being at that time a band at Ewhurst capable of ringing several Plain Minor methods.

Frank Francis (like Mr. Whittington) was the eldest of three brothers, all six becoming later on ringers at Ewhurst, and many 720's were rung on Ewhurst bells by the brothers of the two families. The Francis family had been closely connected with Ewhurst bells for many years, as Frank Francis' father and grandfather were both sextons at Ewhurst and ringers. The father had on several occasions related to Mr. Whittington the circumstances in connection with the fall of the spire in the year 1837, of which he had a vivid recollection, with the four bells of that date lying in the churchyard.

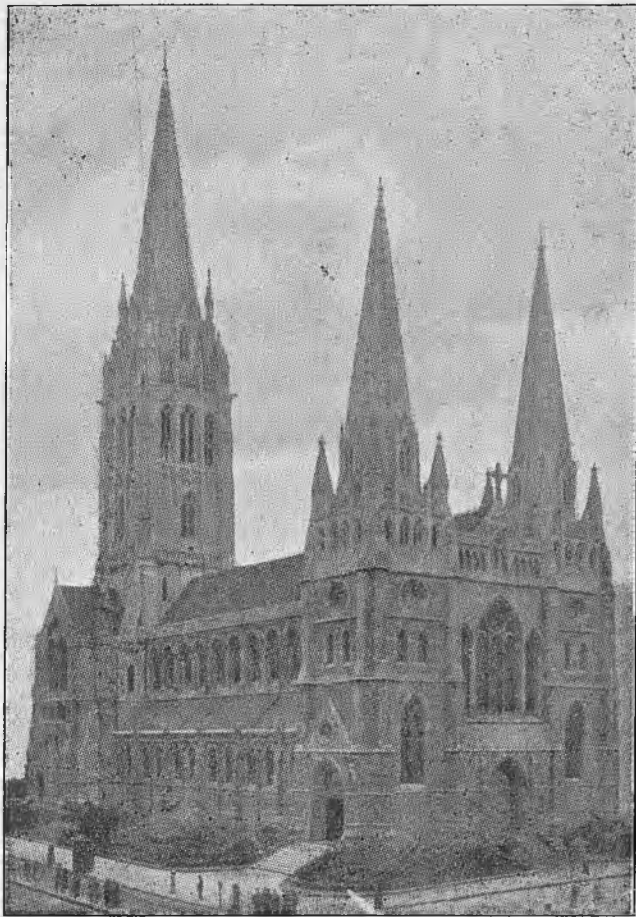
David Girling was the verger at Ewhurst Church. He was a R.M. reservist, and was killed by enemy action at Deal. He was a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, a very cheery soul, and will be much missed at Ewhurst.

## AN HISTORIC PERFORMANCE.

### FIRST PEAL OF CINQUES IN AUSTRALIA.

Last Monday was the anniversary of one of the outstanding performances in the annals of ringing. On Armistice Day, November 11th, 1934, a commemorative peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne—the first peal on twelve bells outside the British Isles. It was the culminating achievement of the tour which the party of English ringers made to the Commonwealth in connection with the Melbourne centenary.

Much, of course, had happened between the tourists' first arrival in Australia and this triumph at Melbourne. The voyage had been a pleasant and interesting one. The ringers had enjoyed their first sight of Eastern lands, and the sea had been extremely kind all the way—well, very nearly all the way. There were, of course, some occasions when some of the party were not quite so happy, but for the most part they thoroughly enjoyed the novel life.



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

The bells are in the south-west tower.

The overwhelming hospitality which they received in Australia began as soon as they touched land at Fremantle, and it lasted until they finally left the shores of the Commonwealth. The tourists will never forget the kindnesses lavished upon them by all whom they met, by Governors of States, Lord Mayors, Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and laymen alike. It wasn't just a ringing excursion; it was a triumphal march.

The ringing which had been done at Perth and Adelaide was of very limited character, on account of the short stay which the ship made in port, but there are some things, some of them quite minor things, which are still vivid in memory, such, for instance, as the oscillation of the brick tower of Perth Cathedral, the strenuous day in Adelaide, with the broadcasting from Walkerville, and that fairy-like view of the city at night, with thousands of street lamps twinkling below us in the miles of tree lined streets.

Then there was the landing at Melbourne with the enthusiastic reception from those great-hearted people who, during our short stay, took us to their hearts and whom we still count as our warmest friends. Things happened so fast in Melbourne that time went like the wind, and, having scored the first peal of Boh Royal in Australia

and made two abortive attempts for Cinques, we went on to Hobart in Tasmania, where the whole city seemed to take us to its bosom. Two peals and two rather unfortunate losses marked the principal ringing, but the days on the island were unforgettable for other reasons, and one still marvels how new friends could have crowded so much hospitality into so short a time.

And then back to Melbourne, where the principal task of the whole tour lay before the party. It was part of the original plan to attempt a peal on Armistice Day—the day when the Duke of Gloucester was to open the Shrine of Remembrance, which is Victoria's tribute to the 18,000 men and women of the State who went forth in the Great War of 1914-18 and came not back.

It was not until our arrival and a preliminary practice that we dared think of attempting a peal of Cinques, and as our hopes rose of getting out of the Australian ringers and the visitors a band capable of twelve-bell ringing, so the chances of fitting a peal into the Armistice Day programme began to recede, for Armistice Day fell on Sunday. That was the reason we tried to ring a twelve-bell peal before we visited Tasmania. The first attempt was lost, after ringing an hour and a quarter, through a shift course occurring; the second came to grief after just an hour through the breaking of the clapper shaft of the eleventh.

So it was we returned from Tasmania, hoping against hope that we could start once more for the peal on Armistice Day as originally designed. It was found that there was just a sufficient interval between two of the services for an attempt. And so, after ringing with the bells half-muffled for the Armistice service, the muffles were removed, and the peal, the greatest ambition of all the band, was rung.

With all reverence, we felt that a special Providence lay behind our success. This peal on this day was the great goal of the great adventure. Our previous efforts, precipitated by serious doubts as to the possibility of an Armistice Day attempt, had come to nought. Success was kept for the great commemoration, but without the two earlier attempts our efforts on November 11th would inevitably have been frustrated. They served the purpose of fitting the band the better for the task, but, more than all, without them the Armistice Day peal would have been lost by the breaking of the eleventh clapper. Never had ringers more justification to be proud of a peal. Remember the circumstances and the conditions, the journey that had been made, the unique composition of the company—half from England, half Australian, with one lady from the homeland, one native born—and, above all, the occasion. 'This performance,' I wrote at the time and still think, 'cannot but rank as one of the historical performances in the whole annals of peal ringing.'

It may not be out of place to recall the names of the band who took part in the peal: J. S. Goldsmith (conductor) 1, Mrs. R. Richardson 2, C. Sharples 3, Miss Frey Shimmin 4, J. L. Murray 5, A. A. Savage 6, W. H. Fussell 7, J. W. Spencer 8, G. Martin 9, F. Boughton 10, R. Richardson 11, E. B. Knott 12. The ringers of 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 belonged to the Melbourne band. Miss Shimmin, an eighteen-year-old Australian lady, had never rung a peal before. Mr. Jim Murray had called the first peal ever rung in Australia, which was at Sydney on April 9th, 1890—44 years before. J. S. G.

### 'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN,'

#### AN ELIZABETHAN LEGEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letters in your last two issues on the subject of the 'Nine Tailors' are exceptionally interesting. The concrete evidence produced by Mr. Hibbert disposes of Mr. Trollope's philological objection to the use of the word 'tellers' as applied to the strokes of the bell. On the other hand, Mr. Trollope's discovery of the French proverb appears quite conclusive in refutation of the theory that 'tailors' is a corruption of 'tellers,' as there is no French word that could conceivably give rise to a similar corruption.

At the same time, by a curious irony Mr. Trollope's quotation from a play dated 1607, while it serves to expose a modern fallacy, tends to confirm an ancient legend of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have exercised her royal wit in addressing a deputation of *eighteen* tailors with the words, 'Good morning, gentlemen *both*!'

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

### IN USE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

Dear Sir,—Mr. R. T. Hibbert's letter is very interesting, but I hope he will not mind my pointing out that it does not in any way affect my statement that the proverbial saying about nine tailors making a man had nothing to do with the death knell and its tellers. What happened 60 years ago cannot throw much light on the origin of a saying which had been in general use already for hundreds of years.

It is pretty certain that parish clerks and sextons did call the three times three strokes 'tellers,' but we must remember that it was an ordinary English word which meant 'counters.' There is no evidence that the word was in any special way associated in the minds of ordinary people with the death knell; at any rate, it does not appear in that connection in any printed book. Further, Mr. Hibbert does not suggest that ordinary people did go about saying that 'Nine tellers mark a man' (or 'mean a man'), though, of course, they knew what the three times three strokes signified. And if they did know, why should they be such unmitigated asses as to say that nine tailors make a man?

J. A. TROLLOPE.



## THE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS. PEALS IN METHODS WITH ABCDE FALSE COURSE ENDS.

In the last article on Surprise Major methods we examined the groups of false course ends which we gave in our issue of November 1st and we showed that when we are composing peals in Surprise methods which have the false ends ABCD and E and are using full natural courses joined together by bobs at M, W and R (or I, O and F) we are limited to thirty particular courses, contained in six similar groups, and to fifteen Q sets of bobs.

We set these out in detail, and now we want our readers to understand exactly what the groups of course ends, with the dashes for bobs alongside, mean. The groups are not round blocks made up of courses joined together by the bobs shown beside them. Nor do we mean that in our peal the course ends will necessarily be brought up by the bobs which we have marked. What then, do we mean?

We assume that the reader will know what composing by natural course ends is, but if he is in doubt he can turn to the article of March 15th last, where it is explained.

We will now suppose that we want to compose a peal in a Surprise method which has the ABCDE false course ends. The tables which have been printed give us the natural courses which are the material from which we can construct our peal, and they also give us the bobs which we can make. It does not matter what our method is, whether it is a second's place method, or an eighth's place method, or in what order the positions of the bobs come. But for the sake of explanation we will assume that the lead ends and bob making positions are the same as in Bob Major, the Wrong coming first, then the Middle, and then the Right to bring up the course ends.

We shall require three columns to work out our peal, one for the Wrong, one for the Middle, and one for the Right.

We start with the plain course. Turn to the tables and see whether there is a bob marked W after 23456. There is; so we transpose 23456 by 52436 (which is the natural course end produced by a bob W), and write the result in the first column.

We are now in the natural course 52436. It occurs in the group FI. See if a bob is marked after it in the table. There is; so we transpose 52436 by 43652 (the natural course end produced by a bob M) and write the result, 42635, in the second column.

A bob R is shown in the table after the course end 42635; so we transpose by 42356 (the natural course end produced by a bob R) and write the result, 64235, in the third column.

No bobs at Wrong or Middle are shown after the course end 64235; so we write that row unaltered in the first and second columns, and as there is a bob R we transpose by 42356, and write the result, 26435, in the third column. So we go on, making bobs or not, accordingly as they are shown or not shown in our table.

			W	M	R
52436	42635	64235	—	—	—
64235	64235	26435	—	—	—
26435	26435	42635	—	—	—
34625	64523	56423	—	—	—
	etc.				

After we have gone on like this for some time we shall come back to rounds, and still not have included all the thirty courses from the table. To get the remainder we take any one of them from the table (it does not matter which), treat it as we have just done, and we shall produce all the missing courses in one round block.

When we are transposing with the Middle in front of the Wrong we shall find that one of the two blocks we produce is Middleton's peal of Cambridge, and we shall have something more to say about that later.

If we examine the bobs of the two blocks we produce, whatever the method, we shall find that they consist of the fifteen Q sets we gave in our article last week.

The noticeable thing about these Q sets is that whenever in any course two of the five bells are next each other in their natural coursing order and a bob can be made without disturbing them it is made. Otherwise no bob is made. For instance, if the second is a third's place bell and the third is a fifth's place bell a bob is made at the Middle. Or when the fourth is a sixth's place bell and the second is a fourth's place bell a bob is made at the Wrong. In reckoning the coursing order the seventh and eighth are ignored and the fifth's place bell taken as being next after the sixth's place bell.

These things suggest (they do not prove) that composition in methods with A, B, C, D, E false course ends will be on the 5-part plan and that the part ends will be the five rows in which 23456 are in the same coursing order, that is the five rows in group A 1. We shall find that this actually is so and there is little doubt that not only the general characteristics of the composition but also the ability of the method to produce true peals, notwithstanding the number of the false course ends, is ultimately traceable to the Bob Major lead ends and the symmetry of the methods.

If we bob all the possible fifteen Q sets we shall find that they join the thirty true courses into two Round Blocks. They differ in appearance and size according to the lead ends of the method and the order in which the calling positions W, M, R or I, F, O come, but the composition is the same and in every instance the two blocks can be joined into one by the omission of one Q set at either W or M involving the loss of one course.

In methods which have a Clear Proof Scale and therefore sixty available true courses there are sixty possible Q sets to be made. If all are bobbed either twelve or thirty round blocks will be produced according to the order in which the bob making positions come. To produce the maximum length of fifty-nine courses, only 29 Q sets are necessary, though a larger number may be used. Therefore, it is possible to select a great variety of Q sets from the available sixty to produce peals, and this variety is much increased when compositions of no more than ordinary length are required. But with methods which have A, B, C, D, E false course ends every Q set is required except one, with the result that there is but one composition, the omission of a Q set at W instead of M giving only the reverse variation and the particular Q set at M or W omitted only varying the particular parts of the five part blocks in which the two Round Blocks are joined together.

Having got the possible extent of twenty-nine courses we can reduce it in various ways to the twenty-three courses required for an ordinary length peal by the omission of Q sets or the calling of the extra bob men-

(Continued on next page.)



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

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**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division. — The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 2.15 p.m. Six 'silent' tower bells also available. Service in church 3.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Light refreshments will be provided. Will all members please make a special effort to be present at this meeting?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—A comfortable room at the Plough, Shilton, will be available on Saturday, Nov. 16th, from 3 p.m., for handbell ringing and social intercourse. Please bring own tea and 'eats.' — D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wimborne Branch.—Annual meeting, Saturday, November 16th, at St. James', Poole. Handbells in the Old Rectory from 3. Service at 4; address by the Rector, Rev. E. C. Harris. Tea at 4.45, in the Old Rectory, followed by usual business. Reminiscences by Mr. Martin Stewart, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Forfitt and others.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

**SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

tioned earlier. We can also effect reduction by the use of bobs Before or Home, as in the familiar case of Middleton's peal of Cambridge. These reductions and variation will depend on the particular lead end of the method, but they do not constitute anything more than variations of the original composition and, broadly speaking, there is but one composition for all the methods with A, B, C, D, E false course ends. This does not, however, exclude the possibility of producing distinct peals by using true parts of false courses in methods where the incidence of the falseness allows of its being done.

There is one point which, to avoid confusion, we have not yet noticed. We said that in composing peals we are restricted to the six groups A1, B1, C1, D1, E1 and F1. That is true; but it is conditional on A1 being used as the first and fundamental group. We can put any one of the other five groups in the place of A1 and that will give us different sets of six groups for our use, and different course ends to our peal, but it will not alter the composition. All that happens is that our peal will start from a different course end. If we want cyclical part ends we must put group C1 in the place of A1.

[This article is based on one of the chapters in the new Surprise book and it shows that a very large number of the peals which have been rung for new Surprise methods are really the same composition. For instance, if we bob the fifteen Q sets shown (less one at the M or at the W) we get the long peal of Maximus that was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne.]

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.), on Saturday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Ringing and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**OXFORD GUILD.**—Newbury Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business meeting. — T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch. — A meeting, followed by social evening, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Meadowcroft, of Newhey, to commence 6.30 p.m. Ringers and friends welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

**BUSHEY, HERTS ASSOCIATION.** — Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at the Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 2.30. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice (whether learner or professor) in all methods, as well as social chats. Tea can be arranged. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.**—A ten-bell practice, with the apparatus, will be held on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m., tenor 32½ cwt. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Regular weekly practice, Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m.—Ernest A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at Earl Shilton Church on November 23rd at 5 p.m. for a silent tower-bell practice, followed at 6.30 by handbells, etc., at the nearby Plough Inn.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—F. G. Cole is now living at 114, Elmbridge Road, Gloucester.

**HANDBELLS WANTED.**

WANTED, Secondhand set of Handbells, eight, ten or twelve. Tenor size 15 to 18. Write particulars to S. G. Clift, 55, Belvoir Road, Bristol 6.

**BIRTH.**

**KELLY.**—On Saturday, November 2nd, to the wife of Horace Kelly, 164, Richmond Road, Sheffield, a daughter (Jean). Mrs. E. Dorice Kelly is the secretary of the Northern District of the Ladies' Guild.

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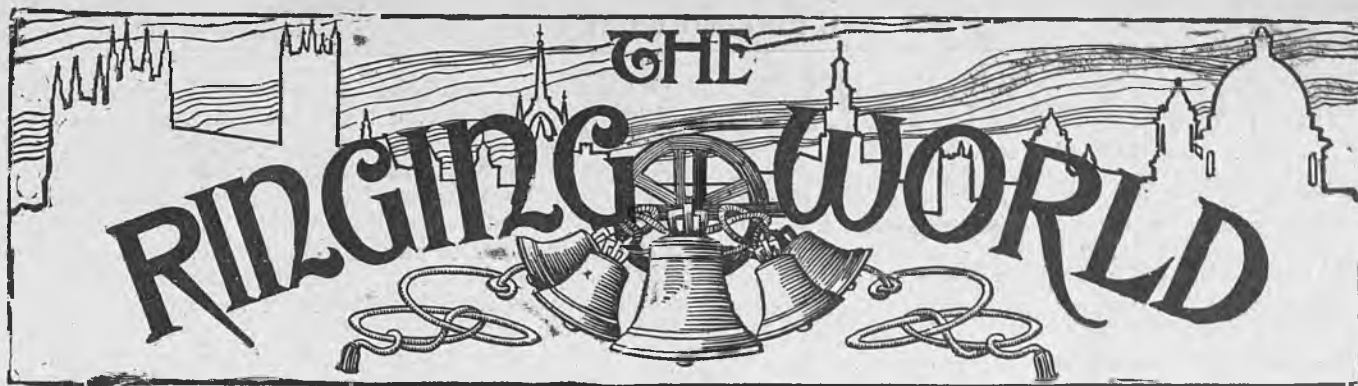
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## CHURCHES AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES

The point raised last week by the Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and emphasised elsewhere in this issue by the hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, touches a matter of vital importance, not only to ringers but to Church authorities throughout the land. It has been alluded to before, but it needs repeating. The use of church bells by the military makes the buildings a legitimate object of attack by the enemy. It is true that in the indiscriminate bombing carried out by the Nazis, many churches have already suffered, irrespective of whether they are legitimate targets, but, as Mr. Coles rightly points out, it is useless to protest if by our own actions church towers are put to military uses, and that is what the bells are now reserved for. At the moment the damage done to churches has been, as far as one can tell, incidental to the raids; but there might be far more serious losses if the enemy, in sheer spite but under cover of justification, deliberately attacked the precious possessions which, with all their hallowed memories, have come down to us through the centuries in nearly every parish in the kingdom. The destruction of Rheims Cathedral in the last war was deliberately carried out by the Germans, on the allegation that the French used the tower as an observation post, and other church towers suffered the same fate for a similar reason. The enemy would use the same excuse now if they thought they needed it.

If there was likely to be any really useful purpose served by ringing the bells as an invasion warning, if there was any co-ordinated plan for their ringing—after nearly six months the public have not been told what they are to do when they hear the bells—the conversion of church towers into military objectives might be justified, although opinions will differ as to that. But there is no plan; and it is certain that there is no useful purpose which cannot be better and more quickly served by other means. It was not to be expected that the military authorities, when the question was raised in Parliament a fortnight ago, would give way on the question of the ban, if they were still of opinion that air invasion continues to be a possibility, because the use of the bells is their own pet scheme. What we feel, however, is that the case for revocation of the Order under which the ban is imposed has never been properly put before them. The authorities have, we believe, a false impression of the value of church bells as a warning, of the very limited effectiveness of the bells, and of the speed with which they could be brought into use; and they have certainly

(Continued on page 554.)

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neglected any plans for bringing their scheme into general operation. At any rate, if they have them, no one connected with the bells has heard anything about them. Such plans as have been formulated are purely local, and most of them depend so much upon someone being found at the critical moment that they are likely to break down.

There seem to us to be two things which the Church, which has up to now docilely looked on, has the right to demand. One is that if the bells are to be used for the purpose of air invasion warning, the military authorities should announce their plan and object, for the benefit of the public and all who are supposed to be officially concerned. The second point is that the Church, unless prepared to admit that its buildings containing bells are military objects, should protest against their use for the purposes laid down in the Order. This latter point is something which only the ecclesiastical authorities can do, but the practical deficiencies of the warning might well be pointed out by the Central Council when next the opportunity occurs for taking up the subject again. It is not sufficient to ask that the ban be removed, or to cite public feeling as the ground for so doing. The one thing that is likely to carry weight in military quarters is proof that the use of church bells is an utterly unreliable means, even in country districts, of giving the warning that is intended.

Obviously, however, we have got to realise that for the present the ban is to remain. Even if it serves or can serve no useful purpose, nothing must be done for the time being to relax precautions or to convey the idea, as the release of the bells might to some people, that the menace of air invasion is past. The country has to remain keyed up to the possibility of enemy landing, and the Premier's grim warnings are not to be neglected. Later on, when the authorities may be approached again, we hope it will be with more conclusive arguments than have yet been officially put before them. In the meantime, it is unquestionably a matter of considerable importance that, whether the ban is lifted or not, and, despite all the enemy may do, the question of making the churches military targets should be given earnest consideration by those into whose custody this heritage of ours has been committed.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 10, 1940, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being forty-two six-scores.

\*Miss W. MARY HICKLING ... 1 | RALPH NARBOROUGH ... 3-4  
 \*Miss EVA W. WEBB ... 2 | †Mrs. IVY NARBOROUGH ... 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

\* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Doubles. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Webb and Mrs. Narborough.

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**OXFORD BELLS & BELLRINGING.****THE DEATH OF THOMAS HEARNE.**

The next attempt for the six-thousand was made at New College on March 11th, 1735, but it failed after about two and a half hours' ringing, and then, nine days later, the band started again and this time they succeeded. Hearne did not hear the peal or the previous attempt, for he was ill, and indeed it was only three months before his death; but he was told by good judges that, take it all together, 'twas a glorious performance, though there were two very great blunders and some other bad ringing; yet considering the length of the peal, it was admirable ringing, such as can hardly be mended unless it be by the Londoners, it being next to impossible to go through such a long tedious work without faults.

The band was the same as rang the first peal in 1734, and stood in the same order — Richard Hearn, John Vicars, John George, Guy Terry, Thomas Yates, John Broughton, Richard Smith, William Barnes, Arthur Lloyd and Nicholas Benwell.

They were 'much caressed' when they had finished and were handsomely entertained at New College, but Barnes could not be at the entertainment, being obliged, as soon as the ringing was done, to go to his brother, the waggoner at St. Aldate's, who died that same evening.

Thomas Hearne died on June 10th, 1735, and was buried on the east side of the churchyard of St. Peter's-in-the-East. We owe him a debt of gratitude for preserving these vivid details of the ringing of two centuries ago, and not only we, for as a modern historian, Mr. G. N. Clark, remarks, he is one 'whom any writer on English History should remember with gratitude.'

After Hearne's death we have not much information about the early ringing at Oxford. In 1740 William Freeman gave two trebles to increase the ring at Magdalen to ten. He evidently was a ringer and a member of a family who were greatly interested in bells. They lived at Aspenden in Hertfordshire. The tenor in the steeple there bears the date 1681 and the name of Ralph Freeman. William Freeman completed the octave in 1736 (the present treble, third and fifth bear his name) and on a board in the belfry recording a peal of Triples by the local company on October 24th, 1764, is: Ex Dono Guelmi Freeman, Armigeri. What his connection with Magdalen College was is not clear. We should naturally conclude that he was a student, but his name does not appear among the University alumni.

On Easter Monday, 1742, Vicars and his band started at Magdalen for a ten thousand of Grandsire Caters, but after ringing seven thousand changes in 4 hours and 25 minutes, the conductor is said to have made a mistake and called the bells round.

A statement like that raises our suspicions. It is, of course, in some circumstances quite possible to make a mistake in calling, and yet produce a true peal, but it is by no means an easy thing to do with the old style peals of Grandsire Caters in the tittums with long courses. We do not know what composition Vicars was calling. We do know, however, that once before he missed a bob twice in a peal attempt and still went on with the ringing. But he was drunk then, and may have done what he would not have done when he was sober.

Six of the old band rang in this peal and four were new men. They were: F. Roberts, J. Vicars, P. Man-

ning, Guy Terry, T. Yates, Joseph Gent, R. Smith, W. Carter, A. Lloyd and A. Benwell. The peal, as well as those previously rung, was composed by Vicars.

No more peal ringing appears to have been done by that generation of ringers, but the large amount of paid ringing at the college towers kept the art alive in some measure. No member of the University seems to have joined the band and after the failure of 1742 only two or three peals were rung by local men until the nineteenth century.

All these peals were Grandsire, which practically was the only method rung in the city. Holt's Ten-part was rung at New in 1775 and Caters at Magdalen in 1781. In 1774 two Cambridge men visited Oxford and with eight of the local men rang 5,058 changes of Grandsire Caters at Magdalen.

In 1764 a band of the College Youths visited Oxford, and this time they had better luck than Annable's party, for they scored 5,094 Grandsire Caters at Magdalen. William Underwood was the conductor, and the company included such well known ringers as Thomas Bennett, James Darquitt, George Meakins and Joseph Monk. In 1788 a later generation of College Youths rang another peal at Magdalen, the first of Treble Bob Royal in the city. Thomas Blakemore conducted, and included in the band were Philip Pilgrim, John Povey, William Lyford, Edmund Sylvester and Joseph Holdsworth.

In October, 1807, William Williams, the beadle of the Society of Junior Cumberlands and one of the most active of the Metropolitan ringers, paid a visit to Oxford, and while there called a peal of Grandsire Triples at Magdalen, and this was followed by a revival of change ringing in the city. The local men rang Holt's Ten-part in 1810, and twice again in 1812. On January 5th, 1815, they rang 6,101 changes of Grandsire Caters at Magdalen and on the following March 25th 10,008 changes at New. Edward Nicholls rang the eighth and called both peals which are recorded in the Junior Cumberlands' peal book and, in the case of the ten-thousand, on a tablet in the belfry. For ringing the long peal the band received ten guineas and a good dinner.

These peals were followed in 1820 by 5,003 Grandsire Caters at Christ Church, composed and conducted by W. Parker, and 5,376 Bob Major, composed and conducted by Isaac John Benjamin Lates, who was afterwards so famous as a Birmingham ringer and a composer of Stedman Triples. Lates' peal had 'the whole of the 786's, 867's and 678's in the 40,320; in other terms, the 6th 24 times Wrong and Right.' It must have been constructed with in-course singles as well as with ordinary singles and probably was similar to a peal which Edward Taylor had already composed and called.

Parker called another peal of Caters at Christ Church in 1828, and an unbroken tradition of Grandsire Cater ringing was kept in the city from Vicars' time until the end of the nineteenth century and the great revival which is associated with the name of James W. Washbrook.

One of the mainstays of Oxford ringing during this time was the family of Paviers. Edward Pavier was the father and Thomas, Jonathan, Charles and George his sons. Jonathan, who was born at Hinckley, near Oxford, on May 1st, 1779, was still living and in his 97th year in 1876 when Mr. J. S. Pritchett was an undergraduate at Oxford. He had been blind for some time, which led to his giving up ringing.

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I beg to say that in his calculations Mr. Lewis has given an initial velocity to his case of a toboggan moving down a sanded slope. This velocity works out to be 28.28 ft. per sec., at 10 ft. down the slope of 30 degrees. This is an acknowledgment of the fact that retardation reduces speed. It assumes that speed is reduced by 2 ft. per sec.

In the case of his smooth surface the toboggan moves down 100 ft. in 3.53 secs. The speed at the base is 56.56 ft. per sec. It will rise to the top of the other slope in 3.53 sec. The total time for 200 ft. is 7.06 secs. (this agrees with Mr. Lewis), and the average speed  $\frac{200}{7.06} = 28.3$  ft. per sec.

In the case of the sanded surface, if no initial velocity be given the toboggan, the time down is 3.78 secs. Its speed at the base is 53.8 ft. per sec. But the retardation will not allow it to reach the top of the up slope and it will run up 77.7 ft. in 2.94 secs. Therefore, the average speed is  $\frac{177.7}{6.72} = 26.4$  ft. per sec. Had there been an

initial velocity of about 4 ft. per sec., the toboggan might have reached the top of the up slope in the same time, but what would happen if we had given an initial velocity to the toboggan on the frictionless surface? It would have travelled another 28 ft., over the top if you like, or would have come bumping back on the boy in it if there had been a stay.

The movement of a bell, tucked up in an iron headstock, is not quite this. It moves as a *bar* pendulum and the frictional forces at the gudgeons are always normal to the lowest part of the groove. They act on a small horizontal plane, and, according to the laws of friction, are independent of the area, but dependent on the mass of the system under consideration.

I enclose my calculations.

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton.

### AN UNSUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

Dear Sir,—Regarding early use of ball bearings for bells, the following may be of interest.

About the year 1890, Dame Rumour reported that such bearings were being tried out. I was, therefore, not surprised when I received word from my old friend Sam Snelling, of Sittingbourne, who dabbled in bell hanging, to say that he had fitted their tenor with such bearings, and would I take a band from Gillingham to attempt a peal to try them out.

I did as he requested, starting for a peal of Treble Bob and ringing the tenor myself.

For about the first quarter the bell went beautifully; after that she began to get stiff, getting worse as we went along. So, about half-way, seeing no hope of finishing, I called 'Stand.'

Sam came up enquiring what was wrong. Having heard my explanation, he went up to see what was amiss. We soon got an excited shout, 'Don't touch her, she'll be down if you do.'

The reason for the failure in this case, as far as I could gather, was that the old case-hardened gudgeons that were on the bell were used in conjunction with the new bearings, and that the balls had cut through the hardened surface, and were eating their way into the softer material.

Sam had, therefore, to put the old plain beatings back, and a new set of gudgeons.

G. LINDOFF.

Dublin.

### WHY BALL BEARINGS WERE USED.

Dear Sir,—It is very interesting to read about ball bearings for bells, but no one has yet stated how they came to be used. I was talking to one of the leading bell founders some years ago about them and he told me the reason was that they had had a lot of complaints of bells going badly after having been rehung. The simple reason was that the bells had not been lubricated and had run dry. So, to remedy the trouble, ball bearings were introduced.

I have rung on both, but I prefer plain bearings especially for a large bell, as you have more control and you have not so much checking against your pull, but you want a competent steeplekeeper who will do his job properly in lubricating. That is where the secret lies. Take, for instance, a peal near here, Heavitree, hung some 35 years ago. It was a new job and the bells there go just as well as when they were first hung. The tenor is 24 cwt. That is only one place I could mention. If my memory serves me rightly, I believe the trebles at Exeter Cathedral are on ball bearings, the others on plain. The consequence is that it wants very experienced men to handle them, as they turn too quickly in comparison with the other ten.

The speed of a bell depends largely on the gartering of the wheel and the tucking up of the bell. I experimented on a sluggish tenor and found that by moving the garter hole a great improvement was effected. I have since done the same with other bells with similar results, from getting more leverage.

C. R. LILLEY.

## PHYSICS OF CHURCH BELLRINGING

AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY LECTURE.

On November 12th, a lecture was given by Mr. W. F. Gibbons, of the Oxford University Society, to the Oxford University Physical Society at the Clarendon Laboratory.

The lecturer began by giving a brief description of the different methods of making music on bells, and said that the bell had come to be known as the English national instrument through the custom of ringing with rope and wheel, each bell thus giving its finest note. The bells were rung together in permutations or changes, and weaved their way through them by following strict mathematical laws.

Through this popularity bell-founding has almost reached perfection by evolution from about the ninth century. Scientific investigation, on the other hand, is far behind, but the task, which was begun by Chladni and Rayleigh, has been carried on by such workers as Bickle and Blessing (Germany), Jones and Alderman (U.S.A.), Gianini (Italy), and Canon Simpson (England).

The lecturer then went on to describe the various parts of the bell, the wheel and headstock and the three methods of ringing—clocking, chiming and ringing. This was adequately illustrated by a complete working model church bell (a mounted handbell) made by the lecturer.

The acoustics of the bell have been investigated most thoroughly by Lord Rayleigh and Professor A. T. Jones, of Smith College, U.S.A. They each investigated the two notes of a bell—the clang and the hum notes—separately and their results agree very well.

Between 1875 and 1890, Rayleigh considered the acoustics of the bell from the point of view of symmetry. If there is perfect symmetry about the axis, then no sound travels along it when the bell is struck. In practice no bell is perfectly symmetrical, but we do obtain a minimum volume of sound along the axis.

The nodes of vibration of a bell can be divided into (a) those repeating round the rim of the bell, (b) those producing nodal meridians, and (c) those repeating along the axis of the bell, producing nodal circles. In the first case, the lowest node repeats twice. A 'node' implies no motion normal to the rim, but at this point there is an antinode of a tangential stretching motion of the bell.

For complete symmetry the nodal meridians are not fixed, but arrange themselves so that the striking point is an antinode. For an asymmetrical bell the meridians are fixed with the provision that nodes and antinodes are interchangeable, with a slight change of frequency. This can be used to produce 'beats' when struck at any point other than the node or the antinode of the partial under observation. The lecturer illustrated this very well by means of a tea-cup. When the tea-cup is struck on the rim 45 or 135 degrees round from the handle, there is a node of normal motion at the handle, which, therefore, does not affect the pitch. When struck at 90 or 180 degrees from the handle, there is an antinode at the handle which gives vibrations of a slightly lower frequency. It is possible to detect almost a semi-tone drop in pitch. This theory can be used in fixing the striking point of an asymmetrical bell to give good tone.

Lord Rayleigh worked on many types of bells, and his conclusions were that the strike-note cannot be excited by resonance. It agrees with the fifth partial of the bell in pitch, although it is an octave lower. He advanced the theory that the ear misjudged the note by an octave for some reason not quite clear.

Professor A. T. Jones continued the work round about 1920 on the Dorothea Carlile and Harkness chimes, listening to the partials of the bells by means of a stethoscope arrangement. Later he used a valve oscillation to maintain the oscillations of the bell. His conclusions were similar to those of Lord Rayleigh, but he gave more detail about the relative strengths of the partials. He collected evidence which confirmed the misjudged octave theory, but was unable to explain Griesbacher's special method of resonating the strike-note by touching the extreme lip of the bell with the stem of a tuning fork of the same pitch as the strike-note of the bell.

The lecturer then gave an account of the details of tower construction which give most pleasing acoustical effect both outside and inside the tower. He concluded by describing the mechanics of bellhanging, paying attention to the roping of bells for minimum force on the tower.

### BOMBED OUT TWICE.

Mr. Joe Hawkins, hon. secretary of St. Andrew's, Holborn, Society, and past Master of the College Youths, has temporarily settled at St. Clement's Inn Passage, Strand, W.C.2. And this is the reason. Mr. Hawkins lived for many years in West Kensington. Twice he and Mrs. Hawkins were bombed out of their home, and they came to the conclusion it was time to move. They took a house down West Middlesex way, and, as Mr. Hawkins tersely puts it, 'dashed me if that wasn't done in on the Friday night as we were going to move in on the following Monday.' So Mrs. Hawkins was sent to Marlow and Joe sheltered for a time in the tubes. Now they have settled in Clement's Inn Passage and we hope they will there find the rest they so much require. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins will have the good wishes of all their friends for their safety.

BUSHEY, HERTS.—On Saturday, November 16th, at the Royal Masonic Junior School, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1,264 changes): Edwin A. Barnett (conductor) 1-2, Chris. W. Woolley 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner 5-6, Edwin Jennings 7-8.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.****LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT MEETING AT COPT OAK.**

A meeting of the Loughborough District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Copt Oak on November 9th, members being present from Hugglescote, Ibstock, Shepshed, The Oaks in Charnwood and the local company. Mr. A. Disney, of Anstey, also paid a visit and was warmly welcomed.

The Vicar kindly placed a room at the Vicarage at the disposal of the ringers, and, despite the bad weather conditions, a good number of members were present.

Handbells were in good use to a variety of methods ranging from Doubles to Caters.

As a parish sale of work and tea was being held in the school, the members wended their way there to do full justice to the ample fare provided by Mrs. Goodman and her band of willing helpers.

A stuffed kangaroo, which had been made in Australia and sent for sale on behalf of the local funds, was purchased by the ringers, who eventually raffled it off (even the single men taking part), the winner being Mr. G. R. Edwards (Ringing Master).

The Vicar conducted a short service and spoke very feelingly on the theme of remembrance, Mr. A. E. Rowley being at the organ.

The business meeting was held at the local headquarters, and Mr. H. O. Over presided. In view of the general quarterly meeting being at Derby on January 11th, it was agreed to hold the district annual meeting at Hugglescote on January 4th if suitable arrangements can be made. This was proposed by Mr. H. Kirby and seconded by Mr. J. E. Tovell and carried unanimously. This will be a departure from the usual custom, the annual meeting having always been held at the Bell Foundry Tower at Loughborough, but the members present thought that in this year, with its many difficulties of travelling, etc., a better meeting might be held at Hugglescote.

Mr. Edwards asked if all the towers were notified when meetings were being held, and the secretary replied that it was the wish of the General Committee, in view of reduced subscriptions owing to the war, that secretaries should reduce their postage expenses and not to send out cards to all the towers.

Mr. Edwards then moved 'That the secretary notify those towers which are likely to be represented at the meetings.' Mr. H. Kirby seconded and the resolution was carried.

Mr. C. W. Hall said how pleasing it was to see such good reports of the meetings in 'The Ringing World.'

Thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the Vicarage and for conducting the service, and to the organist.

Further handbell ringing brought another successful meeting to a close all too soon.

**THE DEATH KNELL.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I thank those gentlemen who have written about the death knell? I am glad to learn that it has survived to a greater extent than most people would have imagined, though there is little doubt that in the majority of places, especially in towns, it is obsolete, and the reason is pretty obvious. Once, as Mr. Hibbert points out, it really was the means of letting people know that a person was dead; now they get the information from other sources, and it is only a survival.

But it is a survival which is worth retaining, and I wish Mr. Edwards success in his effort.

Perhaps, sir, when we have finished with the Oxford Ringers, you may like me to say something about the origin and meaning of the use of bells in connection with deaths and burials.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

**FARNHAM DISTRICT LOSSES.****GOOD FRIENDS TO RINGERS.**

The Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild has lately lost two valued friends, by the death of Mrs. Constance Gertrude Rowsell, wife of the Vicar of Aldershot, and Mrs. Charlotte Maria Elizabeth Dimes, wife of Mr. W. Dimes, leader of the band in the village of Crondall.

Mrs. Rowsell, who was only 46 years of age, was a member of an old Yorkshire family, and was born in Halifax, in the parish where she later became the Vicar's wife. Throughout the last war she was an Army nurse, and later entered the nursing profession and served in hospitals in Leeds and Halifax. The Rev. J. B. Rowsell came to Aldershot three years ago, and during the time spent in the town Mrs. Rowsell entered fully into the activities of the parish. Two young sons of the Vicar and Mrs. Rowsell are among the band at Aldershot Parish Church. St. Michael's ringers sent a wreath and were represented by Mr. W. Denyer at the funeral.

Mrs. Dimes interested herself in the ringing at Crondall and always had a welcome for visiting ringers. Mrs. Dimes was 64 years of age. The Farnham District sent a wreath for the funeral.

**WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged, £16 8s. Further donations have been received from James George, Wolverton, 10s.; John N. Oxborrow, Brixton, 5s.; Samuel E. Andrews, Brixton, 2s. 6d.; Roland Fenn, Barking, 2s. 6d.; J. E. Lewis Cockey, 5s.; Fred G. Cole, Gloucester, 2s.; R. T. Newman, 2s. 6d.; J. Hunt, Taunton, 2s. 6d.; to whom the thanks of the committee are tendered.

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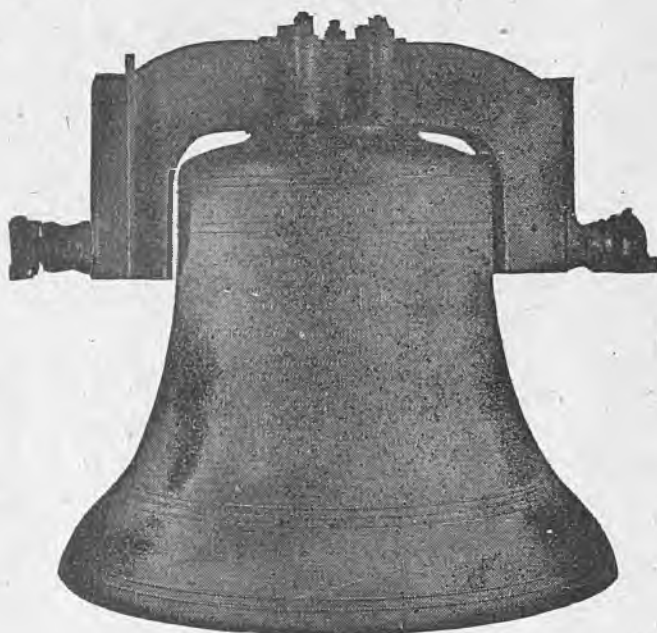
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Will our readers who are serving in His Majesty's Forces kindly note that we are not allowed to publish the names of their military units or addresses?

Sergt. Donald Eric Bristow, R.A.F., who is officially reported wounded while on active service, is a member of Holy Trinity Cathedral Society, Guildford, where he was a pupil of Mr. A. H. Pulling. Sergt. Bristow is a wireless operator and machine gunner. His injuries, we are glad to learn, are not serious. He has three brothers also in the R.A.F.

The Leeds Society's business meeting at St. Chad's, Headingley, has been fixed for 4.30 p.m. to help those who wish to get home early. A new idea. Will members endeavour to support it?

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who was born on November 19th, 1863.

On November 20th, 1890, a peal of Treble Bob Major was rung on the back eight at St. Peter Mancroft. The tenor was rung by Frederick Knights and he was the first man who had ever turned the bell in to a peal of Major, although George Smith, who was recently mentioned in our columns as an outstanding tenor man, had rung it for the full length, but with two bells shifted in the last few changes. Considering the go of the bell, this was a very fine heavy bell feat, but the claim made on the peal tablet that it was the heaviest Major ever rung is an unfounded one. Spitalfields tenor (44 cwt.) was rung several times single-handed to peals, some of them over 6,000 changes.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886. The band included such well-known men as Charles H. Hattersley and John Carter. The ringers of the fourth and seventh, Messrs. Joseph Griffin and John Jagger, happily are still alive.

Fifty years ago to-day twelve peals were rung. One was Grandsire Doubles, three Grandsire Triples, one Grandsire Caters, one Bob Major, four Kent Treble Bob Major, and one Double Norwich Court Bob Major. One of the Kent Major was rung at Gillingham in Kent as a birthday compliment to Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was born on November 19th, 1868.

The City Scholars rang 6,012 changes of Grandsire Caters at Cripplegate on November 23rd, 1732. One of the band, Thomas Nash, moved to Oxford and took part in some of the ringing described in our recent articles.

On the same date in 1775 the first peal (Grandsire Cinques) was rung on the famous twelve at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

A notable peal was rung at All Saints', West Ham, on November 25th, 1737, when Philemon Mainwaring turned the 28 cwt. tenor in to 15,120 changes of Bob Major and called the bobs. The time on the board and in the Eastern Scholars' peal book is given as 8 hours and 40 minutes. There is something wrong there, and it led the authors of the 'Clavis' to throw doubts on the performance. Probably the time should be 9 hours and 40 minutes, unless, of course, that the length claimed was never rung.

## DEATH OF A BOLTON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Peter Nuttall, one of Bolton's oldest ringers, who passed away on November 12th at the age of 78.

For 58 years he had been a ringer at St. Peter's Church, Bolton, and although until recently he lived at a considerable distance, he set a good example to all by his very regular attendance both for service ringing and at practice. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than teaching a beginner to handle a bell.

In time the 94 steps up to the ringing chamber got too much for his failing health, and after he had rung in the year 1939, he resigned from the belfry, but he was fortunate in living almost beneath the tower and he was always about when ringing was in progress.

He had rung 47 peals for the Lancashire Association, of which he had been a member since 1891.

He was laid to rest in a village just outside the town, the local ringers being the bearers. Owing to the war restrictions, the custom of ringing the handbells over the grave had to be abandoned, but before the cortege left the house, four members, representing St. Peter's, Holy Trinity, The Saviour's and St. Peter's, Halliwell, rang a course of Grandsire Triples.

