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LONDON'S LOSSES—AND THE FUTURE

Londoners who love the churches of the city, and the millions of others who hold those hallowed places in reverent respect, even though they may never have entered their portals, have learned with horror of the unforgivable vandalism of the Germans who, in their hate and probably despair of bringing England to her knees, endeavoured to fire the city, and in that endeavour brought destruction upon at least nine of the city churches. Next to the loss of life and the destruction of hospitals, the devastation of churches probably strikes at the hearts and raises the wrath of the people more than anything else, and in no previous raid over the metropolis, as far as we know, has so much damage been done to those sacred buildings as was done on Sunday. It is indeed a sad tale of loss. Two of the churches, St. Lawrence Jewry and St. Bride's, Fleet Street, are world famous, and by all ringers are held in an honoured place among the churches of London.

This wanton destruction is part of the price we have to pay in the fight for freedom against tyranny, part of the price which is involved in saving the very faith for which the churches have stood as witness for hundreds of years. But the churches will rise again; the barbarian has never stamped out the faith born nineteen hundred and forty years ago, nor will he to-day. The faith will never die, and all his vandalism will come to nought, for the undying spirit of the British people will only be stirred to greater effort by this vicious attempt to fire the city and with it the treasures handed down to us through the centuries. The fury of the Germans in their disappointment will avail them nothing. Britain, with London at its core, stands steady as a rock, and the pointless and indiscriminate murder and destruction which are being perpetrated will some day bring their retribution.

The new year upon which we have just entered may, indeed probably will, inflict upon us all even grimmer trials, and as ringers we still have to forego our own particular service to the Church and the practice of our art. The Archbishop of Canterbury, it is learned, made strong representations to the Secretary of War for the shifting of the ban for Christmas and the Sunday services, but the reply has been that there are still military reasons for its maintenance. In view of this, there is no immediate prospect of the sounding of the church bells, except in the face of a national danger, and all who love the sound of bells must endeavour to possess their souls in patience. In the meantime ringers in the towers are gradually diminishing in numbers; the call to arms is taking away the younger men. Those who remain, how-

(Continued on page 2.)

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ever, need not abandon hope. There is a task to be done in the coming year. Everywhere there should be an effort made to teach new ringers. They can be taught how to handle a rope, on a clapperless bell; they can be instructed in change ringing by the use of handbells. Whatever happens, we ought to make sure that we have enough men and women, boys or girls, in our towers to ring the bells when victory is assured, and if the present enforced silence is not conducive to teaching the young idea how to strike—well, we think the people will be so glad to hear the bells again that at first it will not matter very much. This may seem heresy to some, but in our view the most important thing that lies before the ringers at the moment is to ensure sufficient personnel to ring with tolerable efficiency when the time comes to let the clappers loose again. The finer arts of striking can be taken in hand as soon as our ears once more come into play.

Actually there is no need for idleness in the belfry. This training of beginners should go on as far as the present restrictions permit. It may not be very interesting to the instructors, but even a wearying task may be well worth while in the end. And then, too, much more might be made of handbell practice than seems at present to be done. It is not at all essential that handbells should always be rung double-handed, even though it should be the ultimate aim of the ringers. But single-handed ringing can be a valuable help, both in keeping method ringing fresh and extending the scope of the band. New methods can be mastered against the day when tower bells once more come into their own, and when it will require all our endeavours to reinstate both the art and the Exercise in the position it occupied before the war. The year 1941 calls for a supreme effort in every direction; it calls equally upon ringers to put their best into building up their bands against losses, and preparing for the brighter days ahead. Let our endeavours be directed to saving the art so that it may be restored rapidly after the war. We cannot afford to neglect such effort now; we must continue with unflagging energy to 'go to it.'

USE OF CHURCH BELLS AT DEATHS AND BURIALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The use of church bells in connection with deaths and burials still seems of interest. In my early days, some 65 years back, after I had learnt to manage a bell, Mr. Gatland would sometimes ask me to do duty for him.

The custom at Steyning was to use two bells, one called the little knell (the 4th) for those up to 14 years of age, and the big knell (the tenor) for those over that age.