A beautiful floral tribute in the shape of a bell was sent by the ringers.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JAMES GEORGE.

Next Wednesday, Mr. James George will be 87, and his friends throughout the Exercise will congratulate him upon reaching this great age with mental faculties unimpaired and also upon his remarkable progress after his illness, which has resulted in the amputation of a leg.

Mr. George's peal ringing activities before the war were known to everybody, and he rang a peal of Stedman Triples on handbells for his birthday in 1939. Since his operation Mr. George has been living at 49, Anson Road, Wolverton, Bucks.



## WAR DAMAGED CHURCHES.

### SOME FAMOUS BELL TOWERS.

#### The Ruin of Coventry Cathedral.

A striking feature of the present indiscriminate aerial bombing has been the damage and destruction of churches, most of them in places far away from anything which by the wildest stretch of imagination could be called military objectives, unless the proposed use of bells as an alarm can be said to make them a military objective. Full details are, of course, not available, and in the public interest we cannot publish a good deal of the information that has reached us. But the Ministry of Information has very wisely told the public about the damage done last week in Coventry and the ruin of the Cathedral there, and we are now allowed to mention the names of some of the churches well known to ringers which have suffered.

Prominent among them in London are St. Margaret's, Westminster, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Clement Danes and St. Mary's, Islington, as well as those in the City, of which we gave an account in our issue of September 20th.

When we have the full tale from all over the country, it will, we fear, make sad reading, but there is at least a hope that the towers and bells have not suffered so badly as the rest of the buildings, and amid so much wanton destruction many a famous and noble steeple still stands up proudly.

Only the other day a four or five hours' stroll through some of the familiar streets of Central London showed us that, for all the hammering it has had, the town still wears very much its accustomed air, and carries on its usual business, in daylight at least, much the same as ever.

St. Paul's has been bombed, but the cross of gold still shines over the city and the building outwardly bears no mark of damage. Down Fleet Street, St. Bride's and St. Dunstan's stand unharmed; further west is another eight-bell tower very famous in ringing history, where the first Surprise peal was rung, and where in later years the only peal in eleven Surprise Major methods was achieved. That steeple, too, stands, though the church windows are broken and there is considerable ruin not so very far away.

St. Martin's and St. Margaret's have both been damaged, but the towers and bells so far are safe, and so are those at St. Clement Danes, which has not suffered structurally very much, but where, to judge from what one can see through the broken windows, a sad havoc has been made of the interior.

Unfortunately, another and a worse tale must be told of Islington Parish Church. There the body of the building has been quite destroyed, and though the tower stands, it is a question whether the bells will be able to be rung.

#### ST. MICHAEL'S FAMOUS BELLS.

Exactly what has happened to Coventry Cathedral has not been made clear except that the body of the church is in ruins. What damage the world-famous tower and spire have sustained will, of course, not be fully known until an expert survey has been made. All men who value the lovely things which have come down to us from the past will hope that it will not be necessary to pull down for the sake of safety this beautiful building.

The Cathedral ranked as one of the outstanding churches of England. It was not, of course, to be compared to the great Cathedrals like York or Canterbury, or even the lesser ones like Chester or Oxford; for St. Michael's was built as a parish church, and so remained until quite recent years. There was a bishopric of Coventry in olden times, but the church which served as the Cathedral was destroyed 400 years ago.

Coventry has been known far and wide as the city of the three spires. St. Michael's, the tallest and the finest, is nearly 300ft. high; Holy Trinity, which apparently has not been damaged seriously, is 237ft. high, and Christ Church, the third spire, is somewhat less.

The old ring of bells at St. Michael's were among the most famous in England. Cast at Whitechapel by Pack and Chapman in 1774 to replace an older octave by Henry Bagley, of Chacombe, they were, in the estimation of old ringers, one of the three best rings of ten in England, the other two being Stepney and Rotherham. Whether modern opinion would confirm this estimate may perhaps be doubted.

The first peal on the ten was rung on Saturday, May 20th, 1780, by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham. The method was Bob Royal, and the peal in the tittums was composed and called by Phineas Smith.

In the following years several peals were rung in the steeple both by local men and by the Birmingham company, and the names of the ringers include such well-known ones as James Dovey, Benjamin Pugh, Henry Johnson and the rest. The longest peal on the bells seems to have been 6,140 Tittum Bob Royal, rung in 1807 and composed and conducted by Joseph Keen.

The last peal on the bells was one of Stedman Caters, rung by the Birmingham men on June 9th, 1883. Mr. Tom Miller is the last survivor of the band.

In 1885 fears for the safety of the tower and spire led to the cessation of the ringing of the bells. They were rung for the last time on Sunday, June 28th, 1885. After being rung before morning

and evening services, a final touch was completed as the congregation left the church and the bells were then ceased.

In 1925 a proposal was made to recast the ring and replace them by a carillon or chime of 15 bells. This proposal met with much opposition, which was led by Mr. E. Alexander Young, then the honorary secretary of the Central Council; and when a faculty was applied for in the Consistory Court the application was opposed. Distinguished counsel appeared on both sides. Sir Henry Maddocks, K.C., was for the petitioner, and Alderman J. S. Pritchett, the Recorder of Lincoln, for the opposition.

The hearing resolved itself into a battle between the supporters of the old style of tuning and the modern five-toned or Simpson system. One interesting feature was an offer by Mr. Young, on behalf of the ringers of England, to buy the bells at the price allowed by the founders for old metal with a view to their being stored and later rehung in Coventry, or, failing that, elsewhere.

After hearing the evidence, the Chancellor of the Diocese (Mr. E. W. Hansell) granted the faculty. The bells were replaced by a carillon from Croydon, and so pass out of ringing history.

The neighbouring Church of the Holy Trinity has a ring of eight, which are now hung dead in a wooden bell tower. It was to this church that the 'dekyns' belonged, about whom and their connection with the bells we printed an article last Christmas.

#### DAMAGED LONDON CHURCHES.

The destruction of Islington Parish Church is not nearly so grievous an architectural loss as that of Coventry Cathedral, for the building, a typical eighteenth century church, belonged to a period when the line of great English architects, which included Wren, Gibbs, Hawksmoor and Vanburgh, had almost come to an end; but the church in the past played a very large part in the religious life of London, being a strong centre of the Evangelical school in the Church. Its belfry also was well known among older metropolitan ringers.

In 1751 the ancient church had become much dilapidated, and it was resolved to pull it down and build a new one. The tower of flint and rubble proved stronger than was at first thought, and for a time it resisted all attempts at destruction. Gunpowder was tried unsuccessfully, for it had to be used sparingly, then the building was shored up with timber, the foundations undermined, and the wooden supports burned with fire.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid on August 21st, 1751, and the building was finished and opened for public worship on May 26th, 1754.

The Edwardian inventories for the old church have not survived, but in the eighteenth century there was a ring of six bells in the tower. Here in 1734, Laughton and the Ramblers rang a funeral peal for William Ibbott—two Grandsires and 720 Plain Bob. It was the earliest muffled ringing of which we have any account, although the custom was then already an established one.

In 1774 the ring of six was recast at the Whitechapel Foundry and made into eight. The Cumberlands rang the opening peal, one of Bob Major on January 7th, 1775, and next day the College Youths rang 5,088 changes of Oxford Treble Bob. In 1802 Shipway called a peal of a new system, Imperial Place Major, which is produced without any dodging. It has not any particular merits and has not been practised since.

#### ST. CLEMENT DANES.

St. Clement Danes stands just outside the City boundary and was not one of the churches destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. About that time, however, the building became very dilapidated, and Sir Christopher Wren was employed to design a new church, which was finished in 1680. He left the old fifteenth century tower standing, but recased it with Portland stone, and in 1719 his pupil, James Gibbs, the architect of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, added the spire and gave it the appearance it has to-day.

In 1693 William and Philip Wightman supplied a ring of eight bells with a tenor of 24 cwt. They are the best bells cast by their founders, and the author of the 18th century continuation of 'Stow's Survey of London' was fully justified in calling them 'eight noble bells.'

In 1843 two trebles were added by a man named Oliver. Mr. A. A. Hughes informs us that members of the family of Oliver have been employed at the Whitechapel Foundry for generations, and are still represented on the staff. Oliver probably cast the St. Clement's trebles in his spare time, borrowing the strickles for the purpose.

Although they are one of the oldest octaves in London, the bells played but a small part in the early history of the London Exercise. The first peal of which we have any record was on February 12th, 1733, when Annable called 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major with a band of College Youths. Ten years later the Eastern Scholars rang Bob Major, and in 1760 the College Youths rang another peal of Treble Bob.

In 1839 the headquarters of the St. James' Society was moved to St. Clement's and has remained there ever since. During that time many peals have been rung in the tower by various societies, especially in the present century.

Two men, Thomas Tolladay and George Stockham, who played a leading part in the Exercise of the last century, were successively steeplekeepers at the church.

## WAR AND CHURCH BUILDINGS.

### ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have appointed a special commission in connection with the question of the repair, restoration or rebuilding of churches or other church property damaged by enemy action. The commission will consider in particular the provisions of the proposed Government Insurance Bill and, in due course, the question of any general fund for the assistance of dioceses and parishes.

A voluntary levy of at least 5 per cent. on church collections for the benefit of churches suffering through air raids and evacuation was suggested by the Bishop of Blackburn, Dr. P. M. Herbert, at Blackburn Diocesan Conference.

The Bishop said it was certain that dioceses like London could not of their own resources make good their awful losses.

The 5 per cent. levy plan had already been adopted in some of their parishes. The money would not be used immediately, but might be invested in War Bonds for the use of the nation until needed for reconstruction.

### CHURCHES AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—My good friend Mr. Rupert Richardson raises a very interesting and I think a very important point in connection with the ban on the ringing of church bells for other than military purposes. This *must* make the tower, and with it the whole sacred building, an object of military importance, and it does seem to me that we lay ourselves open to the charge of being hypocrites if we protest, as we do, against the bombing of our churches. The fact that the enemy requires no excuse to bomb just what he thinks fit has no bearing on the matter—it is our position that counts, unless we are content to make it legal for the enemy to bomb our churches as he wishes. The ban should be removed at once, and our churches, with their bells, left solely for the purposes for which they were built.

Another important factor is the question of payment for damage. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have appointed a special commission to deal with the question of the repair, restoration, or rebuilding of churches damaged by enemy action. The Bishop of Blackburn has suggested a voluntary levy on all church collections for the benefit of churches suffering through air raids. Surely this is all quite unnecessary. The Government has made the churches military objectives and the Government should foot the bill for any damage.

C. T. COLES.

21, Vincent Road, E.4.

### DAMAGE IN SOUTHWARK DIOCESE.

In the 'Southwark Diocesan Gazette' it is stated that 20 churches in the diocese, including some of the most beautiful, have been destroyed in air raids, and that 70 more are damaged to a greater or less degree.

Among the places damaged, it may be stated that fire has burned out the church and tower of the church where the College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Caters on record on May 28th, 1787. These bells have been silent now for many years; perhaps when the restoration of the church takes place, opportunity may be found to give the bells again the honoured place they once held.

### BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

Notwithstanding the decision of the military authorities not to remove the ban, there is a very considerable amount of feeling in the country that the bells of our churches should be rung again, at least for Sunday services.

This is shown by the following letter which was printed last Monday in a prominent position on the leader page of 'The Times':—

Sir,—Now that the dangers of invasion seem to be materially reduced, I venture to suggest to the authorities that there are many people in England who would once again like to hear the sound of our church bells, calling us to remember and to worship God. It should not be impossible to remove the ban, at least for the winter months.—Yours faithfully, W. H. Murray Walton, St. John's Vicarage, Meads, Eastbourne.

### CHRISTMAS BELLS WANTED

Writing in 'The Times,' the Rev. H. G. Peile, Rector of North Stoneham, Hants, made a plea that, if circumstances permit, the use of the bells may be allowed on Christmas Day.

Another letter in 'The Times' from the Vicar of St. John the Baptist's Church, Spalding, Lincs, said: 'The employment of church bells as a warning of danger was undoubtedly of great value in days of old; now they would merely confirm what most people by other means had come to know. But even if the authorities still consider church bells to be the best method of warning, let it be laid down that, in the event of invasion, bells in their several steeples must be sounded all together—what campanologists I believe call "firing." If such method of giving warning was everywhere adopted, then our church bells might ring out once more in the normal way, with no possibility of confusion between the bells of alarm and the bells calling us, to remember and to worship God.'

## DUNSTABLE'S NEW MAYOR.

### ALDERMAN A. E. SHARMAN ELECTED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Mr. A. E. Sharman, who is so well known to the Exercise as a prominent ringer, and was for many years hon. secretary of the Bedfordshire Association, has been elected to the office of Mayor of the ancient town of Dunstable, and all our readers will wish him success in the responsible duties which will fall to his lot in these difficult and critical times.

He starts his year with the support and respect of his fellow councillors and townsmen. That is evident from the speech of his proposer.

Alderman Sharman's nomination as Mayor was moved by Councillor F. A. Underwood, who referred to the qualities which had endeared him to his colleagues.

History has proved, the councillor continued, that great men arose in difficult times, and he was convinced that in these difficult days Alderman Sharman would prove to be no exception.

'He has that imperturbable type of personality, and all the necessary qualities for leadership,' he declared.

'In fact, he is a man who has already proved his worth and has won the confidence of his colleagues.'

Alderman Sharman was a keen and hard worker, who had gained the admiration of all—even an opponent—through his sincerity and the firm conviction of his views.

In debate he commanded attention, whether one agreed or disagreed, for his arguments merited due consideration. He was fearless—even if a lone advocate of a particular policy, he would advance his views.

In this work he will have the energetic support and co-operation of his wife—a lady possessing both charm and tact—who will win the wholehearted support of the ladies of the borough.

After he had taken the oath of allegiance and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, the Mayor told the Council his first words were those of heartfelt thanks to his colleagues for the honour they had bestowed upon him—the greatest honour that could be bestowed as a citizen of any town.

'What have I done to deserve it all?' asked the Mayor, who confessed that he was overwhelmed.

'It is the proudest moment of my 27 years' residence in this old town—the town of my adoption, to which I came as a complete stranger, and from the first day was received with kindness and friendship.'

### RINGERS IN MAYORAL PROCESSION.

On the Sunday after his election the new Mayor attended the Priory Church in state accompanied by the Corporation, and instead of performing their usual duties in the belfry the ringers marched in the procession.

In his sermon the Rector referred to the presence of the bellringers in the procession, saying that so strange were these days that ringers accompanied the Mayor to church instead of making a loud, joyous noise to greet him, as they would have preferred to do.

'If they had done so, most of the procession would have gone in search of parachutists, and the remainder would have gone to the tower to clap the ringers into gaol,' declared the Rector.

'But our hope is,' he told the Mayor, 'that before your year of office is out you will walk beneath the tower that rocks to a peal of victory.'

The town, said the Rector, would loyally support the new Mayor, but he warned him that the town would make heavy demands upon him and the Council.

### PEALS IN AUSTRALIA.

Six years ago to-day the Australian tourists rang their last peal in the Commonwealth. Following the Armistice Day peal at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, they visited Ballarat, where on the Albert bells at the Town Hall they scored the first peal of Stedman Triples outside the British Isles. This was a kind of public entertainment, for dozens of people came to watch the ringing during the three and a quarter hours, and more than one stayed the whole time.

A week afterwards, on November 20th, came a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Sydney, and out of this ringing, which was exceptionally good, a full half-hour was broadcast to the whole of Australia.

Then, on November 22nd, the final tower-bell peal of the tour was rung at Darling Point, when George Martin conducted another peal of Stedman Triples.

Another peal at the Cathedral was to have been attempted the following evening, but the long days of travelling, sight-seeing and entertainment had taken toll and a peal-fit company could not be made up.

On November 24th the party split up and one section returned to England by the way they came and four of them on the following day made a new record by ringing the first and, up to now, only peal on the Pacific Ocean—a peal of Bob Major on handbells. They were thousands of miles away in the Indian Ocean before they rang another.

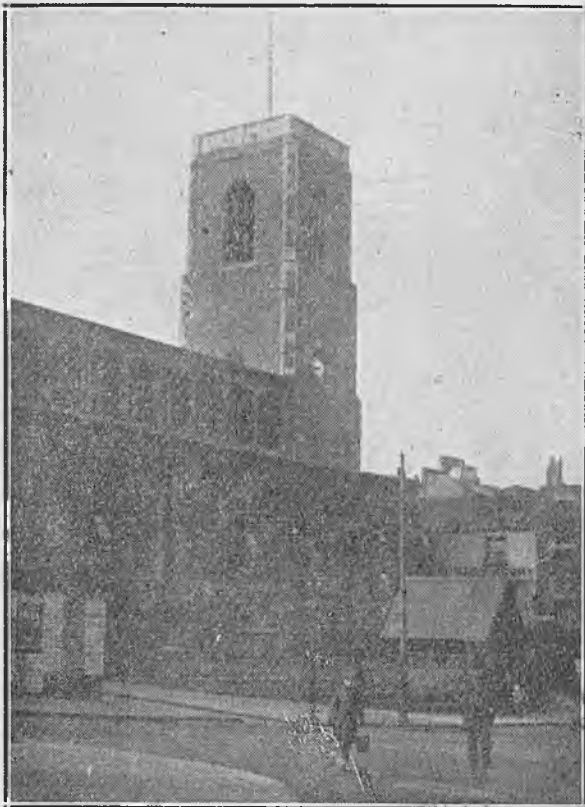
The rest of the company visited New Zealand before coming home via the Panama Canal.

## NOTABLE PEALS OF LONDON.

### THE FIRST PERFORMANCE AT NORWICH.

The first band to attempt to ring London Surprise was the ancient Society of College Youths. They had already rung a peal of Cambridge, though it turned out to be a false one, but they did not get so far with London, either because, as Shipway suggests, they found it too difficult, or, and perhaps more likely, because they turned their attention to Stedman Caters (of which they rang the first peal), and then broke up.

It was the Norwich Scholars who, on November 17th, 1835, actually succeeded in ringing the first peal in the method. They had already achieved peals of Double Oxford and Superlative; and the London was the best performance by a very fine band. The conductor was



ST. ANDREW'S TOWER, NORWICH.

Samuel Thurston, who, after a time, when he was in opposition to the Mancroft company and their leader, Robert Chestnut, as shown by the extracts from the local papers, recently sent us by Mr. Charles E. Borrett, joined forces with his rivals and eventually became their bob caller and captain.

The Superlative was rung at St. Giles' and the London at St. Andrew's; and the peculiarity of both belfries was that the ropes fell quite out of the proper order. This was especially the case at St. Andrew's, where scarcely any two ropes hung next each other in the right order. It was due to the bell cage, which, starting as a five-bell frame set diagonally in the tower, was added to bit by bit, as the ring became six, then eight and then ten.

The frame is still in the tower, but the bells have not been rung for about forty years. The church is a very fine example of Perpendicular architecture and, except for St. Peter's, Mancroft, has no equal in Norwich. The tower lost a good deal of its appearance when the eight pinnacles which once adorned it were taken down.

### SUSSEX BAND'S ACHIEVEMENT RECALLED.

Fifty years ago a peal of London Surprise Major was the zenith of a man's ambition in ringing. There was no greater height to which he could aspire, and at that time there was but a very limited number of ringers who had reached this goal. Few indeed were the peals of London that had been rung by a band who were all regular ringers at the same tower. A 'local' peal of London was therefore an event, and when it was the first peal in the method by all the band it was doubly noteworthy.

Half a century ago, St. Peter's Society, Brighton, were in the limelight. They were one of the few companies that could muster a

(Continued in next column.)

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

### THE PRESENT ACTIVITIES.

The activities of the Oxford University Society have so far this term been most satisfactory. The society was fortunate in obtaining permission to have the clappers removed from the bells at New College, and as a result regular weekly practices have been held there on Wednesday evenings to teach newcomers the art of handling a bell rope, and to give others an opportunity of 'keeping their hands in.'

The number of beginners this term has not been as large as usual, but almost without exception they have been exceedingly keen and have made good progress, especially on the handbells.

It has been found by experience that it is more useful to keep the number of people at the handbell meetings on the small side, as everyone then gets a better opportunity to ring, so for these practices the members are split into two groups, the beginners meeting on Saturday evenings and the more advanced people on Sunday mornings.

The beginners, none of whom had ever rung a handbell a month ago, can now all ring 1-2 or 5-6 in a course of Grandsire Doubles, 5-6 in a three-score of Grandsire Doubles and in a course of Plain Bob Minor. On Sunday mornings, with all double-handed ringing, courses of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Major are regularly rung, though it must be admitted that sometimes it is with the assistance of one non-university man.

On Saturday, November 9th, the society held a tower bell meeting at New College, at which the members welcomed the Rev. Malcolm Melville, who was paying a week-end visit to Oxford, and seven of the city ringers.

The bells were 'rung up' at 2.45 p.m., and after a good touch of Grandsire, a most enjoyable afternoon's ringing followed. It was realised how comparatively little people relied on sound in the old days for finding their place in change ringing. Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob were all rung, and the activities were brought to an end with a fine course of Cambridge Major.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather, the beginners' meeting in the evening was also well attended, and under the energetic tutorship of the Master (Mr. J. E. Spice), some useful work was put in on the handbells. The week-end's ringing was brought to a close on the Sunday morning with some good courses, in which some of the visitors of the previous afternoon again joined.

It is hoped that these Saturday afternoon practices may be continued at intervals, as they are invaluable in keeping tower-bell ringing up to the mark during these unfortunate days.

Miss Dorothy L. Sayers has become an honorary member of the society, and on behalf of all members a cordial welcome was extended to her, whose 'Nine Tailors' has been the stimulus whereby so many people have been attracted to the bell tower.

## THE FIRST PEAL OF LONDON IN SUSSEX

(Continued from previous column.)

Surprise band from among their own members. They had begun under George F. Attree, who was Master of the tower, secretary of the Sussex Association and churchwarden of the Parish Church. He was a prominent business man in Brighton, and was able to strengthen his company by employing ringers, while he was also fortunate, then and later, in great accessions of talent by the migration to the town of men like George Williams, Edward C. Merritt and Frank Bennett.

In 1892, having previously rung peals of Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge, the band practised London, and on November 22nd, 1892—48 years ago to-day, to be exact—they scored their first peal in the method, which was also the first for the Sussex Association. Afterwards, of course, the society rang many peals in the method, and added other Surprise methods, some of which they were the first to ring. But there was probably none which was of greater merit than their first peal of London.

At this time there had indeed been very few peals in the method at all. Between 1887 and this date the Burton men had rung ten peals, but apart from these there had been only three others, the first at Norwich in 1835, the next at Woolwich in 1849, and the other at Benington in 1870. So that, as far as records carry us, the Brighton peal was only the fourteenth ever rung. It was conducted by G. F. Attree, who made a point of calling the first peal in any new method rung by his band—until it came to Bristol Surprise.

The men who took part in the peal bore names prominent in the Exercise in their day, and the older readers of this paper will recall them with interest, and some, perhaps, with pleasant memories. They were John Jay, sen., treble, John R. Reilly 2, Arthur A. Fuller 3, George A. King 4, Edward C. Merritt 5, George Williams 6, Harry Weston 7, George F. Attree tenor. Only George Williams now remains actively associated with ringing. Half the band at least have 'crossed the hourne.' George Attree died in Canada, where George King still resides.

In the days when this peal was rung, St. Peter's had a light peal of eight, the tenor being only 10½ cwt., with a long draught of rope. The belfry then as now was one of the best appointed in the country, and with the passage of years the walls became panelled with neatly recorded peal performances, which still tell of the achievements of one of the most accomplished bands in the country.



## CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR. HOW ITS FALSE COURSE ENDS AFFECT COMPOSITION.

Cambridge was the first of the Surprise Major methods to be rung, and for several years before the present war it was the one most popular and most widely practised. But the views expressed by various men as to its merits and demerits have been very diverse and strongly divergent. When the ancient Society of College Youths rang the first peal in the method they were very proud of what they had done, and 'deemed it the greatest performance ever achieved in the Campanistanean Art, as so intricate a method was never practised by any other set of men whatever.'

A few more peals by the most skilled bands followed, and together with Superlative and London the method took its place as one of the three which stood at the very summit of what a ringer's ambition could aim at.

Sixty years ago or so an increased activity in method ringing led the then recognised authorities on composition to examine the different methods which had come down from the past. Superlative they recognised as the 'Queen of Methods,' but when they turned to Cambridge the more they saw of it the less they liked it. To Sir Arthur Heywood and Earle Bulwer it was crude and faulty in construction, a survival from days when men knew no better. C. D. P. Davies went much further in his condemnation, and his denunciation was extravagant and even ludicrous.

These were clever men who had thoroughly earned their reputation, and did not express opinions wantonly or without cause or reason, but we shall, we think, do them no injustice when we say that their real quarrel with the method was not for any faults it had shown in actual practice, but because it obstinately refused to fit itself into the schemes they had drawn up to settle what should be considered a good method and what not.

Heywood had studied very carefully the things which are essential to good music in ringing, and for that reason he rejected as illegitimate any method in which more places are made than are absolutely necessary. Now twice in every lead in Cambridge four places are made in one change.

It is rather difficult to see what difference that makes to the music. Does the most sensitive ear ever notice the making of these four places when Cambridge is being rung? We doubt it.

Davies brushed aside all considerations of music as completely irrelevant. Indeed, to him there was no such thing as music in ringing when the tenor was turned in. The only thing that mattered was that the orderly succession of the nature of the rows, odd and even, should never be broken. He treated this as the fundamental rule, and he held that all those methods, like Kent Treble Bob, London and Bristol Surprise and the rest which have handstroke places, were due to 'what may not unfairly be called a veritable riot of unruliness.' He did not explain why the unbroken succession of the nature of the rows should be a fundamental rule, but then, people do not argue about their axioms; they would not be axioms if they did.

It did not occur to these people that there might be some justification for the place making in Cambridge, or that the peculiar merits of the method—its regularity, its capacity to expand on all numbers indefinitely,

and so forth—were due entirely to the way the places are made. Their excuse is that not much was really known in those days about method construction.

One thing, however, they did know and were not slow to point out. Cambridge has but one true peal with the tenors together, and that was, and is, a serious defect. Here they saw the justification for all the hard things they had said about the method. They disliked it because of the four places made in one change, and they were confirmed in their dislike because they thought that there was the reason why no more than one true peal can be had. Many other people have thought the same, and some, no doubt, still do. But they were, and are, wrong.

The making of the four places in one change in the second section is not the real cause of the extreme liability of the method to internal falseness. It is due to a combination of causes. The first section gives the false course end B24365. The second section gives the two false course ends A32546 and D46253. These are the false course ends of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and of London Surprise. They belong to the group ABCDE, and, as we have seen, will allow of thirty true full natural courses. It is the presence *also* of the two, F32465 and G43265, from the fourth section which causes the difficulty. So long as the false course ends of a method are confined to one of the two groups ABCDE and BFG we have thirty true natural courses to work with; but when they come from both groups there is trouble. This might have happened without any making of four places in one change, and on the other hand the four places can be made and no false course ends at all result.

12345678  
21436587  
12463578  
21645387

26143578  
62415387  
62145837  
26418573

24681537  
42865173  
42681537  
24865173

42856713  
24587631  
25478613  
52746831

25478631  
13527864  
GS—BFG

Here is a method in which the same four places are made in one change as in Cambridge, and the only section which gives no false course ends at all is the second, where these four places are made.

But it may be objected that if you do as Benjamin Thackrah did, and move the places in 1-2 out of the second section to a more convenient position, you get

(Continued on next page.)



## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**BUSHEY, HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at the Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 2.30. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice (whether learner or professor) in all methods, as well as social chats. Tea can be arranged. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.**—A ten-bell practice, with the apparatus, will be held on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m., tenor 32½ cwt. A cordial invitation is extended to all. Regular weekly practice, Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m.—Ernest A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, November 23rd, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at Earl Shilton Church on November 23rd at 5 p.m. for a silent tower-bell practice, followed at 6.30 by handbells, etc., at the nearby Plough Inn.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at St. Chads, Headingley, on Saturday, November 30th. Handbells in the choir vestry from 2 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—The annual general meeting will be held at All Saints', Colchester, on Saturday, December 7th. Please note the name of church. Handbells will be available at All Saints' Parish Hall, which is in Queen Street, opposite Culver Street, at 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. A service will be held in All

### CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

(Continued from previous page.)

rid of the falseness resulting from that section and make true peals possible. So far, at any rate, the four places are a cause of the falseness of Cambridge. That is true, but we must remember that there are still four places made in one change, and that, if instead of moving the places in 1-2 from the second section, we cut out fifths and eighths as Benjamin Annable did, we have still the same false course ends A and D.

Saints' Church, opposite memorial, at 4 p.m., and tea and business meeting in the hall at 4.45 p.m., with more ringing. Please send names for tea by Wednesday morning, December 7th, as catering is so difficult. There is a good shelter within 100 yards of both church and hall.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 7th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Church Institute at 5.30 p.m. to all who notify Mr. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Wednesday. Please try to attend.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 14th. Handbells 3 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Business includes election of officers, accounts for the year, etc. Please make an effort to be present. A postcard for tea will oblige.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. Joseph S. Hawkins, hon. secretary of St. Andrew's, Holborn, Society, is now 8, Clement's Inn Passage, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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### BIRTH.

**CHADDOCK.**—On November 12th, at 9, Bannasley Road, Scawsby, Doncaster, to the wife of Norman Chaddock (née Miss Elsie Brothwell), a daughter.

### BOW BELLS.

In view of reports of damage caused by raids on Central London, our readers will be glad to learn that Bow bells could still ring again if opportunity offered, but no longer could the ringers resort to a well-known hostelry where once they refreshed themselves and where not a few men have sat to enjoy or criticise the ringing, according to their mood and whoever was ringing.

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

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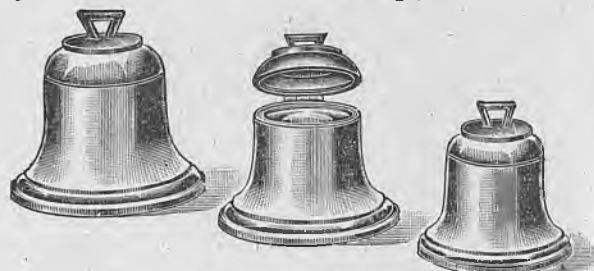
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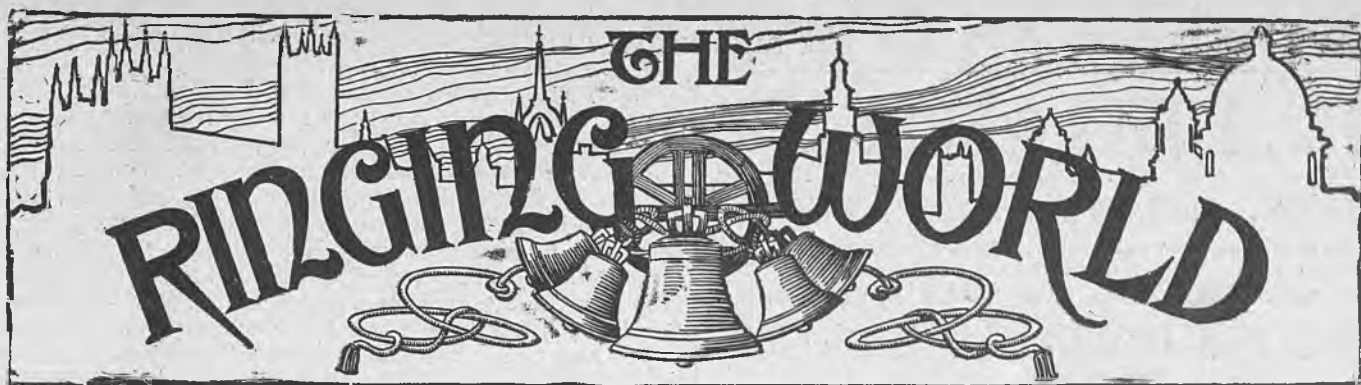
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## INTERESTING THE APATHETIC.

With the lengthening black-out and the continuing ban on bellringing, association secretaries are finding it more and more difficult to promote meetings, for these are times when few people care to travel after dark. With little inducement, and the entire absence of tower bellringing, it is, of course, hardly to be wondered at that attendances are getting small, and that only the real enthusiasts are to be found supporting the gatherings. Yet this state of affairs ought to be no discouragement and, if merely for the sake of maintaining contacts, it is well that wherever possible meetings should be continued. More opportunities should be made for intercourse between neighbouring towers rather than trying to arrange meetings to cover wide areas. A monthly meeting between four towers would be of far more value at times like the present than a meeting for a dozen towers once a quarter. These must be days of small things, and we must be content. Excellent results may spring from small endeavour if only the ringers who are able will put their hearts and energies into giving a helping hand to those who need it.

It is highly important that ringers should not lose touch with each other. One means of keeping contact is through 'The Ringing World,' and more than ever is it necessary that those who value the future should keep alive in the present. The meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association provided an illustration of what can happen when ringers allow themselves to get out of touch. What was a strong and healthy branch of one of the strongest associations in the country mustered only ten members for the annual meeting, and one reason was attributed to the fact that many ringers in the area had ceased to read 'The Ringing World.' In as far as that is true, it is a pity, but it is, perhaps, only another example of the apathy which has always been one of the besetting sins of ringers as a class. It is, of course, not unexpected that with the cutting out of all church bellringing interest would be knocked out of the art for a considerable number of people almost immediately. There are many who have made no effort to keep their interest alive, and these apathetic ones will, not unlikely, be largely lost to the Exercise unless something can be done to keep contact with them. Some, no doubt, will come back to the belfries as soon as the bells can be rung again, but this hiatus is likely to have a disastrous effect on post-war ringing unless something is done to keep alive the spark of interest. Personal contact is the safest and surest means of holding these lukewarm ringers, and one way of maintaining contact with them is

(Continued on page 566.)

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by local meetings which can give them fairly frequent opportunities of meeting their ringing friends.

Gatherings of this kind, however, cannot be run without some little trouble and without an effort to make them attractive. Handbell ringing must be the mainstay, but more, perhaps, might be done by getting the right kind of person to give talks on various ringing subjects, especially those of an instructional nature. It is not necessary that these talks should be on a high level, but they could be made most useful. There is always in a gathering of ringers someone who knows a little more than the others, and who could impart knowledge to the less well informed. It might be that all he could tell his listeners would be how to call touches of Grandsire or Stedman Triples, how to follow the coursing order of bells, or some other of the many little things that go to help make the better ringer. As long as it is helpful, the subject does not matter, but it is often astonishing how much good can be done by passing on simple hints in simple language. It does not need a schoolmaster or a lecturer to teach change ringing, and a homely talk round a table, with paper and pencil, if a blackboard and chalk are not available, may do more good than the most brilliant set discourse.

The example of one of the districts of the Salisbury Guild might also be followed where there is available a ringer whose career has given him experiences worth relating. Ringing reminiscences are usually entertaining and generally welcome among ringers. The one thing to guard against in this direction, however, is repetition. Men with interesting stories to tell have spoiled their reputations as raconteurs by recounting their tales too many times, so that this form of entertainment must of necessity be somewhat limited. There are, however, possibilities in this direction which should not be lost sight of by organisers of meetings, for anything by way of variety will add interest to the proceedings, and it is interest alone that will attract. To some, of course, handbells and the meeting of friends will provide all the attraction they need, but there is that other section whose interest we want to retain. The apathetic ones have always had to be 'nursed,' frequently with little grace, but it seems essential to keep what languishing interest they may yet retain, if the belfries are to be quickly remanned when an end comes to the war or to the earlier lifting of the ban.

### HANDBELL PEALS.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, November 16, 1940, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At 74, CLARENDON ROAD,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Consisting of 1,440 Plain Bob, 1,440 Canterbury, 2,160 Grandsire.

Tenor size 15 in C.

\*ALFRED JORDON ... .. 1-2 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 3-4

\*WALTER J. CLOUGH ... .. 5-6

Conducted by ALFRED BALLARD.

\* First handbell peal and first attempt. Believed to be the first handbell peal in Hinckley.

MERE, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 20, 1940, in One Hour and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At THE CLOSE,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

MRS. E. G. COWARD ... .. 1-2 | EDWARD G. COWARD ... .. 3-4

\*EDWARD J. ROWE ... .. 5-6

Conducted by EDWARD G. COWARD.

\* First peal 'in hand.'



**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.****NORTHERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Northern District of the Essex Association took place at Bocking on November 16th. Only 10 members attended, but seven towers were represented, viz., Halstead, Dunmow, Braintree, Greenstead Green, Sible Hedingham, Dedham and Bocking. Six 'silent' bells were available and also handbells, and the members quickly made use of these after the long absence.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Dean, the Rev. E. Rogers. The party then adjourned to the hut, where some light refreshments were provided by the local Guild of ringers.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master (Mr. H. W. Smith) in the chair. The hon. secretary (Miss Hilda G. Snowden) presented a report on the year's work:—

This year has been very sad in the life of change ringing, but in spite of the Defence Regulations, three meetings were held in the division, at Earls Colne, Witham and Bocking, two of which took place before the ringing ban. The average attendance was 21. Six ringing members and one non-resident life member had been elected and two had passed away. Seven peals had been rung, four on handbells and three on tower bells, the methods being Superlative and Cambridge Surprise, Bob Major (3) and Bob Royal (1). The conductors were C. W. Woolley (4), L. W. Wiffen (2) and H. W. Smith (1). This record was excellent considering the difficult conditions. Several members had joined H.M. Forces and all wished them a speedy and safe return. It was a matter of great regret that one of the churches in the Northern Division had suffered through enemy action, and they hoped to see the day when it would be restored.

The report went on to pay a tribute to the late Mr. C. H. Howard. The association sustained a great loss by his death, which was particularly felt by the Northern Division, as Mr. Howard never missed one of its meetings. The division was well represented at the funeral and several members joined in the half-muffled ringing.

In conclusion, the secretary thanked the correspondents of each tower for collecting the subscriptions, and also the members who had attended the meetings in these difficult times.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen then took the chair for the election of officers. He paid a tribute to the way in which the District Master and hon. secretary had carried out their work in the most difficult times.

Both officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

It was agreed to hold another meeting before the general committee meeting in March, arrangements for this being left to the secretary.

The District Master then proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean for conducting the service and allowing the meeting to take place. He also thanked the local Guild for kindly providing the refreshments.

The Dean, in replying, said how pleased he was to have the ringers at Bocking again, and hoped that before long they would be able to ring the bells once more.

The presence of Mr. L. Wright, N.E. district secretary, was much appreciated. He had come quite a distance to attend the meeting. The poor attendance of the Northern Division members was attributed to the fact that probably several people had given up taking 'The Ringing World,' much to the disgust of the members present. The secretary is to write every tower announcing the next meeting.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.****THE IMPORTANCE OF CARRYING ON.**

The November meeting was held at Barnsley on the 9th, when members were present from Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath, Sandal and the local company.

Touches were rung on handbells in the ringing chamber in the afternoon. A committee meeting was then held in the vestry, at which arrangements were made for the annual meeting, which will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th. It was also agreed to hold a handbell contest on the same date with the hope of inducing more of the members to take up this form of ringing.

A short service in the church was conducted by the Rector (Canon W. E. Wilkinson). In the course of his encouraging address he pointed out that we were living in very difficult times, but it would be the duty of those who survived to carry on. Ringers had an important part to play and should see that this wonderful art of change ringing was handed on to the younger generation.

He added that he thought it was best that ringing societies should continue to hold their meetings, even if only a small number attended, as anything that was allowed to drop was very hard to start again.

After the service the ringers proceeded to the Royal Hotel, where a good square meal was waiting for them.

The subsequent business meeting was presided over by Mr. E. Brookes (president), supported by the vice-president, Mr. W. Moxon (Sandal). The business was of the usual routine character.

As the Rector had already been thanked personally, before leaving the church, for conducting the service and presiding at the committee meeting and for all he had done to make the meeting a success, there was no need for a vote of thanks at this meeting.

It was agreed to accept an invitation to hold the next meeting at Eastwood (Rotherham) on Saturday, December 14th.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and social intercourse. Methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, and touches of Bob Major. A course of Bob Major was also rung single-handed and three of the members gave an exhibition of 'lapping.'

**DEATH OF GUILDFORD GUILD VETERAN****MR. GEORGE ANDREWS, OF ASH.**

One of the oldest members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild has passed away in the person of Mr. George Andrews, of Ash, Surrey, at the advanced age of 90 years, and ten days after having celebrated the 65th anniversary of his wedding. Mr. Andrews was born at Ifield, Crawley, Sussex, in June, 1850, and was the eldest of a large family. Three of his brothers and three sisters survive him, and, in addition to his widow, two sons and three daughters are left in bereavement.

Mr. Andrews entered the service of the old London and South-Western Railway Co. as a porter at Gosport, and subsequently worked in various capacities at a number of stations, and rose to be an inspector at Twickenham and Aldershot, where he retired in 1915.

In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Andrews went to live at Ash. An intimate connection with St. Peter's Church was commenced in 1921, when Mr. Andrews became a churchwarden. In the following year he was appointed parish clerk and verger, and served the church in this capacity for 16 years. On his retirement in 1937, a presentation was made to him by the parishioners. He was also for many years a member of the Parochial Church Council.

As a boy of 13, Mr. Andrews became interested in bellringing, and took it up again with great enthusiasm after coming to Ash. He was honoured by his fellow ringers on the occasions of his eightieth and eighty-fifth birthdays. When Mr. and Mrs. Andrews celebrated their golden wedding in 1925, a reception was given in their honour at St. Peter's Room, Ash, and this was followed ten years later by a still more notable celebration on the occasion of their diamond anniversary. A short service was held in St. Peter's Church, after which touches of Bob Minor were rung, and at the tea which followed in St. Peter's Room no fewer than thirty-five relatives were present. Among the many messages of congratulation received was a telegram conveying the good wishes of their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary.

Mr. Andrews, who enjoyed the best of health, led an active life, and no occupation was more congenial to him than the tending of his well-kept garden. Despite advanced age, Mr. Andrews frequently attended ringing meetings.

In February, 1937, he was unfortunate enough to be knocked down by a bus outside his own gate, while returning from a church service, and was unconscious for 40 hours. He made a remarkable recovery, however, and retained his faculties to the end of his life.

The funeral took place at St. Peter's Church, Ash, the service being conducted by the Rev. H. C. Aubin, assisted by the Rector (the Rev. W. J. Blaikie) and the Rev. E. C. Hetherington. Miss I. Gillians was at the organ, and a choir led the singing of the 90th Psalm and two hymns. These were 'Abide with me,' Mr. Andrews' favourite, and 'Jesu, Lover of my soul,' which must have been one of the last hymns he remembered, as he sang lines from it on the evening of his death.

Mr. C. D. Manfield (churchwarden) and Miss Manfield, Mr. J. A. Norris (sidesman) and Mr. E. Sherwood (captain of the Ash band of bellringers) were among those present, and wreaths were sent by the Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and the members of St. Peter's belfry. Unfortunately, the ban on church bells prevented any muffled ringing being done.

**SINGLE-HANDED HANDBELL PEALS.**

Mr. C. Woodcock, of Ipswich, has sent us particulars of four very interesting handbell peals rung single-handed at Sproughton, near Ipswich, some years ago. We think, and no doubt most of our readers will agree, that these peals were fully worth while. It should be noted that Sproughton had only six bells in its steeple. The peals were:—

April 10th, 1900, 5,056 New Cambridge Surprise Major, conducted by Charles Mee.

November 24th, 1900, 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, conducted by Frederick Mee.

September 14th, 1902, 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Major, conducted by Frank Rolfe. Two pairs, 5-6 and 7-8, were rung double-handed in this.

March 16th, 1903, 5,056 London Surprise Major, conducted by Charles Mee.

**CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I remember a few years ago when Mr. C. Roberts, Mr. W. Williams and their band—who were touring South Wales—attempted a peal of London Surprise Major at Bridgend, Glam. Mr. A. J. Pitman outside wrote down each treble lead as it came up. The peal was lost, Mr. Pitman afterwards showing Mr. Roberts the figures, which proved him to be correct. I also remember listening to an attempted peal of Stedman Triples at St. Peter's, Pentre Rhondda, with the late Mr. H. Page, during which I remarked, 'What lovely striking!' He said, 'Yes, but there is no peal.' I enquired why, and he replied, '2 and 3 have changed course,' which proved to be correct. The peal was stopped half-way.

F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Brookville, Sidford, Sidmouth.

## THE USE OF CHURCH BELLS IN CONNECTION WITH DEATHS AND BURIALS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Bells have been used in the Christian Church in connection with deaths and burials from very early times, and the custom goes back much further still into remote antiquity. When Christianity in the fourth century triumphed over heathendom and paganism, and became the dominant religion of the West, there was no clean sweep made of all the old customs and beliefs, mainly because such a thing was not possible. Many of them still continued, and attempts were made to purify them, Christianise them, and give them new meanings.