The bell was chimed on the swing for the three times three for the male, and three times two for the female, and then raised to a set pull. The bell was pulled off one stroke, at intervals of about three minutes (a little extra set being given to make more sure of the bell being set each stroke). This was rung for one hour, the bell then lowered and the same number of strokes chimed as at the beginning. A fee of one shilling was paid. The same procedure was adopted at the committal, but the bell was not raised.

C. TYLER.

MR. C. W. ROBERTS' ARTICLE. A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should be glad if you would correct two small misprints in my article on Stedman Caters, for which my writing may be responsible. In the last sentence in paragraph 3 the word 'dominates' should be 'eliminates,' and the number of changes in peal No. 4 should be 5,031.

Should this article prove sufficiently interesting to the Exercise, I will follow it up with others, describing other little-known plans of composition.

Wishing you a happy and, I hope, a victorious New Year.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

DOWN THE AGES.

ANNIVERSARIES IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Three hundred years ago the Exercise was already a century old, perhaps more, though as yet ringers were a long way off looking on themselves as members of a body with common aims and common interests, and the art of change ringing was a comparatively new thing which was practised only in the more advanced and select circles.

At Cambridge, at Oxford, and in London, the young men of the Universities and the Inns of Court looked on ringing much as their successors to-day look on football and cricket, and it was among them that the new style of changes was introduced in place of the older raising, round ringing and ceasing. So much advance had already been made that about 1641 the first six-score of Doubles was rung.

The leading society in London for many years had been the Schollers of Cheapside, but they had passed their prime, and the state of their records for the year 1641 shows that there was not much life left in them.

At the other end of the town the new Society of College Youths, which had been founded four years earlier, had already taken its place as the leading company of the Exercise. What they were then doing we do not know. The man who held the office of Master for the greater part of the year, Mathias Burnaby, is to us no more than a name, and all we know of his successor, Thomas Joyce, is that he was the son of a gentleman who lived at Sturminster in Dorset, and that a few years before he had matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, at the age of 17.

We pass over a hundred years, and when we come to 1741 the Exercise had already taken the form it showed until about fifty or sixty years ago, and the art and science of change ringing were full grown. In London, at any rate, peal ringing was recognised as a normal thing in a ringer's life, though naturally neither the number of peals nor the number of methods was anything like what it has since become.

The most active company was the Eastern Scholars, who had been founded in 1733, and numbered several clever ringers among their members. Their first peal in the year was 5,040 changes of Double Bob Major at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on the new ring which not long before had been supplied by the Whitechapel foundry to the rebuilt church. John Sharpe called the bobs. He is one of the men whose names were quite forgotten in after years, but in his own time he was an important person in London belfries. Philemon Mainwaring rang the tenor. He was another who did much for London ringing, and as a tenor man has earned a place among the greatest. John Blake, who rang the sixth, and Thomas Bennett, who rang the seventh, were also leading ringers, and at one time or another both belonged to almost every one of the great societies.

The Eastern Scholars' next performance was one of outstanding interest and merit, for it was the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal ever rung. It was at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, on April 7th. Mainwaring called the bobs from the ninth, and the other men we have mentioned were in the band with Robert Windleborough as tenor man. The number of changes was

5,200, but the figures of the composition have not survived, and we do not know what it was like.

The College Youths were having a very quiet time so far as peal ringing was concerned, and they scored only one during the whole year. This slackness was probably the result of the quarrels and jealousies which were so frequent in the old companies, and which had divided the College Youths into Annable's party and John Cundell's party, with a number of more or less neutral men who had no objection to ringing with either.

Slack as they were at the time, the College Youths could hardly take the Eastern Scholars' peal of Royal as otherwise than a challenge to their supremacy, and since they could not ring the first they determined to show that at least they could equal it, so on May 30th they, too, rang 5,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal and in the same steeple.

Both companies erected boards to commemorate their performances, and sixty years ago both boards still existed. Now that of the College Youths only remains. It does not give the names of the performers, but it has a rhyming couplet which has given rise to some speculation:—

When merit's justly due a little praise then serveth.

A good peal needs no frame, a bad one none deserveth.

It has been suggested, and even definitely stated, that this couplet is proof that the first peal was false, or at any rate a bad one. The assumption is quite unwarranted, for no claim was made either on the board or in the peal book, that the College Youths' performance was the first true peal in the method, and the sentiment expressed by the couplet is, after all, pretty trite and commonplace.

Annable composed the peal and rang in it, but for once he did not call the bobs. Richard Spicer was the conductor, and so he was in the next peal the society rang, which was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in the following year.

It was at this time, and also at St. Sepulchre's, that the College Youths rang Court Bob Royal for the first time. The method was an extension by Annable of the London Court Bob Major, which was practised by the metropolitan ringers and afterwards by some of the provincial bands. It was decidedly inferior to Norwich Court Bob Royal, and the London men evidently did not think it was worth while ringing a peal of it. Norwich Court Bob Major had not yet reached London, but was already being rung in the city of its birth, and Edward Crane called the first peal at St. Michael's Coslany in the following year. (The date in 'The Norwich Gazette' is March 9th, 1741. But that would be in 'old style,' in which the year began and ended on March 21st.)

The Eastern Scholars rang four more peals in 1741. They were 5,040 Bob Major (the first in the method) at St. Nicholas', Deptford; 6,160 Bob Major at St. John's, Hillingdon; 5,120 Oxford Treble Bob at All Saints', Fulham; and the first peal of Bob Major at St. Mary's, Mortlake. John Sharpe called the first three and John Bradshaw the other one.

The only other London society to ring a peal in 1841 was the Union Scholars, who rang 5,040 Bob Major on November 23rd at Fulham. The band was made up largely by men who had seceded from the Eastern Scholars on account of one of the quarrels which were so frequent at the time. It included Sharpe, who probably conducted.

(Continued on next page.)

RINGING IN THE PROVINCES.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

(Continued from previous page.)

Very little information has come down to us about ringing in the provinces, and the only peal during the year of which we have any record was one of Grandsire Triples at Coddendam in Suffolk. Theodore Eccleston, a wealthy young man, who lived at Mortlake and was a member of the Society of Eastern Scholars, had inherited an estate in Suffolk, and he gave a ring of eight bells to Coddendam Church, and another of ten to Stonham Aspal. He got together a band of ringers, and induced leading men to go and live in the country to act as instructors and conductors. John Sharpe went down there a few years later, and William Walker from Richmond, and Andrew Field, a College Youth.

The first man to act as conductor was John Foster, whom we have already met as the landlord of the Eight Bells tavern at Norwich, and the ringer of the sixth to the first peal of Stedman Triples at Mancroft in 1731. He called John Garthon's composition, and the peal board records it as 'Caterines Triples.' Afterwards he went to Lincoln and called the peal again at St. Peter Arches in that city.

The year 1741 was not a very eventful one, and the number of peals rung was, even for the time, small.

PEALS IN 1841.

Neither was the year 1841 one of any particular importance in the history of the Exercise, and especially so in London. The College Youths rang but three peals—Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lewisham, Grandsire Caters at Leeds in Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. James', Bermondsey. They were at a turning point in their history, when old conditions were passing away, and the younger and more vigorous men who were to re-establish the ascendancy of the society on a different basis had not yet obtained control.

I regret I cannot give full particulars of the peals of the year, for the war has shut up my sources of information other than those already in my possession, and my detailed research work has not yet covered the middle of the nineteenth century.

In the provinces the leading companies were at Norwich, where the Norwich Scholars still maintained their high reputation, though they rang very few peals; at Birmingham, where such famous ringers as Thomas Thurstans, Isaac John Lates, Thomas Day and Henry Johnson were in their prime; and at Sheffield, where during the year Thomas Hudson called a peal of Stedman Caters. There was also a good band at Leeds, and the first peal of Cinques in Yorkshire was rung on the new bells of the Parish Church.

THE ART ON THE DOWN GRADE.

Taking the country at large, the Exercise and the art of change ringing were on the down grade, and the decline continued until it reached bottom level ten years or so later. Then, after an interval of about twenty years, began a slow but steady revival which at length has given us the Exercise we know to-day.