The most important, probably, was the belief in malignant spirits. It is a belief which is almost universal in the human race, and had its beginnings in the dark, backward and abysm of time when man first began to be a thinking and observing animal. He was faced with forces of nature, forces which he could neither control nor understand. Too often they worked to his harm, and he could only explain them on the supposition that thunder and lightning, tempest and earthquake, were the work of evil spirits, who must be placated or driven away if only there were means of doing so.

It was but a step further to see the influences of evil spirits in the more intimate things of life. It was they that caused disease, and especially were they active in the awful and mysterious hour of death, when the soul had left the body but had not yet reached the shelter of the final resting place of the departed. It was a common belief that these spirits could be put to flight by the sound of metal, 'whether it be the musical jingle of little bells, the deep-mouthed clangour of great bells, the shrill clash of cymbals, the booming of gongs, or the simple clink and clack of plates of bronze or iron knocked together, or struck with hammers or sticks.' (Sir James Frazer, 'Folk Lore in the Old Testament.') Hence all over the world it was the custom, as soon as a person died, to make a noise with some musical instrument, so that spirits should be kept at a distance until the soul had safely taken its departure.

The teaching of our Lord and his apostles gave no support to these beliefs, but still it was not very difficult to adapt them to the Christian religion. The Jews in the centuries just before Christ's time had taken over from the Zoroastrians the belief in a personal devil, the enemy of God and man, the author or instigator of most of moral evil, the tempter; and our Lord and his Church accepted this belief. There is a vast difference, of course, between influences working for moral evil and those powers of nature which in their operations are sometimes destructive, but to the half Christianised Gaul or Iberian the difference was not apparent. They continued, therefore, to use handbells when a man died, and after bells had been hung in church towers it was the natural thing to use them for the same purpose.

But there were many more enlightened men whose beliefs were based on something better than folk lore and inherited superstition—teachers and theologians who knew and had studied the writings of the Apostles and the early Fathers. They, too, accepted the use of bells at deaths and burials, but they gave to it a higher and a purer meaning.

The first Provincial Council of Cologne laid it down as an opinion that at the sound of bells summoning Chris-

tians to prayer demons are terrified and depart, and the spirits of the storm, the powers of the air, are laid low. However, the members of the Council inclined to attribute the result rather to the fervid intercession of the faithful, than to the musical clangour of the bells.

There were others, too, who looked on the bells as the voice of the Church. When they rang she spoke as clearly as she did in psalm or liturgy, and, backed as she was by the tremendous powers at her disposal, what wonder that the powers of darkness and evil should tremble and be afraid? Writers have talked much about the superstitious use of bells. It was superstition, no doubt, to believe that evil spirits could be frightened by noise as a child is frightened by thunder, but there is no superstition in the belief that the Church has power by the use of her bells to resist and overcome evil, any more than there is when a modern congregation sings lustily that 'at the shout of triumph Satan's host doth flee.'

There was, then, a common use of bells at deaths, but it was a use to which various meanings were attached according to the knowledge and enlightenment of the users, and this use went on with little alteration for a thousand years. During the Middle Ages belief in the existence of evil spirits was strong (it seems like a dark background against the thoughts, and the hopes, and the fears of the people), but in the course of the centuries its nature considerably altered.

There still remained an official belief in the power of bells to allay tempests. It died out in England during the Reformation period, but was strong on the Continent down to quite recent times. It was in connection with the after-life that the men of the Middle Ages most dreaded the power and influence of evil and malicious spirits. They looked on them, not merely as tempters, but as the agents by which men will be punished for their sins. In the paintings and sculptures of the time there are vivid pictures of lost souls suffering torments at the hands of demons. The fear of hell and purgatory was one of the chief sources of the Church's power and influence. She alone could enable a man to escape the one, and could mitigate the terrors of the other. It was better that a man should live a saintly life, but that was seldom possible. For the sinner there was a system of Masses and Indulgences by which hell might be escaped and purgatory shortened. It cost money, and men paid the money, but not always willingly; and when the time came that reformers began to question the efficacy of the whole system, the men who wanted a purer doctrine found themselves supported by the men who coveted the Church's lands, and the men who resented having to pay Church dues. Of all the changes in beliefs and doctrine in England at the time of the Reformation, this seems to have come about the earliest and the easiest.

The ringing of bells was one of the principal features of the old practices and beliefs, yet for various reasons it remained outwardly unaltered throughout the changes.

Very early another meaning and use had been given to the death bell. It was rung before the person actually was dead, and pious men, hearing it, and knowing that a soul was passing to its last account, took it as a summons to offer up prayer and intercession. The Venerable Bede (A.D. 673-735), in the 'Ecclesiastical History,' tells how when the Abbess of St. Hilda's died, one of the sisters of a distant monastery heard in her sleep the sound of the passing bell and, rousing up the other sisters,

(Continued on next page.)

**THE DEATH BELL.**

(Continued from previous page.)

she called them into the church, where she exhorted them to pray fervently for their departing mother and to sing a requiem.

The same writer says the bell should be tolled before death that good men might give the benefit of their prayers, adding that if they do no good to the departing sinner, at least they show the charity of the person who offers them.

Guillaume Durand (1230-1296), who wrote a standard work on Church ritual, called 'Rationale Divinorum Officiorum' gives the official use in the thirteenth century. 'When anyone is dying, bells must be tolled that the people may put up their prayers, twice for a woman and thrice for a man, if for a clergyman as many times as he had orders; and at the conclusion a peal on all the bells to distinguish the quality of the person for whom the people are to put up their prayers. A bell, too, must be rung while the corpse is conducted to church and during the bringing it out of the church to the grave' (John Mason Neale's translation).

Durand describes the mediæval use of bells better than anyone else: 'The bells are rung in processions that demons may hear and flee. For when they hear the trumpets of the Church militant, that is the bells, they are afraid as any tyrant is afraid when he hears in his land the trumpets of a powerful king. And that is the reason why, at the sight of a storm rising, the Church rings its bells in order that the demons, hearing the trumpets of the eternal king, that is the bells, may be terrified and flee away and abstain from stirring up the tempest.'

(To be continued.)

**RINGERS IN RAIDED TOWNS.**

The Editor will be glad to hear of the safety of any ringers living in the recently badly raided cities, particularly in the Midlands and the West, and also to hear news of any of the famous churches and rings of bells in these districts. There are many ringers throughout the country who will be glad to hear of their friends.

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.**

5,056 BY C. W. ROBERTS.

Here is a peal of Double Norwich Major, with exceptional qualities, composed by C. W. Roberts, which conductors may like to put in their note books for use in the happier days to which we are all looking forward:—

23456	1	4	5	6
63254	—	—	—	—
53264	S	—	—	—
62354	—	—	—	—
23654	—	—	—	—
36254	—	—	—	—
54263	S	—	—	—
42563	—	—	—	—
24365	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—
25346	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—
26354	—	—	—	—
32465	—	—	—	—
24563	S	—	—	—
42365	—	—	—	—
23465	—	—	—	—
34265	—	—	—	—
35246	—	—	—	—
42536	—	—	—	—
25436	—	—	—	—
54236	—	—	—	—
43256	—	—	—	—
52346	—	—	—	—
23546	—	—	—	—

Repeated.

This peal, in 48 courses only, contains the full combination of 4.5.6 in 5.6, and also the 6th its extent each way in 5.6, without the 2nd in 5.6, at the course-ends. It is produced in the least number of changes possible, on the two-part plan.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. John Harrison, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, reached his 89th birthday yesterday. He is still keen on all that is going on in the ringing world. Mr. Harrison helped to ring the tenor in the first peal on Manchester Town Hall bells, which was rung in 1888. Congratulations to the veteran.

On November 27th, 1729, the Society of London Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, 6,204 changes of Grandsire Cinques. It was not the longest peal in the method, for the College Youths had already rung 6,314 at St. Martin's. Very few peals were rung at Cornhill in the early days, as the bells did not go well, the reason being, Mr. A. A. Hughes tells us, that they were then hung high up in the lofty tower.

The first peal at St. Saviour's, Southwark, was rung on November 28th, 1735, by the Eastern Scholars. The method was Grandsire Caters and the number of changes was 6,012. Three men were needed for the tenor and one of the strappers was Theodore Eccleston, who was then a young man 20 years of age. Just over a fortnight later the College Youths rang the first peal on the twelve bells—8,008 Grandsire Cinques.

The first set of bells ever hung in England was supposed to be at Crowland Abbey, but the first peal in the tower was not rung until November 28th, 1894.

On Monday, November 28th, 1774, was rung at All Saints', Worcester, a complete peal of 7,326 Grandsire Caters, supposed to be one of the most musical peals ever rung of so great a length. A person concerned in this peal dreamed the preceding night that the tenor clapper fell out as the bells came round, which really happened to the great surprise of the company, the person having declared it before they went into the tower.

## ANOTHER CATHEDRAL DAMAGED.

In addition to Coventry, there is another Midland Cathedral which has sustained damage by enemy action. Incendiary bombs destroyed the roof and the interior of the building is open to the sky. But the tower and the ten bells, recast a few years ago, were untouched.

## CHURCH BELLS AT CHRISTMAS.

HANDBELLS AS A SUBSTITUTE.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—All who love Christmas, with all that it means to Christians, will join in the plea made by the Rev. H. G. Peile that the use of the church bells may be allowed on Christmas Day.

Failing this, I would suggest that in every church where there are ringers the handbells should be rung in the chancel either before, during or after the Christmas Day services.

Not for more than a thousand years has this country been without bells on Christmas Day, and the authorities might well relax their restrictions for this one occasion, for any part of Hitler's hordes that might descend from the skies that day would be well and truly wiped out, if they dared to come—as indeed they will be whenever they venture to invade us—bells or no bells.

Here surely is an occasion when the Archbishops and Bishops might use their influence, for surely the practice of more than ten centuries ought not to be broken, even at the bidding of Hitler. If he has not been able to land in this country from the air in the past months which have favoured him, it will hardly be possible for him to accomplish such a task now. But how he would gloat, if he knew that he had compelled the breaking of the great tradition of Christmas bells in Christian England. He would look upon it as another stage in the overthrow of Christianity.

Who is going to move in this matter of lifting the ban for Christmas Day? Cannot the Central Council approach the Archbishops at once as a first step?

But if nothing can be done, let us not be without the best substitute we can get. Every band in England should practise ringing handbells in preparation for the festival. I believe the clergy would be only too glad to co-operate by allowing the bells to be rung in the churches.

Q. M. WHITE.

## A REVISED NURSERY RHYME.

The first indication that St. Clement Danes, Strand, had been damaged in an air raid on London was conveyed in an intimation in the daily Press that a church famous in nursery rhyme had been hit. The issue of 'Punch' of November 13th contained the following clever new version of the rhyme:—

LONDON CHIMES.

Spitfires and Blenheims,  
Said the bells of St. Clement's,  
Aren't built for five farthings,  
Said the bells of St. Martin's.  
Donations, I pray ye,  
Said the bells of Old Bailey,  
On account of the Blitz,  
Said the bells of Shoreditch.  
Downhearted? Not we!  
Said the bells of Stepney;  
Lor! love yer, no, no,  
Boomed the big bell of Bow.



**'TELLERS.'**

## INTERESTING QUOTATIONS.

The following references may be of interest as showing one of the reasons why the three tolls (or its trinal) are given for a male and two for a female.

Durandus, who wrote about the end of the twelfth century ('Rationale,' I., pp. 4-13, Webb and Neale's translation, p. 95), says:—

'When anyone is dying, bells must be tolled (pulsari) that the people may put up their prayers, twice for a woman and thrice for a man: if for a clergyman, as many times as he had orders (simpulsari); and at the conclusion a peal on all the bells (compulsari) to distinguish the quality of the person for whom the people are to put up their prayers. A bell too must be rung while the corpse is conducted to the church, and during the bringing it out of the church to the grave.'

A similar passage is found in an old English Homily for Trinity Sunday (Strutt's 'Manners and Customs,' III., p. 176):—

'The fourme of the Trinity was founden in Manne, that was Adam our fore fadir, of earth oon personne, and Eve of Adam, the secunde personne, and of them both the third persone. At the death of manne three bellis shoulde be ronge, as his knyll, in worschippe of the Trinetee, and for a womanne who was the secunde persone of the Trinetee two bellis shuld be rungen.'

Again, the following reference is quoted from J. T. Smith's life of Nollekens the sculptor ('Nollekens and his Times,' I., p. 54, Ed. Gosse):—

'Nollekens says to Lord Chancellor Bathurst, "When I was a boy you would have liked to have seen me toll the bell (S. James, Piccadilly); it's no very easy thing, I can tell you. . . . You must toll, that is to say, I did, one hour for a man three times three; and three times two for a woman: now, your Lordship must mind, there's a Moving bell and a Passing bell; these the Romans always attended to." "You mean the Roman Catholics, Mr. Nollekens," observed his Lordship. "Yes, my Lord, they call that the Moving-bell which goes when they move a body out of one parish to the next, or so on. The Passing-bell is when you are dying, and going from this world to another place." "Ay, Mr. Nollekens," observed his Lordship, "there is a curious little book, published in 1671, I think by Richard Duckworth, upon the art of Ringing, entitled 'Tintinnalogia.'"

The procedure of this 'telling' the sex of the departed varies very much in different places, and to give all the examples (of which I have a huge collection) would fill a volume. The bell usually used is the tenor, but this is sometimes changed in the case of children. It is generally the custom to 'tell' the sex of the deceased at the commencement, at the close—or at both—of the death knell.

At Marsham, Norfolk, there is a set of ringing rules hanging in the belfry, which includes the following precise directions:—

## KNOCKS FOR THE DEAD.

iii for Girl.	vi for Spinster.	viii for Bachelor.
iv for Boy.	vii for Matron.	ix for Husband.

An entry in the Constables' Accounts at Leverton, Lincs, for 1692 reads:—

'In ringing the passing bell it has been time out of mind customary for a man that dies to toll 12 tolls. For a woman 9 tolls. They are accounted man or woman at the age of 16 or 18 years. For young persons a male, 7 tolls; a female, 9 tolls.'

At Pontesbury, Salop, and Almeley, Hereford, each bell is rung 13 times for a man and 14 for a woman; the alleged reason for this variation is that woman has one more rib than a man! At Farcet, Hunts, the tolls are three for a man and five for a woman, the current explanation of this being there are three letters in man and five in woman!

I could give countless other variations of this interesting ancient custom.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

**THE AUTHOR OF 'TINTINNALOGIA.'**

The extract from 'Nollekens and his Times' is of exceptional interest to ringers from its reference to 'Tintinnalogia,' 'a curious little book published in 1671.' This is the 'Tintinnalogia' which, until quite recent years, ringers always thought to have been written by Fabian Stedman, because the fly leaf bore the imprint 'Printed by W.G. for Fabian Stedman at his shop in St. Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street.'

It was only some five or six years ago that investigations by Mr. J. A. Trollope brought to light the fact that the author of 'Tintinnalogia' was not Stedman at all, but Richard Duckworth; yet all the while the key to the truth was there for all to use in the chance remark by Lord Chancellor Bathurst in the case in which Nollekens was giving evidence.—Ed., 'R.W.'

**'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'**

To the Editor.

Sir,—According to the Oxford English dictionary, only as recently at 1908 was it first stated in print, by Walters in 'Church Bells,' that tailors means the tail-end of the knell, or tellers.

Some of your readers may be interested in the following extracts from seventeenth century writers, quoted by the same dictionary, where the number of tailors varies from one to nine. I have modernised the spelling.

Shakespeare, King Lear (1607)

A tailor made thee.

Thou art a strange fellow, a tailor made a man?

Aye, a tailor, sir; a stonecutter or a painter could not have made him so ill.

Ben Jonson, Staple of News (1625)

Believe it, sir, that clothes do much upon the wit, and hence comes your proverb, 'The tailor makes the man.'

Dekker, Northward Hoe (1607)

They say three tailors go to the making up of a man, but I am sure four tailors and a half went to the making up of me thus

Cleveland, Poems (1651)

Like to nine tailors, who, if rightly spelled  
Into one man are mono-syllabled.

Samuel Butler, Hudibras (1663)

Composed of many valours

Just like the manhood of nine tailors.

I leave your readers to explain these as they wish.

Glasgow.

R. O. STREET.

**A. LINCOLNSHIRE CUSTOM.**

Dear Sir,—The various customs of the death bell are very interesting. In Lincolnshire it is (or used to be) rung between sunrise and sunset. At Boston at the famous 'Stump' they used to use three bells, for the 6th a charge of 1s. was made, the 7th used to be 5s. and the tenor £1 1s. I have rung it many times on a Sunday morning at 9 a.m. before service ringing at 9.30 a.m. We used four threes for a married man, three threes for a married woman, three threes and one for a single man, two threes for a single woman. The bell was rung for half-hour and the knells were sounded before rising the bell.

In the town of Shrewsbury, Salop, the custom was for the death bells to be sounded from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. I thought it peculiar when I had occasion to do it at St. Julian's and St. Chad's. We used to commence with the Tellers and rise the bell slowly, then set it at back and hand every minute, then lower slowly and afterwards toll the age. The first time I heard it done was at St. Alkmund's.

I revived the Pancake Bell at St. Chad's in 1912, after it had lapsed for several years. We rang the treble for 10 minutes before 12 o'clock. When I was a boy in Lincolnshire the tenor bell always had black in the sally and the rest white. The reason, I was told, was that the tenor was the death bell.

C. R. LILLEY.

**HANDBELL RINGING IN READING.**

A few of the keen spirits in Reading have met in St. Laurence's tower each week since church bell ringing was stopped and have got as far sometimes as ringing a touch of Stedman Triples and once or twice a course of Stedman Caters. Grandsire is, however, the usual method, and 307 of Caters has been rung fairly well. On Friday, November 8th. a good quarter-peal of Triples was rung by A. Wiggins 1-2, W. Hunt 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. N. Lanaghan 7-8. R. T. Hibbert took the calling and part-ends, sitting in the tower, and was as pleased as any one of the four ringers at the progress made. A peal, it is hoped, is in the offing.

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

### THE PERSONAL FACTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I suppose we must take it from our experts in physics that ball bearings do make bells go slower, or at any rate would do so if other things were equal. But, of course, other things are not equal. There is little doubt that the average rate of peal ringing is quicker than it was, say, forty or fifty years ago, notwithstanding that there are several things which ought, and no doubt do, tend to slow down the rate. Ball bearing may be one of these things, but a more powerful one is surely modern five tone tuning. To any ringer with a moderately decent ear bells tuned in the new style require much slower ringing than the older fashioned ones with their shorter 'breath.'

Yet, as I have said, the actual tendency is to ring faster. Why should this be? It is difficult to say. Some of it, of course, is due to the rather silly idea some people have that there is something fine in ringing a peal on bells faster than anyone has ever done before. Really there is no merit in it at all, and in some cases these extraordinarily fast peals are an offence against artistic taste. On some bells, smart good ringing sounds well to the men who are ringing, but not perhaps so well to those who are listening.

One reason for quicker ringing on medium and heavy rings is that men have found out that it is easier than slow ringing, provided the band is a reasonably good one. I have been told by older men that it was the late William Pye who first set the example of ringing heavy bells fast. They say his rope at backstroke was always inches shorter than another man's of his same height and reach.

There is one point which some of your correspondents seem to have missed. It may be true that ball bearings cause bells to swing quicker, but that would not necessarily mean quicker ringing. There is a period in the bell's swing when it slows down and almost or wholly stops. Whether this period is short or long determines the rate of the ringing, and it is short or long on account of several reasons, the most important being first the energy given to his pull by the ringer, and, secondly, the amount of check he puts on the rope and when he puts it.

Bells hung on balls respond to this pull and this check in a markedly different manner from bells hung in plain bearings, and good heavy bell men who have been long used to one do not always easily adapt their ringing to the other. Then they blame the ball bearings for things which really are due to their own style of handling a bell.

There have been some suggestions of testing by practical experiments the rates at which bells swing which are hung in balls and in plain bearings. No such tests would be of any good, for the difference is really small and the necessarily similar conditions could not be obtained; and though one bell seems to the ringer to travel faster than another, it by no means follows that it actually does so.

L. W. BUNCE.

### FUN AND FORMULAS.

Dear Sir,—I am most interested, and I am sure your other readers are too in this controversy about ball bearings and whether they reduce the speed of ringing or not. It is one of those questions that don't matter a tinker's cuss one way or the other, and so it is a very meet and proper thing for people to argue about.

But the protagonists (a good word, that) should remember that there are rules in the game which ought to be kept. I don't suggest that they are not doing so, but I venture to think (a vile phrase) that bringing in mathematical formulas is getting very near the border line. At any rate, that is how it strikes me. I don't know much about mathematics, and what I do know I have forgotten. I know, of course, that the little figure on the top of the big one like a robin redbreast sitting on a cart horse's rump means that you have to raise the figure up to that power, but what does the other little chap lower down mean? He is quite new to me and I'm hanged if I know what he does mean.

Also I know that the thing like a damaged fish hook means that you have to extract the square root, or cube root, or whatever it is. Well, it can mean what it likes. I am not going to do anything of the sort. I saw enough of cube roots when I was at school and what I did see I did not at all like the look of. They are nasty ill-tempered brutes, especially in examination papers. I have done with all such these many years ago.

The worst of these formulas is that when you come to know all about them they usually turn out to be frauds. I don't mean they are frauds because they are not true. They are true enough; but they are like painted devils with red noses and shark's teeth, horrible to look at, but stuffed with straw. I hope you know what I mean. I am not quite sure I know myself, but what I mean is, if you understand, it isn't quite the thing (now is it?) to shove a mathematical formula down our throats, which we don't at all understand, but which probably, if we did understand, would be quite simple. That's the worst of these mathematical formulas: they get themselves up in horrible looking war paint like Red Indians, and think to strike terror into the souls of us poor mortals by their fearsome appearance; but you stand up to them firmly and let them know you don't care a dam for them or anything like them, and they turn into cowardly sneaking curs, that fawn on you and eat out of your hands. I know them.

(Continued in next column.)

## THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK.

### SUGGESTED GUIDE TO BEST METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that the publication of the book on Surprise Methods has been unavoidably delayed owing to the war, I should be glad to hear what you think of the idea of having incorporated in it some guide upon the following.

Surprise methods are, as you very well know, not as generally rung as many of us would like them to be, and those which may be said to come under the definition of 'Standard' are limited to some half-dozen or so. I take it that in the new book there will be scores, perhaps hundreds, of new methods, and the question arises as to whether any guide will be given as to the order in which it is desirable that these should be practised in order that the number generally known and relatively widely practised may be extended by common consent.

Unless something of the sort is done, there will be little opportunity for those who have learned one of the new methods ever to ring it in their own tower, and the varying fortune to which all local companies are subject will prevent any advance by the Exercise as a whole.

If I might make a suggestion, it would be that the Central Council should devise some scheme whereby some further half-dozen or so of new methods are indicated as being in their opinion of the highest quality and as being worthy to rank as 'Standard' methods, and that the Exercise would be well advised to go forward to the conquest of these before extending the area of its operations in other directions. Our premier companies could still have their fling.

JAMES F. HARVEY, President, Leeds and District Society..

Baildon, Yorks.

## A GLASGOW GATHERING.

### A SOLITARY RINGER FROM THE FORCES.

A special practice was held in the tower of St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, November 23rd, when ten members were able to be present and regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. E. W. Yates, owing to the death of his mother at Chorley, Lancs. The sympathy of the members is extended to him in his bereavement.

S./Sgt. Harold W. Rogers, R.A., of Chichester, who is stationed at a considerable distance from Glasgow—and who gets his 'Ringing World' forwarded—was welcomed, and it is hoped he thought the time spent with the ringers was worth while. Anyhow, he is coming back. By the way, it is remarkable that there should be only one change ringer stationed within a radius of 20 miles of Glasgow.

A very enjoyable evening was spent. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were brought round. The treble was rung by Mr. A. R. Smith, these being his first 'touches' and first attempts in the methods on ten bells. A touch of Kent Treble Bob Major on the tower bells and Stedman Caters 'in hand' concluded the ringing to enable those present to get home before the black-out started.

St. Mary's is not Glasgow Cathedral, which is at the east end of the city. St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is on Great Western Road, Glasgow, W.2. During the 'run' of the Glasgow Exhibition quite a number of visitors made their way to the old Cathedral on Sunday mornings, only to find that they were too late for service ringing by the time they discovered their mistake. It is hoped to hold the annual meeting of the society early in January as usual, and due notice will be given.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO.

### LONDON BACHELORS' MISTAKE.

Fifty years ago to-day ten peals were rung. They consisted of 4 Grandsire Triples, 1 Grandsire Caters, 1 Bob Major, 2 Stedman Triples, 1 Kent Treble Bob Major, and 1 Double Norwich Court Bob Major. One of the Stedman Triples was by the Ancient Society of College Youths at Bethnal Green. It was conducted by Challis F. Winney and was claimed to be the first peal by bachelors in London. Actually eight bachelors belonging to the Society of London Youths had rung a peal of Bob Major as far back as 1759. It was at Whitechapel. The Bob Major was on handbells single handed, except for the tenors, at Basingstoke. Mr. Frank Bennett conducted. One of the Grandsire Triples also on handbells rung double handed was at St. Albans, and was Holt's Original conducted by Mr. G. W. Cartmel.

## WHAT DOES HAPPEN?

(Continued from previous column.)

Some people keep tame formulas on the premises like other people keep chained up yard dogs, and for the same reason, to bark at strangers. There used to be a drove of them down at Brighton each with its own pet name. They were at one time very fierce and active, but were hybrids or, as one should say, mongrels, and, like other hybrids, incapable of breeding and so have died out.

Well, the point of this letter, so far as it has any point at all, is this—will our learned mathematicians tell us in language understood of the people what does happen when a bell swings round? I mean something like this: It takes, of course, a certain amount of energy to overcome gravity and a certain amount to overcome friction. If we have a larger amount of friction and so a greater amount of energy to overcome it, will some of that extra amount of energy be available for overcoming gravity also and so give an extra speed?

F. H. SMITH.

**WILLIAM DOUBLEDAY CROFTS.****A NOTTINGHAM WORTHY.**

To-day is the one hundred and thirty-first anniversary of the death of William Doubleday Crofts, one of the most outstanding of the Midland Counties ringers of the eighteenth century. He was a Nottingham man, an attorney by profession, and it was mainly due to him that there was a skilful and energetic company of ringers in Nottingham. They called themselves the Sherwood Youths and to-day

it weighed four pounds more than that at St. Mary-le-Bow. Crofts was one of three men who rang it behind to Grandsire Caters.

Crofts' longest peal was 10,260 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, in 1778, to which he rang the ninth. There is a tale that William Fortrey, of Kings Norton in Leicestershire, promised to give a peal of handbells to the first of either of the bands at Leicester or Nottingham who should ring a ten thousand of Grandsire Caters; and that the Leicester men after several attempts won the match and the handbells in February, 1777. The Nottingham men, however, were not discouraged and did not relax their efforts



**THE FINE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, NOTTINGHAM.**  
Where William Doubleday Crofts rang some of his most celebrated peals.

there is a local society which bears the same name, though it is not actually a lineal descendant of the older body.

The old Sherwood Youths are sometimes said to have been the successors of a still earlier society, the Northern Youths, but the only connection between the two was that the former recast two bells which the latter had given to St. Peter's Church.

Crofts' first peal was one of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, in 1765, and between that date and his death in 1809 he took part in 31 peals, of which he conducted 27. Among them was a peal at St. John's, Horsleydown, in Southwark, with a band of College Youths, and he joined that company when they went down to York in 1787 to ring the first peal on the Minster bells. The tenor there was the heaviest ever rung to a peal during many years, for

until in the following year they too had rung a ten thousand, when Fortrey gave them another set of handbells.

There is something not quite right about this tale. Fortrey did give each company a set of bells, but there can hardly have been any composition: for a broadsheet which was published to record the Nottingham peal, and of which a copy is still extant, says that it was rung at the first attempt.

William Crofts was related in some way to John Garthorn, the great Norwich composer, and seems to have inherited his manuscripts. By that means the figures of the early peals of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major rung at the East Anglian capital have been preserved. Crofts was also himself something of a composer, but what he did in that way is of no particular value or interest.

**PEALS OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In the early '90's J. W. Washbrook frequently called a peal of Stedman Triples which he described in 'The Bell News' as 'Thurstans' Reversed.' For years I took this to be the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' variation, but about 20 years ago I mentioned it to my father, who said, 'It can't be, because I was outside when he called it at Chislehurst, and he started with a Single at 2.'

At the time I was recovering from influenza, and with the help of 'Stedman' I tried for a long while to reverse Thurstans' this way, but all I could get was Heywood's Transposition, so I wrote Mr. Washbrook and asked him for the figures. I still have his reply, in which he says, 'I have called Thurstans so many ways that I am unable to remember.'

Knowing something of Mr. Washbrook, I smiled to myself and let the matter pass from my mind. I came across this letter recently and my curiosity returned.

Is it possible to reverse Thurstans' peal by starting with a Single at 2?

**E. BARNETT.**

Crayford, Kent.

**THE WATCHMAN OF Tournai.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the short account of the Bell Tower of Tournai, Belgium. After hostilities ceased in the last war, I was stationed in a village, Taintignies, close to that city, so often had an opportunity of visiting there.

On one occasion I had the luck to be there when the tower was open to the public, so had the pleasure of ascending to the top. I remember seeing the watchman in the cell-like place described, also the bells, and was especially interested in the large one, which was hung for ringing complete with wheel and rope. All the others were hung 'dead.' I believe I have read in a book by H. G. Walters that the weight of this large bell was between eight and nine tons, so I should hardly think the frail looking old man I saw there would be able to ring it. A space on the ground floor was used as a living room by what I presumed at the time to be the caretaker and his wife

**H. W. GAYTON.**

Harrold, Beds.



## THE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

### THE USE OF FALSE COURSES IN COMPOSITION.

Up to now our investigations and explanations have been confined to composition with full natural courses. We first examined the possible sixty, and we divided them into groups showing those which are false against each other. Having got all the true courses, we make up our peal by joining together, by means of bobs, a sufficient number of them or parts of them. The false courses we ignore entirely.

But though two natural courses may contain the same row, and therefore if one of them is used in full, the other cannot also be used in full, it does not necessarily happen that every lead of it is debarred from use. It depends on which leads contain the repetition, or, as we say, in which leads the incidence of the falseness falls. It is sometimes possible in a peal to use the true parts of false natural courses, and that often gives a much greater latitude in composition, and a larger variety of peals.

When we are dealing with peals composed in this way we must treat every method on its own merits. A composition of this sort may be true for one method and false for another, although the lead ends and false course ends are the same. Therefore, when we are selecting a peal in an old method for calling in a new one, we must take care to see that it does not contain parts of false natural courses, or if it does, that those parts are true for the new method.

When we were explaining how to work out false course ends we pointed out the necessity for noting which are the leads that are false against each other, and we saw that when the false course end is in reciprocal relationship with rounds (that is in the large majority of cases) the repetition of rows is contained in the same leads of both courses. Thus if the fourth lead of the course 24365 includes a row which also appears in the fifth lead of the plain course, then the fourth lead of the plain course will include a row which also appears in the fifth lead of the course 24365. So we can set down the incidence of the falseness simply as 4-5. But when the false course end is not in reciprocal relationship with rounds (as for instance 34562) we must take further precautions.

In many methods, probably in the majority, the incidence of the falseness is such that very little use can be made of parts of false courses, but in some it is a great help in composing peals. Of these the most notable examples are Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and it will be worth our while to examine how peals in those methods can be composed and proved.

When we work out the false course ends of Treble Bob we find that the first section gives A32546, with the repetitions in the fourth leads of each course; and D46253, with the repetitions in the fifth leads. The second section gives B24365 with the fourth leads false against the fifth. The third section gives A and D again, with the incidence at 3-5 and 4-6 respectively. And the fourth section has a clear proof scale.

This means that liability to internal falseness is confined to the third, fourth, fifth and sixth leads.

The leads which are introduced by the Middle, Wrong and Right positions are the second, seventh and first respectively, and in them there is no liability to internal falseness.

In Oxford and Kent we use a fourth's place bob which (except in the case of the Before) repeats the positions of the tenors in the previous lead.

For purposes of proof we reckon the Middle, Wrong and Right rows, not as lead ends, but as the beginnings of new leads. We number the leads, 1 to 7, by their position in their natural courses, not by their positions in the 'broken' courses, produced by bobs, which occur in peals. The Middle lead is always No. 2,, the Wrong is always No. 7, and the Right always No. 1. If we have, say, two bobs at the Middle, it means that we twice repeat the second lead, or rather that we have the second leads of three separate natural courses. Leads produced by bobs Right are always No. 1, and they belong, not to the previous course, but to the following one. In setting down the columns of natural course ends it is usual to put the column standing for the R leads last of all, and there is no need to alter custom, provided we realise that, strictly speaking, it is the first.

Bearing these things in mind, we can now prick and compose touches and peals of Treble Bob by natural courses, using the plan explained for Plain methods in our article of March 1st. The natural course end of the previous lead must always be entered in the Middle, Wrong and Right columns, as well as the new natural course ends produced by any bobs; but this should not be done in the Before column.

Middle.	Before.	Wrong.	Right	M. B.	W.	R.
23456	23456	23456				
		52436	35426		2	1
		35426	43526			
43526	32546	32546	24536			
53624		43526	52436			
		24536	45236	1	—	2 2
45236	53246	53246	53246			
25634			25346	1	—	1
25346	25346	25346	42356			
		42356	34256			
			23456		1	2

When we have set down the natural course ends in tabular fashion we run through the columns, and if no row appears twice in the same column, the lead ends of the composition are true. Actually we need not test the Before column for that is repeated in the Wrong column.

In testing the figures for internal falseness, we need take no notice of the first, third and last columns which give the natural course ends at the second, seventh and first leads. Any or all of the sixty possible rows may appear in those columns and the composition be true. It is that part of the course which is contained in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth leads which we must test.

John Reeves took as the natural course ends of these leads, the final natural course ends at the Middle of each course. In our example they are 23456, 53624, 25634 and 25346. Each of these is transposed by the three false course ends in turn, and if the transpositions do not produce a row which is already among the four natural course ends, the composition is, so far, true.

But the presence of bobs Before makes a difference, and to meet it Reeves adopted a fourth false course end, C53624. The text books and the majority of composers have followed him in this, but actually what happens is not another false course end, but another natural course. In practice it comes to the same thing, but it has very

(Continued on next page.)



**AN EASIER AND SIMPLER PROOF.**

(Continued from previous page.)

much obscured in men's minds what natural courses are, and when the plan is applied to other methods it may create confusion. The better plan is to test by the false course ends, ABD, the final natural course ends at the Middle and any others which may be produced by bobs Before. For this we use the second column.

There is a much easier and simpler method of proof. We take the rows in the second (Before) column and compare them with the table of natural course ends given on page 526 of our issue of November 1st.

Alongside each of these rows we mark the group to which it belongs. Thus we mark the four in the example above:—

23456 A1  
32546 A2  
53246 E2  
25346 F2

If there are not two rows, one of which belongs to a group and the other to the alternative group which is false against it, the composition is, so far, true. In our example we have a row which belongs to the group A1 and another to the group A2, and therefore there is repetition.

When we are proving by this plan we need take no account of bobs Before for, though the bob Before produces a fresh natural course, it is still one in the same group.

If Oxford and Kent had all five of the group of false course ends, ABCDE, there would be no more to be said. But they have only three, ABD, and, as we saw in the case of Superlative, when fewer than the full number of false course ends are present, it is possible to use natural courses from both the alternative groups.

In Treble Bob, if we use 23456 only from group A1, we can use 65432 and 53624 from group A2, but no other.

If we use 23456 and 35264 only from group A1, we can use 65432 from group A2, but no other.

If we use 23456 and 42635 only from group A1, we can use 53624 from group A2, but no other.

Similar combinations can, of course, be had from the other pairs of alternative groups, and so, when in proving a peal of Treble Bob we find two natural course ends from alternative groups, before rejecting the composition as false we must see if they are covered by one of these combinations, and that we can do by testing the natural course ends by the three false course ends ABD.

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**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at St. Chads, Headingley, on Saturday, November 30th. Handbells in the choir vestry from 2 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—A 'special' meeting at Pinchbeck on Saturday, December 7th, at the Bull Hotel at 3.45 p.m., followed by meeting and 'social evening,' including cinematograph pictures of famous ringers of England, etc. Tea will only be provided for those who let me know by Tuesday, December 3rd. A large attendance is hoped for.—R. Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—The annual general meeting will be held at All Saints', Colchester, on Saturday, December 7th. Please note the name of church. Handbells will be available at All Saints' Parish Hall, which is in Queen Street, opposite Culver Street, at 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. A service will be held in All Saints' Church, opposite memorial, at 4 p.m., and tea and business meeting in the hall at 4.45 p.m., with more ringing. Members of H.M. Forces billeted in and around Colchester are specially invited. Please send names for tea by Wednesday morning, December 4th, as catering is so difficult. There is a good shelter within 100 yards of both church and hall.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 7th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Church Institute at 5.30 p.m. for all who notify Mr. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than Wednesday. Please try to attend.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 7th. Service 3 p.m., followed by business meeting and handbells. Tea can be arranged for those who notify me by December 1st. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, December 7th, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 14th. Handbells 3 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Business includes election of officers, accounts for the year, etc. Please make an effort to be present. A postcard for tea will oblige.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**BUSHEY, HERTS.**—Annual meeting, Watford District, Saturday, December 21st, at Guide's Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Room open to all interested in ringing. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice and social chat. Comfortable room open from 2.30, with arrangements for tea. Give your district hearty support to keep going.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

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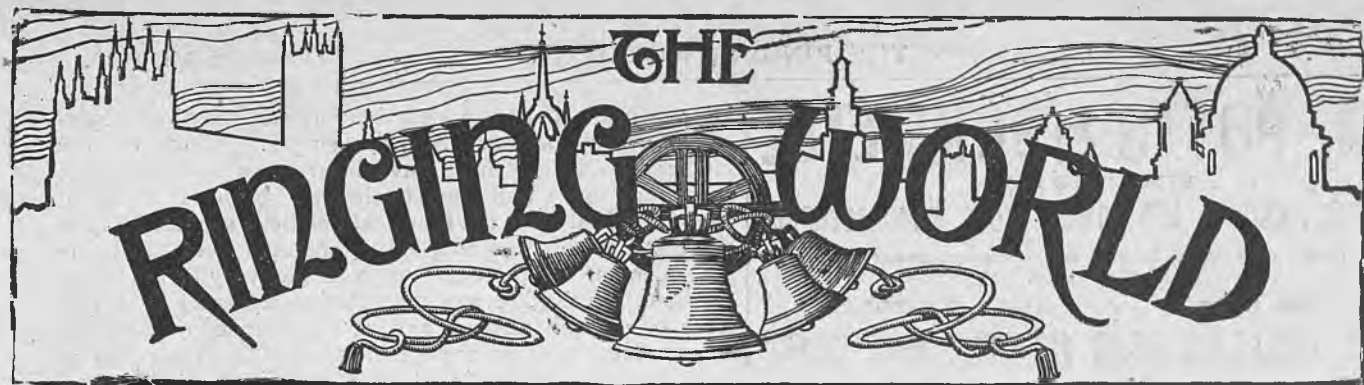
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1940.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
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## WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD?

When war broke out, steps had been taken to print the book on Surprise methods, which had been prepared for the Central Council's publications. It promised to be the most complete of the Council's series, and was ready to be put into type, after years of assiduous labour by members of the Methods Committee. The Council has approved of the printing, and many associations had intimated their willingness to assist in financing the book. But the war has postponed publication, and the book must wait for more propitious times. It has, of course, been disappointing not only to the ringers who were looking forward to its appearance, but particularly to the authors, that there should be this compulsory delay. It is, however, just one of those minor matters that are of no real moment in times like the present. The most important thing is that the work of investigation, selection and explanation has been done, and well done. It will not lose in value from having to wait, but we ought not to lose sight of the fact that the thanks of the Exercise are due to those whose painstaking and ungrudging labours have made this collection of methods, and all the rest that will go with it, available for the ringers of the present and future generations.

Very few people probably realise what work the preparation of this book has involved. It comprises the final selection from a very much larger collection. There is, of course, a vast and incredible number of Surprise Major methods, some of them excellent, many more of them good, but the majority useless from the ringer's point of view. But the Methods Committee had to investigate all the possibilities, and they eventually worked out in complete detail over eight hundred of the best. From this number some two hundred and fifty have been finally chosen, of which a hundred and fifty appear in detail. Much other material is included in the book relating to the scientific and historical side of the subject, but the provision of such a large number of methods in itself makes the work of unusual value. There has been for the last half-century since Surprise ringing first began to be popular among ringers a growing desire to ring new methods, and many scores have been added to the records. This book which the Methods Committee has prepared does not pretend to print all the methods that have been rung; if those that have been selected happen to have been already rung, they are acknowledged, but the aim all along has been to provide the best from all the available material.

This leads to another point which is well worth remembering. Out of the many Surprise methods that have  
(Continued on page 578.)

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already been rung very few have come into the 'repertoire' of the ordinary Surprise ringer. Most of the methods of which there have been peals recorded have been rung once and then neglected. Many have never been practised after the first peal has been scored, and the ringers themselves, going on to pastures new, have forgotten them. In the old days there was very little choice. London, Cambridge and Superlative were all that this class of method offered, and as the number of Surprise ringers increased, so these methods became the common practice until, wherever ringers met and a man had reached the Surprise stage, he could, if there were sufficient men of like capacity present, be sure of being able to put in some Surprise practice. To-day, with all our advance, it is seldom that Surprise ringing will go beyond this group at a meeting, except, perhaps, that more ringers have added Bristol and Yorkshire to their list. Will the new Surprise book help us in getting away from this limited circle of methods in general practice? On this question a very pertinent letter appeared in our last issue. Can some guide be given as to which of the methods in this Collection can best be brought into common use?

Here is a matter which the Methods Committee will doubtless now consider, and if anything can be done as a result to popularise the best of the methods, not all will have been lost by the delay. Half a dozen new methods which could come into general practice, and which would become as widely known as the old triumvirate, would be a most useful contribution to the ringing science. This small selection would have to be the best of the methods available, methods not only best in their construction, but of the kind which in practical application would appeal to ringers. The choice will not be an easy one, for what one ringer considers a good method might seem inferior to another person. Movement, simplicity and music are, we think, broadly the characteristics which make a method desirable, but there are other things besides these to be considered. The subject is one of some interest and importance, and we invite our readers to send us their opinions upon what they consider are the qualities required in a good method which would make a popular appeal.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

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## THE USE OF CHURCH BELLS IN CONNECTION WITH DEATHS & BURIALS

(Continued from page 569.)

At the time of the Reformation there was considerable difference of opinion as to the meaning and usefulness of bellringing at deaths and funerals, and generally in the services of the Church, but all were agreed that the passing bell should be rung before the death as a call to people to pray for the departing soul.

That was the limit to which the more advanced reformers would go. 'Martin Bucer,' says Bishop Cosin, 'will allow no ringing at all, but to call the people to church, or to pray for the sick, or to come to public meeting for the affairs of the commonwealth.' Bucer (1491-1551) was a learned theologian, who advised Archbishop Cranmer, when he was drawing up the Book of Common Prayer.

Bishop John Hooper, of Gloucester, in his Injunctions issued in 1551, ordered 'that from henceforth there be no knells or forthfares rung at the death of any man,' and in one of his sermons he alludes to the superstitious beliefs of the common people at the time. 'Their remedies be folysh and to be mocked at, as the ryngynge of belles to ease the payne of the dead.'

In the year 1561, the Vicar of St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, London, a Frenchman, named Jean Véron, published a book called 'The Huntinge of Purgatorye to Death,' and in it he makes four men argue about the use of bells in the service of religion.

The first took the Puritan view, 'We have no nede of belles for too represent unto us Goddes worde.'

The second man stood for the moderate Anglicans, 'If they should cause their belles to be runge for to make the people to come for to heare the worde of God, or when any bodie is deade for to warn all men of the infirmite and weaknesse of this mortall life, and so to preach unto them the judgements of God, and how every man ought to prepare him self unto death; if they should tolle their belles (as they did in good kynge Edwardes dayes) when any bodie is drawinge to his end and departinge out of this worlde for to cause all menne to praye unto God for him, that of his accustomed goodnesse and mercye he should vouchsafe to receave him unto his mercye, forgevinge him al his sinnes; both their ringinge and singeing should have better appearance and should be more conformable to the anciente catholicke churche.'

The third man spoke up for the mediæval ways and beliefs: 'If ye had redde diligently the olde and auncient writers ye should have learned that the belles are runge in processions and funerals and in other doings of the church for to fraye the Devyls away. For as they witness and testefye in their writinges, they be the trumpets of the militaunte churche. Therefore we ought not to doubte but they have as much power to drive away devylls from about the deade corpses and bodies as ye holy water hath, especially syth they be baptised, halowed

and Christened. But these things ye will not marke nor understand.'

The fourth man, who voiced Véron's own opinions, retorted that if a child or an old woman said such things every man would laugh at them.

In the settlement of religion at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign the Church of England formally repudiated the mediæval doctrine of purgatory and the beliefs which had grown up in connection with it. The idea that a dead man could be benefited by the saying of a number of Masses by a hired priest was condemned as a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit. The Protestants went much further and held that once a man was dead his final destiny was fixed, and that, therefore, prayers for the dead were not only useless but positively wrong. One minute before death the intercession of a good man might still avail to save a soul; one minute after death nothing availed.

These beliefs fixed the use of the death bell during the following century and a half. In the advertisements for due order issued in the seventh year of Queen Elizabeth was the following: 'Item. that when anye Christian bodie is in passing that the bell be tolled and that the curate be speciallie called for to comforte the sicke person; and after the time of his passing to ringe no more but one shorte peal and one before buriall, and another shorte peal after the buriall.'

The canons (that is the Church laws) issued in 1604, which are still in force, repeat this injunction: 'And when any is passing out of this life a bell shall be tolled, and the minister shall not be slack to do his last duty. And after the party's death, if it so fall out, there shall be rung no more than one short peal, and one other before and one other after the burial.'

Frederick Gerchon, a German, who accompanied the Duke of Stettin Pomerania in a tour through England in the year 1602, and kept a diary of the itinerary, wrote, 'They (that is, the people of England) do not ring bells for the dead. When a person lies in agony the bells of the parish he belongs to are touched with the clappers until he either dies or recovers again. As soon as this sign is given, everyone in the street, as well as in the houses, falls on his knees offering prayers for the sick person.'

There are many references to the passing bell by poets and writers, the most striking being the lovely lines from Shakespeare's 'Henry IV.'

'The first bringer of unwelcome news  
Hath but a losing office; and his tongue  
Sounds ever after as a sullen bell,  
Remember'd knolling a departing friend.'

Many stories are told of the ringing of the bell, and the point of most of them lies in the fact that the dying person could himself hear it. When in the year 1568 Lady Catherine Grey lay dying, a prisoner in the Tower, the Governor said to one of the attendants, 'Were it not best to send to the church that the bell may be rung?'

(Continued on next page.)

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## SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PRACTICES TENACITY OF OLD CUSTOMS

(Continued from previous page.)

and she, catching the words, herself answered, 'Good Sir Owen, let it be so.'

Philip Stubbs in a book called 'The Anatomie of Abuses' (1583) describes the death of a hard swearing reprobate. 'At last the people perceiving his ende to approach caused the bell to tolle. Who hearing the bell toll for him rushed up in his bed very vehemently, saying, 'God's bloud, he shall not have me yet!'

Among the macabre incidents in the Plague of London related and perhaps partly invented by Defoe, is the following:—

'A youth was sent with a message to a shopkeeper in Whitecross Street, and coming to the door and finding it shut, knocked pretty hard. At length the man of the house came to the door. Says he, "What do you disturb me for?" The boy, though a little surprised, replied, "I come from such a one, and my master sent me for the money which, he says, you know of." Very well, child, returns the living ghost, call as you go by at Cripplegate Church and bid them ring the bell; and with these words shut the door again, and went up again and died the same day.'

The leaders of the Church, while insisting on the importance of ringing the bell before death, were anxious to limit the ringing after death and to defend the Church against the charge that she was continuing the superstitious ringing of pre-Reformation times. Among the Articles to be inquired of throughout the Diocese of Chichester in the year 1638 was 'whether there is a passing bell tolled that they who are within hearing of it may be moved in their private devotions to recommend the state of the departing soul into the hands of their Redeemer, a duty which all Christians are bound to out of a fellow feeling of their common mortality.' The question was put to the Church Wardens and Sworn Men of the Archdeaconry of York, 'Whether doth your clark or sexton when any one is passing out of this life neglect to toll a bell having notice thereof, or the party being dead, doth he suffer any more ringing than one shorte peale, and before his burial one, and after the same another?' They were also asked, 'whether there be any superstitious ringing?'

The relatives of the sick man would naturally delay giving notice until the last moment, and when it was sent it not infrequently happened that the sexton was busy about other matters or was away from home, and so, very often the bell was rung after the man was actually dead. 'Hearing a Passing Bell,' wrote Thomas Fuller in 1645, 'I prayed that the sick Man might have, through Christ, a safe Voyage to his long Home. Afterwards I understood that the Party was dead some hours before, and it seems that in some places of London the Tolling of the Bell is but a pface of Course to ringing it out. Bells better silent than thus telling Lyes. What is this but giving a false Alarime to Men's Devotions, to make them ready armed with their Prayers for the assistance of such who have already fought the good fight yea, and gotten the Conquest. Not to say that Men's Charity herein may be suspected of Superstition in praying for the Dead.'

Men's charity herein was suspected. One of the charges brought against the Church by puritans and sectaries was that by bellringing she encouraged prayers for the dead, but Bishop Hall of Norwich (1574-1656), replying to the Brownists said, 'We call them soul bells for that they signify the departure of the soul, not for that they help the departure of the soul.'

When the Puritans were in power during the Commonwealth (1648-1660) it is probable that the ringing of the bell was stopped in many places, but owing to the tenacity of old customs, not in so many as might have been expected. At All Saints', Newcastle-on-Tyne, it ceased for a while and then the churchwardens, faced with a serious deficit in revenue through the loss of the fees charged, brought the matter before the vestry. The question was referred to the ministers, and they satisfied their consciences that there was no superstition about it, and the bell was ordered to be rung again.

The use of the passing bell continued throughout the seventeenth century, and is mentioned in episcopal visitations and by writers, but as the years went on it gradually died out, at first in the towns, and then in the villages. It was replaced by the death bell (perhaps it would be more correct to say that it gradually changed into the death bell), rung to announce that the person was dead and without any doctrinal or religious significance. We can see the beginnings of this alteration in Thomas Fuller's complaint quoted above, and no doubt it was hastened by the reaction against the Puritans' habit of ostentatious prayer. Long before 1700 the death bell was rung in Oxford and probably in London, though it was still called by the old name. Men listened for the bell as they walked in the streets to learn who had died, in much the same way that men nowadays turn to the obituary columns of 'The Times' or 'The Daily Telegraph.' Anthony Wood has some scores of references to the bell in his diary, and he says that he 'set down the obits of the persons by the tolling of the passing bell.'

In country villages and the smaller towns the older use survived into the eighteenth century. It is said to have ceased at Melton Mowbray about 1738, and there are instances of later survivals; but the death bell was the common use during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The usual custom was to toll or ring a bell at slow intervals for an hour and, at the conclusion, to toll the age and sex of the deceased person, but in different parishes slight variations of the use appeared.

Durand tells us that as early as the thirteenth century it was the general custom of the Catholic Church to mark the sex of the dead person by three strokes for a man and two for a woman, and the custom held in England throughout the ages, the usual form being three times for a man, and three times two for a woman.

Durand gives the meaning of these tellers. 'For a woman they ought to be rung twice because she first caused the bitterness of death, for she first alienated mankind from God. But for a man they rung three times because the Trinity was first shown in man. For Adam was first formed out of the earth; then the woman from Adam; afterwards was man created from both, and so they be therein a Trinity.'

That this explanation was generally accepted is shown by a reference in the Homily for Trinity Sunday, an official pronouncement of the Church of England in the sixteenth century. 'The fourme of the Trinity was founden in manne that was Adam our forefadir, of earth oon persone, and Eve, of Adam the secunde persone, and of them both was the third persone. At the death of a manne three belles should be ronge as his knyll in worshippe of the Trinitie, and for a womanne who is the secunde of the Trinitie two belles should be rongen.'

(To be continued.)

## FROM THE WEST COUNTRY.

'YOKEL' WRITES AGAIN.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Zur,—That were a shock to I when I sees in your paper t'other day as 'West Countryman' reckoned folks could do with a few more letters what be all spelled wrong, from me and another bloke. Leastways, I hopes he means I; anyway, here I be.

Now this ain't meant to be funny, but I'll tell 'ee what I see once in our tower. The sexton come up when us were a-ringing for midnight one Christmas. He used to like his beer—little short chap, he were, used to ride horses—anyway, he comes up and didn't seem more nor a bit tiddley, so us asks him if he'd like to ring behind for us. Right, he catches holt and off us goes, leastways, the front five went, but Freddie couldn't get his'n off. He pulls a bit and off she comes right in the middle on us. Then he reckons as he'll ring her one-handed, and don't catch the sally, and the old rope were a-dancing about like they old bell ropes can. Then he starts a-larfing, but us were sceered as he'd let go o' the tag end. I shouts to a spare chap to take it, but damme I expected old Fred to let go the rope and fight him for it. All the time us were a-clanging about tidy, but t'other chap he takes over and Freddie larfs at us and goes down.

When us finished, us found Freddie had left his coat up wi' us, and it were a dirty night, so us takes it down reckoning to see him asleep in the church. When us got down (this were half-hour after midnight, mind), what do us see but Freddie's boots. This were a rum do. Us searched high and low in all the pews, but there weren't narn a sight on 'im, so us goes home. Next day, us found as he'd spent the night in the church coal 'ole, but he must a got wet fit getting there. Ah, that's a fact, and it didn't happen more nor three years ago.

I dunno what's up wi' blokes at Christmas, but the year arter that another chap what I ain't never seen in the tower afore nor since comes crawling up the belfry steps on all fours about half-hour afore our midnight touch. He says, 'My guy, mister, that's a funny staircase, it kept going round and round.' Then he shakes hands all round, solemn like, and says what good chaps ringers be, then he sits down for a bit, shakes hands again, and goes down. Last us heard on 'im were thumps half-way down, so I reckons he finished the last couple o' dozen on summat different from hands and knees. That's all about they two chaps.

Us a felt this 'ere stopping o' the bells summat dreadful down here; it don't seem like Sunday, somehow. Dang me if they War Office blokes didn't stop 'em the day afore I got married, else I had it in mind as I'd leave my old woman as us come out of church, and go up and help ring for me own wedding. That 'ould larn 'er that

(Continued in next column.)

## HAPPY LANCASHIRE MEETING.

A most encouraging and successful meeting and social evening was enjoyed by eighteen ringers and friends who assembled at 8, Travis Street, Newhey, Lancs, on Saturday, November 16th.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Crabtree, the members decided to hold the next meeting at Todmorden in February, the exact date being left to the secretary.

Immediately business was over, the handbells were set going to Grandsire Triples, followed by a touch of Stedman Triples and Kent Major rung single handed in an effort to spread enthusiasm.

During 'breathers,' Mr. John Ogden rendered songs and also Soh-Fah'd the plain course of Grandsire Triples as a request item. Mr. H. Barlow produced and read some very interesting items of history of the bells and ringers of St. Mary's Church, Oldham. Finally some tune ringing was indulged in and all too soon it was time to disperse.

Thanks are due to the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. J. Meadowcroft, for making such an event possible under present conditions.

## BIRTHDAY COMPLIMENT.

A quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,281 changes) was rung on November 24th on handbells in the tower of St. Nicholas' Church, Pierhead, Liverpool. The ringers were: Frank Varty 1-2, Arnold Brunton 3-4, Thomas R. Butler 5-6, Percival W. Cave (conductor) 7-8, Thomas Hammond 9-10.

It was rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. T. Hammond, to whom the other members of the band extended their heartiest congratulations and best wishes. It was due to Mr. Hammond's inspiration in the first place that the handbell practices commenced, and his enthusiasm can be gauged from the fact that he is an 'ever-present' at the weekly practices.

(Continued from previous column.)

when a man's a ringer there ain't no telling when he'll be going off or coming back. Er'll have to larn that later on now.

'Ere, you knows I tells 'ee about my boys what I larnt, when I writes to 'ee. One on 'em be a prisoner o' war in Germany. Do 'ee reckon if I sent him a rope as he'd know what to do with that there Hitler if he came across 'im?

Well, I can't stop now—I be in the Home Guard and got to go out; if my old mate what's in the Air Force sees this, here's good luck to 'ee, my boy, and to all t'others what be a-serving.

'YOKEL.'

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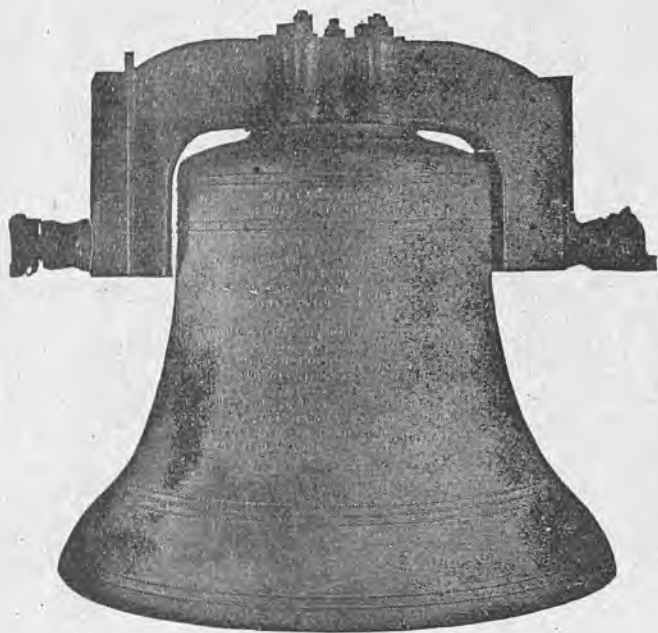
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, who reached his seventy-fifth birthday yesterday.

Michael Freeman, of Lincoln, is following in the footsteps of his father and brother and bids fair to shine as a conductor. He has called his first peal at the age of 15, ringing 1-2 to Bob Major, and thus has beaten his brother John, who rang his first peal as conductor when he was 16.

Heywood's Transposition of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time at Duffield 50 years ago yesterday. The conductor was Benjamin Tugden. Heywood rang the treble, and rather unusually for him did not call. The transposition is probably the best peal for practical purposes in the method.

Fifty years ago to-day 14 peals were rung. Five of them were Minor, 1 Grandsire Doubles, 3 Grandsire Triples, 1 Stedman Triples, 1 Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1 Kent Treble Bob Major, 1 Kent Treble Bob Royal, and 1 Double Norwich Court Bob Major. The Kent Royal, rung at Fulham, was the late W. T. Cockerill's first ten-bell peal, and one of the Grandsire Triples rung at St. Saviour's, Leicester, was Mr. John O. Lancaster's first peal. Later on he was to distinguish himself as a composer of Stedman Triples.

Another of the Grandsire Triples, which was rung at Gillingham in Kent, was without a covering tenor. Ringers were beginning to do that sort of thing and it led to one of the earliest debates and divisions in the Central Council, which did not hold its first meeting until the following Easter.

One of the earliest known peals of Grandsire Triples was rung on December 4th, 1722, at Stroud in Gloucestershire, and another on December 1st, 1732, by the Kentish Youths at St. Alphage, Greenwich. The original tablet which recorded the latter was long hidden by woodwork, but has been restored and placed in the belfry.

The Sheffield men rang the first peal of Treble Bob Royal on handbells on December 3rd, 1811.

The anniversaries of two famous peals of Stedman Triples fall in this week. On December 6th, 1731, Edward Crane and a party of the Norwich Scholars rang their peal at St. Michael's, Coslany, and on December 4th the Kensington men, who belonged to the College Youths, rang, at St. Mary Abbot's, Thomas Edward's composition, the first that we definitely know was true.

The first peal by Freemasons, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung on December 4th, 1919, at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

## RINGING IN CANADA.

**BELLS HALF-MUFFLED FOR NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We feel we are very fortunate here to be able to ring Christchurch Cathedral bells regularly twice on Sundays and also to be able to ring at least once a week for practice.

To-day (November 10th) we rang half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, the ringing to-night being broadcast. The morning ringing consisted of 504 Grandsire Triples and those taking part were D. Boniface, E. W. Izard, A. C. Melhuish, A. King, W. Sampson, A. B. Lomas, E. J. Merrett and E. Lake. To-night we rang short touches of Grandsire Triples, the ringers being Millard, Margaret Izard, Melhuish, King, E. W. Izard, Lomas, Merrett and Sampson.

Mr. Millard is an old Kent ringer, who has many peals to his credit and has often rung in Canterbury Cathedral.

It seems very sad that Christchurch Cathedral bells are probably the only bells to be rung half-muffled for the late Prime Minister.

I am hoping to be able to arrange for the bells to be broadcast over the C.B.C. network on Christmas Day, and if possible get them into the Empire broadcast.

Victoria, B.C.

E. W. IZARD.

## COMPOSITIONS OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

**J. W. WASHBROOK'S ACTIVITIES.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Mr. Barnett's letter is interesting and I have often wondered whether the word 'reversed' should really mean 'varied.'

During several years when Mr. Washbrook was in Ireland I often used to meet him in the tower at Arklow, also at his residence and where I was staying, not only for handbell ringing, but for talks on compositions as well.

He did many out of the ordinary things with Stedman and would ring four handbells in Triples besides calling touches of a very difficult character. Once when ringing two tower bells to Stedman Triples a note was offered him, but he told the visitor to leave it on a seat, saying his hands were full.

One peal he called on May 18th, 1905, was the first peal of Stedman Triples with all the 6.7's at backstroke, and he certainly excelled himself that day, although he rang only one bell. He had several variations of different peals and a large collection of touches which could be had by checking the figures after ringing them. To hear him ring various methods by chiming hammers was also a rare treat, and I thoroughly enjoyed my two dozen visits to Arklow while he resided there.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD.



## DEATH OF MR. STEPHEN WOOD.

### KILLED IN AIR RAID.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Stephen Henry Wood, of Bristol, who was killed in the air raid upon that city on Sunday week, while serving with the Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Mr. Wood, who was 34 years of age, was the second son of Canon G. R. Wood, Rector of Cold Ashton, and Mrs. Wood. He married in 1933 Miss Margaret M. Lennon and there are two children. The greatest sympathy of the Exercise will go out to the widow and the other members of the family in their bereavement.

Mr. Wood's interest in ringing began when he was but a boy, and it was developed when he went to Cambridge and joined the University Guild at the same time as the brothers Woolley, Frank Haynes (now Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild) and others who have become well known in the Exercise. He was elected Master of the Guild in 1926 and again in 1927, and during his residence at Magdalen College rang in many peals, most of them on handbells and in association with the revered president (the late Rev. A. H. F. Boughey).

His first peal of Major was a handbell peal of Bob Major in 1926, rung with Messrs. Boughey, F. E. Haynes and W. H. J. Hooton. Less than three weeks after he conducted his first peal, also on handbells, with Messrs. Boughey, C. W. Woolley and F. E. Haynes. A peal of Bob Royal followed almost immediately and later came Kent Treble Bob and in April of the following year Double Norwich. A few days afterwards Mr. Wood called a peal of Spliced Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters (only the second ever rung), and then took part in a peal of Little Bob Major. In January, 1928, he conducted a peal of Bob Maximus on handbells, the first of Bob Maximus by all the band.

The Cambridge University Guild during its 60 years of existence has gone through times of alternating success and inactivity, but it was in one of its strongest periods during Mr. Wood's residence. In the year that he left he arranged the annual ringing week of the Guild in and around Bristol, with headquarters at Almondsbury, where his father was Rector, and on this tour the Guild rang Bristol Surprise for the first time. The tours are not necessarily peal ringing excursions and a peal in the method did not materialise, but the fact that this stage of progress had been achieved during Mr. Wood's Mastership is a tribute to his efforts and enterprise.

Soon after leaving Cambridge Mr. Wood went to live in Glasgow, where he got together and taught a band at St. Mary's Cathedral and was largely instrumental in forming the Scottish Association.

In 1931 he was elected an honorary member of the Central Council and had become one of its most popular members. He was an able debater and always commanded the attention of the members. For some years he had served on the Methods Committee and had been a member of the Standing Committee since 1936.

Mr. Wood was also a member of the Ancient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers and one of the few members in recent years who have been practising ringers. Ringing has for long had no place in the activities of the society, which has chiefly devoted itself to benevolent work on behalf of the church.

Mr. Wood was interested in composition and had a number of peals in various methods, one of them being an unusual peal of Stedman Caters, produced largely by twin bobs and with varied musical arrangements of the big bells.

When he went to live in Bristol Mr. Wood became associated with Clifton Parish Church and did a good deal to encourage change ringing there. It is sad to think that the church, the tower and the bells with which he was so closely associated also came down in blazing ruins on the night that he died on active service, as bravely as any soldier who gave up his life on the field of battle. His death has caused a great loss to ringing.

The funeral took place at Cold Ashton on Friday, when the Lord Bishop of Bristol (Dr. Woodward) officiated and spoke very highly of the late Mr. Wood's high, sterling qualities.

A strong detachment of the Bristol A.F.S. attended, and six of the members bore the coffin to the grave. Among the ringers present were Mr. J. T. Dyke (hon. secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association), Miss N. Williams (Bath), Mr. Frank Skidmore and Mr. H. S. Gregory (Bristol), Mr. T. F. King and Mr. J. F. Smallwood (Bath).

## CHURCH AND BELLS FOR SALE.

### AN UNUSUAL AUCTION.

It is a very unusual thing for a church and a peal of bells to be put up for auction at a public sale on licensed premises, but a recent advertisement in 'The Daily Telegraph' announced that by order of the Diocesan Authority of Chichester the unconsecrated building known as the Church of St. Richard de Wych in Ashdown Forest, with its fittings and six bells weighing about 35 cwt., will be offered for sale, for demolition or adaptation, next Wednesday, at the Dorset Arms in East Grinstead.

The church with its tower, we understand, was built of stone about one hundred years ago and was privately owned. The bells are hung for chiming, not ringing. We should welcome from our readers any information concerning the use of the building and its bells.

## THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

### WHAT THE WAR OFFICE SHOULD KNOW.

To the Editor.

Sir,—At meetings, formal and informal, ringers continue to protest against the ban on church bell ringing, but all their fulminations just get them nowhere. These protests get them no further than the Central Council itself chooses to move. With all respect, I think the correspondence referred to at the College Youths' lunch between the secretary of the Council and the Home Office shows us how little we are likely to get from the Council unless its officials go to the trouble of showing the War Office how futile are their plans for the use of bells—that is if, as you have so frequently asked, they have any plans at all.

It is of no use to suggest to the authorities that the time is past when there is need for the bells to warn the public of imminent air invasion—on that subject, assuming that they think bells would be a suitable means of alarm, the authorities must be given credit for knowing best. What is needed is that someone—and it ought to be the Central Council, which seems to be recognised by the Home Office as the representative mouthpiece of ringers—should tell the powers that be how ineffectual the bells will prove if they are relied upon, and how they are likely to lead to panic if they are rung and the public are left in ignorance of what is expected of them.

It seems perfectly clear that the officials of the War Office haven't the foggiest notion of anything relating to bells except perhaps that they are supposed to make a noise. The whole thing is so absurd when you think about it. If troop-carrying planes land in the country, it will be as far away from habitations as possible, and the delay which must obviously take place before even the nearest bells can be rung would render the alarm utterly useless. And in any event, even if there were a remote possibility of the bells being any good for the purpose, what is the use of silencing them on Sundays? As a writer in a recent issue of the 'Church Times' has said, it is bad psychology.

But to ban the ringing of bells in the big towns is an utter absurdity. Enemy parachutists, let alone troop-carrying planes, will not come down on the housetops of our cities—not intentionally at any rate. Why, then, should the bells of London and Birmingham, Cardiff or Norwich and a thousand other places be silenced in their age-old use, to provide for a contingency that cannot be expected by any stretch of the imagination to happen? Did parachutists land in the Strand or the Bull Ring, for instance, they would be mopped up long before anyone could be authorised by a commissioned officer or chief of police to ring St. Clement's or St. Martin's bells.

These are the kind of facts that the Central Council should tabulate and submit to the War Office. It is not a question whether or not the risk of danger from invasion is past, but whether the use of church bells, if there is an invasion, is going to be of the slightest value. To my mind, a far more effective warning could be organised by banning the use of all motor horns except as a signal that the enemy threatened to land from the air. But what a commotion among the public there would be if the War Office issued such a ban!

May I, sir, urge that when the Central Council next take up the question they will not try to tell the War Office what the War Office must obviously know better than they do, but put before them those things of which the official mind has apparently no knowledge.

'CITY RINGER.'

## CHURCH TOWERS AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

Dear Sir,—All lovers of bells, be they poets or everyday folk like ourselves, regret the silencing of the bells of these islands of Britain. Personally, I would much rather see the destruction of our churches with their bells ringing and flags flying than to see them reduced to a heap of ruins, by the barbaric deeds of an unscrupulous foe, without being able to give expression to one's loyalty and devotion in the cause so dear to every lover of Christian freedom.

The bells have been taken from their true use by the military, and we are told they are not to be rung, except for giving alarm in case of invasion by the enemy. Logically, we are bound to admit the reasoning put forth by Mr. R. Richardson in your issue of November 15th, in which the bells are now made an integral part of the war machine.

It would be very interesting to know the 'sergeant-major' whose voice, fortunately, or unfortunately, could not be heard above the din and sound of the bells! I am rather of the opinion of Mr. Smallwood, that there are those who hate the sound of the bells.

The bells at Crondall were silenced before any confirmation had been given by the Ministry of Home Security. It makes me think there was a Hitler in the Aldershot Command, who did not like the sound of the bells, and ultimately became the dictator, with the result we all know too well.

The sum of correspondence, about how to use, when to use, by whom to use, make the whole issue appear farcical.

It is no easy task to get a reversal of a decision once taken, either by the Government or the military authorities, hence it behoves us to be alert, for any eventuality affecting the Church, its property and well-being.

In the meantime, as law-abiding citizens of a great Empire, let us do our part, and put no obstacle in the way of those who are endeavouring to bring about a successful issue of the present struggle. Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

**RICHARD DUCKWORTH.**

THE AUTHOR OF THE 'TINTINNALOGIA.'

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—As you point out, sir, the quotation from J. T. Smith's 'Life of Nollekens' is most interesting as confirmatory evidence of Richard Duckworth's authorship of the 'Tintinnalogia.' It seems just a little strange that ringers should have so firmly and for so long ascribed that book to Fabian Stedman; for, although Stedman's name is on the title page and Duckworth's is not, there was at first no secret at all about who wrote it, nor has the truth been entirely forgotten ever since. What gave me my clue was a statement in an early issue of 'Notes and Queries' by the then Rector of Steeple Aston in Oxfordshire, in which he said that the only one of his predecessors who had done anything particular was a man named Richard Duckworth, who had written a book on bellringing called 'Tintinnalogia.' This drew a flat denial from Ellacombe, who declared that there was not the slightest doubt that the author was Stedman. Ellacombe owned one of the two copies known to exist at the time. It is now in the Bodleian library at Oxford.

I thought the matter was worth taking a little trouble about, and went to Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne, with the result you know. In justice to Ellacombe, I ought to point out that neither Wood's diary nor Hearne's was as accessible to him as they were to me.

Since then I have found an account of Duckworth in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' and he is included in that great reference work precisely on the grounds that he did write the 'Tintinnalogia.' Here is the account: 'Duckworth, Richard, Campanologist, a native of Leicestershire, is probably identical with the Richard Duckworth mentioned under date 4th May, 1648, in the Register of Visitors of Oxford University appointed by the Long Parliament in 1647 as one of the submitting undergraduates of New Hall, and with the Richard Ducker, who according to the same authority was a member, and perhaps scholar, of Brasenose College about the same time. He matriculated at New Inn Hall in 1649, graduated B.A. in 1651, and proceeded M.A. in 1651. He is said to have been afterwards of University College. Wood tells us that he was put in fellow of Brazen-nose College from New Inn Hall by the visitors, took the degree in arts, and holy orders, and preached for some time near Oxford; and that afterwards he was created B.D. and on the death of Dan. Greenwood became Rector of Steeple Aston in Oxfordshire in 1679. He adds that the parishioners and he disagreeing, he left that place in 1692 and afterwards became principal of St. Alban's Hall, and that he hath published the following books: 1. Tintinnalogia, or the Art of Ringing. 2. Instructions for Hanging of Bells with all things belonging thereunto.'

The statement that Duckworth wrote two books is an error, due to the fact that the men who published the second edition of the 'Athenae Oxonienses' misread Anthony Wood's notes, and gave the title and subtitle of the book as the titles of two separate books.

My account which you published some years ago was fuller than the above.

Earl Bathurst, the Lord Chancellor, who is referred to in the extract you printed last week, matriculated at Oxford in 1730, and so was up during the years when Annable and the College Youths visited the city and Vicars and his band were ringing their peals. He belonged to the same political party as Thomas Hearne and quite possibly knew him. He may have practised ringing, but there is no evidence of it.

Joseph Nollekens was apprenticed in 1747 to a sculptor, whose studio was in Vine Street, Piccadilly. He was a Roman Catholic, but never a regular observant of its forms. Though, as he said himself, he used to toll the bell at St. James' Church, Piccadilly, he never, so far as we know, did any change ringing. There were only two bells in the steeple.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

**'NINE TAILORS MAKE A MAN.'***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Being one of the disappearing craft, the letters about Nine Tailors are naturally interesting to me and doubtless to other tailors who see the correspondence.

The explanation given to me when I started 54 years ago was that in the dim past a poor down and out tailor called for work or assistance. There were Nine Tailors working and each gave a contribution. The recipient exclaimed, 'You have made a man of me.' This was also told to me only the other day by a tailor 60 years of age with whom I had never previously spoken about the matter.

A country wit told me soon after I commenced working at the trade that it took

Nine tailors to make a man,  
Three to lift a cabbage,  
Two to kill a snail.

I wonder if our historian brother ringers can explain the two latter. A cousin also gave me a slap on the back and exclaimed, 'Another tailor, good Lord.'

Best of success to 'The Ringing World.'

A. CASTLE.

Elham, Canterbury, Kent.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

SECRETARY'S APPEAL TO MEMBERS.

In the course of a letter to the members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, the hon. secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover) says: 'Doubtless many of us were anticipating that with the coming of the winter months the ban which the authorities have thought necessary to impose on ringing would be lifted, at any rate sufficiently to permit of service ringing.'

'Unfortunately, it appears that the prohibition is to continue. There are signs, however, that the Church authorities are becoming conscious of the fact that the scheme has made every church a military objective, and possibly this fact may prompt the higher dignitaries to use their best endeavours to persuade the War Office to abandon their ill-considered plan.'

'Meantime, we are at a standstill. The annual meetings of the districts and of the Guild must be held early next year, but in such a large and scattered area as ours it hardly seems desirable or practicable to hold other meetings, having regard to the difficulties, to say nothing of the dangers, of transport and travel after dark.'

'Our ability to recommence activities when permitted will depend on the amount of purely local effort made to keep the interest of members alive, and I trust tower secretaries are keeping in touch with all local ringers and that they all realise that IT'S UP TO THEM.'

The secretary goes on to draw attention to the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Fund, which need not and should not be allowed to become dormant. If an excuse to call a meeting of members was required, these two funds presented a golden opportunity.

Arrangements had been made for carrying on the Farnham District in the absence of Mr. C. W. Denyer, who had joined the Army, but Mr. Cope had left the diocese and the Guildford District was without a secretary. It would be necessary for the district to elect another secretary, and he (Mr. Grover) would be glad to hear if there were any volunteers for the job.

The hon. secretary also asked for the names of paying members, and the names of all members who are serving with H.M. Forces and whose subscriptions are excused.

'The Executive Committee,' he concludes, 'will be interested to hear of any efforts you are making to keep the flag flying and periodical reports to me will be welcomed.'

**CHURCH BELLS AT CHRISTMAS.**

HANDBELLS IN THE CHANCEL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with what Mr. Q. M. White says about ringing handbells in church on Christmas Day. If it can be done, it will do something to preserve one of the oldest and most highly prized of English traditions, it will help to keep bands together, and to bring ringers and their church authorities closer together.

But I hope that those who do so will remember what you said, sir, in your article on August 2nd last. Handbell ringing in church is a very different thing from handbell ringing in a private room. The reasons for it are different, and the ringers should have other aims in their mind.

What they should remember is that the only thing which matters is that the ringing should sound proper to the listeners in the church. It does not matter at all what method is rung except that a course of Grandsire Triples would be infinitely better than a course of London Surprise Major, supposing that the band was expert enough to ring the latter properly.

As you pointed out, the things which are most important are that the ringing should be on the slow side—bold and regular in the striking—and the touch should not be too long. Three leads of Grandsire Triples are ample at a time, unless you want to bore the listeners. Ringers can listen to a longer touch and (sometimes) enjoy it, but an average congregation cannot stand more than a few minutes at a time. After all, change ringing as music is very monotonous. That is really part of the charm of church bells, for the outsider is not compelled to, and as a matter of fact does not, listen to them intently. But when you have got a congregation in church they have to listen, whether they like it or not. So long as you don't overdo it they will like it, partly for the novelty, and partly because with properly rung and properly struck bells the rhythm is musically effective. But they will soon complain that there is no tune and become bored stiff if the ringing goes on too long.

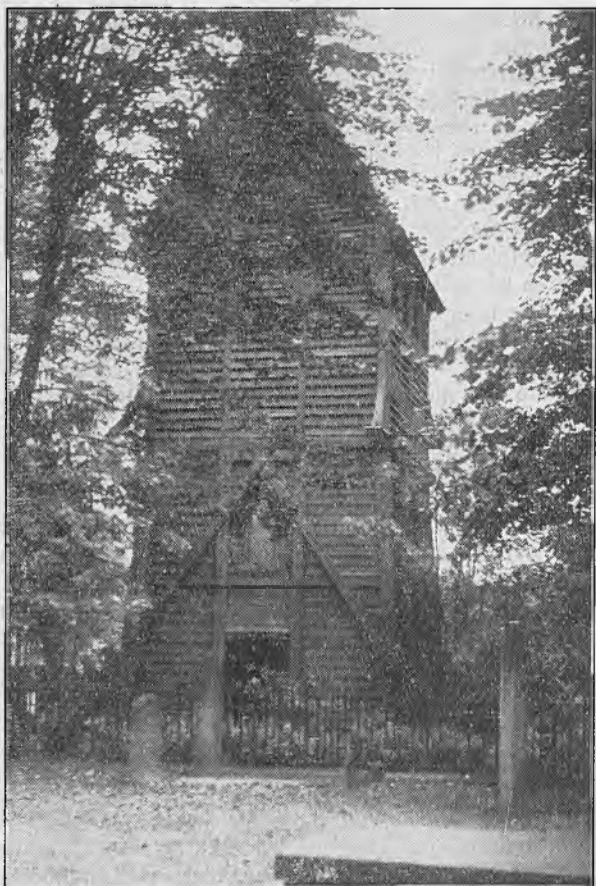
As the ringing is done for musical effect and for musical effect only, the band, unless they are really expert handbell ringers, had better learn their course or three leads of Grandsire Triples by heart as if they were learning a tune. That is they should forget all the things they have been told about the proper way to learn to ring double-handed changes, and go to work precisely in the way they have been told not to go. It will not help them to be double-handed change ringers, but they may have a chance of doing decently what they should really aim at, which is to provide some music suitable for use in the service of the Church. Only when they have done it they should not pride themselves on being able to ring double-handed.

'ORGANIST AND RINGER.'

## THE DESTRUCTION IN COVENTRY. ESCAPE OF HOLY TRINITY BELLS.

### Wooden Tower Unharmed.

In the destruction which took place in Coventry on the night when enemy planes rained their bombs over the city, nothing was more remarkable than the escape of the wooden campanile and bells of Holy Trinity Church. Buildings all round came crashing to the ground, the nearby Cathedral fell in ruins, but Holy Trinity Church was little damaged, and the dilapidated structure in which the bells hang, and which it has been long thought might easily be blown down in a gale, stood up in the havoc.



THE WOODEN TOWER AT HOLY TRINITY, COVENTRY.

Concerning this tower and the bells, Mr. William A. Stote, of Cheylesmore, Coventry, writes:—

In your recent article on war damaged churches you give the history of the bells of St. Michael's, Coventry, and conclude with the statement that the neighbouring Church of Holy Trinity has a ring of eight which are now hung dead in a wooden bell tower. I would like to point out that the bells are not hung dead. Each is complete with headstock, wheel, pulley, etc., and could be raised separately provided the bearings were lubricated.

These bells in the first instance were all one family, being cast by Mears about 1812 and hung in the central tower of the church. It is clear from this that both St. Michael's and Holy Trinity had at the same period rings of bells in going order. Holy Trinity bells, however, did not contribute to the ringing history of the city to the extent that St. Michael's did. As far as records go, only one peal was rung on them whilst in the central tower. That was a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major in the twenties of last century. Owing to the frailty of the tower and spire, they were taken out about 1856 and placed temporarily in the wooden structure, where they still hang.

A scheme was drawn up, backed by a wealthy citizen, whereby a stone campanile in keeping with the beauty of the church should be erected over the avenue midway between the two churches, but unfortunately he died before it could be put into effect, and his wife, who inherited his estate, refused to honour his promises.

There is no record of the bells having been rung as an octave in their present home. The usual procedure was to ring the front five,

possibly to Doubles, and clock the back three behind, although there were rare occasions when the back six were rung. However, the tenor being 23½ cwt., the structure would not stand up to this indefinitely and ringing had to be discontinued some thirty or more years ago.

In the early part of last year another scheme was formulated to cost £4,000, whereby the wooden structure was to be dismantled, the bell frame erected on four reinforced concrete posts on the present site and a wooden structure carried up from this over the tops of surrounding buildings. The whole was to be covered with weather boarding and finished with roof louvres to minimise the noise in the immediate vicinity. The scheme had to be shelved, however, as the parish lost a daughter church by fire. The bells, therefore, will not receive attention until this has been replaced, but who knows that these bells may not one day ring out again, expressing the heartfelt thanksgiving, for the restoration of the city, of a people who in a single night have seen the fine old buildings which they hold dear destroyed by the murderous activities of the barbaric Hun? May that day come soon.

### COVENTRY RINGERS' SAFETY.

Their many friends will be glad to know of the safety of Mr. and Mrs. F. Perrens, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. W. White and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Webb, of Coventry. The homes of some of them received damage, the most serious being that of Mr. and Mrs. Pervin, whose house was destroyed. The house of Mr. and Mrs. Perrens lost most of its roof.

### FAMOUS WINDOWS DAMAGED.

Bombs dropped by enemy aircraft recently caused considerable damage to windows of a church in Southern England.

These windows were hand painted and were presented by the local squire in 1831. The heraldic sequence of the windows was believed to be one of the most complete in existence and included the arms of many of the noble families of our land.

The famous Dr. Fell, Dean of Christ Church and afterwards Bishop of Oxford, finds his place amongst the heraldic designs in the windows (this one is undamaged). He is perhaps best known from the rhyme made about him by Tom Browne, who was expelled from the college by Dr. Fell.

'I do not like thee Dr. Fell,  
The reason why I cannot tell,  
But this I know, I know full well,  
I do not like thee Dr. Fell.'

The bells (one of the lightest rings of ten in the country) and tower are undamaged. Mr. George Williams has been connected with the church for the past 35 years.

### BAD PSYCHOLOGY.

'Urbanus' writes in an article entitled 'Christmas is Coming,' in 'The Church Times' of November 22nd, as follows:—

'There is more to be said in support of the plea that church bells should ring out once more. There is no doubt that the ban laid upon them proceeded out of ignorance of bells and their use. The tocsin is not sounded by the ordinary ringing of bells, but by the crash of all their clappers striking at the same time. It is bad psychology to keep the bells silent. If we must be frugal in other respects in our keeping of the feast, let us at the least fly our flags from the church towers, and fling out the music of the bells from the belfries.'

### HANDBELL RINGING EXTRAORDINARY.

#### AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PERFORMER.

Among the interesting extracts from eighteenth century Norwich newspapers made by Mr. Charles E. Borrett is the following curious advertisement. We should rather like to know how Mr. Frankling managed his bells and what he rang on them.

From the 'Norwich Mercury' for Saturday, December 13th, 1760.

This is to inform the Curious, that there is come to this Place,

The Noted Frankling,

The Celebrated Ringer:

Who has performed at the Theatre Royal, in Covent Garden, at the Theatre in the Hay-Market, and at Sadler's Wells, London, where he met with universal Applause; and his Exhibitions so far surpass Belief, that he has been recommended to the Publick, as the most extraordinary Artist of the Age.

He rings eight Bells, viz.: Two on his Head, two in each Hand and one on each Foot; rising, changing, and falling them with unparalleled Dexterity. He likewise plays on them several Tunes, with the utmost Exactness; and all this without the assistance of any other Person. It is allowed, by the best judges of ringing, that his Equal in this Art has never before appeared.

He may be heard of at his Lodgings, at the Castle Inn, in the Market Place, Norwich. And is ready to wait on any Gentlemen or Ladies, who may be pleased to commend him, at any Time of the Day, during his Stay in Town, which will be for a short time only.

**THORNE, YORKS.**—On Tuesday, November 26th, 720 Doubles (two six-scores of Grandsire and four of Plain Bob): T. Leask 1-2, J. Thorley 3-4, C. Thorley 5-6. Rung for the ringer of 3-4 prior to him joining the Forces.



**CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.****COMPOSITION IN THE METHOD.**

Cambridge Surprise Minor is one of the oldest and one of the best of the six-bell methods. From the closing years of the seventeenth century it has regularly been practised by the most advanced bands, and it was natural that when in the eighteenth century there was a great advance in method ringing, men should seek to extend it to eight bells as they had already done with Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Court Bob.

Annable was the first to make the attempt, but he did not understand the principles which underlie the construction of the method. He omitted fifth's and eighth's from the second section and his extension fails to reproduce the characteristic work of the Minor and has an irregular lead end.

**ANNABLE'S CAMBRIDGE.**

12345678

21436587

12463857

21648375

26143857

62418375

62143857

26418375

62481735

26847153

28641735

82467153

28647513

82465731

84256713

48527631

84256731

15837246

Such a method has very little attraction for the practical ringer, and it is not surprising that it was stillborn; but it is interesting as an experiment by an early authority, and it will serve as a text on which to make one or two remarks.

It is symmetrical, and so we can use the rules we gave in our article of February 23rd last if we want to work out its false course ends, but its lead ends are irregular and we must be careful to get them right; and we cannot use the short cuts which we have pointed out at various times and which depend on the regular Bob Major lead ends.

When we have any regular method which has the same first section as Cambridge, we know, without taking the trouble to make transpositions, that it has the false course end B24365. But in this method of Annable's the same first section gives the two false course ends F32465 and G43265. The second section gives A32546 and D46253, the third is CPS, and the fourth gives the same as the first. There is one fewer false course end than in the correct extension, but, seeing that the four present belong to two groups, the capacity of the method to produce true peals is not materially enlarged.

If, in addition to having irregular lead ends, the method had been unsymmetrical, as some are which have been rung in the past, we could not use the rules we have given for working out false course ends, without considerable alteration and adaptation.

Some time after the middle of the eighteenth century the correct extension of Cambridge was discovered, possibly by John Reeves, who was one of the greatest composers the Exercise has ever produced. At any rate, he was the first to give it a place in the ringers' repertoire, and he called the first peal in 1780 at St. Giles-in-the-Fields with a band of the London Youths.

Those were the days before men had realised that a Treble Bob Major method can be false internally without the falseness revealing itself at the lead ends, so it is not to be wondered at that Reeves' peal was false. He was not the first man to discover the falseness of Treble Bob—Christopher Wells, one of his acquaintances, did that—but Reeves set himself to make a thorough investigation of the problem, and so far as concerns peals with the tenors together he succeeded. It was he who first pointed out the use of natural courses and false course ends. He did not develop the idea to the full extent—that was not to be expected—but the main underlying principles of his system of proof are the same as those we have given in these articles.

The men who followed Reeves, and especially Shipway, did not grasp the significance of his discoveries. Perhaps they were too simple for them. Shipway developed those complicated 'proof scales,' with their many false rows and transpositions, which were used by composers for a hundred years, and which can be found, more or less explained, in C. W. P. Davies' book on the Surprise Methods. In justice to Shipway, we ought to remember that most of his work was done with the tenors parted where the advantages of working by natural courses are not so obvious.

John Reeves' work was mainly confined to composition with the tenors together, and his peals of Treble Bob form a group which covers the whole range of the method as it was understood in his day, and shows as much skill and appreciation as almost any achievement in composition.

When he had realised that his first peal of Cambridge was false, he devoted a great amount of attention to the method, and he found, as he said, that it was far more precarious even than Oxford Treble Bob. The conclusion he came to was that it has no more than fifteen true courses. He was mistaken, but he had good reasons for his conclusion, and on the lines he was working he did actually reach the limit.