Half a century later the year 1891 brings us into the period which fairly belongs to the modern history of change ringing. The Exercise was then completely organised, and the year saw the first meeting of the Central Council, which took place at the Inns of Court Hotel, in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Easter Tuesday,

That, of course, was an outstanding event, but otherwise nothing happened during the year of any marked importance. Peal ringing had increased enormously during the half-century, and that year's total reached 878. The methods most rung were Grandsire Triples 269, Treble Bob Major 138, Stedman Triples 103, Bob Major 64, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 40. Only two peals of London Surprise were rung, and both were at Duffield and were conducted by Sir Arthur Heywood. Peals of Cambridge Surprise Major numbered only 3, and Superlative only 5.

TRIPLES METHODS.

There was considerably greater variety in seven-bell methods than in more recent years. Union Triples was enjoying a temporary popularity, and 15 peals of it were rung, as were 15 peals of Oxford Bob Triples and two of Court Bob. John Carter introduced during the year a method which he called Darlaston Bob Triples, but which was really College Single Triples. Four peals of it were rung, and the popularity of Plain Bob Triples was shown by as many as 29 peals. Methods which now are considered irregular and obsolete were Violet Treble Bob Major 1 peal, Woodbine Treble Bob Major 1, Canterbury Pleasure Triples 3, and Canterbury Pleasure Major 13.

On the higher numbers was the first peal of Duffield Maximus rung at Birmingham and conducted by Heywood, as well as peals of Grandsire Cinques 2, Stedman Cinques 5, and Treble Bob Maximus 4. Two peals of over 10,000 were rung and the Suffolk men got out after ringing 12,320 changes in an attempt for Day's 16,608 of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

In composition, the chief event was the publication by Heywood of his articles on peals of Stedman Caters.

The chief controversy which divided the opinions of ringers was whether seven-bell peals might be rung without a covering tenor.

The most outstanding ringers who passed away during the year were James Lockwood the composer, Captain A. P. Moore, a leading ringer and a bell founder, and Henry Hubbard, the son of the famous Norwich author and composer.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The December meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Rotherham on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Members were present from Eastwood, Felkirk, Handsworth and Wath.

A room was provided at the Wheatsheaf Hotel for the use of the ringers, and handbells were rung in the afternoon until tea and the usual business meeting. Mr. J. E. Turley, of Handsworth, who had survived the blitz air raid on Sheffield on the previous Thursday, and although he had encountered some inconvenience in transport had made a determined effort to attend, was elected chairman. Mr. Chant proposed and Mr. Gill seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. S. Briggs for the arrangements he had made. The meeting was rather small. Nevertheless, it was a happy gathering.

Further handbell ringing followed, the methods rung during the afternoon and evening being Plain and Double Bob Minor, Treble Bob Minor and touches of Bob Major. A.G.M. at Barnsley, Jan. 11th.

JOHN CHAMBERLIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Borrett's accounts of the old Norwich ringers and especially of John Chamberlin is most interesting. Can he tell us anything of the old Norwich men and what became of their peal books and property? I suppose they had some, for it was the usual thing with these old companies. And how does he reconcile the statement that the Norwich men rang the first peal of Court Bob Royal at St. Peter's Mancroft in 1769 with the entry in James Barham's peal book, which says that 6,720 changes of Court Bob Ten In were rung on January 25th, 1765, at Leeds in Kent?

It would seem that a good many of the claims made for the first peals in different methods in olden times were made in ignorance of what other people had done, and will not really stand a severe test. Still, there may be some explanation.

L. W. BUNCE.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. NORTH DORSET BRANCH MEETING.

The annual meeting of the North Dorset Branch was held at Kingston Magna on the King's birthday. The Guild office was conducted in All Saints' Church by the branch secretary (the Rev. W. Uphill), and an address appropriate to the Advent season was given by the Rev. Canon Hellins, D.D. The Rector (the Rev. F. L. Edwards, hon. secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild) was at the organ, and after the Magnificat a sacred melody was played on handbells by four boys, who also assisted in the accompaniment of Psalm cl. The service was notable for the effective singing of the score or so of male voices, which rose to a grand climax in 'God save the King.'