To extend the fifteen courses so as to produce a five-thousand, he parted the tenors, but in so doing he was venturing into fields which he had not explored and which to him were unknown. So it happened that his second peal was false also. It is a most interesting composition, for it shows, on the one hand, quite surprising ability, and on the other almost artless ignorance.

This second composition was rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on February 23rd, 1783, by the same band (except for one man) as rang the other. They were now members of the ancient Society of College Youths.

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## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—A 'special' meeting at Pinchbeck on Saturday, December 7th, at the Bull Hotel at 3.45 p.m., followed by meeting and 'social evening,' including cinematograph pictures of famous ringers of England, etc. A large attendance is hoped for.—R. Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—The annual general meeting will be held at All Saints', Colchester, on Saturday, December 7th. Please note the name of church. Handbells will be available at All Saints' Parish Hall, which is in Queen Street, opposite Culver Street, at 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. A service will be held in All Saints' Church, opposite memorial, at 4 p.m., and tea and business meeting in the hall at 4.45 p.m., with more ringing. Members of H.M. Forces billeted in and around Colchester are specially invited. There is a good shelter within 100 yards of both church and hall.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 7th. Handbell ringing in the tower from 3 p.m. Please try to attend.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 7th. Service 3 p.m., followed by business meeting and handbells. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, December 7th, at 3 p.m. Handbells afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 14th. Handbells 3 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Business includes election of officers, accounts for the year, etc. Please make an effort to be present. A postcard for tea will oblige.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Rotherham on Saturday, December 14th. A room will be reserved at Wheatsheaf Hotel. Handbells available 3 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., followed by business meeting and further handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. S. Briggs, Clinton, Gerrard Road, Rotherham, not later than December 11th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Cradley, December 14th. Service in church at 4.15. Business meeting to follow. A good muster is expected. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—John Goodman, 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Kington Magna, on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Handbells ready in belfry at 3 p.m. Service at 4. Address by the Rev. Dr. Hellins. Tea by invitation of the Rector in Schoolroom at 5, followed by business meeting. Names for tea to be sent to the Rev. F. L. Edwards, Kington Magna, Gillingham, Dorset, by Tuesday, Dec. 10th.—William Uphill, Hon. Sec.

**BUSHEY, HERTS.**—Annual meeting, Watford District, Saturday, December 21st, at Guide's Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Room open to all interested in ringing. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice and social chat. Comfortable room open from 2.30, with arrangements for tea. Give your district hearty support to keep going.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

## SILENT APPARATUS FOR BELLRINGING.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In a few towers I have visited I have noticed an apparatus for ringing handbells (fastened to the wall) by means of wires attached to the bells which are rung with clappers tied.

Mr. H. T. Chandler, who is now ringing bells with the Royal Navy, told me he had rung with an apparatus at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

Would some reader be kind enough to furnish details and possibly a sketch of the apparatus, as no doubt a few towers could adopt this 'method' of ringing and so overcome the ban on open ringing.

I am sure every ringer is proud of the stand being taken by 'The Ringing World' for the cause of ringing. May it soon have its reward.

Leominster.

LESLIE EVANS.

**BARNSELEY.**—On Sunday, November 24th, in St. Peter's tower, 1,264 Bob Major on handbells: Daniel Smith 1-2, Harold Chant 3-4, Peter Woodward 5-6, Raymond Ford 7-8. Composed and conducted by H. Chant. Longest touch of Major in hand by all except the conductor.

J. A.  
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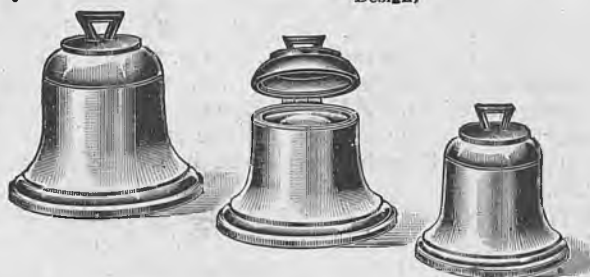
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## CHRISTMAS BELLS?

One of the most striking appeals that have yet been made for the restoration of church bells to their proper function appeared in 'The Times' on Monday. Their silence is depriving the people of one of their oldest national treasures, says this letter, signed by several clergy, and adds: 'Church bells are woven into the very warp and woof of our national life, in our thought, our literature, our art. They are an essentially popular symbol of joyousness and of things eternal.' A special desire is expressed that the bells should, at any rate, be restored for Christmas, but we are afraid that any chance of this occurring is remote. According to latest reports the authorities have not been able to find any alternative means for the warning for which it is proposed to use the church bells.

Everyone will regret, and many people very deeply, that no church bells will be heard in our land this Christmastide—the first time for more than a thousand years. That, in itself, is an almost staggering fact. Somewhere or other, with ever-spreading custom and with ever-growing volume the bells for something like twelve centuries have sounded from the 'grey and ivied towers' the message of peace and goodwill. It is, of course, just possible that before Christmas a 'dispensation' may be granted for that day, but we think it is very doubtful; indeed, there may be some other reason than the reservation of the bells for air invasion warning or the fear of raising too highly the spirit of optimism among the public by the relaxation of any restrictions, why the ban should be retained for the present, some other reason of which those outside the highest circles have no knowledge. If there is, then, in the public interests, the bells in the church steeples must remain silent, but of all the breaches that have been made in the manners and customs of the people of this country, this sunders the oldest of all practices.

That the bells may not entirely disappear from the festival, we hope the suggestion made in our columns that handbells may find a place on Christmas Day in the churches wherever possible will be widely acted upon. It will to some extent save a complete severance of the age-long custom, although handbells inside the building can never replace the loud and cheerful sounds which have always spread from the towers—'a message of the one sure and certain hope for the world.' If handbells are to be successfully used in the churches, however, there must be careful preparation. It need not necessarily be double-handed ringing, but it must be good ringing. In this connection the points made in 'The Ringing World' last

(Continued on page 590.)

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week by a ringer who is an organist are well worth careful study. It would be a mistake in a church service to attempt any long touch, and Triples, to an uninitiated public, is more effective than Major. Whatever ringing is done should not occupy more than three or four minutes at the outside. A congregation must perforce remain attentive, but could easily be bored because they do not understand the technicalities. If, however, the ringing is short and well done, it will be appreciated and may win such approval that it will be asked for again. But whatever it is, the utmost perfection should be aimed at—and that involves careful practice.

Another occasion on which the church bells will be much missed will be on New Year's Eve. Long as it has been the custom to ring the old year out in many places, the tradition is but a sapling compared with the older growth of Christmas bellringing, but there are many parishes where the ringing on old year's night has been the practice almost from time immemorial. But that, too, will be lost this year. It is, however, a custom that has been broken before, for in the last war the ringing of church bells was forbidden after nightfall, so that the break this year is not so keenly regrettable as the ban on Christmas bells. Moreover, there would be in any case drawbacks to ringing after dark—difficulties of black-out and the natural reluctance to be in any place where there may be unguarded risks. The old year of 1940 will pass in silence in the towers and, we think, unregretted.

## SIX BELL PEAL.

DUBLIN.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 30, 1940, in two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 14 of Gabriel Lindoff's 360's. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM MCGREGOR ... .. Treble	FREDERICK E. DUKES ... 4
MISS ADA C. DUKES ... .. 2	*WILLIAM E. HALL ... 5
DAVID MCGREGOR ... .. 3	*J. MAXWELL MAGILL ... Tenor

Conducted by F. E. DUKES.

\* First peal. First peal of Doubles by an all-Irish team. This peal was rung on the minor six as a memorial to the late Ven. E. T. Crozier, formerly Rector of St. George's and Archdeacon of North Queensland, whose death occurred at Haverhill, Suffolk, on November 24th.

## DOUBLE NORWICH COMPOSITIONS.

AN OUTSTANDING PEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The 5,056 by C. W. Roberts is certainly a good composition, but I do not like to see the 3rd in 6th place for half a dozen course-ends, and have always avoided peals of this type chiefly because it sounds, at least to my ears, rather unmusical.

Double Norwich is a fine musical method and there are many splendid compositions on record, especially those in two parts with the use of two Singles only. Number 172 in the 'Collection of Peals' is, to my mind, the ideal musical composition. It is in 46 courses only, for 5,024 changes, and has its Singles at start and midway. The 6th is 24 courses at home and 12 courses in 5th's, and there are no unmusical course-ends. This is an advantage, not only to the conductor, but also to the band, especially to those who hate the needless use of Singles.

Some conductors used to delight in selecting compositions with a lot of Singles, and this sometimes tended to upset some ringers, who were used to ringing methods with this call usually at the minimum.

W. SHEPHERD.

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## CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

A SUBJECT FOR RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article on interesting the apathetic and the giving of talks at meetings prompts me to make a suggestion.

Why shouldn't ringers take a little trouble to study the architectural details of the buildings which they so often visit. I believe that not one ringer in twenty can tell the difference between Norman and Perpendicular, leave alone the times in which these styles flourished. The eyes of most ringers are directed to the tower and its bells, and the rest of the church has no interest for them. Even with the question of the tower, I have often heard the remark, 'That's a fine tower,' but the speaker has no idea what qualities go to make up a fine tower.

The whole subject is of absorbing interest and the variety is infinite. Every church is different, and the broad outlines of the subject are relatively simple. Literature is obtainable, and can be both cheap and plentiful. Our churches are filled with beautiful monuments and carvings, and if one can only tell their age, what a history is unfolded before one's eyes.

This subject might well be discussed at ringer's gatherings. In these times it would interest some, who would then want to look more closely at their churches. We might even find a group setting off to visit churches to study their architectural details. This would keep ringers in touch with the church until such time as the bells can be rung again. The village church is the centre of and very often the only attraction. If one can follow intelligently what is before the eye, then the church becomes infinitely more interesting than it was when one only thought of the qualities of the bells.

The time which I used to spend on ringing I am largely using now for compiling notes and photographs of the details of the village churches of Oxfordshire. It will take years, I expect, but I derive a tremendous satisfaction from it, I get good photos and I see all the byways of our countryside.

ALAN R. PINK.

Kennington, Oxford.

By a coincidence, this letter comes at a time when a short series of articles on church architecture, which it is hoped to illustrate, is being prepared for 'The Ringing World.' They will, we hope, give ringers an introduction to the subject that will lead them to further a study of this most interesting subject.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

### MR. JAMES GEORGE.

CELEBRATES HIS 87th BIRTHDAY.

Mr. James George celebrated his 87th birthday, which fell on November 27th, on the following Saturday, when he entertained a few friends to dinner at his new home. He received many congratulatory messages, and his health was drunk with cordial enthusiasm by the little company. Mr. George also received a number of birthday presents.

His illness has brought him many letters from ringers and others, among them Mr. A. B. Peck (on behalf of the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths), Mr. C. T. Coles (Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild), Mr. T. H. Reeves (St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham), and from secretaries of other associations congratulating him upon his remarkable recovery from the amputation of his leg and also upon his birthday.

Mr. George desires to thank sincerely through 'The Ringing World' everyone who has sent him such kindly messages. He is still improving in health.

### DEATH OF A COLLEGE YOUTH.

MEMBER OF OLD CAVERSHAM BAND.

One of the old Caversham band passed away on November 12th in the person of George Irvine. He left Caversham in 1912, going to Thundersley, Essex, where he had carried on business as a market gardener until his death.

From Shiplake, where he learnt to ring Grandsire Doubles, he went to Caversham about 1902 and joined the St. Peter's Society. He was soon ringing peals in various methods. The writer rang 50 peals with him, comprising London, Cambridge Superlative and Bristol Surprise, and a large proportion of these were for the College Youths, of which he was a member.

A very fine striker and a very safe ringer, Mr. Irvine was a power in any band. He called several peals of Grandsire Triples and one or two of Bob Major and Stedman Triples. One of his proudest days was when he called the first peal at Shiplake after the trebles were added. His last peal was the 12,160 Bristol Surprise at Knebworth, Herts. in 1912. A quiet, unassuming man, he was one of 'God's own Christian gentlemen.' May he rest in peace.

R. T. H.

### TELLERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have followed the correspondence on the above with much interest.

When I was in South Africa last year, I observed that all the accountants in the banks were called, and indicated as, tellers, and I observe that in both English and Dutch it comes from the old teutonic 'tellan,' to count.

E. ALEXANDER YOUNG.

Bromley, Kent.

## BALL BEARINGS AND RINGING SPEED

A LOOSE STATEMENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When F. H. Smith writes, 'I do not know much about mathematics and what I do know I have forgotten,' I begin to think of 'what can I do with a drunken sailor?'

Even so, I apologise if in an attempt to refute a loose statement 'that a reduction of friction must cause a slowing of the motion,' I dipped a bit beyond his forgotten stock of knowledge. As it stood, it was not correct.

When Mr. Smith speaks of energy and speed he is writing to the point on *its merits*. Friction absorbs energy and causes any moving body to slow down or 'damp,' and the extent of movement is diminished unless force be applied. With ball bearings there is less friction and damping is less rapid.

If the same amounts of energy are applied to two bells of the same weights, lengths and fittings, the bell with ball bearings must go faster than one with straight bearings because of retardation. Since both are types of a pendulum, the time required in each case, for a full swing, should be the same and the *average* speed the same. The straight bearings bell starts downwards faster (due to extra pull), but slows more quickly in the upward movement. Hence with a pull slightly too great, the bell with ball bearings appears to, and really does, travel more speedily just at the top of the up movement.

I agree it does not matter a bit what really happens; whatever it may be does not worry one who rings for the love of the Exercise, whose interests you are so splendidly keeping alive.

Okehampton.

FREDERICK C. SMALE.

### OTHER FACTORS BESIDES BEARINGS.

Dear Sir,—As this controversy is now reaching a point involving the use of co-efficients, co-sines, co-tangents, square roots and hosts of calculations not generally associated with false course-ends or in-and-out of course, would it not be advisable to come to earth and find out just how the average peal ringer reacts to plain or ball bearings? I am, perhaps, a little biased on the old-fashioned side; in fact, I was present at Crayford when the phrase recently quoted by E. Barnett was coined, 'Ball bearings are unnecessary on bells under 10 cwt., and unsuitable for those over half a ton.'

Be that as it may, I have taken part in a peal of London at Wrotham in a few minutes under three hours, and also a peal of Stedman Triples at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, in over three hours twenty minutes. Wrotham at the time were, I believe, all in plain bearings except the tenor, while Chislehurst are a new ball bearing job.

The opposite example of Crayford quickening up with ball bearings has already been quoted by Mr. Barnett.

This, to my mind, disposes of any theories that ball bearings alone have any definite effect on the speed of ringing; other factors, namely, the hanging or tuck of the bells, weight of headstocks, length of rope, condition of frame, and last, but not least, the ability of those at the bottom end of the rope, may perhaps play a greater part in the speed and quality of ringing than some of your correspondents appear to realise.

Light peals are perhaps hardly a criterion as to suitability, so I would suggest a comparison of two of London's heavy peals, Row and Southwark. What was the comparative popularity of these two peals among peal ringers at the outbreak of the present war, compared with that existing when both peals were hung in plain bearings?—and why?

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Willesden Green.

### BALL BEARINGS MAKE FOR SLOWER SPEED.

Dear Sir,—I was most interested to read in 'The Ringing World' that the late Mr. W. Pye is mentioned as the one who set the example of ringing heavy bells fast, also of using a short rope at backstroke.

I remember having experience of this. On Saturday, March 20th, 1926, I took part in a peal of London on the back eight of Beddington; Mr. Pye rang the tenor and I rang the seventh. I well remember how he kept at me, pushing me on in his quiet way, looks spoke louder than words. The peal was rung in 2 hours 57 minutes. What a man for raising the standard!

I have also been interested in the controversy on 'Ball bearings and friction,' having been connected with the problem of friction and its attendant agents professionally for now close on 35 years.

Without wishing to enter into discussion on the subject, may I suggest, sir, that the very nature of ball bearings when applied to bellringing (other things, other results) means slower rate of travel, or, at least, a bell can be rung at a slower speed.

I do not think it is right for us to ridicule such learned gentlemen as E. H. Lewis, R. O. Street, F. C. Smale, etc., as without mathematics one would get nowhere. All their problems are sound.

Snettisham.

C. V. EBBERSON.

SOUTH HIENDLY.—On Friday, November 29th, at Kirkgate House on handbells, 1,440 Bob Major: D. Smith 1-2, H. Chant 3-4, P. Woodward 5-6, R. Ford 7-8. Conducted by H. Chant.

## THE USE OF CHURCH BELLS IN CONNECTION WITH DEATHS AND BURIALS.

(Continued from page 580.)

Of recent years the death bell has become obsolete in the greater part of England, but as the correspondence in 'The Ringing World' has shown, it still survives in some rural parts of the country.

In this connection we may mention the custom of tolling the great bell of St. Paul's on the occasion of the death of the sovereign. When the king dies, almost the very first thing done is to send a message to the Lord Mayor requesting him to order the great bell of St. Paul's to be tolled. This is not a survival of the passing bell, or of the death bell, it has no religious significance, and it is not done (or was not done originally) out of respect for the dead monarch. It is a survival of the old civic use of bells, and was intended to give the citizens of London the earliest opportunity of knowing of the demise of the Crown, and in some circumstances—a disputed succession, for instance—early knowledge might be a very important thing. That is the reason why the message is sent to the Lord Mayor, the civic head of the city, not to the Dean or to the Bishop.

This reminds us that church bells once had a use and a meaning which to-day is almost entirely obsolete. They were a means by which definite information was conveyed to the people. We say, and say rightly, that the bells are the Church's voice by which she calls people to worship; but the appeal is a vague one, and to sentiment, feeling, and conscience. In olden times it was a plain message that a particular form of service was about to be held, or that some particular parishioner had died, or that the citizens were to come together for some particular purpose. Men got the information from the ringing of the bells that they now get from the notice board or the daily newspaper. Even when bells were rung to drive away evil spirits they were voices with a definite message addressed to any demons that happened to be within hearing. To-day the bell that tells the hour is almost the only counterpart of this.

In addition to the passing bell and the knell, bells were used in connection with burials from very early times. Bishop Durand said that a bell must be rung while the corpse is conducted to church and during the bringing it out of the church to the grave. This with some variations was the general use throughout Christendom. In England the custom was to ring after the interment, and the custom continued unaltered through the Reformation period, except that, as we have seen, the Elizabethan advertisements and the Jacobean canons limit the ringing to one short peal before the burial and another after.

Originally the ringing was for exorcism, but in course of time it was looked upon as part of the regular funeral ritual, and it does not seem to have caused any doctrinal controversy as did the death bell and the passing bell. Durand had said that at the conclusion of ringing the passing bell there should be a peal on all the bells to distinguish the quality of the dead person, and this was largely the object of the burial peal. It added to the pomp of the ceremony, and the greater the importance the more ringing there was. Bishop Grandison of Exeter (1292-1369) endeavoured to stop long ringing on grounds which have a curiously modern touch about them. It did no good to the departed, it annoyed the living, and it wore out the fittings of the bells.

The extent to which post-burial ringing was sometimes carried is shown by the account of the funeral of Lady Isabella Berkeley at Coventry in 1516. Thirty-three peals were rung at St. Michael's, thirty-three at St. John's, thirty at Trinity, and fifty-seven at Balytike. For each peal twelve pence was paid.

In 1614 a man named Anthony Copley published a book which he called 'Wits, Fits and Fancies, or a Generall and Serious Colection of the Sententious Speeches, Answers, Jestes and Behaviours of all sorts of estates.' It is a curious book, and now very rare. In it there is a tale which satirises the pomp of funeral ringing. It runs thus: 'A Rich Churl and a Beggar were buried at one time in the same Church yard and the Belles rang out amaine for the Miser. Now the wise acre, his son and Executor, to the ende that the Worlde mighte not thinke that all that ringing was for the beggar, but for his father, hyred a Trumpetter to stand at the ringing while, in the Belfrie, and between every peale to sound his Trumpet and proclaime aloude and say: Sirres, this next Peale is not for R, but Maister N, his father.'

In different places there were varying regulations as to the amount of ringing, and the numbers of bells that might be used. It depended sometimes on the quality of the deceased person, and sometimes on the amount of money his executors were prepared to spend. Orders issued at Preston in 1588 provide that, 'First there shall be but three peals rung for a corpse or dead person according to the law provided, that is to say, a passing peal, a peal coming into the church, and a peal to the grave. Item, that for a child or poor person three bells to be rung and no more. Item, for any other person being not a child or poor beggar, four bells and no more. Item, for a gentleman, yeoman, or honest householder, five bells, and both for man and woman.'

It is not clear whether in this case the bells were chimed or rung up, for the word 'ring' has always been used comprehensively to include almost every means of sounding a bell; but it is evident that much of the funeral use was technically ringing, the bells being swung as high as the fittings at the time allowed.

There were fixed fees, not only for the funeral ringing, but also for the passing bell, and these fees were one of the principal sources of parochial revenue, as we saw in the case of All Saints', Newcastle, and as an inspection of any one of the many ancient churchwardens' accounts that still survive, will show. A table of fees was usually drawn up and approved by the vestry, and altered from time to time. Almost always a distinction was made according to which bell was used, the fee being very much higher when the tenor was rung.

It has been suggested that this was because the tenor, being the more powerful bell, was originally thought to be the most effective against demons, but such an explanation is not at all a likely one. The distinction between the bells was the easiest and fairest way of providing for the wants of people whose means differed.

In 1709 the bell dues payable at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on the occasion of a burial when the great bell was used, were—5/4 to the churchwardens, 6d. to the bellringer for the passing bell, one shilling for an hour's knell and 1/4 for an afternoon's knell.

When the 'Lady Bell' was used 2/10 was paid to the churchwardens, 6d. to the bellringer for the passing bell, 1s. for an hour's knell and 6d. for an afternoon's knell.

For every burial within the walls of the church the higher fees were payable, and for the poorer parishioners a third rate was provided to be paid when the third bell (that is the sixth in the octave) was used. This rate was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to the churchwardens, 2d. to the bellringer for the passing bell, and 4d. for the knell. When the scale of charges was revised in 1792 the fee to the churchwardens was reduced to one shilling.

The Lady Bell mentioned above was the seventh in the old ring, which was the successor of a mediæval bell which had been dedicated to St. Mary. It is interesting to note that the present eleventh continued to be called the Lady Bell in the churchwardens' accounts throughout the eighteenth century.

Similar graduated fees were paid in parishes throughout the country down to recent times, and no doubt there are printed tables still hanging in the vestries of some of our churches. There used to be one at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

The custom of using more than one bell at burials seems generally to have ceased early in the eighteenth century except so far as it was continued by muffled ringing; but there were country villages at which sixty years ago it was still the custom to chime all the bells.

In pre-Reformation times there was another use of bells, derived from the funeral use. It was the custom for men to provide for the safety of their souls after death by leaving money or lands to the Church, so that many Masses could be said. Very wealthy men endowed chantries in cathedrals and parish churches. Rich men, not quite so wealthy, left money to provide for obits. On the anniversary of their death Mass was to be said or sung

by the priests and clerks of the church with full ritual and ceremony, and an important part of the ritual was the burning of tapers and the ringing of bells. Both of these were not merely æsthetic adjuncts to the ritual, but had or were popularly supposed to have, some significance and virtue of its own. Both probably were survivals from remote and pagan antiquity.

A typical instance of these obits was at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. In 1479 Sir Bartholomew James willed that 'the great message or tenement' in which he dwelt, seated in the parish of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, should wholly remain to the Parson and Church Wardens of the said Parish for the time being, for Use of the Reparation and Works of the said Church for evermore, on condition that the said Wardens of the said Parish Church and their successors yearly on the Day of the Month on which he should decease or be buried should hold and keep in the said Church an Obiit or Anniversary for him and his two wives, honestly as it ought to be done, solemnly by note, by the Priests and Clerks of the said Church, with wax to be had and spent about the same, ringing of Bells, and all other things that belong to the same. For ringing the bells and for bread and drink among the ringers twenty pence was allowed.'

The ringers were probably engaged during the greater part of the day, and partook of the refreshment within the precincts of the church.

In mediæval times there were few churches of importance which had not endowments for obits, but all were confiscated by Act of Parliament in the second year of King Edward VI. on the grounds that they were superstitious, as no doubt they were.

(To be continued.)

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Send Christmas and New Year greetings to your ringing friends through 'The Ringing World.' It's cheaper than cards. Sixpence per line, minimum 2s. Christmas greetings must be received by Tuesday next.

Owing to circumstances connected with the recent air raids on Bristol, the annual meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association will be held to-morrow at St. Matthew's instead of at St. Peter's.

The death of Mr. George Irvine, of Thundersley, Essex, whose last peal was rung as long ago as 1912, recalls the long peal of Bristol Surprise at Knebworth, Herts. It is singular that what was at the time a record length for a method and an historical performance should have been his last peal. His business as a market gardener occupied all his attention afterwards. The band who rang the peal at Knebworth consisted of C. F. Winney, H. Eden, H. Hodgetts, G. Irwin, J. Thomas, F. White, G. N. Price (conductor) and R. T. Hibbert.

Mr. W. E. White points out two bad mistakes in our last week's Belfry Gossip, due, we humbly admit, to faulty proof reading. The conductor of the peal of Stedman Triples at Duffield was Benjamin Sugden (not Tugden), and the name of the distinguished Leicester composer is, of course, John O. Lancashire (not Lancaster).

On December 8th, 1883, the College Youths rang 11,111 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Fulham. It beat a peal rung at Aston by the Birmingham men, which had stood as the record since 1859.

On the same date in 1746 James Barham and his band rang 10,080 changes of Double Bob Major at Harrietsham in Kent. It still remains the record length in the method.

Yet another interesting peal was rung on December 9th. It was the first of Edinburgh Surprise Major by the Leiston band in 1923.

There have been many long and record peals rung at Painswick, and one of them was 10,224 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on December 9th, 1833. It was composed and conducted by William Estcourt.

John Cox, for so many years one of the most prominent ringers in London, was born on December 9th, 1813.

The first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral was one of Stedman Cinques on December 10th, 1881. This noble ring has now been silent for over a year.

Five peals were rung fifty years ago to-day. They consisted of 2 Grandsire Triples, 1 Grandsire Caters, 1 Stedman Triples and 1 Treble Bob Major. One of the Grandsire Triples was the first peal on the bells of St. John the Divine, Vassal Road, Brixton. It was rung by the Waterloo Society and was conducted by F. L. Davies.

## P.C. RINGER KILLED.

In a recent severe air raid over an East Midlands city, P.C. Edwin Trump was killed. He was a member of the National Police Guild of Ringers and the Midland Counties Association.

P.C. Trump was an enthusiastic learner and was just getting on nicely with both tower and handbell ringing, but he had not rung a peal. His early death is much regretted by his friends and colleagues.

In the same city, the church to which Mr. William Willson presented two trebles to make a ring of ten bells received an incendiary bomb through the roof, and some pews were damaged.

## NEWS FROM COVENTRY.

After having been bombed out of his home, Mr. Frank Pervin has written to us in his customary irrepressible good spirits. He says, 'I think Goering must dislike me. They dropped three H.E.'s in the garden, one on the back doorstep, hence the new address. The tower and spire of the Cathedral containing the carillon are intact, though all the rest is destroyed. The eight bells in the wooden campanile of Trinity Church still remain, the ringing peals of eight at Stoke, six at Allesley and five at Keresley are undamaged, and we are looking forward to some ringing when circumstances permit. Everyone has been most kind. It's a bit of a blow to lose your home at my age, but there are thousands worse off and we have made a start on another. Give my kind regards to all enquiring friends.'

Just another example of the spirit that is going to beat Hitler. But here is Mr. Pervin's new address: 117, Widdrington Road, Coventry.

## MR. W. T. COCKERILL'S FIRST TEN-BELL PEAL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I would like to correct a misstatement or a misprint in Belfry Gossip this week. The statement there says, 'W. T. Cockerill rang his first ten-bell peal at Fulham in 1890.' I made the journey from Bristol to London on Saturday, October 5th, 1889, and took part in H. Johnson's 5,004 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 5 minutes at All Saints', Fulham. W. T. Cockerill rang the 9th. It is interesting also to remember that the great John Murray Hayes rang the treble to this peal, which was conducted by J. W. Kelly. This was, it is needless to say, a 'College Youths' peal.

R. T. HIBBERT.

The peal at Fulham 50 years ago was W. T. Cockerill's first peal of Royal.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'



## THE LATE MR. STEPHEN WOOD. KILLED ON HAZARDOUS JOURNEY.

Further details are now available of the circumstances under which Mr. Stephen H. Wood met his death during an air raid on Bristol on November 24th.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood had been visiting Canon and Mrs. Wood at Cold Ashton and stayed until about 7 p.m., when they started out for their home at Clifton. Seeing and hearing what was going on in Bristol, however, Mr. Wood took his wife back to Cold Ashton Rectory. He might have stayed, too, himself, but said he had a duty to do and must go and do it. He got to Bristol with great difficulty, got into his uniform and joined his A.F.S. unit about 8.30. He did some splendid work with the brigade in helping to extinguish fires. Then about 11 p.m. he was sent with an urgent message, and while cycling down Park Street a bomb fell close to him. Death must have been instantaneous.

As we recorded last week, the Bishop of Bristol officiated and gave an address. He said that from all he knew and heard of Stephen Wood they might all be proud of his life, as they must all be of his death. He spoke of his 'gallant and light-hearted happiness' in everything and of how his influence for good wherever he went had touched so many lives.

The funeral took place amid great manifestations of sympathy, and the church could not hold all who attended.



THE LATE MR. S. H. WOOD.

### ENDEARED TO MIDLAND RINGERS

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was with deepest regret that I read of the death of Mr. Stephen H. Wood in your last issue. While living in Nottingham district for a short period he endeared himself to many M.C.A. ringers, for his enthusiasm was unbounded and infectious.

It was while here that he produced the peal of Stedman Caters mentioned in your article, comprised of twin bobs and odd calls, giving the big bells most musical positions. After I had called the longest M.C.A. peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major (7,840) at Stoney Stanton, to which peal Mr. Wood rang the 7th and James George the tenor, he 'worried' me into calling this composition of Stedman Caters, which I did at All Saints', Loughborough, a fortnight later (December 17th, 1932). Everyone who took part declared it to be the most musical peal they had rung, and it was perfectly struck. Mr. Wood rang the tenor.

I am sure I voice the feelings of all M.C.A. ringers in expressing our deep sorrow at his passing, and in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his relatives.

ERNEST MORRIS.

### MR. WOOD'S COMPOSITION.

The composition of Stedman Caters referred to is a 5,009.

231456789 4.5 8.9 14.15 18.19

431592876	2, 3	6S	9	15
134295	5	16		

321564879	2S	x	x	x	x
253461		x	x	x	x
542163		x	x	x	x

416352978	2,	5S	8S	x	x
134256		x	x	x	x
321654		x	x	x	x
263451		x	x	x	x
642153		x	x	x	x

Repeat last five courses six times, omitting singles in 1-3-5 parts and calling S5 only, in 2-6 parts, and both singles in 4th part, produces:—

613452978

415362879	2			x	x
134265		x	x	x	x

Round in 3 changes.

## 'GIVE US BACK OUR CHURCH BELLS.'

### CLERGY'S STIRRING APPEAL.

The following letter appeared in 'The Times' last Monday:—

Sir,—We would like to raise a national cry of 'Give us back our church bells.' It is now six months since the Government deprived the Church of this invaluable aid to her work, at the same time depriving the people of one of their oldest national treasures. Church bells are woven into the very warp and woof of our national life, in our thought, our literature, our art. They are an essentially popular symbol of joyousness and of things eternal.

In days when so many sounds around us are full of menace, and suggest the power of material things, we cannot afford to be without this message of comfort, and the appeal to the reality of things spiritual which are brought to us by the sound of the bells. In the dark days of depression which may lie ahead—the sound of the bells would be as a breath of comfort and hope. The Government has now had ample time to find an alternative means of warning—e.g., some variant of the air raid siren. To commandeer church bells was justifiable only as a temporary expedient in times of great emergency.

Christmas is drawing near, and there is no reason whatsoever why its message of the one sure and certain hope for the world should not be pealed forth by the church bells from one end of the country to the other. We humbly ask, therefore, that the use of our church bells be restored to us, at any rate during hours of daylight, and at least by Christmas.—We are, sir, etc., E. F. Edge-Partington, Vicar of St. John's, Southend, Lewisham; T. P. Stevens, Vicar of St. Paul's, Wimbledon Park; J. D. Macpherson, priest-in-charge, St. Barnabas', Downham; J. D. Underwood, priest-in-charge, St. Luke's, Downham; H. Saxby, St. Luke's, Downham; G. Griffiths, St. Barnabas', Downham.

### NEW M.P. APPROACHED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—There is a book in circulation, written by the present Premier of Russia (M. Molotov) titled 'While Britain Slept.'

I sometimes think what a fine title this would make to give to the case of ringers and the ban upon the bells, for it is evident that whilst 90 per cent. of ringers had been taking matters nice and easy before the ban came, the Anti-Noise League and those who hate the sound of bells were 'arming to the teeth,' with what results we know only too well—and it has not needed an aerial invasion with 'tons of bombs' to do it either—one single 'bomb' has silenced the lot, and only a 'revolt' will set them going again.

But can we hope ever to achieve this end while we find a number of 'Petainists' and those who agree with the policy of 'appeasement' among our ranks?

I can quite understand another of your correspondents speaking of the Guilds generally as being too docile. And the timely words of Mr. John Oldham in 'The Ringing World' a few weeks ago—that many of the associations are doing little to justify their existence—are not without foundation, more so in this diocese and particularly in this district. When I come to look at what a fine opportunity has been lost only this last week, when a prospective Member for Parliament publicly announced that as part of his by-election campaign he would be availing himself on three days at his head office to interview voters on any question of importance they wished to raise.

One would have thought that this would have been seized as an opportunity by the local ringers to 'go to it' on this question of the ban, but I can only assume 'that they were given an overdose of morphia,' for I am told that no representation was made either by them or any other member of the Guild in this diocese.

Incidentally my duties as a church councillor took me, together with the Vicar of this parish, to interview the candidate upon another important issue, and while there I raised this question of the ban on the bells, explaining my own point of view together with those generally argued by ringers, and hearing what the other side had to say as well. The candidate being a donor to the fund launched for the provision of bells to this church, of which I am secretary, also prompted me to raise the question with him.

It soon became apparent that his views were largely influenced by others who held views against bells, for on more than one occasion was the word 'we' made use of—such as, for instance, 'We look upon this story of military objectives as an excuse to have the bells rung again.'

The view was also expressed that if the instructions to the enemy could be read, it would be found that the bells of our churches would be one of the last things an invading enemy would go for. On this issue various points were debated. After I had explained the position in regard to 'clocking' and other technical matters relative to bells, the candidate, however, agreed upon the absurdity of appointing the Home Guard, the police and others with no knowledge of these technicalities to sound the bells, and promised to inquire as to what made the authorities come to the decision that they did.

The candidate has now been returned as the M.P. for Northampton and I now await his answer as promised. There are those who might argue that nothing will be gained, but, can anything be lost? Finally, I can quite well imagine some of my jealous opponents in this district saying that I have acted without authority, to which I would reply—that with authority they failed to act!

St. Andrew's, Northampton.

P. AMOS.

## HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

WHO FIRST CALLED THE PEAL?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. A. B. Peck's letter in your issue of October 18th as to who was the first person to both call and ring Holt's Original, I would like to point out that on perusing the original manuscript book of the late John Alfred Parnell, the noted Gothic traveller, of Sheffield, I find the following entries in Mr. Parnell's own handwriting:—

'Mr. John Holt's 5040 Peal of Grandsire Tripples with two Doubles in the 4 last Leads Mr. James Bartlett of Kensington (a Whip Thong Maker) was the first person who Rung a Bell in the Peal and called it, which was finely Rung at Saint Giles's Church in the Fields, by Oxford Street, London, in the year 1791 or 1792, and Mr. James Bartlett also called and Rung in it again on the 8 hind Bells of the Peal of twelve at Great St. Mary's Church in Cambridge along with the Cambridge Youths. Tenor 30 cwt. in D.

A few years afterwards, Mr. Joseph Riley a Native near Burton by Trent River, and by Trade an Uppolsterer, also called Mr. John Holt's Peal of Grandsire Tripples with the two Doubles in the 4 last Leads. he Rung the Treble and called it at Burton by Trent River in Staffordshire the second time; but the first time he Rung in it and called it at Aston a village two miles off Birmingham—and both times performed by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham.

N.B.—This Mr. John Holt's Masterpiece was Rung on Sunday July 7th, 1751, at St. Margaret's Church, near Westminster Abbey, for the first time by the Union Scholars (a London Society, now Extinct).

Mr. John Holt a Shoe-Maker by Trade (or a Gentle SNOB, SNOB, SNOB) was under the necessity of Sitting in the Ringing Chamber, and called it by the Assistance of his Manuscripts, whilst a Selected Eight Rung it, of the Unions.

P.S.—The Original Book of Manuscripts being the Copy of Peals Rung by the London Union Scholars was took to the City of Bath in Somersetshire at the Desolution of this Society many years ago by Mr. James Albion, one of the Members and a Schoolmaster at Bath for some years, and Died at Bath City a few years ago. He Rung the 2nd Bell in the above Peal July 7th, 1751, and was the longest Liver of any Member and gave him the Title of Father of that once Society of Union Scholars at London. He was very much pleased with good Change Ringing and on his Arrival at Bath City he joined the Band of Change Ringers at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Parochial Abbey Church.

I rung Grandsire Caters with him on the ten Bells at Bath Abbey along with the Bath Society in November 1791 on my first journey to London. This Mr. James Albion Died a very Old Man at Bath City and Buried at the same Place with Ringing Honors, the Bells Muffled and a short Peal Performed about the year I think 1797 or 1800. He left the Union Scholars Manuscript Book to Mr. William Fry, by Trade a Plumber and Glazier, also a Bath Abbey Change Ringer at the City of Bath, to Preserve and hand down to Posterity. I have perused it and was much Pleased, and hope it will not be destroyed so long as earthly Time lasts on this Globe.

I remain Sir, your Obt h'ble St. and Gothic Traveller,

John Alfred Parnell.

Rainey Wednesday August 27th, 1817.

N.B.—This Union Scholar, Mr. James Albion was a small Boned Little Man, not quite so tall as Mr. William Booth a Table Knife Cutler and Change Ringer, Bailey Lane—Town of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

There is no reference as to where Parnell got his information from, but as he gives the year as 1791 or 1792, I presume it would not be taken from the Peal Board at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, or he would have been quite definite on this point. Doubtless, it would be common knowledge amongst the ringers of this period.

As you remark that researches by Mr. Samuel Slater in East Anglian papers proved that Bartlett had been forestalled by at least two men, it would be most interesting to know where and the dates the performances took place, and also the names of the ringers who are supposed to have accomplished the double performance.

If, as you say, that Mr. Slater has proved this to be correct, cannot more particulars and some data be given and thus settle this much debated controversy?

I have purposely given the full details of the entry in Mr. Parnell's Manuscript Book, as his reference to the Union Scholars Society, London, and also to the Bath Society may be of interest to others.

SIDNEY F. PALMER.

Sheffield.

### RECORDS IN OLD NEWSPAPERS.

The extracts from Parnell's MSS. are extremely interesting. Snowden gives the date of Bartlett's peal as October 23rd, 1791, but Mr. Slater has authentic information of the earlier peals, which were recorded at the time in 'The Norwich Mercury.' Here is the extract relating to the first peal:—

'St. Michael's Coslany. On Saturday August 22nd 1752 was rang at St. Michael's Coslany a Complete 5040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples in 3 hours without Changes Alike or a bell out of course, It being the first time ever performed by Eight men only so Intricate it was

(Continued in next column.)

## THURSTANS' REVERSE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to my query as to whether it was possible to reverse Thurstans' Four-Part by starting with a Single at 2, I have received an interesting and instructive letter from the Rev. E. S. Powell, in which he points out that to reverse a peal it is necessary to reverse the whole composition, or, in other words, call it backwards.

My conception of 'Thurstans Reversed' as described by Mr. Washbrook was a reversal of the two halves (as in the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' variation), which I can now see was entirely wrong. I am rather surprised that my father did not correct me at the time we were discussing it.

It is extremely interesting to see how the calling of Thurstans is reversed, and I think it will be helpful to ringers whose knowledge of composition is like my own—very limited. For this reason I am sure Mr. Powell will not mind if I give that part of his letter which explains how this is done:—

'Now consider the 42 sixes of a section of Thurstans' Four-Part peal of Stedman. The bobs occur at the following sixes: 3-4, 7-8, 17-18, 19-20, 26-27, 33-34. Now count backwards from \* the 11th six of the 42 sixes and you get 3-4, 7-8; 19-20, 26-27, 33-34, 35-36, that is the reverse section is:—

231456 S. H. L. Q.

246351	x		x
435216		x	x
625431	x	x	

I am completely ignorant as to what Washbrook actually called, but if it was indeed a reversal of the Four-Part it is to be presumed that the above formed its basis with the appropriate extras and omits and the Singles inserted to taste.

It may be that Mr. Washbrook's reluctance to give me the figures was that the 6th is not the half hunt in the above as in the well-known transpositions.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

### NO PURE REVERSE POSSIBLE.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Barnett's enquiry regarding Thurstans' Four-Part, I may state that no pure reverse of that composition can be obtained starting with a Single at 2.

By pure reverse I mean that the calling is reversed, and that the 6th works in a three-course relationship to the 7th in reverse order.

Take the following section of three courses starting from 5632417 as a section end, and calling H.Q., H.L. and S.L. Write out the six ends and you will see that 6th works in true reverse relation to the 7th.

Now with regard to starting off from rounds into such a section. Only one six is available in the three courses if we start at hand, that is the ninth six of the first course, a slow six, it being the only six in which both 6th and 7th fall into their rounds position at backstroke.

If a Single at 2 from this point is called it shunts us to 1643257 a slow six, and breaks the relationship of the 6th to the 7th, for in none of the 20 sections will be found any slow six with 6th in 2nd's and 7th at home that we could shunt to.

We therefore find that to get a pure reverse we have rounds in a slow six, and that a single at 2 starting is not possible.

I may state that if only the calling is reversed and some other bell allowed to do the work of the 6th, then you can have the ordinary start, and if either the 3rd or the 4th are to do 6th's work then a single at 2 starting is possible.

G. LINDOFF.

Dublin.

## HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

(Continued from previous column.)

thought no man could ring a bell and call the Bobs. It has been rang in London and Stonham Aspal with prompts but was rang by these men without a prompt.

The peal was rung again at St. Giles', Norwich, on October 22nd, 1752, and on this occasion the names were given. The conductor was William Dixon. There is every reason to believe that the two peals were rung by the same band.

The peal was rung twice at Saffron Walden, Essex, a little later, namely, on Christmas Day, 1753, and New Year's Day, 1794. These peals were recorded in a newspaper under date, 'Saffron Walden, January 2nd, 1754.'

'To inform all real Lovers and Professors of the Art of Ringing THAT the Society of Young Ringers of this town, on Tuesday, the 25th December last, being Christmas Day, did ring the true Peal of Grandsire Triples, composed of 148 Bobs, with two singles which they effected in three hours and twenty minutes; and on Tuesday following being New Year's Day they completed the same in eight minutes less than before (being the only times the same has been rung there since there has been eight bells) to the no small mortification of their antagonists (some of the Old Society) who instead of instruction gave them all the obstruction in their power. The ringers which rung the same were Frederick Sell, Charles Baron (who called the bobs), Richard Whitehand, John Banks, William Barrett, junr., John Bush, junr., John Clark and John Salmon.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

**FUNERAL CHIMES.**

A MAIDEN'S 'WEDDING PEAL.'

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—A variation from the custom of ringing the funeral knell or ringing a muffled peal when the deceased was brought to the church or as the procession wended to the grave is that of *chiming*. Old people who remembered this custom with affection have sometimes requested to have the bells so chimed at their funerals. Such was the case at Rusper, Sussex, with the Rev. Mr. Wood, who died there in 1791 (*Gent. Mag.*, lxi., p. 485), and at Sapcote, Leicestershire, with Mrs. Spencer, who died in 1847. At South Kelsey in Lincolnshire, Anne Johnson, who died in 1848 at the age of 96, requested that she might 'be chimed to church as old people were when she was a girl.' With reference to this, the following lines were composed:—

'Chime me to church and let no doleful knell

Be chimed from that old steeple grey:

The melody of pealing bells shall swell

Around me on my funeral day.'

The custom was fairly frequently observed in Shropshire, where it was sometimes known as 'ringing the joy bells.' It was known in Bedfordshire, Leicester, Lincs, Northants and Warwicks. At Over Whitacre in Warwickshire the bells were chimed after the ceremony; at Benefield and King's Sutton, Northants, both before and after. At Eye, Northants, the bells were rung for an adult and chimed for a child.