Tea was enjoyed at the School, and there were no symptoms of rationing!

The business meeting followed, Dr. Hellins presiding.

The branch secretary submitted an interim statement of accounts, showing a credit balance of £20 10s. 1d.

The Rev. Dr. Hellins was re-elected chairman, the Rev. F. L. Edwards deputy chairman, the Rev. W. Uphill secretary.

Mr. E. Coward stated that he was soon due to be called up, and on his proposal Messrs. W. Shute and L. Perrett were elected joint Ringing Masters.

Messrs. M. Brown and S. Braddick were appointed members of committee.

Mr. F. Fowler, of Stourton, was elected member, and another Mr. F. Fowler, who is stationed at Mere on military service, a life member.

The Rev. W. Uphill reported that he had represented the branch at the funeral of the late Mr. Walter Jackson, of Childe Okeford, whose death after a short illness inflicted a severe loss both on the Guild and on the parish, where he had done invaluable work in training young ringers and had exercised a strong influence for good on the lads of the village.

Mr. W. Hinks, a member of the Stour and Avon Catchment Board, who as churchwarden was present at the meeting, also testified to Mr. Jackson's sterling qualities as an employee of that body and the deep regret felt by the members of the Board at his decease.

All those present stood in silence as a tribute of respect to his memory.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Hellins for his address, to the Rector and to the ladies kindly undertaking the arrangements for tea, was proposed by the secretary and carried with applause.

Although the day was one of incessant rain, six towers were represented, Gillingham, Mere, Stourton, Zeals, Hazelbury Bryan and Kingston Magna, and one enthusiast cycled over twenty miles to attend. Methods practised on handbells included Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH. THE REV. A. S. ROBERTS' EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I gladly tell 'Nemo' of the introduction of handbell ringing here. Some weeks ago I introduced handbells at a meeting of our Fellowship of Youth, and, being favourably impressed, I told the members that we would look forward to ringing them in church at Christmas. Handbell practice became a feature of our weekly gatherings, and the Sunday week before Christmas, when announcing the services for the festival, I said what was to be done, and that we hoped to ring handbells before certain services.

The church being blacked out, we rang before the Midnight Mass and again before the ordinary morning service on Christmas Day. We have received no requests to repeat our performances because I had announced also that the ringing would continue each Sunday morning and evening afterwards, but we have had many words of appreciation.

The arrangements for ringing are as follows: The tower here is at the north-east corner of the church, and the handbells are arranged in pairs in a circle on a soft rug under the tower arch, which is actually between the high altar and lady chapel altar. About a quarter of an hour before the beginning of the service I go to the choir vestry to fetch the young men who are either in the choir or servers, and, each wearing his cassock, we go into the church. We begin with a short collect, standing in front of the separate pairs of handbells, and then ring for approximately four minutes, we then stop for two minutes, and those who have duties to do leave, whilst others, some being young women, take over the bells. A further four minutes' ringing, and the organist commences playing immediately, which is roughly five minutes before the service is due to begin.

At Christmas we rang rounds and 'Queens' very creditably on our ring of twelve (tenor size 20 in E flat). Of course, it will be a long time before we advance beyond this on twelve, but I hope we shall do more on lesser numbers.

At a practice I listened with others to the ringing from various parts of the church, but the best effect was when one entered the porch and door, for to be greeted by the sound of bells was most inspiring and realistic. An interest and keenness has been created by our innovation. I recommend that the ringers are towards the east end of the church so that they can be seen, for this will prevent much turning of heads amongst the assembling congregation in an effort to see what is being done.

To change the subject, may I say that I hope that all the records of peals rung at St. Nicholas', Bristol, have not been lost. I remember the late Mr. Uriah Braven showing me the peal books belonging to this tower when I was at his house several years ago; they were in his keeping.