Miss Anne Power, of Barwell, Leicestershire, died September 29th, 1785. She was a wealthy maiden lady, and at her funeral 'agreeably to the custom of the county on the interment of a spinster, the corpse was welcomed to the church with a merry peal, and an elegant entertainment was distributed to a numerous circle of friends and neighbouring dependants.'

At Horningham, Wilts, a muffled peal used to be rung at the funeral of an unmarried girl, and it was known as her 'wedding peal.' At Cotes Magna, Lincs, in 1872, Ann Philipson, who had been a long sufferer, desired that 'the beautiful bells which had so often cheered her in life might ring her to rest in her last home.'

Some years ago I personally took part in chiming the middle six bells at St. Margaret's, Leicester, by special request, at the funeral of the late W. T. Holyoak, treasurer of the church accounts.

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

**DUMB PRACTICE APPARATUS.**

ADVANTAGES OF AN INSTALLATION.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Now that the war has hit church bellringing all over the country by the ban imposed, and will be continued, would it not be an advantage to many towers to have installed the dumb practice apparatus?

The advantages of its use just now are many. First and foremost such practice would keep hands together, better than handbells are likely to do. Handbells are all right, I admit, but only in towers where previously practised, but can this part of the art keep a whole tower together?

In the past in most towers little or no handbell ringing was done, nor was there one competent enough to teach others.

If the dumb apparatus was installed, practice could be carried on as usual and new ringers taught during the war. It could also be used after the war to teach new ringers and learn new methods, and by this they would be able to 'plouter' to their heart's content without disturbing the man in the street.

I know there may be many ringers who have no time for this contraption as they call it, but to my mind the first consideration of all concerned is the keeping alive the bands during the war.

Maybe there is someone who could give more details of the use of the apparatus, and tell us the cost of installation on from six to twelve bells.

HENRY SARGENT.

Glasgow.

**BASINGSTOKE STEEPLEKEEPER'S DEATH.**

LOSS TO WINCHESTER GUILD.

The death occurred on Sunday, December 1st, of F. Munday, steeplekeeper of the Parish Church of Basingstoke, and by his death we in Basingstoke have lost a friend of sterling character.

The deceased had rung few peals, but his loss to the tower and the Basingstoke District and the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild will be sorely felt.

The deceased leaves a widow and two sons, the sons perhaps being better known to the Exercise than their late father, Jack, who is foreman and has called several peals, and Fred, also a fine ringer, now serving in the Grenadier Guards.

The writer will miss the ever cheerful smile and kindly word of an English gentleman.

W. H.

**HANDBELLS IN THE ARMY.**

Pte. S. Harrison, a Leicester ringer, who is serving with the 7th Leicestershire Regt., has started a handbell tune ringing party among his military comrades. He has had 16 of his handbells sent to him, and the thing took on immediately. It is, of course, something off the beaten track and there is no lack of those who would like to try their hand. Pte. Harrison has got enough pupils to form two bands and they include two corporals. We hope to hear more of their progress in the near future.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

NEWBURY BRANCH AND THE BAN.

'There is nothing more melancholy than a Sunday morning service without the bells ringing,' said the Rev. W. Kingsley Kefford at the annual meeting of the Newbury Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Newbury on November 16th.

It was decided to send an appeal to the Bishop and other church officials to ask them to use their influence to get the ban on the ringing of church bells lifted for Christmas.

The meeting was preceded by a service in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. W. Kingsley Kefford, at which an address was given by the Rural Dean, the Rev. W. J. Holloway.

The customary tea followed in the Parish Room, when about thirty sat down. Before the business, which followed, the Rev. W. Kingsley Kefford, who presided, asked all present to stand in silence in memory of the late Canon W. L. Cooper.

The hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. T. J. Fisher, then gave his report. Owing to the ban on the ringing of church bells, only one meeting had been held, at Beedon. Mr. Fisher stressed the fact that although church bells could not be rung at present, the ban would at some time be lifted, and they should therefore not lose interest in the Guild; they must keep the spirit of bellringing alive.

The treasurer's report showed a satisfactory state of affairs, receipts being £33 14s. 1d. and expenditure £15 16s. 8½d., cash in the Savings Bank, plus interest, was £10 8s. 4d., and cash in hands of treasurer £7 9s. 0½d. The expenses included a grant of £5 5s. to Yattendon tower for the repair of their bells, for which a letter of thanks had been received from the Rev. A. F. G. Farmer.

The general secretary, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, emphasised the need for carrying on bellringing, and asked the chairman to use his influence to get the ban lifted.

All the officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman, the Rev. W. Kingsley Kefford; hon. secretary, Mr. T. J. Fisher; Ringing Master, Mr. H. W. Curtis; members of the General Committee, Messrs. S. Quintin, A. Smith, F. Owen, T. Curtis.

At the close of the meeting the Chairman said he would see at once what could be done to get the ban on the ringing of bells lifted by Christmas.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

JASPER SNOWDON'S HANDBELLS.

The Leeds and District Society's November meeting was held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 30th.

Handbell ringing occupied the afternoon until the business meeting, which was held in the choir vestry. The president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) occupied the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramhope, Guiseley, Pudsey, Rothwell and the local company, also Pte. U. W. Wildney, of Kirby-le-Soken, Essex, now on a training course somewhere in the area.

One new member was elected, Miss Askham, of Headingley.

The usual vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. Chad's (Canon Marshall) was proposed by Mr. Lofthouse and seconded by Mr. W. Barton, who said that Canon Marshall would be pleased and proud to hear that one of his former ringers had just been elected Mayor of Dunstable. Another item of interest was that the handbells they had been using at the meeting had previously belonged to Jasper Snowdon.

Canon Marshall replied and regretted that, as most of his church rooms had been taken over by the local authority, he was only able to offer the choir vestry for the business meeting, but the Parish Room would be available for ringing in after the tea interval.

The next meeting will, it is hoped, be held at Pudsey in January, and the date will be published in the notice columns of 'The Ringing World.'

**WEDDED AT NORTHAMPTON.**

LIEUT. R. ELDRIDGE—MISS W. A. KILBY.

The marriage has been solemnised at the Church of St. Mary, Northampton, between Lieut. Rowland Eldridge, Hampshire Regt., younger son of Mrs. Eldridge and of the late Mr. A. Eldridge, 20, Park Road, Aldershot, and Miss Winifred Ann Kilby, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kilby, of Northampton.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. K. Evans. A reception was held after the service at the home of the bride's parents, and later Lieut. and Mrs. Eldridge left to spend their honeymoon at an undisclosed destination.

They were the recipients of many handsome and useful wedding gifts, including one from the bridegroom's fellow ringers at St. Michael's, Aldershot. Lieut. Eldridge, when military duties permitted, visited many towers, particularly those in the Farnham district of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE TOUCH.**

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) was rung in 48 minutes on the bells of St. George's Church, Dublin, before the remembrance service on November 11th: Miss S. Lanigan (first quarter-peal) 1, Miss A. C. Dukes 2, David McGregor 3, F. E. Dukes (conductor) 4, W. E. Hall 5, E. Davidson 6, Gabriel Lindoff 7, W. McGregor 8. The method was rung on the front five, with 7.6.8 covering.

## CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

### EARLY COMPOSITIONS IN THE METHOD.

John Reeves' first peal of Cambridge contained 5,088 changes. The figures are lost, and we do not know what it was like. We do know that it was false, and since it was put together without any suspicion of liability to internal falseness, we may assume that it was very false indeed.

After he had tackled the problem in Treble Bob and had found out how to prove peals, Reeves turned again to Cambridge and studied it carefully. The method was, he discovered, much more precarious even than Oxford and Kent, and as the result of his investigations he came to the conclusion that there are no more than fifteen true courses with the tenors together.

He was mistaken. There are, as we know, 25 true courses, but they are anything but obvious, and we can hardly wonder that he missed them. He did not, as we have done in this series of articles, treat the problem as one of first finding a sufficiently large number of true independent natural courses, and then joining them together by means of bobs. He was far in advance of his contemporaries, and he did discover the use of natural course ends, but it was not to be expected that he should have anticipated the discoveries of recent years.

He selected the plan which promised to give the best results, built up his peal on it experimentally, and then proved the result. That is how good composers have worked throughout the centuries.

It is certain that he tried more than one plan, and there is a five-part composition of his, true for London, which may well have been an early attempt for Cambridge.

Reeves' fifteen courses will repay careful study. They are linked together by bobs at M and W. Now the incidence of the falseness does not fall in the fourth lead, the one between those two positions, and so it is possible to use there parts of false natural courses. A similar device enables Middleton's peal to be put together.

The fifteen courses themselves differ considerably from the twenty-five in Middleton's peal, and when we compare them with the tables we gave on November 1st we find that some come from alternative groups. That, as we have seen, means fewer true courses to compose with.

If we work out all the courses false against these fifteen we shall find that they exhaust the whole of the remaining forty-five except three, and one lead of each of the three is used between the Middle and the Wrong.

There is not a scrap more of material left to use, and Reeves had good reason for thinking he had reached the extent, as indeed he had on the three-part plan. To extend the fifteen courses to the twenty-three needed to make up a five-thousand, he parted the tenors, and there he was venturing on ground which he had not explored, and which he knew nothing about. He seems to have assumed without thinking that in any Treble Bob method, if the courses with the tenors together are true, those two bells may be parted and brought together again

without any risk of falseness, provided it is done in the standard way.

After giving in the 'Clavis' his very fine series of Treble Bob Major compositions, he added, as a sort of afterthought, and 'for the sake of those tough veterans who think little of ringing three or four hours, and are hardly satisfied with less than the full revolution of the clock,' directions for extending his 7,296 to 18,048 changes by calling the tenor five times into the hunt in certain courses, which is a Q set of bobs.

This method, he says, may be practised in any peal provided the proof with the tenors together is used. The veterans who rang such a peal would need all their toughness when they found out how badly they had been let down, for the peal is very false.

To extend the fifteen courses of Cambridge, Reeves used a similar plan. Three bobs with the tenor in Fifth's form a Q set which will part the two big bells and bring them together again, adding two courses, and this done four times will give 5,152 changes.

Such was the peal rung at St. Giles-in-the-Fields in 1783; and, of course, it was false.

This device of lengthening peals by Q sets involving the Seventh was a familiar one at the time. It was used freely in Bob Major (where it causes no liability to falseness) almost always when lengths over six thousand were rung, for at that time men objected to singles. Reeves used it later for his first peal of Stedman Caters, where he was faced with difficulties not dissimilar to those in Cambridge. This, too, was the device employed by John Martin, of Leicester, to produce his peals of Grandsire Caters, as described by Mr. Edgar Shepherd in his interesting article in our issue of August 9th last. Mr. Shepherd says that Martin's plan was his own. It probably was, so far as Grandsire Caters is concerned, but the general idea was a well-known one.

The following is Reeves' peal of London referred to above, with Middleton's peal alongside for comparison:—

23456	M.	W.	R.	23456	M.	W.	R.
65432	—	—	—	43652	—	—	—
46532	—	—	—	56234	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—	23564	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	52364	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—

If, as is not at all unlikely, this peal was an early attempt by Reeves to obtain a peal of Cambridge, it shows how near he came to the solution of the problem, and it is also possible that Middleton succeeded by experimentally varying the calling of the first two courses.

In London the incidence of the falseness does not fall in the first or last leads of the course, and the proof by natural courses with the tenors together is similar to that of Treble Bob.

William Shipway was the first man to compose a true peal of Cambridge. He devoted a great deal of attention to the composition of Treble Bob methods with the tenors parted, and there he did good work. In his book he copied from the 'Clavis' the plan of proving by natural course ends (as he did many other things), but

(Continued on next page.)



**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, December 14th. Handbells 3 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Business includes election of officers, accounts for the year, etc. Please make an effort to be present.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Rotherham on Saturday, December 14th. A room will be reserved at Wheatsheaf Hotel. Handbells available 3 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., followed by business meeting and further handbell practice. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The quarterly meeting will be held at Cradley, December 14th. Service in church at 4.15. Business meeting to follow. A good muster is expected. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—John Goodman, 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Kington Magna, on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Handbells ready in belfry at 3 p.m. Service at 4. Address by the Rev. Dr. Hellins. Tea by invitation of the Rector in Schoolroom at 5, followed by business meeting.—William Uphill, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Dinton on Saturday, December 14th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Business meeting and social evening.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

**SHIPWAY'S PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE.**

(Continued from previous page.)

he seems not to have understood it properly, and he evidently mistrusted it for, 'if the practitioner find it too perplexing to compose by course ends,' he recommended a plan of testing each lead end by certain false rows.

In the case of Kent Treble Bob, the second, third, fourth and fifth leads (those which we have called the third, fourth, fifth and sixth) had each to be tested by six rows with the tenor together and eight with the tenors parted. Cambridge, London and Superlative have each fourteen of these false rows. The system is most laborious to work, but with the knowledge then available Shipway was probably right when he said that it was the safest plan, at any rate, with the tenors parted. So far as we know, his peal has never been rung.

5,600.

23456 5ths. O. I. M. W. 4ths.

432765	—	—	—	—
625734	—	—	—	—
276354	—			
645723	—	—		
532467	—	—		
345627	—			

Four times repeated.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, December 21st, at 3 p.m. Handbells afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**BUSHEY, HERTS.**—Annual meeting, Watford District.—All interested in ringing are welcome to meeting on Saturday, December 21st, at Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Comfortable room. Tea can be arranged. Bus and coach stop handy.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270. Herts Association meeting.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—The committee extend the compliments of the season to all members and friends, and hope we shall all meet again in the coming year. Watch out for details of annual meeting.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

One peal each of 8 and 10. Tenors size 12.—T. Miller, 21a, Smith Street, Hockley, Birmingham.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.**

Mr. J. Oldham, Loughborough, sends to all his ringing friends hearty good wishes for Christmas, 1940.

May our bells soon peal again,  
And peace and gladness o'er us reign.

**CHRISTMAS WEEK.**

As Christmas falls in mid-week this year, all communications intended for our issue of December 27th must reach us not later than Friday, December 20th.

Correspondents should bear in mind that next week will see the peak of Christmas postal congestion and should post early accordingly.

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## NO VICTORY BELLS.

It is one of the tragedies of the ban on church bells that they cannot now be used, as has been the custom all down the centuries, to signalise the victory of our arms. From the days of the Armada, through all the campaigns in which we have been engaged, the church bells of England have rung to tell the people of successes in battle on land and sea. Of this means of expressing our feelings, coming now after a long period of gloom, we are deprived, by an Order which, however well intentioned in purpose, will prove utterly ineffective both in method and results. The major success of our arms in Egypt is the first occasion on which, after all the disappointments caused by the failure and collapse of our allies, we can claim a triumph over the enemy. But for the ban the news of this victory would have been proclaimed by the bells. The privilege has been denied to us, but in Greece, since the triumphs of the valiant little army that so promptly turned out the invading Italians and drove them headlong back into Albania, the bells of the churches have clanged their message of victory.

One of the widest read Sunday journals pitched a high key in its last leading article, and appealed for the ringing of the bells of England for victory. 'If the bells are to be used some day to announce bad news, why should they not be used now—to announce good news?' it asked, and it pointed out that there need be no confusion. It is, perhaps, too late now for any ringing for this first Egyptian victory, but we hope it may be possible to ring the bells when, in due time, other great successes come. Hitler ordered the ringing of the bells of Germany for the fall of France; the writing may be on the wall for Italy to read, let us not be found with hands tied when the day comes that the 'jackal of Europe' is grovelling in the dust.

In the meantime there is a growing feeling that the complete silencing of the bells is an entirely unnecessary thing. Churchpeople are realising that they are without one of the means of proclaiming their faith, and that any purpose that the defence of the realm requires the bells to serve could equally well be carried out, if properly planned, without compelling the bells to remain mute on every other occasion. The modification of the ban could quite well be considered if it were done in consultation not only with the Church authorities, but also representatives of the ringers. It is, we feel sure, only ignorance of bells, with their possibilities and limitations, that led to the present Order. The Yorkshire Association, through its committee, has joined its voice with many other ringing organisations in asking for considered representations

(Continued on page 602.)

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to be made to the responsible authorities. Admittedly there are difficulties in approach, because the military have the fixed idea that the bells are the best way to notify invasion. They may be, we fear, the best way to create panic unless something is done to issue specific instructions to the public as to what is expected of them if the bells are rung. We have waited six months for this information, and it is not yet forthcoming. There is all too much confusion among the public as to what the alarm will mean. Most people have the notion that any attempted invasion, whether by air or sea, will be notified by the ringing of the bells, and if the bells are rung it is more than likely that the public will be stampeded into thinking that a sea invasion is occurring. Nothing, we feel, would be more disastrous. The Order specifically lays it down that the church bells are to be rung only when there is imminent or actual invasion from the air; nothing is said of sea invasion, but if there should be any misunderstanding—and assuredly there will be with the present public ignorance; even the Sunday newspaper referred to speaks of the bells being rung in case of a 'German invasion'—the whole purpose of the scheme may be thwarted. As we have said over and over again, either the authorities should make their intentions plain, and properly instruct the public, or withdraw the Order. At the moment, bells or no bells, the public have no notion of the part they are supposed to play if planes or parachutists land. In the meantime the Church's great festivals, the country's great military victories are, presumably, to pass unmarked; the voices of the bells are not even to cheer the people on those occasions when they ought to be encouraged to 'stand up and shout.'

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

### REVIEW OF MICHAELMAS TERM ACTIVITIES.

The ban on open church bellringing has had one good effect on the Oxford University Society, and that is the great impetus that it has given to the practice of handbell ringing. Once a week we have held 'silent' tower bell meetings at New College, mainly with the view of teaching beginners to handle a bell rope. Apart from this, it was found difficult to raise a lot of enthusiasm ringing changes on mute bells.

At the beginning of the term only one member of the society could ring two-in-hand properly, but by keenness shown in the good attendance at the practices rapid progress was made, and at the end of term 16 members could ring 1-2 or 7-8 to a course of Grandsire Triples.

Two members of the society who knew nothing of the art of change ringing at the beginning of term, after eight weeks could manage double-handed 1-2 in a course of Bob Minor, 7-8 in Stedman Triples, and 5-6 to a 120 of Grandsire Doubles. It was realised, however, that to do very much with handbells a lot of paper work was needed away from the bells.

On the last Saturday of term an informal tea meeting was held in St. John's College. Among the guests invited were the Master (Mr. R. A. Post) and secretary (Mr. V. Bennett), of the Oxford Society. Handbells were rung afterwards, the lapping method being enthusiastically indulged in by all.

During the last week of term valiant though unsuccessful attempts were made by W. L. B. Leese 1-2, J. E. Spice 3-4, W. F. Gibbons 5-6, under the conductorship of the Master, J. E. Spice, to ring a peal of Grandsire Doubles and so record the first handbell peal of the society. The failure was certainly not due to lack of enthusiasm and the ringing was generally of a high standard. It was vowed that peal attempts in the near future would be more successful.

In spite of this last disappointment the society can certainly congratulate itself on the term's work and on the way that it has surmounted the difficulties that have elsewhere paralysed ringing activities.

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## DEATH OF MR. EDWARD CAUNCE.

### WELL-KNOWN LIVERPOOL RINGER.

The death occurred, with tragic suddenness, on December 4th of Mr. Edward Caunce, for many years one of Liverpool's most active ringers. While at work on that day he suddenly collapsed and died without recovering consciousness.

Mr. Caunce started his ringing career at Aughton, near Ormskirk, in 1894, and his membership of the Lancashire Association dates back to that year. He went to Liverpool about the year 1899 and soon afterwards became associated with the tower of St. John's, Tuebrook. This tower was then, and for a few years after, the centre of Liverpool's ringing activity. About the year 1910 Mr. Caunce became a member of the tower of St. Mary's, Grassendale, and during that time rang in many six-bell peals. Prior to the close of the Great War in 1917 he became a member of St. Nicholas' Society, and in that tower he accomplished many fine achievements. The late Mr. William Davies had very gallantly kept the bells ringing some years prior to Mr. Caunce's arrival.

Through Mr. Caunce's keenness and enthusiasm more ringers were enrolled, with the result that after the last war many peals were rung and a good Sunday service band maintained.

Although Mr. Caunce kept no record of his peals, it is known that he rang 278 for the Lancashire Association. He also rang many for the Chester Diocesan Guild, and his total must be considerably more than 300. Upwards of 200 were rung with the writer of these lines. In St. Nicholas' tower alone he must have rung more than 60 peals, including peals of Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus. This must be almost a unique record for one man in one tower.

Mr. Caunce rang peals on each of the twelve bells in the tower and had also 'circled' five eight-bell towers in the district. In his earlier years he was a very reliable conductor of Stedman Triples and called many peals of it. He also called several peals of Grandsire Triples, including Holt's Original. Most of his peals were rung at the back end, for he was very strongly built and always enjoyed ringing a heavy bell.

For some years he acted as bell adviser to the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association and his opinions were always highly valued. He was also an excellent rope splicer and many times came to the rescue by acting in that capacity. Ringers in Liverpool have lost an excellent friend and colleague, who will be very much mourned and missed.

The funeral took place at Christ Church, Aughton, and he was buried in a grave close to the tower in which he had learned to ring. Several of his ringing friends of those early days were present to pay their last tribute of respect to one whom they worthily held in high esteem. The widow and other members of the family were the chief mourners, and accompanying them were the churchwarden of St. Nicholas', Liverpool, Mr. L. S. Cornode, and several of his fellow ringers from that church. Mr. Richard Leigh, one of the directors, represented the firm of Messrs. Tapscott, Lang and Co., corn millers, by whom Mr. Caunce had been employed for upwards of 40 years. Several of his fellow workers also attended. The Vicar of Christ Church, Aughton (the Rev. Mr. Hobson), conducted the funeral service. The Rector of Liverpool sent a letter of apology for his inability to be present. Ringers of Lancashire and from much further afield who knew Mr. 'Ted' Caunce will extend to his widow and family their utmost sympathy in their sad and sudden bereavement.

G. R. N.

### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

A quarterly meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Stony Stratford on December 7th. Members were present from Bradwell, Shenley, Newport Pagnell and the local company. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. A. Steer), who gave a very encouraging address.

The meeting was held in the Parish Room, with the Vicar presiding, but there was very little business to be transacted.

Handbells were therefore very soon in use. Everyone enjoyed a good practice, thanks to two very welcome visitors from St. Albans, whose assistance was much appreciated in courses of Grandsire Caters and Triples, Bob Major and Stedman Triples single-handed.

After votes of thanks to the Vicar for conducting service and the use of parish room and handbells, a company of 14 had tea in a nearby cafe, and there remained for further handbell ringing to conclude a very pleasant if not overcrowded meeting.

## WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD?

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leading article on 'What is a good (Surprise) method' will, I hope, lead to a good discussion, and, although my opinion may not be worth much, here it is.

(1) The lead heads should be the same as those in Bob Major, although not necessarily in the same order.

(2) The work should be interesting and varied and not occupy the same set of places for too long a period; neither should the dodging of any pair of bells be too prolonged.

(3) The false course ends (if any) should admit of a great variety of peals.

(4) Strictly speaking (see Jasper Snowdon's definition), an inside place should be made at the cross sections where the treble leads and lays behind, as well as at other cross sections. According to this, Bristol is ruled out as a true Surprise method. (Peace, my brothers!)

(5) Adjacent places should be avoided as far as possible, and should never be made in 7-8 except half way through the course.

(6) As regards good music, I cannot do better than quote from a letter I received from the Rev. F. Banks James many years ago, in which he says, 'The first test for music is this. The tenors must be well kept together. To test that, I always count all the rows in the plain course that have more than one bell between the 7th and 8th. Cambridge, London and Superlative vary from 64 to 72. Another point, if you want good music, is to keep the bells coming up behind in proper coursing order. In Cambridge this is correct. In Superlative, they come up 8.7.3, which is bad.' He goes on to say that provided the coursing order is correct, and we keep the second out of 6th's in a peal, we shall avoid the discord of 8.2 dodging together behind.

(7) As to construction, I prefer a truly double method such as Superlative or Bristol. Cambridge and London are only semi-double. On the other hand, I agree that a semi-double method naturally gives greater variety.

I might add that, in my opinion, there is better music if all places are made hand and back. In London, one's musical ear suffers a decided jolt.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baldon, Yorkshire.

### BELL BEARINGS.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate you upon the many interesting features that have appeared in 'The Ringing World' recently, and although I cannot say I feel much like getting down to algebra when I get home at night, the letters on plain and ball bearings have been worth reading. Perhaps one day the bell hangers will have time to have a look at the tenor at Great Yarmouth. This bell was put in ball bearings some years ago by a local ringer, the late Arthur Webber. He did this work himself, at his own expense, and it has been considered a very fine job.

Personally I do not care for ball bearings, as I find it is necessary to ring a big bell higher up and consequently one does not get so much rest.

While the bells at St. Peter Mancroft go extremely well, I am sure nobody could have wished to have rung an easier bell for 22 cwt. than the 10th when she was in plain bearings. Personally, I used to enjoy ringing the 11th at that tower, and one could use enough judgment to strike her coming down from behind without having to touch the sally at all in spite of her 29 cwt. I have not yet found a bell in ball bearings with which you could do this.

Every good wish to all my ringing friends for Christmas and the New Year.

GEORGE H. CROSS.

Barnehurst, Kent.

### RAMPTON BELLS.

#### RECTOR'S APPEAL FOR HELP.

#### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As your readers know, during the past two years we have had to raise over £880 for repairs to our ancient church. I have just received an appeal from the founders to try and pay off the remaining £98 owing in respect of the bells as soon as possible. Will ringers help us, however little, this Christmas? We cannot get grants for bells as easily as for buildings and the bells are much appreciated here. Some of them are very ancient and much prized. Will your readers help us pay off the odd £8 before the festival?

THOMAS L. HAVERS.

Rampton Rectory, Cambridge.

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## THE USE OF CHURCH BELLS IN CONNECTION WITH DEATHS AND BURIALS.

(Continued from page 593.)

After the Reformation, bequests for obits were no longer made, but the tradition was still carried on in a modified way. Men left money to provide for services with sermons to be held on the anniversaries of their deaths, and usually they followed the old model and provided for bellringing and gifts to the poor. There was also a certain amount of endowed ringing to commemorate departed persons, as, for instance, at St. Mary Redcliffe where, in 1724, 'by the voluntary contributions of some of the parish was raised the sum of £20 and paid into the vestry, the profit thereof to be paid for ringing the bells in memory of the late Edward Colston, Esq., on the second day of November yearly for ever.'

This form of endowed memorial ringing is hardly obsolete now; the ringers of Willesden receive a small fee each year for ringing on the anniversary of the death of the late King Edward VII.

First and last there were many bequests made during the past two or three hundred years for the benefit of the bells and ringing, but the majority of them have lapsed through neglect or fraud. In the year 1841, when a Government blue book was issued giving a summary of all the charities in England, there were over sixty of these endowments, although at that time many more had disappeared. Of them, twenty-three were to provide bell ropes, seventeen for general repairs and maintenance, twelve for ringing at memorial sermons, sixteen for ringing the curfew and morning bells, and four or five for other similar purposes. This number does not include seven endowments for memorial ringing at St. Stephen's, Bristol, for there the money was paid to the St. Stephen's Society and the transactions were more or less private ones. Of the endowments to provide bell ropes the most notable is that at Birmingham, which still exists and is now very valuable.

In the Middle Ages it was the general custom throughout Christendom to ring the bells all night long on the Eve of All Saints' Day, the first of November. This custom was a very ancient one, and, though there is very little direct evidence, it can hardly be doubted that it was a survival from the days before Christianity. The first of November had been the heathen feast of the dead, and some of the beliefs and ritual connected with it and with the corresponding spring festival of Beltane, which fell on the first of May, lingered among the common folk for many centuries. Readers of John Buchan's fascinating story, "Witch Wood," will remember his pictures of the effect of these beliefs on the people of Lowland Scotland long after Reformation times.

In England, and generally, All Hallows' Eve was popularly supposed to be the night when the souls of departed men were allowed to revisit their old haunts. It was the night, too, when witches sped on their errands of mischief, when fairies were let loose, and hobgoblins of every sort roamed freely about. This belief was not wholly dead so late as a hundred years ago, and there is a reference to it in Solomon Daisy's tale in Dickens' 'Barnaby Rudge,' quoted in a recent 'Ringing World.'

The all-night ringing evidently was done to help and encourage those Christian souls that happened to be hovering in the air within sound of the bells, and to confound and dismay their enemies.

In my account of the Dekyns of Coventry, I showed

that the two dekyns were authorised to go through the church once a year and gather money for the ringers. 'Ye sayd dekyn schall go on All Halowe day at evyn a mong ye pepyle and gedyr money off them for ye ryngars yt ryng For all crystyn souls.'

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries these customs had no doubt become little more than traditional observances, but they were undoubtedly superstitious, and so an offence to the Reformers. At the request of Archbishop Cranmer they were forbidden by Henry VIII.

In his letter to the King the Archbishop pointed out that 'other vigils which in the beginning of the Church were godly used, yet for the manifold superstitions and abuses which did afterwards grow by means of the same, were many years past taken away throughout Christendom.'

These other vigils seem also to have been accompanied by all-night ringing, and it is interesting to notice that the people who did most to get it stopped, or at any rate who made their objections in the most influential quarter, were the monks of the great abbeys.

In the papal archives at Rome there are records of several injunctions being granted to abbeys to prohibit night ringing in parish churches.

Our modern muffled ringing reproduces much from all the old uses, but it had a different genesis and is not a direct survival of any one of them. The rules of the mediæval guilds ordain that once a year or at other stated times the members should attend church and sing a dirge and placebo in memory of the brethren who had died, and an important part of the ritual was the ringing of bells. The custom, so far as the ringing was concerned, was continued by the early societies of ringers.

It is true that most of the guilds were suppressed in 1547, and that those which survived were entirely secularised, while we have no definite record of any society of ringers before 1600. But ringing had become a popular sport long before that, and it is probable that some societies had been in existence as early as the middle of the century and so could hand on an unbroken tradition.

All the extant cases of rules of early societies provide for memorial ringing. The Company of St. Hugh of Lincoln were under obligation to attend the funeral of any member and to ring one or two peals at least in his honour, failure to do so being punished by a fine of twelve pence. The St. Stephen's Ringers of Bristol agreed that yearly there should be a peal rung in commemoration of a benefactor, 'and if any shall refuse to assist he shall pay 4d.' Other dead members were also commemorated.

On the death of any member, the Schollers of Cheap-side attended the funeral, and for a further token of their love rang one knell peal either at the parish church where the burial took place or at the next parish church at which the company could conveniently be got together.

This ringing differed from all other funeral use of bells in that it was a complete memorial in itself and not part of a service; the motive was personal respect shown by one ringer to another, and it was a tribute that only ringers could pay except vicariously. Throughout the seventeenth century the bells were rung in the ordinary way, but when the hanging had been improved sufficiently to enable the bells to be rung at a 'set pull' hand and back, it was sometimes the custom to ring them before the interment at a very slow rate.

When Thomas Flaxon was buried at Oxford in 1727

his brother ringers rang 'two handsome peals, one round ringing (as he was carrying to church), the other changes (after he was put in the ground).' In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was much tolling of bells at Oxford for citizens and University men, but, judging from what Wood and Hearne say (and still more from what they do not say), ringing was an honour reserved for ringers.

Muffled ringing was unknown before the Restoration (1660), and probably was not introduced until the closing years of the century. Richard Duckworth and Fabian Stedman say nothing about memorial ringing, and though it was somewhat outside the scope of their books, most likely they would have done so had there been anything distinctive about it.

In the early eighteenth century we have two sets of detailed directions for performing it. In the 'Campanalogia' of 1702 it is pointed out that it was customary not only in London but in most counties to ring a peal at the funeral of any ringer, and that such peal ought to be different from those rung for mirth or recreation. There were two ways of doing it. The first was while the body was being brought to the ground to ring the whole pull and stand, but so slowly 'that there may be the distance of three notes at least (according to true compass of ringing) between bell and bell,' and after the interment to ring a short touch of rounds or changes in ordinary time.

The other way was by 'buffeting the bells, that is by tying pieces of leather, old hat, or any other thing that is pretty thick, round the ball of the clapper of each bell, and then by ringing them as before is shown, they make a most mournful and doleful sound.' After the interment

the bells were rung open. This was the way most practised in London.

William Laughton gives full details of how the Ramblers rang a muffled peal, and he tells us:

'Tis the last Respect that can be shown  
to a Ringer when he's Dead and gon  
so t'would be a pity to neglect it  
for most ringers when they Die expect it.

Half-muffled ringing was introduced considerably later than fully muffled, but how much later cannot be said. The earliest recorded notice of it seems to be in the registers of Chacombe, Northants, where an entry, dated February 27th, 1785, records the burial of Matthew Bagley, the bell founder, 'who requested a dumb peal, the bells muffled on one side.'

Fully muffled ringing was the ordinary use in London until well on into the nineteenth century; half-muffled ringing is said to have been introduced by Edward Lansdell who came from Rolvenden in Kent, and joined the Junior Society of College Youths in 1823. The first muffled five thousand was rung in 1817 at Bromley in memory of William Chapman, who for many years had been the captain of the local band.

The question has been asked, What difference in significance is there between half-muffled and fully-muffled ringing? and Which is the correct use on solemn occasions like the death of a sovereign? The account of the origins of the two uses shows that there is no difference in significance between them, and one is not more correct than the other. Both aim at creating a solemn impression in the minds of the hearers, and which best does that can only be a matter of individual opinion.

(To be continued.)

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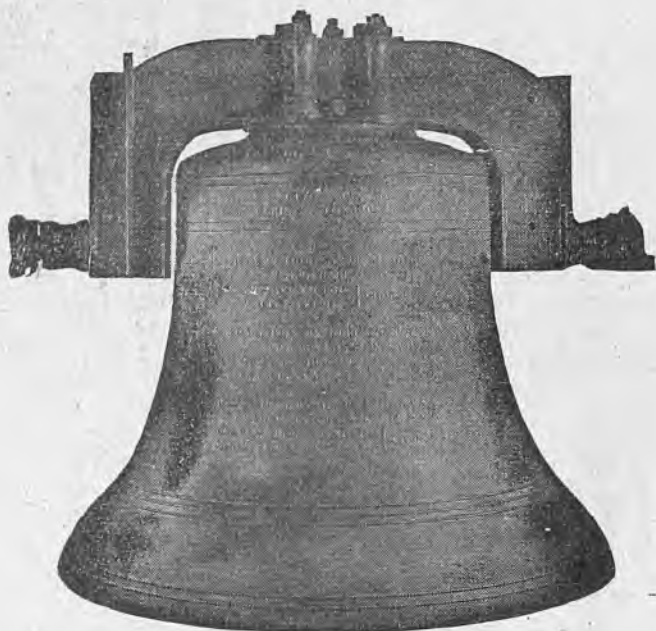
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next week we hope to give particulars of the damage done to the church bells of Bristol in the great air raid.

The first peal on the twelve bells at St. Saviour's, Southwark, was rung by the College Youths on December 15th, 1735, when Benjamin Annable called 8,008 changes of Grandsire Cinques. It remained the longest length in the method until 1887, when the Birmingham men beat it by 9,020.

On the same date in 1904 the first peal in South Africa, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at St. Mary's Church, Woodstock.

Four members of the Society of Cumberland Youths rang on December 19th, 1853, a peal of Stedman Triples on handbells. William Cooter, who was among those that heard it, afterwards asserted that John Cox, the conductor, changed hands for nearly a whole course and put them right before the part end came up. As it seems that his assertion was well founded, the honour of ringing the first true peal in the method belongs to the College Youths.

It was an outstanding heavy bell feat when on December 19th, 1925, William Pye turned the old tenor at Bow in to 7,392 changes of Cambridge Maximus. No other man has ever rung a 50 cwt. tenor in to more than seven thousand changes, but Mr. Alfred B. Peck covered 17,675 changes of Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1925.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Triples 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Stedman Triples 1, and Stedman Cinques 1. The Grandsire Triples was at Waldron in Sussex and was the first peal as conductor by Ben Hobbs, who lately passed away. The Stedman Cinques was by the Cumberlands and was the first in the method on the bells of Great St. Mary, Cambridge. It was composed and conducted by George Newson, and among the band were Henry Dains, Arthur Jacob, Frederick Pitstow and two local men, Israel Rockett and George Taylor.

## THE LATE MR. STEPHEN WOOD.

HIS WORK FOR RINGING IN GLASGOW.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The news of the death of Mr. Stephen H. Wood came as a shock to Glasgow ringers and to all who had come in contact with him. On his arrival in Glasgow he found that the bells had not been rung for a considerable time. So after getting the belfry put in order he gathered a band together and formed them into the present society in October, 1930. This was only achieved by hard work, steady practice in the tower and also on handbells. Stephen had a faculty for getting things done, and his motto even then was 'Go to it,' as the following year saw the formation of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers, in which he took a leading part and of which he was the first Ringing Master. The deepest sympathy of St. Mary's members, past and present, is extended to Mrs. Wood and her children in their very sudden and sad bereavement.

ERNEST A. STAFFORD, Hon. Secretary.

St. Mary's Cathedral Society, Glasgow.

## BELLS OF HOLY TRINITY, COVENTRY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I notice in 'The Ringing World' of December 6th an account of the bells of Holy Trinity, Coventry, which states that they were cast by Mears about 1812. This is incorrect. The peal of eight was first cast from an old ring of six, new metal being added by Pack and Chapman in 1776, for which they received £284 4s., the tenor being 20 cwt. 18 lb. These bells, with the exception of the tenor, were recast by C. and G. Mears in 1856, when they were hung in the present wooden tower. The tenor to the old peal of eight became cracked in 1891 and was recast by Taylors in 1898 and weighs about 23 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in E flat. The eight bells were only rung to rounds once, after being raised singly, but the place rocked about so badly that it was found impossible to carry on.

After the tenor was recast by Taylors the structure was repaired, and we then raised the front five and rang Grandsire Doubles, but this proved too much strain for the building, so no further attempt at ringing the bells in peal was made.

The peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung upon the bells about 1851.

JOSEPH H. W. WHITE.

## AIREDALE SURPRISE MAJOR.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I regret to point out that upon investigation I find that the method by Mr. George Lewis which was rung by the Yorkshire Association at Northowram and Mytholmroyd and given the name of 'Airedale' Surprise Major is the same method that was rung by the Guildford Diocesan Guild on January 25th, 1934, at Egham, Surrey, and given the name of 'Chiltern' Surprise. A lead of the method was published in 'The Ringing World' of March 16th, 1934 and it appears to be No. 6 of the late John Carter's Collection. The peal rung at Egham was a 5,056 by the late H. W. Wilde.

I shall be much obliged if you will please make the announcement through 'The Ringing World' so that anyone in possession of the 1938-39 Yorkshire Association report can make the necessary correction.

L. W. G. MORRIS.



## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### MEMBERSHIP MAINTAINED.

#### 'The Ringing World's' Service to the Exercise.

Appreciation of the services which 'The Ringing World' is rendering to the Exercise during these difficult times was expressed at the annual meeting of the general committee of the Yorkshire Association, when a resolution was passed asking the Central Council for a lead in a campaign for the removal of the ban on ringing. The meeting took place at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, on Saturday week, when the following members, representative of all the districts, were present: Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A. (in the chair), Mr. L. W. G. Morris (general secretary), Mr. S. F. Palmer (hon. treasurer), Mr. W. Barton (hon. peal secretary), Messrs. E. Hudson, H. Chant, D. Smith, A. Staveley, H. S. Morley, F. Cryer, E. Bradley, F. W. Dale, H. C. Walters, F. Rayment, P. J. Johnson, T. W. Strangeway, J. Ambler, F. W. Dixon and H. Armitage. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. G. Lewis, R. B. Smith and J. B. Hutchirson.

Much time was taken in going through in detail copy for the annual report, and preliminary examination would appear to indicate that the strength of the association both numerically and financially has been very well maintained. It was pointed out, however, that quite a number of members had not yet paid their current year's subscriptions. They are asked to do so promptly in order to facilitate the work of the hon. treasurer.

The obituary list is unfortunately longer than usual, 36 members having passed away up to November 30th.

The peal secretary reported that 14 peals had been rung during the year, but unfortunately the composition of one of these had proved to be false. Although the number was small, it compared favourably with the numbers rung during the years of the Great War when no ban on ringing existed. Of the remaining 13, eight had been rung on tower bells and five on handbells. The peal secretary expressed disappointment that more peals had not been rung on handbells, especially as the ban prevented tower bell ringings. He looked forward to an increase during the coming year. The report was unanimously adopted, and the peal secretary thanked for his work.

It was decided to leave the final report of the committee in the hands of the usual sub-committee, but in a draft introduction the president spoke of the value of 'The Ringing World' in these difficult times, pointing out that it was now both very interesting and instructive, and urged that the utmost support be given to it.

Two officers, the general secretary and peal secretary, who were due to retire, were elected for further terms of office.

The General Secretary stated that he was willing to continue as long as circumstances remained unchanged, but as the term of holding office extended over a three-year period, it was a long time in these days to look forward to.

The Peal Secretary, who is elected annually, said he was willing to continue and hoped that happier times would shortly see a big increase in the number of peals rung.

In discussing the place and date of the annual general meeting, Mr. W. Barton pointed out that the tea and social evening which had been arranged in place of the September general meeting had proved a huge success, and moved that the annual general meeting be held on similar lines. He suggested that the business meeting be held at 3 p.m., to be followed by a tea and social evening, if suitable arrangements could be made.

Mr. S. F. Palmer seconded, and, on being put to the meeting, the motion was carried unanimously. It was also agreed that, as in past years, the meeting be held on the last Saturday in January, and that it be held in Leeds.

The General Secretary then referred to the remarks of the president regarding the value of 'The Ringing World.' He said that the paper had done the Exercise yeoman service, and at no time was it a greater friend of the ringing cause than now. He referred to past attempts that had been made to obtain some concession relative to the ban on all ringing, and that the Exercise must not expect any lifting of the ban unless they themselves were prepared to pull their weight. He (the general secretary) had very great pleasure in moving the following resolution:—

'That this meeting of the General Committee of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers tenders its thanks and appreciation to the Editor of "The Ringing World" for his excellent expositions illustrating the ambiguity and doubtful effectiveness of the use of church bells for the military purposes for which they are now reserved.

'This meeting is also of opinion that the use of church bells for military purposes definitely places the churches within the category of military objectives, and welcomes the timely propaganda of "The Ringing World" for the rescinding of the Home Office Order prohibiting the use of church bells for any other than military purposes.

'This meeting accordingly invites the Editor of "The Ringing World" to solicit, through the medium of his journal, the co-operation and backing of the Central Council and all ringing organisations, with a view to leading a campaign for the removal or mitigation of the ban on all ringing.'

(Continued in next column.)

## THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

### FURTHER PROTESTS.

#### Sunday Newspaper Demands Victory Bells.

Protests continue to be made against the order prohibiting the use of church bells, and some of them, we are pleased to say, from influential quarters. 'The Times' has printed several letters on the subject in prominent positions, and last week 'The Church Times' made the following comment in its weekly Summary:—

At Athens the victory of Argyrokastró was celebrated with great ringing of church bells. In this country such a wild ecclesiastical orgy can only be indulged in at the moment when the Government decides that Hitler has invaded England. Till then the bells can neither summon the faithful to worship God, nor bear witness to the Incarnation, nor signify the passage of an immortal soul into eternity, nor utter the music of praise and thanksgiving for mercies vouchsafed. We made no protest when the use—or disuse—of the bells was commandeered last summer. That was not the occasion to stand on rights or ceremonies. But surely by now the wit of the authorities might well have been expected to devise, improvise and organise some other method of announcing that Hitler's legions have landed, and to render back to God the bells of God. Requests that the bells might at least be permitted their proper function for Christmas Day have been officially rejected. We do not ourselves set much store by permission to ring peals for any one day. We think the continued frozen storage of the bells no longer has any real justification, and we want them to peal out their regular message once again over field and street.

#### A MISTAKEN DECISION.

The following letter appears in the same journal:—  
Sir,—The correspondence which has been going on in the Press on the question of using our church bells once again and the recent question in Parliament on this subject by Sir John Jarvis show the strong interest taken in one of the most valued and age-long traditions of our country.

If there appeared to be any need at one time for their cessation, which was doubtful, the need has surely passed, and I have seen no valid reason yet advanced for the continuance of an ill-advised decision.

We were recently informed over the wireless that Big Ben would chime again across the air as a guide and help to all, and a reminder of the need for short reflection.

Still more is it an urgent need that our people should again be called to prayer and worship by their parish churches in the manner which for centuries past has never failed to be a help and comfort.

As a church official I can testify to the loss suffered through this mistaken decision. At a time when our spiritual outlook is in danger of being submerged by force and material things, the ringing of our church bells would be a reminder of our duties and privileges, which I regret to say is sadly needed.

Our war effort is hardly likely to be affected to our detriment by a decision to return again to our age-long way of calling the people to worship.—H. B. Johnson, 37a, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The 'Sunday Pictorial' printed the following in its heaviest type:—

#### RING OUT THE BELLS!

Have we become so inured to defeat and disaster that we can no longer enjoy our successes?

Have we lost our taste for triumph?

The Italians are on the run. In Albania they flee before the Greeks. In Egypt they flee before the British.

Why should we be so miserable with such grand news around?

Why shouldn't we smile? Why shouldn't we cheer?

General Wavell's forces in the Middle East have achieved a signal victory and our gallant Greek allies are harassing the Italians in Albania in equally brilliant style.

#### LET THE CHURCH BELLS RING!

That is the suggestion the 'Sunday Pictorial' makes to the Government to-day.

No one can ring the church bells now unless instructed to do so by the Government—for, at the moment, the ringing of the bells would announce that a German invasion of Britain had begun.

If the bells are to be used some day to announce bad news, why should they not be used now—to announce good news?

There need be no confusion. The hour of ringing out our praises could be announced well in advance by the newspapers and the B.B.C.

And it could be made perfectly clear that they will not be rung again unless to proclaim an invasion.

Not, at any rate, until we have another fine victory to celebrate!

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. A. Staveley, seconding the resolution, said he heartily agreed, and pointed out the trouble he personally had taken to co-operate with the authorities regarding the use of the bells at his own tower. He explained the plan he had devised shortly after the ban had become operative, but said that he had never received an acknowledgment. The existing position was one of chaos.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried nem con.

One new member, Mr. G. Homer, of Rothwell, was elected.

A vote of thanks to the president was heartily carried.

## RINGERS' TALES.

TOLD IN THE MEETING HOUSE.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

Some years ago I was the guest at a church men's supper. Where it was is no matter, except that it was far enough away from my own home for me to be treated as an important person and to be called upon for a speech. It was a happy evening. They were a set of very decent fellows, each one could sing a song or spin a yarn, and a lot of good tales were going about.

Many of these people were golfers and one or two fishermen, so when my turn came, as the distinguished guest, to make my speech I began to pull their legs and to say how very much better a thing ringing is than golf or fishing, and how very much finer fellows ringers are than golfers or fishermen. Just think, I told them, what golfers do. Once a week they go for a walk through the same old field, perform the same antics, use the same bad language and, having done so, they go back to the club house and tell the same old tales. But what they can find to talk about in golf passes my comprehension.

As for fishermen, they sit all day alongside a muddy canal in a semi-comatose condition doing nothing, and when they meet at night in the pub they tell tall tales about what they have done. 'And that reminds me,' I said, 'of what happened last week in our parish. You know we have an anglers' club. Well, they had their supper last Saturday at the King's Head, and after supper they sat and drank beer, and talked to each other of the great days they had had, and the magnificent fish they had caught and all that.'

Always the same old tale, of course, but as the evening wore on and each one capped the other's stories, the hands they held up to show how big the fish really was got further and further apart. Closing time came at last and they turned out into the road to go home. It was a lovely and brilliant moonlit night. Robins and Chandler (I think you know those two chaps?); anyhow, they both live in the new houses down Bolton's Lane. So they went home together, and as they were passing the allotments Chandler caught sight of a scarecrow in the fields. Its hands were so wide apart. When he saw it, Chandler was seized with a great spasm of envy. 'Look!' he cried, seizing Robins' arm with one hand while he pointed with the other. 'Look at that — liar!'

'Now,' said I, after I had made the appropriate pause to let the barbed shaft of my wit properly sink in, 'we ringers are not like that. When we talk we always have something to say, and we never tell lies.'

### ARGUMENT REDUCED TO FORMULA.

Since that time I have been thinking over these things very carefully. I might go so far as to say I have been pondering them. For more than three hundred years there has been a ringing Exercise, during those centuries ringers have continually been meeting together and still continue to meet together, and whenever they meet they talk. What a fearful amount of talk the aggregate must amount to!

I put the thing down in proper algebraic form, in a formula (you know what I mean. Let  $x$  equal the number of ringers  $y$  their brain capacity, and so on). When I had got in all the factors, and put in the lines, and hooks, and the other gadgets to make it look all right, it filled half a sheet of notepaper, and when it was worked out it gave an appalling result, or would have done if anybody had been able to work it out.

Like all other conversations, ringers talk varies quite a lot in quality and there are rules to be observed in playing the game. If you want to be really popular it is well not to talk entirely about what you yourself have done. At any rate, not quite in that way. What you should do is to start something like this. 'Don't you remember the fine peal of Stedman we rang two years ago at St. Simon's. I don't consider any other band anywhere about here could have done it anything like as well as we did,' and then having, so to speak, roped in your audience, you can go on, 'You know, if it hadn't been for me we should never have got it. Old Tom, who was calling, would have missed a bob three or four times if I hadn't given him the tip in time. I could see he was all at sea, so I kept my eye on him. And Jim and Harry would have shifted more than once if I hadn't been watching them.'

Ringers' talk naturally is for ringers and is not to be appreciated or enjoyed by outsiders. In fact, generally they seem to be rather bored than not when they are present. Or, if not bored, filled with wonder and amusement that such things can be.

I remember a time many years ago when I was one of a party on a peal ringing tour. It was before the war, and when I say 'the war' I mean, of course, *our* war, when *we* were shedding our blood for our King and country. We were going by train from one country town to another and our party filled the compartment except for one elderly gentleman who sat in a corner. He was a decent old boy, but he said nothing, only he listened very intently to our conversation with a somewhat puzzled and amused expression on his face.

Presently one of our party turned to him and said, 'I hope you won't think me rude, sir, but I should like to know just what you are thinking of us.'

'Well,' he said very courteously, 'that is hard to say. I did think at first you might be connected with some church society, but after the last few tales I don't quite know what to think.'

(Continued in next column.)

## THURSTANS' REVERSED.

AN INTERESTING STEDMAN COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Since writing you last week, I have received from Mr. Lindoff a letter in which he encloses the peal reversed in a most interesting manner with the sixth doing her proper work and the fifth at Home at the quarter peal ends.

I forward the figures, as I am sure it will appeal to conductors who enjoy novel compositions.

I have already done so privately, but would like to take this opportunity of thanking publicly the Rev. E. S. Powell and Mr. Lindoff for their kindness in setting my mind at rest on a subject which has puzzled me on and off for years. Also to you, sir, for inserting my first letter.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

5,040 STEDMAN TRIPLES.

THURSTANS' REVERSED. BY G. LINDOFF.

123456	Q.	S.	H.	L.	V	342156	Q.	S.	H.	L.	VI.
241652	x		x	x		413652	x		x	x	
231564				x		314562		x		x	
321546		x				243516		x	x		
253641	x		x	x		524136					
352461		x		x		152346					
532416			x			315426					
453126						431256					
145236						324651	x		x	x	
214356						423561		x		x	
132654	x		x	x		134526		x	x		
142563				x		351624	x		x	x	
412536			x			153264		x		x	
154632	x		x	x		541326					—
451362		x		x		354216					
513246			x		—H.	235146					
251436						123456					
425316											
342156											

N.B.—The calling of the second division is repeated throughout except where otherwise stated.

The 21st course in the first and second halves contain 26 and 2 sixes respectively.

The course ends occur after slow and rounds is the last change of a slow six.

### A CENTRAL COUNCIL STORY.

(Continued from previous column.)

Perhaps I ought to say that it was not a mixed party, and the tales, as Archbishop Benson said of Lord Tennyson's tale, were not really too bad.

I have got another yarn somewhat similar. It concerns the Central Council meeting at Canterbury. Now don't prick up your ears and think you have heard this one before and know all about it. There were two Council meetings at Canterbury and this was the first which was held years ago. The incident took place at the Rose Hotel in the main street, not the County Hotel.

It so happened that a small but very select party of well-known and eminent ringers were gathered together, drinking whisky and soda (we really did in those days) and talking after their kind. Presently the lady attendant said to Mr. Joseph Griffin, who was sitting with Nathan Pitstow on one side and Harry Dains on the other, Charlie Borrett being next beyond.

'Do you mind telling me who you are?'

'Not at all,' he replied, 'Why do you ask? Who do you suppose we are?'

'Well,' she said, 'I was wondering. I did think you were a deputation to the local Y.M.C.A., but after what you have been saying I hardly think you are quite respectable enough for that.'

I referred just now to Archbishop Benson and Lord Tennyson, and I suppose you will expect me to finish the yarn. It was like this:—

The two were staying at a country house and one morning they went for a stroll together. When two such men—the Primate of All England and the most eminent poet of his time—meet we naturally expect a brilliant and profound conversation, one that touches on the great things of life and the burning questions of the day. This is what did happen. For some minutes they walked side by side in silence, and then suddenly Tennyson said in his gruff way, 'Shall I tell you a bawdy tale?'

That naturally took the Archbishop by surprise and he replied, 'No. Certainly not. Of course not.'

Later on he met Sir Edmund Gosse and mentioned what Tennyson had said. Gosse made no comment and let the conversation go on, but presently he said rather slyly, 'And what sort of a tale was it that Tennyson told your Grace?'

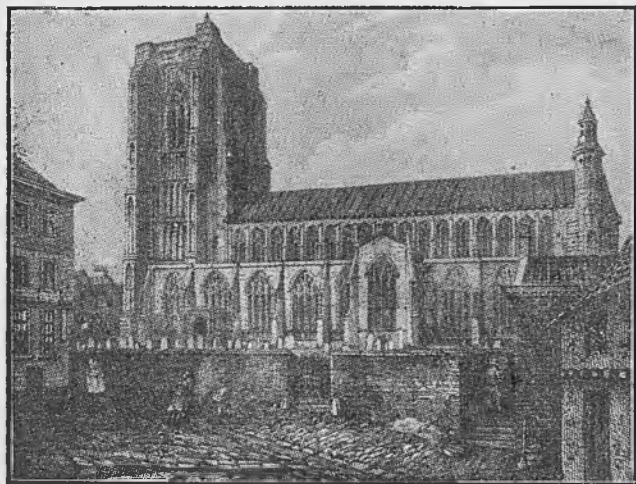
'Well,' answered the Archbishop, 'it wasn't really too bad.'

## JOHN CHAMBERLIN. AND 'COURT UPON EIGHT.'

BY CHARLES E. BORRETT.

'On Tuesday, February 2nd, 1773, died that most ingenious Ringer, John Chamberlin, one of St. Peter's of Mancroft Company of Ringers: an honest and industrious Man, remarkable for his extensive knowledge both in the Theory and Practise of the Art of Ringing. 'Tis said his abilities were as great in that Art that never was found his Equal.'

This is the obituary notice in 'The Norwich Mercury' for February 6th, 1773, of a very outstanding figure in the ringing world in the middle of the 18th century, although perhaps a little known one in ringing literature.



ST. PETER MANCROFT IN THE 18TH CENTURY.  
Where the first peal of Court Ten was rung.

In one of his valuable historical articles (January 15th, 1926) Mr. Trollope mentions him as conductor of four notable peals—two of Imperial the Third (1760-1772), the first of Double Norwich Royal (1769), and the first of Double Norwich Major (1771). The italics are mine, and I will refer to the peal later.

Mr. Trollope continues: 'For some reason or other none of these peals is recorded by a peal board as was the custom in Norwich both earlier and later; and it is possible and even probable that other peals were rung at this time by this skilful band, of which we have no record.'

I think I can make Mr. Trollope's supposition a certainty. It is remarkable there are no peal boards at any of the Norwich churches between 1737 and 1778, for we know that, during part of this time, the first rate company, led by John Chamberlin, was in its prime.

I am sorry no mention is made of Chamberlin's age in the obituary notice, but he must have died comparatively early, as in 1754 he called a peal of Bob Major at East Dereham rung 'by eight men from Norwich, Being inferior to a company left in that City,' and in 1755 at St. Michael's Coslany, Norwich, a peal of 'Bob Major Double Bob Method' 'by eight of the youngest set of Eight Bell Ringers in the City.' These were only 18 and 19 years respectively before his death, so that he was probably between 40 and 50 years of age when he died.

He was married three times we know, for on December 24th, 1752, in Mancroft registers, he is described as a widower marrying Esther Hunt, and on April 16th, 1790, Ann, widow of John Chamberlin, was buried at Mancroft.

I have come across 11 peals in which he took part, and in all of them he 'called the bobs.' They are:—

- 1754.—5,040 Bob Major, at East Dereham (first peal on the bells).
- 1755.—5,040 'Bob Major Double Bob Method,' at St. Michael's Coslany, Norwich.
- 1758.—5,040 'Court Bobs Eight in,' at North Elmham.
- 1760.—Imperial the Third, at St. Giles, Norwich.
- 1766.—5,040 Bob Major, at St. Nicholas, King's Lynn.
- 1768.—10,192 Bob Major, at St. Giles, Norwich.
- 1769.—5,040 Court Bob Royal, at Mancroft.
- 1771.—5,720 Court Bob Major, at St. Michael's Coslany.
- 1771.—5,040 Bob Major, at Downham Market.
- 1771.—5,040 Bob Major, at Wisbech.
- 1772.—6,048 Imperial the Third, at St. Michael's Coslany.

I come back to the italics above to the 6,720 Court Bob Major in 1771, which is described as the first in the method by Mr. Snowden

and Mr. Trollope. The former in his book on Double Norwich gives this first place in the tabulated list of peals known to have been rung (page 70), and on page 48 gives the record of the peal taken from Osborn's MSS. But the newspaper account is a much fuller one, and opens up a wider field. 'The Norwich Mercury' for June 22nd, 1771, says: 'This is the longest length that was ever rung of this ingenious Peal; and without changes alike or Bell out of Course is allowed by all Judges in the Art of Ringing to be a very grand Performance. By reason of the intricateness of this Peal, with the Length of Time, and Number of Changes, it is the completest Length that ever was Rung on Eight Bells.'

It is obvious then this was not the first in the method, and, as will be seen by the above list of Chamberlin's peals, he had taken part in an earlier one himself—at North Elmham in 1758.

The 'Mercury' says of this, 'A compleat 5,040 Court Bobs (Eight in) in 3 hours and 10 minutes by a young company from Norwich, being the first time that this Peal was ever rung in England (Norwich excepted).' This, as we see, more than hints at earlier ones rung in Norwich, and I am sorry I am unable to trace any record of them. That an earlier peal or peals had been rung I am pretty certain. North Elmham is 18 miles from Norwich, and the men would walk it. It is unlikely they would make this journey for a peal in any method, but what they considered to be a 'safe' one.

In passing, I might say that in 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of April 22nd, 1769, where the full account of the peal of Court Ten is published, it says: 'This incomparable Peal was invented in the year 1751 by Mr. William Porter, one of the ringers belonging to St. Peter's Company, and tho' from that time it has been annually practised, yet never was perfectly gone through with without Bells being out of course, till now; so that it may be affirmed, that this is the first compleat 5,040 that ever was rung in the Known World.'

Porter died on December 8th, 1770, aged 77, and would, therefore, have been 58 when he 'invented Court upon Ten,' as it says in his obituary notice.

Snowdon tells us (page 45) 'the method was first printed in the "Clavis," published in 1788, but that it is evident from the Mason MSS. the method was known about the middle of the last century.'

It has always seemed curious to me that, save for a slight reference in the Osborn MSS., which Snowden gives on page 46, Porter's name is always coupled with Court Ten, but never with Court Eight. I know nothing of method extensions or the reverse operation, but is there anything in the suggestion that Porter brought out Court Ten and somebody adapted the method to Major? I should be glad of Mr. Trollope's opinion on this. And if there be anything in the suggestion, who is more likely to have done it than John Chamberlin? 'Tis said his abilities were so great in that Art that never was found his Equal.'

I confess to a great regard for the memory of the subject of these notes. He seems to me to have possessed admirable qualities—he was obviously an unassuming man, a born leader of great initiative, and, for the times in which he lived, a great traveller. Downham Market and Wisbech, where he rang peals in 1771, are 60 and 73 miles respectively from Norwich, and the company went on a further 12 miles to ring at the opening of Holbeach bells. In the MSS. of Samuel Lawrence of Shifnal, is the note: 'The Peal of Ten Bells of York Minster were cast by Lester and Pack in 1765, and opened by Ringers from St. Peter's, Norwich, on the Prince of Wales' Birthday, August 12th, 1765, who Rang on them 1,600 Bob Royal—191 miles from Norwich. It is pretty safe to say that John Chamberlin was the leader of this expedition, and that he 'called the bobs' of the 1,600 Bob Royal.

Another item to his credit was that the same men stood in nearly all his peals, a contrast to some other leaders of early days in Norwich.

Eighteen months after his death the majority of his old band again travelled the 60 miles to Downham Market, and rang 5,040 Court Bob, 'being the only true peal of that kind ever performed in England (Norwich excepted).' This time William Warner 'called the bobs.' I think 'Norwich excepted' is meant to convey 'except by men of Norwich,' otherwise it would rule out Chamberlin's peal at North Elmham in 1758. Like the latter, the peal at Downham Market in 1774 does not appear in Snowden's list.

I feel the credit, in the past, for the greatness of the old Norwich ringers has not been fairly apportioned, at any rate since the days of John Garthorn, Thomas Melchior and Edward Crane. Eminent as were Thomas Barton, Robert Chesnutt and Samuel Thurston, they only carried on the work on the foundations laid by John Chamberlin. It is a pity he died two years before the twelve were put in at Mancroft. If he had lived to a greater age in all probability it would not have taken 110 years to ring the first five peals on the twelve, and the Court Twelve might have been scored long before 1817.

Peace to his ashes!

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## CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

### COMPOSITION IN THE METHOD.

More than a full century elapsed after Reeves' false peals of Cambridge Surprise before the next was rung in London, but one or two early bands in Yorkshire practised the method and several peals were rung there.

The first was one of 6,048 changes on February 5th, 1787, at St. Peter's, Sheffield, on the old ring. The composition is lost and we know nothing of what it was like, but there can hardly be a doubt that it was false.

It was followed by 5,376 changes rung in 1811 at Keighley by the local band. The composition was by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, and was claimed as 'the first true peal in that method ever rung in the North of England.' Tebbs was a clever composer and the author of an early and meritorious peal of Stedman Triples, but his Cambridge was false. When Shipway published the third part of his 'Art of Ringing' in 1816 he wrote that 'many fruitless attempts have been made to obtain Cambridge Surprise, several false peals of which had been rung.' The false peals no doubt included that of Tebbs, for he had sent his best compositions to Shipway for inclusion in the book.

In his 'Art of Change Ringing,' published in 1852, Benjamin Thackrah, of Dewsbury, says, 'Seven of St. Peter's Company, Huddersfield, and myself rung at their Parish Church, on the 18th of February, 1822, 6,720 changes of Cambridge Surprise, with the tenors together, in 3h. 51m. I composed and conducted the peal, and introduced singles, when the treble is dodging in three-four, to take away the false changes, when liable. It will run true to 6,720 changes with these singles every time the treble is dodging in three-four.'

This variation is that now known as New Cambridge, and, as Thackrah states, will produce 6,720 changes with the tenors together; but whether the peal he called was a true one is by no means certain. He does not give the figures in his book, and judging by what he does give we cannot be sure that he was qualified to decide what was a true peal in a Treble Bob method and what was not. The book itself is the worst text book on ringing ever issued, and Thackrah's own part (he got other people to write for him and copied older authors) is the worst in it.

One peal of Cambridge Major, 6,048 changes, is given. It is produced by fourth's place and sixth's place bobs at the course ends, for he says 'it will not run true to such an extent of changes if bobs are made at the middle or the wrong.'

Actually there are only twenty-five true courses in Cambridge and so Thackrah's peal necessarily is false. Here is the composition, which is in three equal parts. F signifies a fourth's place bob and S a sixth's place.

23456

42635	46325	43265	S
64523	34562	24536	S
56342	53246	52643	S
35264	25634	65324	S
23564	62534	36524	F
52436	56423	53462	S
45236	45623	45362	F
24653	64352	34256	S
62453	36452	23456	F

It does not require much inspection to see how false this peal is, and yet the idea of sixth's place bobs was quite a good one. They have a similar effect to bobs. Before without losing nearly half a course each time one is used.

Charles Middleton's peal of Cambridge Major which was published in the 1845 edition of Henry Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' was not only the first peal to be composed in the method with the tenors together, but is the only one that is possible.

The false course ends of the method are A 32546, B 24365, D 46253, F 32465 and G 43265. The extreme liability of the method to internal falseness is due to the fact that these belong to two groups. The three A, B and C restrict the number of true natural courses to thirty; and the other two, F and G, reduce the thirty by forbidding us to use any which have the bells in 5-6 reversed.

If we turn to the table of natural course ends given in our issue of November 15th and examine the groups A1, B1, C1, D1, E1 and F1 we shall find that one row in each of the last five groups is false when tested by 32465 and 43265, but all the rest are true. The rows which are false are 34625, 45362, 52436, 26543, and 63254. The remaining twenty-five form the material from which we must construct our peal.

But as soon as we look at these twenty-five we find that they cannot be linked up together by bobs into one round block. The proof of that is not difficult. One of them is 35426 and must be included. It can be brought up only in one of three ways, either by a bob at the Middle, or a bob at the Wrong, or a bob at the Right. We should have one of these Q Sets.

35426	35426	35426
45623	23456	43526
65324	52436	54326

In each case there is a course which is not among the twenty-five and so would produce falseness.

For a similar reason 23645, 64352, 42563 and 56234 cannot be included. We cannot join together the twenty-five true courses intact, but we can do what John Reeves did in his fifteen-course block: we can take advantage of the fact that the incidence of the falseness does not fall between the Middle and the Wrong. In that lead we can use part of a course which, if used in full, would produce repetition.

In five out of the true twenty-five courses a bob at M, followed by a bob at W, will form a link to join up two true courses, and these links with certain Q sets and incomplete Q sets will give us the peal.

In our issue of November 8th we showed that only a definite number of Q sets can be made in the thirty courses included in the true groups with A, B, C, D, E false course ends, and that these Q sets join up the courses into two separate round blocks. In methods in which M comes before the W one of these blocks is Middleton's composition. By a coincidence which amounts to a piece of good luck those courses which, though true for A, B, C, D, E false course ends, are false for F and G, are all included in the other round block except for one lead between the M and the W, where the incidence of the falseness does not fall.

What we have said in these last few articles will show why Middleton's composition is the only possible one for Cambridge, but one other point should be noticed. As

(Continued on next page.)



**GREETINGS.**

Christmas greetings to all readers of 'The Ringing World' and to the friends of ringing everywhere.—THE EDITOR.

Mr. Frank Dawe extends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all his friends throughout the Exercise.—Allandale, Rosebery Crescent, Woking.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, of Enfield, send kind Christmas greetings to all ringing friends and sincere wishes for peace in the New Year.

Greetings and good wishes to all my friends. Things are at present not as good as they might be, but better times will come. Sursum Corda. — J. A. Trollope, 52, Lammas Park Road, Ealing.

The President (Hertford County Association of Change Ringers) sends greetings and best wishes for their safety to all officers and members of the association and the hope of their speedy reunion in ringing.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and Enid, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, send their 'heartiest greetings' to all ringing friends, at home and overseas for Christmas, 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Hazleden send greetings to all ringing friends and may we meet soon to ring for peace and goodwill.—Highway, Grange Road, Guildford.

Paymaster Lieut. C. Glenn, R.N.V.R., sends hearty greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to the 'mad band' and all ringing friends.

Christmas greetings to all ringing friends, with the hope that before long we may be able again to practise our beloved art. — A. B. Peck, Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all ringing friends, followed by a Victorious New Year, is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles.

W. G. Hiscott, 15, Market Avenue, Plymouth, sends hearty greetings to all his ringing friends, especially the ringers who made the second tour of the Bristol United Guilds. May 1941 bring us peace and ringing again.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker send to all ringing friends best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a New Year which will bring happier days blessed with a lasting peace.—81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smallwood send to all friends best wishes for the Festive Season, and for better days (and nights) soon.—38, Penn Lea Road, Bath.

Best wishes for Christmas, and a New Year of restored Peace and renewed friendships from W. J. Paice, Secretary, Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

May the Joy, the Peace, and the Hope that Christmas brings, rejoice the hearts of all our ringing friends, is the desire of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cartmel and family, Duffield, St. Albans. Christmas, 1940.

**SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Southern District.—Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all ringing friends, from E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

One peal each of 8 and 10. Tenors size 12.—T. Miller, 21a, Smith Street, Hockley, Birmingham.

**NOTICES.**

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held at headquarters, the Coffee Pot, on Saturday, December 21st, at 3 p.m. Handbells afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**BUSHEY, HERTS.**—Annual meeting, Watford District.—All interested in ringing are welcome to meeting on Saturday, December 21st, at Guide Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey. Comfortable room. Tea can be arranged. Bus and coach stop handy.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270. Herts Association meeting.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Dec. 28th. Handbells and silent tower bells available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Arrangements for tea will be made. Business meeting 6.15 p.m. Further ringing till 7.30 p.m. 'Bells may not be rung, but they still may be swung.'—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Annual meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941, at 4 p.m. prompt; followed by tea. Handbell practice and social evening to follow. Please notify regarding tea not later than Jan. 1st. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—Annual meeting at Ashby Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941. Handbells available at 3 p.m., followed by business meeting at 4 p.m. in Vestry. It is hoped to arrange tea afterwards. Please make an effort to attend.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—*Important Notice.*—The branch annual meeting, usually held on the third Saturday in January, is postponed until Saturday, April 19th, 1941. — W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. T. Groombridge, junior, is now 109, Bryan Avenue, Willesden, N.W.10.

**MARRIAGE.**

**SOMERVILLE—CLARK.**—On December 7th, at All Saints' Church, Arksey, by the Rev. J. Preice Price, William Somerville, of Hatfield, to Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. G. Clark, of Dawood Villas, Bentley.

**CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR**—(Cont. from previous page.) we have explained, when less than the full number of false course ends appear in a method it is possible to split up the groups and to use courses from both the alternative groups. Can this be done in Cambridge and so give us a set of true courses different from those in Middleton's peal, though necessarily fewer in number? Yes, it can. There is a considerable number of sets of true courses to be had in this way, and here, perhaps, is a field open to further composition in the method. But it would seem from a cursory survey of the problem that twenty-two is the largest number to be had on this plan and so a certain amount of parting the tenors is necessary to produce a full peal. Mr. J. W. Parker's clever composition is an example of this.

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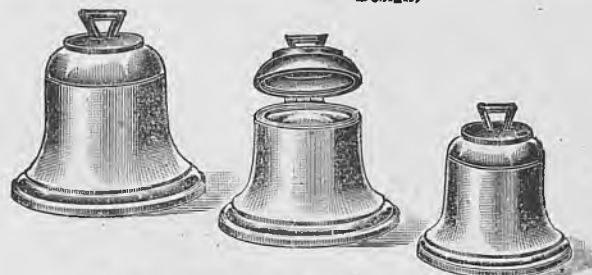
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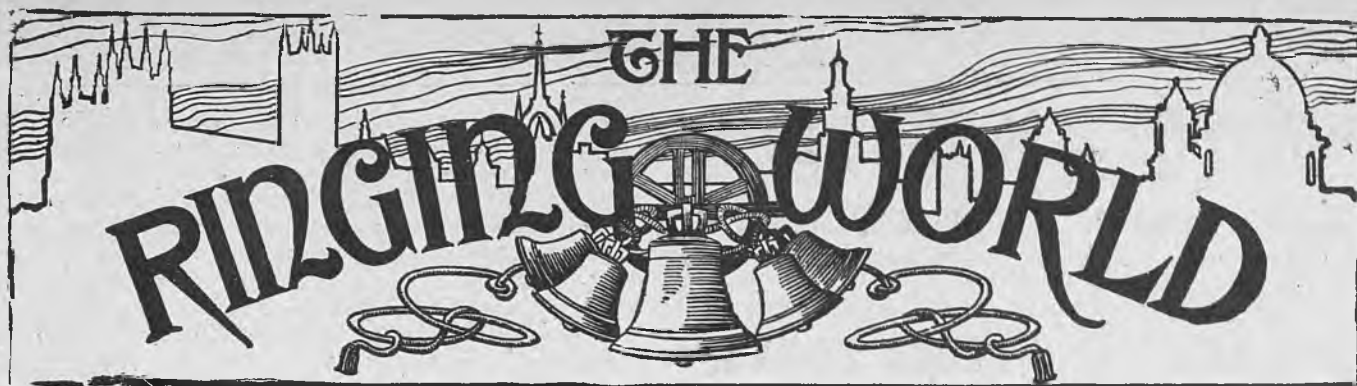
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## **A MELANCHOLY YEAR.**

The year now closing has been a disastrous one for ringing—the most serious in its effects that has ever befallen the art. The war of 1914-1918 laid a heavy hand upon it, but never before, since bells were installed in our churches and became part of our national life, have they been completely silenced. In the last war there was a long period when they could not be rung after darkness set in, but ringing was always possible during daylight hours, and the bells were, at any rate, able to convey their time-honoured message Sunday by Sunday. But since last June there has been, by decree, an utter and complete silence imposed upon them, and for the first time for more than a thousand years the bells of England have not been heard at Christmas. 'Tis a sad thought.

This ban has, of course, had stagnating effects in many directions. At the time when it was imposed, ringing was recovering from the first shock of the war, and in response to the Government's appeal that everything possible should be done to keep up the spirits of the people, ringers had rallied and the bells were once more assuming their traditional rôle, and the public were glad to hear their cheering notes. At that time service ringing was being well maintained; meetings were growing in number, new ringers were being taught, to fill the ranks of those called away to other service, and peal ringing was increasing. All these were encouraging signs in difficult days, but by a stroke of the pen all this promise was wiped out—and for little useful purpose. It is true that in places valiant efforts have been made to carry on the ringing organisations, but life has largely gone out of their activities. To the regret, not only of ringers, but of nearly everyone else, Sunday bells have had to cease; and it is almost impossible now to train young ringers, for the charm to the beginner of hearing the sound of his bell high up in the tower as he pulls his rope has gone, and he is robbed of the chief joy of his labours. Small wonder that the gaps that are now rapidly occurring among existing bands are not being filled up.

One thing that has been revealed since the restriction was placed on church bells is that the practice of handbell ringing has been sadly neglected in the past. Very few companies have been able to continue peal ringing by means of handbells, since peals on tower bells ceased, and even allowing for the additional outside difficulties which naturally exist in the stress of the times, the handbell peal records show very meagre results during the past six months. Only just over thirty peals have been rung. Perhaps there are many bands practising, and results will materialise later. We sincerely hope that this

(Continued on page 614.)

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will be the case, but for the present there seems little of encouragement to be got from this quarter. Indeed, the number of peals on handbells since the ban has been less than before it descended, although in this connection it must be remembered that a considerable number of them was rung by one band—that which used to meet at Bushey.

Another distressing feature of a review of the year is the number of churches which have been bombed during air raids over some of our cities. There has been a sorry toll in places like Bristol and Southampton, although it seems that in quite a number of instances, though the church has gone, the tower, standing like a bulwark, has resisted the worst that the raider can do. Even where fires have swept through the buildings there is the satisfaction of knowing that bells in metal frames have withstood the ravages. But some well-known peals have gone. We are not permitted to name them all, but we have details of those of the two cities mentioned. Some day, of course, it will be possible to take a survey of our losses, which even yet, perhaps, have not reached their end. Against the toll of human life that has been taken, the loss of buildings or of bells, of course, is of very small moment, but there is sadness in the thought of this destruction of our cherished possessions.

So the year closes with melancholy reflections, but not without hope. Sacrifices have been called for in every direction. The people of this country have met them with grim determination. Let us see to it that ringers, no less than others, do not fail. They are, of course, making their contribution to the national effort, and amid all the discouragements that now surround their beloved art we hope they will not fail to keep alive their interest and increase their share in maintaining life in the Exercise, through which, in the happier days to come, the restoration of ringing must be effected.

Into the gloom of night our art is cast

If we but think of what the present brings.

But 'tis not this that matters, but the years

That are to come, when peace shall reign at last.

And so, looking confidently into the future and to the time when the bells of old England shall one day fling their voices again over town and village, hill and valley, proclaiming the victory of our cause, which alone can bring peace and freedom to men, 'The Ringing World' sends greetings and good wishes for the coming year to all ringers and lovers of bells wherever they may be.

### THURSTANS' PEAL REVERSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If we want to get a real reversal of Thurstans' four-part peal and have the Single at 2, surely there is only one way it can be done. That is to take the peal as it stands, count the numbers of the Sixes as they come from the end and make the bells in the same order and at the same distance from the beginning. The positions and work of the seventh and the other bells will be altered, of course, but the peal is bound to be true. I don't suppose that is how Washbrook did call it, but it is really Thurstans' reversed.

X.Y.Z.

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## CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTIONS.

### PAGES FROM MEMORY'S SCRAPBOOK.

#### Some Ringing 'Adventures.'

Since we ringers have not been able this year to fling the voices of the bells over the roof-tops and countryside to proclaim the message of Christmas, little has been left to us but to recall some Christmases of the past and revisit in imagination the scenes of other years; just as those who have had to forego holidays since the war began have, perhaps, contented themselves with looking over again the snapshots of former happy, carefree days. In this mood I have mused over some of my own experiences and turned back the pages of memory's scrap-book.

My own recollections of Christmas ringing go back now for nearly fifty years, and I remember the thrill with which I joined in the early morning ringing and how important I felt on my first Christmas as a bellringer. In those days in my home tower it was the practice to ring at 6 a.m., but it was no hardship to turn out of bed even in mid-winter for that privilege, although for any other purpose it would almost certainly have been not without sloth and grumbling. For centuries probably this early morning ringing on Christmas Day has been a general custom throughout the country, for even before there was change ringing the church bells symbolised the spirit of the day.

#### PLAYING TO 'NOBILITY' AND GENTRY.

For most of us, it may be, one Christmas has been very much like another, yet there are incidents that stand out like landmarks. The Boxing Day peal attempt, for instance, was by way of being a regular custom with many ringers, although, coming the day after Christmas, Boxing Day was not always a good day for peal ringing. It never was at Waldron, where in the 'nineties I went more than once with my old friend Alfred Turner, with whom also during the 'festive season' I did a deal of handbell tune ringing, about which it is not inappropriate to say a word. We used to call, by appointment if you please, upon the 'nobility and gentry' of the neighbourhood, and other kinds of people as well, to discourse 'sweet melody' on our set of bells. We met with a good deal of praise and received some sort of recompense, although looking back on our performances I am not quite sure it was really as good as our audiences or ourselves thought it was.

We used to play such classic pieces as the 'Blue Bells of Scotland,' 'Washing Day' and 'Butter and Peas.' Once we needed a washing day of our own after one of our Boxing evening expeditions to a neighbouring village. We kept our engagement and, hoping to get back to join in festivities at home, took a 'short cut' along the river bank in one place. It was a pitch black night, and while we were familiar with the riverside path, what we did not know was that, a few days before, the river had been cleaned out and reeds and mud had been piled upon the banks. With our handbell boxes we floundered about in the quagmire, nearly slid into the river itself and arrived home looking very much the worse for wear with our best suits—we always wore our best suits when we called upon the gentry—practically ruined.

When we made our Christmas-time visits to Waldron our handbells were in great demand. Many a jolly tune did we ring in the bar-parlour of the 'Star,' with an appreciative and merry company gathered mostly from the farms around. On those occasions there was a 'free and easy,' when anyone could sing or recite if he wanted to and often irrespective of the wishes of the rest of the folk, who if they were not interested, carried on with their talking and drinking. I remember one old man who had a song of the Fal-de-ral sort to sing and was prepared to sing it from beginning to end come what might. As he wandered on with a far-away look in his eyes, he got up to about his twenty-eighth verse and seemed like going on for twenty-eight more, when he was forcibly stopped.

On one of our Yuletide visits to Waldron there was a private party after the customary peal attempt—there was always a peal attempt at Christmas at Waldron and it always ended in failure, which, if you knew Waldron, was not surprising—and after the party there was a walk of two miles or more to the railway station. Whether it was the fatigue of the day, or the cold of the night air or the mulled elderberry wine does not much matter, but the journey to the station took a long time. Not only were we burdened with our boxes of handbells, but we had to support a large part of the weight of a very heavy companion, whose legs had not been designed for these special conditions, but who would insist on bringing along a couple of dead rabbits that had been given to him as a parting gift. What with the handbells and the rabbits and the fifteen stones of our colleague, coupled with the darkness of the night, it was a tiresome journey. We just succeeded in catching the last train, but only because it was very late.

#### UNDER SOUTHERN SKIES.

Just forty years later I spent a totally different Christmas: part of it was in the Gulf of Suez and part on the Suez Canal—indeed, one might almost say it began in the Red Sea and ended in the Atlantic Ocean so long did its festivities last. As my readers may guess, this particular Christmas came towards the end of the ringing tour to Australia, and our party at the time had been reduced to the Rev. F. B. James, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, their daughter Enid and myself.

On Christmas Eve we had achieved the ambition of ringing a handbell peal on the Red Sea, in witness whereof the four ringers held the most exclusive peal ringing badge in existence. From the design, this decoration would appear to have been instituted by one of the Pharaohs, but we were the first to be able to claim the award—at our own expense by the way. The panels show the inducements held out to the ringers of those days—or would have been held out if there were any ringers—but since then times have changed. Our reward was not the sweetmeats and wines and other things of ancient Egypt shown upon the panels, but the satisfaction of having accomplished something unique in the annals of our art.

At midnight we joined with others in singing carols in different parts of the ship, and soon after 6 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson and I went another round of the cabins with handbells and rang carols. It was, for the passengers, unexpected and, we were told, delightful. I must admit we did not do it so badly, except that the first time we tried to ring 'Noel' we got a wee bit mixed. However, if anyone noticed it, it didn't matter.

The handbells were quite a surprise to one gentleman. He had lived most of his time in the East and the bells disturbed his early morning slumbers. 'When I heard them,' he said, 'I wondered for the moment if I had gone to heaven during the night and I couldn't think how I got there.' Incidentally neither could anyone else who knew him.

As we made our way up the Gulf of Suez on a glorious morning, with the sea sparkling under the brilliant sun, we sighted Mount Sinai in the distance and later came to anchor for a few hours outside Suez, whose domes and minarets shone white under the cloudless sky.

There was plenty of entertainment for everyone aboard that day, and I had to act the part of Father Christmas among the children. The fun was fast and furious, and the grown-ups kept it going so that most of those who saw Christmas in also saw it out.

From then on, until New Year's Day when we passed Gibraltar, the festivities continued, and it made up one of the jolliest Christmas holidays I have ever spent. I tried to deceive myself that the children didn't really know who had impersonated Santa Claus, with his white beard and red robes and his sackful of toys. Not one of them even mentioned the subject in my hearing until on the day of our arrival at Plymouth, when, while I was on board the tender that was to take some of us ashore, the youngsters lined the ship's rail and shouted in unison, 'Good-bye, Father Christmas.' That farewell is one of my lasting memories.

#### FIVE PEALS IN THIRTY-ONE HOURS.

In between, in those forty years, there were many Christmases when ringing came in for a good share of attention, but I have never rung a peal on Christmas Day, largely because I have felt that Christmas Day is a day to be spent in the family circle, and I did not care to give up half of it to peal ringing. But Christmas holidays have for me, as for others, produced a number of peals, and one such occasion, it was in the year 1898, produced a record crop.

It was, if I remember rightly, all due to Keith Hart. We were younger then and more enthusiastic. At any rate on Boxing Day and the day following, he and Alfred Turner and I took part in no fewer than five peals in the space of about 31 hours. We started on the afternoon of Boxing Day at Warnham, and rang a peal of Superlative, and after tea we rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob on the same bells. Warnham in those days was a place where the parishioners did not mind if you rang all day—and all night too, almost—as long as you got your peal.

From Warnham we had to get home that night, which some of us did after midnight. We met again soon after seven o'clock in the morning at Southover, Lewes, and rang a peal of Grandshire Triples, had bread and cheese and beer, walked three and a half miles to Ringmer and rang a peal of Bob Major, leaving ourselves hardly time to walk the two miles or so to the nearest station to go on to a third tower for the day, Buxted, where before 9 p.m. we had finished off another peal of Bob Major. I never remember being so tired in all my life as I was that night, but, I suppose, supremely happy, partly because for the first and, as events have proved, the only time I had rung 50 peals in a year. I know that many long lengths, and, of course, four peals have been rung in a day, but I do not think that anyone has rung five separate peals within so few hours either before or since. Altogether 16 ringers took part in the five peals, and two of them, William Steed and John Steddy, rang in all but one.

How far away those days seem. Two wars have intervened and all that we can do this Christmas, cut off as we are from our bells, is to think of the happy times we have spent in the past. But what a difference between the Christmases then and now. Then, as for a thousand years, the bells rang out unhindered the message of peace and goodwill; to-night as I write enemy planes are roaring overhead, anti-aircraft guns are thundering, and all the talk is of war. It is, however, not a bad thing to think sometimes of the past. It reminds us of what we shall lose if we relax our efforts in this struggle.

J. S. G.

#### BOW CHURCH HIT.

St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, which escaped the ravages of the first great raid on London some months ago, was recently hit by a bomb, which penetrated the roof and fell near the pulpit. The famous tower and bells were unharmed.

## BELL HANGING IN OLDEN TIMES. WHAT WE LEARN FROM ANCIENT CHURCH ACCOUNTS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

In many parishes in almost all parts of the country there still survive, not only the original registers of births, marriages and deaths, dating back for some hundreds of years, but also the accounts kept by the churchwardens of the moneys they received and the moneys they paid out on behalf of the vestries. These accounts are one of the principal sources of information from which historians have recreated the life of the common people of England three, four or five centuries ago. No other country has such a wealth of contemporary manuscripts, for in no other country has the communal life developed in such an orderly way. There have been no violent breaks, but precedent has slowly broadened down to precedent. Until years which are within the memory of many living men, the average Englishman was content to live much as his father had lived, and though the times were always changing, yet they changed so gradually that men did not notice the change.

In their original form these churchwardens' accounts are not very accessible to the historian, scattered as they are all over the country, and when opportunity is afforded of inspecting them the student needs a good deal of training before he can understand them, or, in the case of the oldest and most valuable, even read them. Fortunately a number of men have for some time past taken a great interest in these documents, and many of the most important have been transcribed and printed, and so made available to one who has access to a really first-class library and can afford to spend the necessary time to work there.

Churchwardens' accounts are extant from the fifteenth century, and from them we can learn a good deal about the fittings and repairs of the bells which formed an appreciable part of the yearly expenditure of the parish.

The work was usually done by local tradesmen. The local carpenter made and repaired the frame and the wheels; the local smith forged the clappers and the iron work which hung the bells; while every parish as a rule had a handy man, usually the sexton, who, besides 'trimming and oyling' the bells, did the minor repairs and odd jobs which fall to the lot of a steeplekeeper.

In the course of the years there appeared a few men who were wheelwrights or carpenters by trade and acquired a large amount of skill as bellhangers. These men became known to the leading bell founders, and when a man like Robert Mot, of Whitechapel, was entrusted with the recasting of bells, though he did not do the hanging himself he most likely recommended the person who did. In London the leading bell hangers during a long period of years were John Brissendon, John Allen, William Gadesden and Samuel Turner, all of whom worked in conjunction with the Whitechapel foundry but as independent contractors. John Hodson, who is usually reckoned as a bell founder, was really a carpenter and bell hanger, who undertook the complete job, but sub-let the founding to other men.

There was a succession of Turners, and between them they hung many of the famous bells that came from Whitechapel. Frederick Day, the bell hanger of Eye, who was no mean judge, told me that the work done by the Turners was most excellent.

In the early accounts, the most frequent charge is for new baldricks. A baldrick was a leather strap of untanned hide, which was passed through the crown staple and the loop of the clapper, and fastened with an iron pin. Between the crown staple and the top of the clapper a wooden block was inserted, and alongside the clapper was strapped a wooden 'brisk board' or 'sword' to give sufficient rigidity and to ensure that the clapper hinged on the crown staple.

This arrangement formed a very efficient hanging for the clapper, but had the defect that it was very quickly worn out and had to be replaced. So much so that some parishes bought a whole hide at a time to make baldricks.

Later on, wooden baldricks were substituted. These consisted of a wooden strap, usually of ash, which clasped the crown staple. Between the flats was fixed a wooden block and on it the clapper was bolted.

This style of baldrick was introduced probably at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and after that there are few charges in the accounts for renewing the fitting. But bells with the older style baldrick were still to be found in country villages as late as the middle of the nineteenth century.

The wooden baldrick in its turn was displaced by one consisting of an iron strap lined with leather, and to-day probably the great majority of bells are so fitted, but modern bell hangers use much improved styles, often with ball bearings and counter balances to ensure correct clapping.

In some parishes the custom was for the clerk to receive the fees for the knells (except the high fee charged for the great bell), and out of them he had to provide new baldricks and ropes when they were needed.

The ropes were bought by the pound and, of course, were plain without sallies. In some parishes they were renewed at very frequent intervals. At St. Bartholomew's, by the Exchange in the City of London, for quite a long time it is the exception not to find a charge for bell ropes in the yearly accounts.

It used to be said that in country villages the old bell ropes were the churchwardens' perquisite, and very useful they were on the farm. Perhaps in the City the clerk or the sexton found a ready sale for them, for we seldom find they were disposed of for the benefit of the parish.

One of the fittings occasionally renewed was the 'cottrell.' This was an iron plate with a hole in it, through which the end of the rope was passed and knotted, thus forming a fixing to the wheel, which in early times had developed out of the original lever and was no more than a half-circle.

One or two wheels which were still in use in remote village steeples down to the middle of the nineteenth century were said to have dated from the early fifteenth century. They are illustrated in Lukis' and Ellacombe's books and were excellently made and beautifully moulded. It is probable, however, that they were not older than the seventeenth century.

Entries in the parish accounts relating to the repair and renewal of wheels are very frequent, and, with those relating to the ropes, show how much more strenuous and violent an exercise bellringing was then than now.

The complete wheel that we know to-day is the result of a process of evolution which had several definite stages. First of all there was a simple lever, and at Chiddingington in Buckingham there was lately, and prob-

ably still is, a bell hung on a stock with a mortice cut in it, in which the original lever was fixed.

In the course of time the lever developed into a half-wheel. We can see without much difficulty how that happened. The early clerk or sexton soon discovered that if he nailed a curved piece of wood on the end of his lever so as to make a sort of T he got a much longer and better pull and could swing his bell higher.

Half-wheels answered the purpose quite well during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when ringing was raising, round ringing at frame height, and ceasing; but when, early in the seventeenth century, change ringing was introduced, it was necessary to ring the bells up high enough so they could be held on the balance at handstroke. This was called ringing a 'set pull.'

There were no stays and sliders, and it was quite easy, through unskilful handling, to overthrow a bell, which accounts for its being usually mentioned in old belfry rules. To provide for the needs of change ringing a three-quarter wheel was introduced, and then, later, when method ringing was fully established, full wheels were fitted, which allowed half-pull ringing to be practised. This happened not long after 1660.

A fairly frequent charge was for 'trussing' the bells, that is, tightening them on the stocks. The bell was hung with iron straps called stirrups, which passed through the canons and were fixed with nails to the sides of the stock. Such an arrangement was liable to be affected by the varying expansion and shrinkage of the iron and wood, but the modern bolt and nut was out of the question, for there was no means of cutting a thread.

The gudgeons were round pieces of iron driven into the iron-bound ends of the stock, tightened by wedges

and finished as true as possible by hand with a file. This was the method used down to fairly modern times, and we need not wonder that a bell seldom went well until the brasses were worn slack, or, as the saying went, until the bell had settled to her bearings.

The frames were of oak and were similar in construction to those in general use until the introduction of the modern iron or steel frame. Many of them were excellently designed and made, and there are still quite a number of towers with frames which date from the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries.

The difference between old-style hanging and the modern is the difference between the handicraft of the skilled workman and the mechanical precision of a modern factory. Bells are infinitely better hung to-day than they were in olden times; yet, when the craftsman knew his job, he got the best results from the means at his disposal, and in some cases at any rate the bells went for the practical purposes of change ringing as well as any do now.

#### DEATH OF LORD VESTEY.

Lord Vestey, who with his brother, Sir Edmund Hoyle Vestey, contributed £220,000 for the building of the tower of Liverpool Cathedral, has died at the age of 81. He was born at Liverpool and built up a huge business. He was associated with his brother, Sir Edmund Hoyle Vestey, in shipping, and concentrated on carrying foodstuffs in refrigerated ships.

The company which Lord Vestey directed until his death owns freezing works, cold storage and cattle ranches, and in spite of the expenditure of millions by American interests, he never released his control of the world's meat markets.

He gave generously to Liverpool charities, and in addition to his contribution to the tower, he and Sir Edmund provided for the great bourdon bell to go with the peal of twelve in the Cathedral. This bell is to be about 14½ tons in weight and is to be cast at Loughborough by arrangement between Messrs. Mears and Stainbank and Messrs. Taylor and Co. It was Lord Vestey's desire to hear this bell, but he has died before its casting.

# John Taylor & Co.

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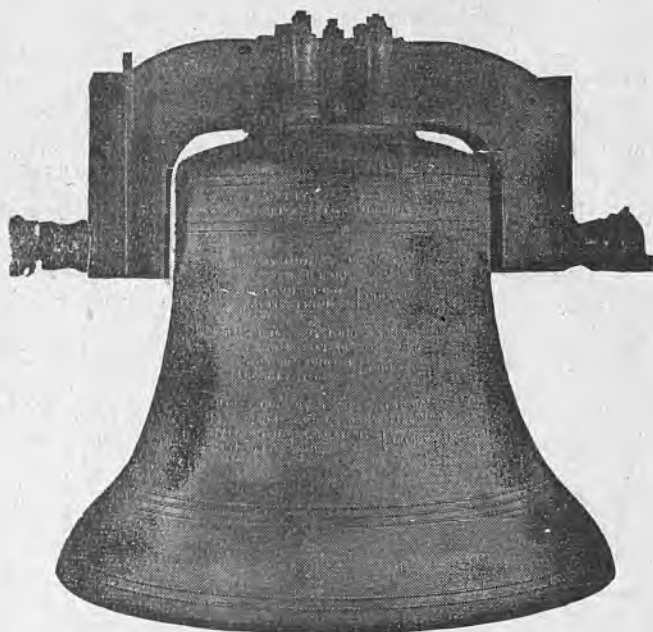
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends will be pleased to know that Mr. A. King, of Luton, Beds, who has been ill for upwards of 18 months, and has been an inmate of the Universities Hospital, London, is now progressing towards recovery and is able to take short walks from his home.

Many interesting peals have been rung at Christmas time. Here are just a few of those rung on Boxing Day: 1760, at Hackney, the first peal of College Exercise Major; 1782, at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, the first peal of London Union Trebles; 1831, at Elland, Yorkshire, 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major; 1871, at Benington, Herts, 6,048 London Surprise Major by 'Squire' Proctor and a band of village residents; 1894, at Crawley, Sussex, 9,312 Superlative Surprise Major; 1901, at St. Martin's, Birmingham, 11,111 Stedman Cinques; 1910, at Cleut, Worcestershire, 9,728 Superlative Surprise Major; 1923, at Walthamstow, Essex, 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal.

Among the notable peals rung on December 27th have been 17,104 Double Norwich Major at South Wigston, Leicestershire, in 1904, and 10,176 of Double Oxford Bob Major at Brierley Hill, Staffs, in 1909.

In 1785, on December 27th, the first peal was rung on the bells of St. Dionis Backchurch, in the City of London. The church was afterwards pulled down and the bells transferred to All Hallows', Lombard Street. Now again they have to find another home, but their destination may shortly be settled.

## THE SHEFFIELD RAID.

We are informed that all the peals of bells in Sheffield have come safely through the two series of raids on that city, and that, as far as can be ascertained, all the ringers are safe.

## ANOTHER LONDON CHURCH DAMAGED.

A well-known London church, south of the river, was bombed and badly damaged on a recent Sunday night. Formerly the headquarters of a now moribund London society, it was the centre of tremendous peal ringing activity before the last war. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis have been instructing a band of ladies there recently. The band was formed from members of a London County Council Education Institute.

## THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'TELLER.'

A RECANTATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to see Mr. Young's letter confirming my statement that the old English word 'teller' meant one who counts, but, in the light of fresh evidence and especially Mr. Hibbert's letter, I feel I was wrong when I suggested that the death bell 'tellers' were originally the strokes which gave the age of the dead person. A very early secondary meaning of the word 'tell' was to announce or to relate, which is almost the only present-day meaning. The death bell 'tellers' evidently were the strokes that announced who was dead. This does not affect my contention that the proverb about the nine tailors has nothing whatever to do with the death knell.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

## HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The suggestion which has been made to ring handbells in church is quite a novel one, for though it has been often done at ringers' services, it is a new thing for the general services of the church.

There seem to be many things to be said in its favour and quite a number against it. I myself rather like the sound of handbells, but I cannot quite make up my mind whether I should like them in church. After all, there is usually an organ and an organist, and, except on very special and rare occasions, the organ is the proper instrument to be used for voluntaries, not handbells rung as they would usually be by persons of very indifferent skill.

But the point of this letter is to ask any who may have tried out the idea to let us know how it went off. If ringers do ring handbells in church we may be sure that they will be thanked and told how much the congregation enjoyed the music. That we may take for granted, but if the ringing is appreciated the ringers will be asked for more. But if not, then not.

It would be interesting to hear of a band who rang for service and were asked to repeat the performance. 'NEMO.'

## HOW A PEAL OF STEDMAN WAS LOST.

MR. JAMES HUNT'S EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—About 40 years ago the late Rev. F. E. Robinson offered me a rope in an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples at Yorktown in Surrey.

The ringing is done from the ground floor and an oak screen divides the belfry from the church. A good start was made, but after ringing just over an hour an awful noise came from the organ (simply an awful noise, not playing). Just then the 6th man missed his last whole turn, and Mr. Robinson shouted rather loudly, 'Last whole turn six.' The organ stopped, and the man who had been messing with it came to the screen, shouted twice, 'Last whole turn six,' 'Last whole turn six,' and pushed a walking stick through the screen towards the 6th man. That finished it. The person responsible was slightly inebriated.

J. HUNT.

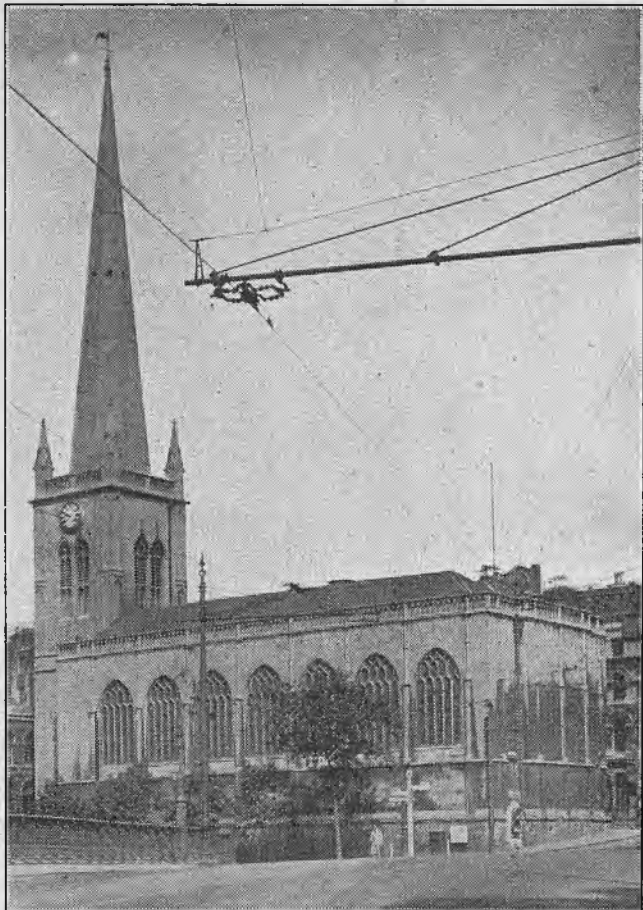


## DAMAGE TO BRISTOL'S CHURCHES. ST. NICHOLAS' AND ST. ANDREW'S BELLS LOST.

### Buildings Destroyed but Towers Remain.

Damage to a number of Bristol churches was done in the heavy raid made by the enemy on the night of November 24th.

Ringers throughout England and especially the large number who know Bristol and its bells will regret to read



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BRISTOL,  
with its spire, 205ft. high, as it stood before the great air raid  
on the city.

of the way in which some of the famous rings have fared. We are now permitted by the Censor to give the following details.

#### ST. NICHOLAS' (BRISTOL BRIDGE).

The body of the church and the tower has been completely destroyed by fire; the shell of the tower remains standing and the four walls of the church. Only three of the trebles remain hung in the tower, and all the other bells have been melted by intense heat. The wooden floor of the ringing chamber has gone and it is possible to look right up into the spire and see part of the clock mechanism and what remains of the bells and frame.

St. Nicholas' was a peal of ten, tenor 36 cwt., and was often referred to as the most musical and best peal of ten in the city. All the peal boards containing many interesting records have been burnt, while a peal of handbells belonging to the church has also gone.

#### ST. ANDREW'S (PARISH CHURCH, CLIFTON).

St. Andrew's has probably received more damage than any other church in Bristol. It was entirely burnt out by incendiary bombs and all the eight bells have been melted, leaving little trace of their existence among the debris.

These bells were probably the best peal of eight in the city and were only rehung by Mears and Stainbank about four or five years

ago. The tenor was 12 cwt. Many Surprise peals were rung there years ago, and this tower was the home of a steadily progressing young band under the leadership of the late Mr. Stephen H. Wood.

#### ST. PETER'S (CITY).

Only three months ago St. Peter's was made the regular headquarters of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. The church has received severe damage.

The tower and walls remain standing, but the peal of eight bells (tenor 18 cwt.) has shared a similar fate to those of St. Nicholas' and Clifton. Only two bells are now hanging dangerously in the frame. Whether the rest have been melted or have only crashed to the ground is not yet known, but the church is a complete wreck.

#### ST. MARY-LE-PORT.

Only 30 yards away from St. Nicholas', this church also received hits by incendiary and high explosive bombs. Hardly any of the church walls remain, but the tower still stands, although it shows signs of damage at the base. It has not been possible to obtain any definite information regarding the full extent of the damage caused, or to ascertain whether the interior of the tower has been burnt out or the bells destroyed. This church was among the oldest in Bristol and it was on these bells that the first uncondacted peal in the city was rung about the year 1921.

#### TEMPLE CHURCH (VICTORIA STREET).

This church, famous for its leaning tower, has been gutted with fire, and it is now feared that the tower is unsafe. Nothing remains of the interior of the church, but it appears from the outside that the tower is intact and the peal of eight are unhurt.

#### ST. THOMAS' (VICTORIA STREET).

St. Thomas' has been more fortunate than the other churches mentioned. The adjoining Parish Hall received the attention of an incendiary bomb and was burnt out, but the church remains unscarred except for a small hole in the roof. The top of the tower was hit and there is a hole approximately 4ft. by 6ft. Unfortunately the bells were up and are full of water from the firemen's hose. The lead of the roof has melted and has fallen on the wooden frame and the bells. Owing to a crack in the stone stairs it is feared that the tower will prove unsafe for ringing purposes, but no authoritative opinions have yet been passed.

#### HOLY NATIVITY (KNOWLE).

The church received hits by incendiary bombs and has been destroyed. It is not possible to give any information regarding the state of the tower and bells.

Our readers will be pleased to hear that the church and tower of St. Mary Redcliffe has not received any damage, and the peal of twelve (tenor 52 cwt.) are ready to ring for victory when the time comes.

#### RINGERS' HOMES DAMAGED.

The homes of a number of Bristol ringers were badly damaged in the great raid on that city.

Bombs which fell within a few yards of the home of Mr. Edgar Guise, hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, rendered the house uninhabitable, by demolishing a considerable portion of the roof. Mr. Guise had a narrow escape. Mrs. Guise and their daughter had gone to a shelter, but Mr. Guise, with two neighbours, were at home. One of the visitors was an aged friend, and in the middle of the blitz the two younger men had to carry the older man on their backs to the shelter. Although Mr. Guise has had temporarily to leave his home, it remains his postal address.

Among those who have also suffered damage to their homes in Bristol are Mr. J. A. Burford, Mr. A. E. Reeves, Mr. W. Knight and Mr. A. M. Tyler, hon. secretary of Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. All, however, are personally safe.

The presence of mind of Mrs. Pierce and her daughter saved the home of another ringer, Mr. A. Pierce, from complete destruction. A fire bomb crashed through the roof on to a bed. Mrs. Pierce and her daughter, with great courage, promptly tackled it, by gathering up the bomb in the bed clothes and hurling the lot through the window.

Mr. Donald Cliff had some exciting experiences. He was caught in the centre of the 'blitz.' How many times he lay down under walls and in the gutter during the two hours in which he was trying to reach home he does not remember, but he does recollect jumping over a high wall, together with a warden, to escape bombs which began to fall on the opposite side of the street. Having since passed the wall again he wonders how they managed to climb it. Although much shaken by the time he reached home, he has since been able to get a laugh out of an otherwise dangerous situation.

In the Coventry raid Mr. and Mrs. J. H. W. White had their roof badly damaged, ceilings blown down and windows blown in. They are now temporarily residing with Mr. and Mrs. Dexter at Leicester.

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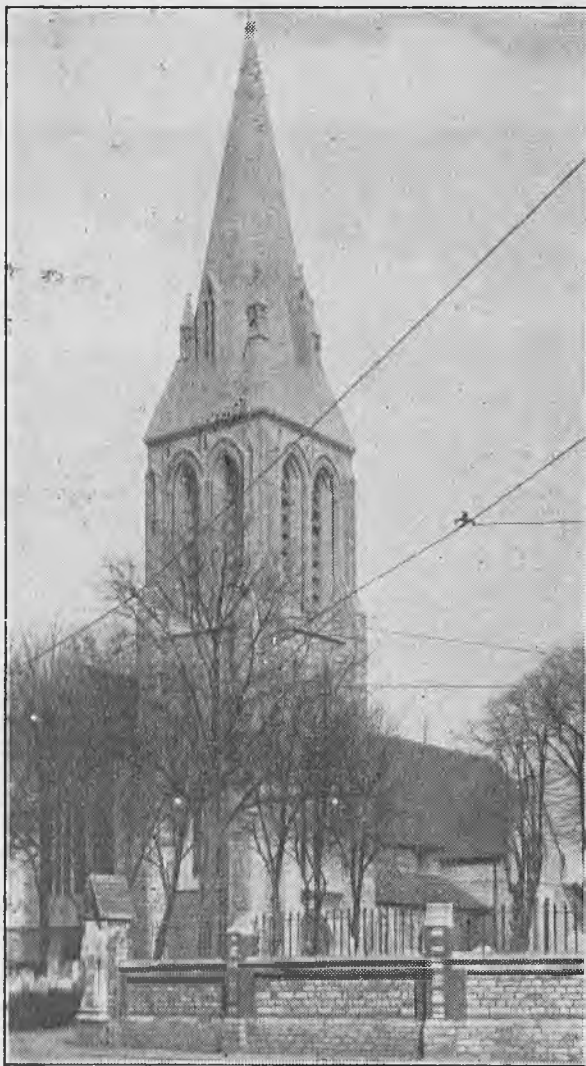
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## SOUTHAMPTON CHURCHES.

ST. MARY'S A RUIN, BUT BELLS STILL IN POSITION.

**St. Michael's Unharmed.**

During recent air raids on Southampton seven C. of E. churches were totally destroyed, and several others more or less seriously damaged. Among those destroyed were St. Mary's and Holy Rood, which contained rings of bells.



THE FINE TOWER AND SPIRE OF ST. MARY'S STILL PROUDLY STANDING.

St. Mary's Church was destroyed by fire, but the tower and steeple still stand, and the bells, which are in an iron frame firmly fixed in the walls, are in position, but everything that would burn was consumed. It is not yet known if the terrific heat damaged the metal of the bells.

The tower contained a ring of ten bells, with a tenor of 22 cwt., and were a fine peal. The octave was placed in the tower just before the outbreak of war in 1914. The two trebles to complete the ring of ten were dedicated on January 13th, 1934. All the bells were the product of the Loughborough Foundry.

A number of peals have been rung upon them, the last being 'Treble Ten' on July 19th, 1939, conducted by C. H. Kippin.

Holy Rood was destroyed by high explosive bombs. The steeple and bells crashed into the street and were destroyed.

The bells were a ring of eight with a tenor of 16 cwt., and were placed in the tower in 1742 by Thomas Lester. Since then several have been recast, and in 1935 the sixth was recast and the whole peal rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

(Continued in next column.)

## SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Christmas Day was the ninety-first anniversary of the birth of Arthur Percival Heywood, who holds a position in the history of the Exercise which is not quite paralleled by that of any other man.

A country gentleman, a magistrate and the heir of a wealthy baronet, he naturally took a leading part among ringers, and to his social advantages were added intellectual qualities of an uncommon order, and an aptitude and skill in ringing both on its practical and its theoretical sides.

He rang and conducted many peals in methods such as London, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, Double Oxford Major, Double Norwich Royal and Duffield Major, Royal and Maximus, and that at a time when method ringing was not developed to anything like the same extent it was later on.

But it was in two matters that he was particularly eminent. He was the founder of the Central Council and its first president, and to him it owed almost entirely its success in the early days.

He had begun to take an interest in ringing during the eighties of the last century and he very quickly turned his attention to composition and matters connected with the science. He composed peals in almost every method which was practised in his time, but his name will be specially associated with Stedman Triples. In conjunction with Henry Earle Bulwer he made a most thorough investigation into the construction of the twin-bob peals in that method, and the result was published first of all in the pages of 'The Bell News' and later on in C. D. P. Davies' book on Stedman in the Jasper Snowden series of text books.

In order to promote ringing on ten and twelve bells, Arthur Heywood brought out a new method, which he called 'Duffield,' after the village where he lived, and he published a book on the method, which in many respects is almost the best we have. Unfortunately, the method has failed to take the place in the ringers' repertoire that its author expected.

Towards the end of his life, after he had succeeded to the baronetcy, his peal ringing career largely came to an end, but until the last his interest in the Central Council never slackened, and he was president when he died on April 19th, 1916, in his 66th year.

## STEDMAN TRIPLES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Whilst in London during the later part of last century, someone told me (I forget who) that he was told by somebody else that the late Mr. James W. Washbrook called a peal of Stedman Triples with the treble a quick bell throughout.

If this rumour was correct, which I am rather inclined to doubt, the figures of such a peal of Stedman Triples would be highly interesting.

G. E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich

## ONLY REMAINING RING IN SOUTHAMPTON.

(Continued from previous column.)

Several peals had been rung on the bells, the first believed to be Grandsire Triples in 1863. The last was Double Norwich Major on May 10th, 1939, conducted by A. P. Cannon.

When the bells crashed from the tower the spire went, too, bringing down the well-known ship which served as the weather cock.

Before the war the oldest records of Holy Rood were taken to Bransgore and entrusted to the care of the Rev. W. C. Edwards (the Vicar), formerly a curate at St. James' (Docks), Southampton. It is expected that other records will be recovered from safes intact amid the debris.

The old church of Holy Rood, or St. Cross, was built on the site of the ancient Audit House, but after being allowed to fall into ruin was removed in 1324 to the site on which the remains now stand.

Philip of Spain attended Mass there in 1554 before going on to Winchester to marry Queen Mary. The body of David Livingstone rested in Holy Rood for a night on its last journey to Westminster.

To-day what was once the vestry is now a heap of broken bell metal, bricks and stonework.

At the eastern end of the church, spreadeagled, lies the most historic piece of work among the church ornaments—the lectern. The eagle, minus one wing, is otherwise undamaged. The base, with lions at each corner, will probably be salvaged, too.

There is one feature about the destruction of Holy Rood that is curious. Many people will remember the little golden cross, inset in a paving stone outside the church. It marks the spot where a mass of masonry fell one day, when High Street was crowded, without injuring anyone.

The cross is still there, and no debris covered the spot.

St. Michael's is the only church now remaining in Southampton with a ring of bells. There are an octave with a tenor of 17 cwt., which were all recast and rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1925. So far this church has only suffered minor damage.

It is believed that all the ringers in and around Southampton are safe, and Mr. George Williams is still going strong.

North Stincham Church has had another lucky escape. An incendiary bomb crashed through the roof and set fire to the organ and pews, but the church was saved from certain destruction by prompt action by a fire fighting squad.

## SHROPSHIRE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sending a short summary of our Shropshire bells, which may be of interest, now that there is rather a dearth of ringing news. We have one ring of twelve, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury (tenor 39 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb.), and two of ten, St. Mary's, Shrewsbury (tenor 21 cwt.), and Coalbrookdale (tenor 19 cwt.).

There are 21 rings of eight, the heaviest at Ludlow (tenor 22½ cwt. in D) and the lightest at St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth (tenor 8½ cwt.), the average weight of the tenors at these eight-bell towers is approximately 14½ cwt.

All the above are in more or less good order and are pealable, although there are some half-dozen places where for one reason or another peals are barred or can only be attempted on rare occasions.

The Briant eight at St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, although in good going order, have not been rung for the last 20 years owing to the oscillation of the spire. The last peal rung on them was Stedman Triples on February 17th, 1913, half-muffled as a token of respect to Capt. Scott and the party who lost their lives in the Antarctic Expedition.

In addition to the above there are two sets of eight hung dead at Shrewsbury Abbey Church, and in the new tower of St. George's Parish Church, near Wellington.

There are 56 rings of six, the heaviest at Clive (tenor 25 cwt. 9 lb.), the lightest most probably being at Church Pulverbatch, where the diameter of the tenor is only 31½ ins., and cannot therefore be over 6 cwt. according to Rudhall's usual standard. St. Michael's, Shrewsbury, are also very light. They are hung in a two-tier frame in the narrow octagonal tower. The majority of these sixes are pealable, though there are a few which are not and three or four which are considered unsafe and are clocked.

Of the 13 rings of five, Leaton are the heaviest (tenor 14½ cwt.), and the lightest Tibberton, where the tenor is 29 ins. diameter and weighs about 5 cwt. and the lightest tenor in the county (excluding rings of four, several of which are of smaller diameter). The heaviest of the four-bell tenors is Baschurch, 13 cwt.

There are also three large 'Bourbon' bells, one at Tong (46 cwt.), known as The Great Bell of Tong, another at Richard's Castle on the Herefordshire border (41 cwt. 2 qr. 5 lb.), and one weighing about 40 cwt. recently installed at Christ Church, Wellington. The Rudhall family cast many peals for the county. The earliest six they cast are Stanton Lacy (1693) and the last Chetton (1827).

E. V. RODENHURST.

## DEATH OF MR ALFRED BURGESS.

FORMERLY CAPTAIN AT ST. MICHAEL'S, BASINGSTOKE.

The death occurred on December 5th of Mr. Alfred Burgess at the advanced age of 88 years. Mr. Burgess spent his ringing career at Alton and later at Basingstoke, where in 1917 he succeeded the late Mr. Henry White as captain in St. Michael's tower. Mr. Burgess had rung a number of peals and he continued to take an active interest in ringing until about four years ago, when, on the death of his wife, he went to live with his son at Tonbridge, Kent, where he died.

It was Mr. Burgess' custom to celebrate his birthday by ringing a quarter-peal, the last occasion being on February 16th, 1935, when he celebrated his 83rd birthday. The old gentleman, who was of striking appearance, was handicapped by deafness and failing sight in the latter years of his life and he recently became totally blind.

## THE BAN ON RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With regard to the ban on ringing, there is a most important aspect that has been overlooked by all your correspondents.

We are agreed that ringing in itself is an act of worship. By imposing a ban on ringing the State has forbidden ringers to worship God in the way that they feel best able.

This freedom to worship God has been the proud boast of this country for many, many years. Yet with a stroke of the pen the State, with the acquiescence of the Church, has destroyed this, the most precious freedom we have.

Individual protests have appeared to make no impression upon the State. Cannot ringers as a body, led by the Central Council, demand that this ancient freedom of worship be restored to us at once? Our religious freedom must come before the military expediency of the State.

G. P. ELPHICK.

Lewes.

J. A.  
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'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

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'THE RINGING WORLD'

LOWER PYRFORD ROAD  
WOKING, SURREY.

## BILL ONCE MORE. COMMENTS ON MANY SUBJECTS.

Last week I cycled over to the village of —. As I have mentioned before, the village mustn't be named, because my old friend Bill has a mortal dread that any reference to it will bring a horde of enemy planes to bomb it and its church and Bill to bits. Anyhow I cycled over to see Bill, more for the sake of something to do on a spare Saturday afternoon than to see Bill, but a visit to Bill did give me one object, so to speak.

The last time I had seen him he was as a tin-hatted member of the A.R.P., who, from the church stokehole, which was his 'dug-out,' kept a look out for incendiary and other bombs. Now he has joined the Home Guard because, as he says, who better than he could ring the bells if the Germans come? He wasn't going to let a lot of highly coloured amateurs mess about with his bells, not if he knew it, and so he decided that for the safety of the bells and the village he would become a Home Guard.

I found him in his woodshed, practising bayonet drill—at least, that's what he called it—upon a well-stuffed sack of straw hanging on a piece of cord. He had been putting in some good work. I should think, for 'his brow was wet with honest sweat,' like the village blacksmith's, but at the moment I popped my head in the door, possibly because I had popped my head in the door, he 'scored a miss,' and his face and the sack of straw met in violent opposition. What would have happened had that sack of straw been a real German and Bill had missed the mark, I shudder to think. I fancy there would have been a vacancy in the local band.

Bill was seemingly very glad of my appearance as an excuse for dismissing himself from his bayonet drill. He fell out and we sat down to chat over a pipe of tobacco. Bill was full of his new-found job. He was a something or other (it may have been a Major-General or a Rear-Admiral, I couldn't quite make out which) in the Home Guard, specially detailed to ring the bells and hold the belfry against all comers, Germans or otherwise (the otherwise being more likely than the Germans), and to die in the last ditch if necessary—assuming that you can have a last ditch in a belfry.

There is always this about a chat with Bill, Bill will do all the chatting unless you make a determined effort to interpose a remark or two. It wasn't difficult, however, to get Bill from the topic of the Home Guard to the question of church towers as military objectives and then back to his favourite topic of bells and ringing. There is no doubt that Bill really misses his ringing—he had told me this before, and he told me again now in a speech that took at least ten minutes without stopping for breath. Bill is still intensely annoyed at the ban, but he seems even more annoyed that somebody doesn't do something about it.

There's the associations and the Central Council, the parsons, the bishops and the archbishops all sitting around and doing nothing—abse—blooming—lutely nothing,' he said. 'And the bells and the ringers are getting rusty for want of use, and what for? Because' (and these are Bill's own words) 'they're afraid a few lousy Germans will drop from the skies.'

When I could get Bill away from this theme I asked him his opinion on one or two subjects that have been discussed in 'The Ringing World' lately, such as 'Ball Bearings versus Plain Bearings.' About the rival merits of these Bill said he didn't care two hoots (he didn't say two hoots, but something just as expressive). All that mattered to him was whether a bell went well, and I fancy that is the opinion of quite a lot of ringers.

Then I asked him what he thought about the question of what makes a good method, not that his opinion is worth much anyway, but Bill likes to be thought something of a critic in these things and it flatters his vanity when he thinks his younger friends are seeking his views. He was prepared to tell me exactly what constitutes a good method, but I am afraid either he was not very lucid, or I am a bit dense.

He said he liked a method with a good beat to it, not too easy and not too hard, with plenty of good hunting in it and places where you get the big bells on the front and the little 'uns out behind—dum, dum, dum, da, da, de, de, de, he went, trying to warble up the scale, with variations, by way of illustration. Then he liked to have places in the course where the bells worked twiddle-bits around each other, and he liked to hear the tenors roll up behind with plenty of 6-7-8's.

Well, for what it's worth I pass this on to those who will have the task of picking out the best methods from the Collection that may some day see the light, although I am afraid it will not be yet awhile. It may be that Bill himself will have passed out of the Home Guard before that is possible, unless these methods—will they be best sellers?—appear in the columns of 'The Ringing World.'

We sat a long time in Bill's woodshed, sat indeed until black-out descended and Bill's wife came out and wanted to know whether he was coming in to tea to-day or to-morrow. I joined them at tea, and as soon as we respectably could we 'had one' at the—no, the mention of any names is still taboo. Then I wished Bill 'a merry Christmas,' and immediately wished I hadn't. 'A merry Christmas,' retorted Bill, 'and who the heck is going to have a merry Christmas with no bells to ring?' And then he began all over again, about Hitler, and the ban, and—well everything except a merry Christmas. One thing is quite certain, if Bill's wishes come true, not even Hitler will have a merry Christmas.

O.P.Q.



## PEALS OF STEDMAN CATERS.

### A NEW PLAN OF COMPOSITION.

By C. W. ROBERTS.

In the following article, I wish to place before the Exercise a few peals of Stedman Caters, on a plan which does not seem to have received much attention from composers. Before describing this plan and giving a few examples, I should like to give a description of the various types of courses which I have used, together with their musical qualities, and other characteristics.

It is now generally accepted by composers and conductors of peals of Stedman Caters that the best music in peals is produced by a combination of courses in the tittum (9.7.8. course-ends) and the handstroke-home (8.7.9 course-ends) positions of the large bells. In the great majority of peals the 7th, 8th and 9th are fixed bells, and are unaffected by calls, except when the bells are called into the tittum position at the beginning of a peal, or turned to the handstroke-home position at a later stage.

In addition to these three fixed bells, a bell is usually fixed in second's place. This bell appears in this position at each course-end, and, like the other fixed bells, is unaffected by calls, except those which are necessary to call it into second's place, or to move it to some other position. Although not essential, a fixed second's place bell greatly facilitates composition, as it dominates the internal falseness to which Stedman is liable, and simplifies proof.

For purely musical reasons, another bell, nearly always the 5th or 6th, is fixed in fifth's place at the course-ends, and is said to be 'behind the 9th or 8th,' according to whether the large bells are in the tittum or handstroke-home position, because it follows one or other of these bells behind after each course-end.

The first course of a peal, in which the large bells are nearly always placed in the tittum position, is known as the 'going-off' course, and that in which they are changed to the handstroke-home position, as the 'turning-course.' The second's place bell is usually placed in this position in the going-off course.

The courses which form the body of the peal generally have the fixed bells arranged in one of the following ways: In the tittum position:—

- (a) Either the treble, 2nd or 3rd in second's place, and the 6th in fifth's place, or
- (b) The 6th in second's place, and the 5th in fifth's place.

In courses (a) very musical course-ends are produced, as the small bells are always on the front at the course-ends, and the 6th, following the 9th behind, gives a 9-6 at the second six of each course.

In courses (b), the course-ends are not quite so musical, but this is to some extent compensated by the improved music in the interior of courses, produced when the 6th dodges behind with the 8th and 9th, giving a 6-8 at the seventh, and a 9-6 at the thirteenth, six, of each course.

The extent of either (a) or (b) when used separately in a peal is twenty-four courses, twelve in-course and twelve out-of-course.

In the handstroke-home position the fixed bells are nearly always arranged as in tittum position (a), except that after each course-end the 6th follows the 8th behind, giving an 8-6 at the second six of each course. This arrangement gives the best music of which this position is capable. Like the tittum position (a), its extent is twenty-four courses, twelve in and twelve out-of-course. There are many other musical arrangements of the fixed bells, including some without a fixed second's place bell, which increases the extent with a fixed fifth's place bell to forty courses, but those which I have described are the only ones which come within the scope of this article.

In the composition of peals the most usual plan is to commence with twenty-four courses of tittum position (a), and to conclude with sufficient courses in the handstroke-home position to make up a peal. On this plan the 6th is fixed in fifth's place, throughout the peal, and the music is uniformly good. Occasionally tittum position (b) is used instead of (a), but peals on this plan are not so numerous.

So long as either tittum position (a) or (b) is used exclusively in the composition of a peal, in conjunction with the handstroke-home position, there is no liability to internal falseness, and to ensure the truth of a peal on this plan it is only necessary to make sure that the going-off and turning courses do not repeat with themselves, each other, or the courses which form the body of the peal, and also to take care that only true callings are used to join up the courses which form the main part of this type of composition.

If, however, one wishes to introduce both tittum position (a) and (b) into one composition, great care must be taken in selecting the courses to be used, as the combination of these two types of tittum course introduces internal falseness. Many years ago, an old London composer produced a peal, embodying both types of course, but it was soon found to be false internally, and since then no one seems to have troubled about this class of composition.

I have, during recent years, made a careful investigation into the two varieties of tittum course, and I have found that it is possible to use a large proportion of the two groups of twenty-four courses in the construction of peals, provided that certain simple rules are observed. From these courses, combined with some courses in the handstroke-home position, many interesting peals may be produced, and, after describing where the false course-ends, between the two

groups, may be found, I will give some examples together with a few remarks on their construction and qualities.

On writing out the six-ends, and comparing the positions of the fixed bells of courses in groups (a) and (b), it will be found that there is only one place where repetition can possibly occur. Under certain conditions the seventeenth six of a course in group (a) will repeat with the seventeenth six of a course in group (b). Two of the repeating sixes are as follows:—

(a)	(b)
561 94 83 72	156 94 83 72
651 49 38 27	516 49 38 27
615 94 83 72	561 94 83 72
165 49 38 27	651 49 38 27
156 94 83 72	615 94 83 72
516 49 38 27	165 49 38 27

These belong respectively to the courses 514362978, group (a), and 164352978, group (b). On comparing these two course-ends, it will be seen that the same three bells fall into third's, fourth's and sixth's place, in both of them.

This, as pointed out by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies in his book on 'Stedman,' and in the new edition of the same work by J. A. Trollope, gives a simple rule for finding out the false course-ends between these two groups of courses. Taking first the in-course course-ends in groups (a) and (b), and then the out-of-course ones, and making a note of those in which the bells in third's, fourth's and sixth's place are the same, six pairs of repeating sixes reveal themselves. Three pairs of them are in-course, and three are out-of-course. They are to be found in the following courses:—

In-Course	(a)	is false against	(b)
514362978	512463	is false against	164352978
	513264	is false against	162453
			163254
Out-of-Course		is false against	
	514263	is false against	164253
	513462	is false against	163452
	512364	is false against	162354

From these figures it will be seen that if any seventeenth six of a course in the first column is used, the seventeenth six of the corresponding course in the second column must be eliminated, and vice versa. After deleting the six false course-ends, forty-two complete courses are left which may safely be used for composition. Parts of the false courses may also be used, if required, provided the false seventeenth six does not occur. From these true courses, and parts of the false ones, the following peals have been arranged.

The first of the peals has 24 course-ends of position (b), and 18 of position (a), the extent on this plan. It concludes with 5 courses in the handstroke-home position, with the three in-course 65's.

The second peal has 12-courses of position (a), 24 courses of position (b) and 11 courses in the handstroke-home position, with all the 6-5's.

No. 1.	5,043.	No. 2.	5,067.
231456	4 5 6 11 16	231456	5 11 13 16
364251978	A	124365978	A
463152	—	423165	—
362154	—	321465	—
264153	—	324165	S
461253	—	421365	—
163254	—	125364	—
361452	—		
362451	S		
263154	—	261453	— S S —
364152	—	163452	—
462153	—	362451	—
261453	—	264351	—
163452	—	461352	—
361254	—	461253	S
		163254	—
315264	—	364251	—
314562	—	462351	—
412563	—	261354	—
213564	—	213465879	B
312465	—	314265	—
315462	—	412365	—
21564	—	413265	S
214563	—	312465	—
413562	—	214365	—
314265	—		
413265879	B		
312465	—		
214365	—		

A = 2.4.6.10.11.12.13.16.  
B = 4.5.6.8.11.13.14.

Peal No. 3 contains similar qualities to No. 2, in a reduced number of changes. Its going-off course consists of 7 sixes only, and is probably the shortest possible in the method.

In peal No. 4, 24 courses of position (b) are joined to 12 courses of position (a) by a special course in which the 7th, 8th and 9th each make a bob. It concludes with the usual eleven courses in the handstroke position.

(Continued in next column.)



**MR. P. AMOS AND THE M.P.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Amos is a great soul. Singlehanded he has ventured upon and done what no one else could have done, neither the Central Council, nor the associations, nor the parsons, nor anyone else. The Government decided that church bells shall not be rung except in case of invasion. Their intentions were good, if perhaps somewhat misplaced, but they made a big mistake. They did not consult Mr. Amos. Naturally he could not let that sort of thing go by without rebuke, and his opportunity came when an unfortunate individual, who happened to be a Parliamentary candidate, offered to listen to people in the constituency who had any important question they wished to raise. You don't get into Parliament without having to pay a price.

So Mr. Amos told him what was in his mind, and gave him his orders, which it seemed he (not being yet a Member) promised to give heed to.

This should mean the defeat of the Anti-Noise League, the Petainists and the advocates of appeasements, and incidentally cause the War Office to rescind an Order deliberately issued and which so far they hold to be necessary.

It should have this effect, but will it? I imagine that the net result is that an unoffending gentleman has been bored stiff, and that is all.

F. H. SMITH.

**LAVE UN TU IT.***To Mister Iditer.*

Dere Zur,—It zeems tu I that ivery time I takes me pen inta me 'and tu rite to ee it is in anser ta one of these yer fellers wots allus a zending a lot a ole rummage to be printed in yer paper. This time I reckon tis Mister Amos who is a talkin thru is 'at.

Ee zays as ow us let they guvment fellers stop us a ringin our bells an doant make no effort tu get em a-goin agin. Doant ee know as zum o' the rale brass 'ats 'ave bin a-writin and a telephonin tu the War Offis an zuch places about it fer wicks an wicks past. One ov our fellers, as went to thicky artemnoon dinner affair that the Collidge of Youths ad a vew wicks ago, telled I as 'ow Mister Fletcher was there an ee explaind like wot ce ad dun towards it an ow things was a-going on. I zeed thicky Fletcher chap onet an ee struck I as a rale good un fer tu bull-dog the War Offis a bit. Lave un alone tu it, zays I tu the rest on 'em, an ee'll git em tu alter ther minds if anybody can.

And then Mister Amos ups an zays as ee explaind all about it tu a feller wot was a tryin tu git elected inta parlyment, an the feller promised un ee'd zee about it an now ees a waitin ta yeer the result. Why, doant Mister Amos know be now that they candadate fellers ull promise ee the moon tu git thee tu vote vor em—an then fergit all about it arter they 'ave got inn. Why, dang it, Maister put up for Parish Council onet an promised I a rise een wages if I voted vor un. I voted vor un an ee got een all right. That were fifteen year ago an I be still waitin vor me rise.

Wot a mercy twere thicky icendary bomb niver spoiled they bells o' Mister Willum Willson's. I yeerd em a ringin onet. They be a voine peal an twould be a shame for anythin tu happen to they.—Yourne Respeckfully,

R. EVERGREEN.

Lower Ditchwater Varm, Waterditch.  
Zadderday Night.

**OTHER PEALS.**

(Continued from previous column.)

No. 3.	5,001.	No. 4.	5,041.
123456	5 6 11 13 16	231456	5 16
541362978	A	261453978	A
421365	—	263154	3 —
123465	—	463251	2 —
324165	—	461352	3 —
423165	—	462153	3 —
321465	—	264153	— S
124365	—	263451	3 —
425361	—	163254	2 —
		164352	3 —
		162453	3 —
264153	— S S —		
463152	—	413562	B
362154	—	412365	—
261354	—	213465	— 2
164352	—	312465	— 2
164253	S —	312465	S 2
463251	—	214365	— 2
361254	—	413265	— 2
162354	—	213465879	C
264351	—	312465	— 2
534261879	B	412365	— 2
431265	—	413265	S 2
132465	—	312465	— 2
234165	—	214365	— 2
432165	—		
231465	—	A=1.2.3.4.6.7.8.9.12S.13.	
134265	—	B=4.5.7.10.12.14.	
		C=2.3.5.6.10.	

A=2.4.8.5.7. (starting with a quick six).  
B=1.2.8.10.13.14.16.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, Dec. 28th. Handbells and silent tower bells available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Arrangements for tea will be made. Business meeting 6.15 p.m. Further ringing till 7.30 p.m. 'Bells may not be rung, but they still may be swung.'—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Annual meeting will be held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941, at 4 p.m. prompt; followed by tea. Handbell practice and social evening to follow. Please notify regarding tea not later than Jan. 1st.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—Annual meeting at Ashby Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1941. Handbells available at 3 p.m., followed by business meeting at 4 p.m. in Vestry. It is hoped to arrange tea afterwards. Please make an effort to attend.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Wanstead on January 4th, in the Schoolroom, at 3 o'clock. Handbells will be available. Outstanding subscriptions will be gratefully received at this meeting.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Hugglescote on Saturday, January 4th. Handbells in Schoolroom (near church) from 2.30. Meeting and convivial at Castle Inn 6 p.m. Business to include election of district officers for 1941, etc. Owing to catering difficulties, tea cannot be arranged, but it is hoped to obtain light refreshments afterwards. Will all towers please see that they are represented at this meeting. Other ringers cordially invited.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Committee meet 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m., followed by tea and convivial, handbells, etc. Fuller details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch.—*Important Notice.*—The branch annual meeting, usually held on the third Saturday in January, is postponed until Saturday, April 19th, 1941.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

One peal each of 8 and 10. Tenors size 12.—T. Miller, 21a, Smith Street, Hockley, Birmingham.

**GREETINGS.**

Hearty good wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends near and far, from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Fidler, Loughborough. To all friends. Greetings and good wishes for the New Year.

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