A. S. ROBERTS.

Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

At a recent meeting of the Blandford Clerical Club a paper was read by the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards on 'The care of our silent bells.' A number of questions were asked and an interesting discussion ensued. Among those present was the Bishop of Sherborne.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples at Bethnal Green by the College Youths. James Pettit called Holt's Original and the band included Matthew Wood, Edward Wallage, Walter Prime and Arthur Hughes. Frederick G. Newman called Brooks' Variation of Thurstans' peal of Stedman Triples at Sevenoaks, and the Cumberlands rang Stedman Caters at St. Giles', Camberwell, with George Newson as composer and conductor.

Mr. James George, who is still happily making progress, and sends his greetings for the New Year to all his friends, reminds us, in connection with recent events at Coventry, that he is the last survivor of the band that rang Coventry Cathedral bells for the last time. That was on June 28th, 1885. At that period he was living in Coventry and used to ring with the Coventry ringers.

On December 28th, 1820, the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham rang the then longest length of Stedman Cinques, 6,600 changes.

On the same date in 1872 a band was supposed to have rung at Earlsheaton, in Yorkshire, Thomas Day's 16,608 of Kent Treble Bob Major, but it was afterwards admitted that the bells were jumped into rounds at the end.

James W. Washbrook called two long, and at the time record, peals on the last day of the year. One was 12,096 changes of Double Norwich at Maidenhead in 1892, the other was 15,041 changes of Stedman Caters at Appleton in 1888.

New Year's Day was the anniversary of several notable peals. In 1733 the Oxford men rang the first peal in the city. In 1754 the Saffron Walden band rang Holt's Original, the conductor taking a rope. In 1793 James Barham rang his 100th peal, and in 1795 the men of Soham one of the first peals of Double Norwich Court Bob outside Norwich.

On January 4th, 1784, the Oldham men rang 14,480 changes of Bob Major, composed and conducted by Thomas Kay.

A MERSEYSIDE LOSS.

In one of the recent heavy air attacks on Merseyside a church with a well-known ring of twelve bells was almost totally destroyed by fire—but once again the tower withstood the ravages of the flames.

The loss of the church is a sad blow to the community, but the tower may still be found strong enough to enable the bells to be rung for the day of victory.

And later, doubtless, the church itself will rise again, for there has been a church on this site for many centuries.

WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD? QUALITIES WHICH ARE NECESSARY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Harvey, writing on 'What is a good method?' has certainly provided us with a number of ideals which good methods should fulfil as far as possible. I am glad he quoted the remarks of the Rev. E. Banks James with regard to music; to get the bells coming up behind in the proper coursing order, and to keep the coursing bells as near together as possible seem to be the primary requirements for good music.

Cambridge has gained for itself the position which is occupied by no other Surprise method, for it is undoubtedly the most widely practised of all methods of this class. Why this should be so, I cannot say, for its false course ends allow of only one peal with the tenors together, and, unless my counting has gone astray, there are 90 rows (and not 64 to 72) in the plain course with more than one bell between the tenors. Points in its favour are (1) it allows of pure extension to Royal and Maximus; (2) the bells come up behind in their proper coursing order; and (3) all leading and place-making is made 'hand and back.'

On looking through my collection of Surprise Major Methods, I find one method which stands out above all the others in fulfilling the requirements suggested in Mr. Harvey's letter. This method is Bedford Surprise, composed by Mr. F. Dench and published in 'The Ringing World' of March 10th, 1839. The method has, in my opinion, the following good points: (1) It has only one false course end, 24365; (2) the bells come up behind in their proper coursing order; (3) there are only 54 rows in the plain course with more than one bell between the tenors; (4) the longest period a bell occupies the same set of places is for 14 rows in 3-4; (5) no pair of bells makes more than a double dodge together; (6) it allows of pure extension to Royal and Maximus.

I have never heard the method myself, and so I should be interested to hear the opinion of someone who has rung it, for that, and that alone, is the real test of 'What is a good method?'

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

Highcliffe, 81, County Road, Swindon.

FAMOUS LONDON CHURCHES DESTROYED

ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY AND ST. BRIDE'S
AMONG THEM.

Renowned Rings of Bells.

The pitiful tale of famous London churches and other historical buildings destroyed or damaged by enemy action was seriously added to last Sunday night when the Nazi aircraft dropped thousands of incendiary bombs in the city and started numerous fires, in what was described as a wanton and indiscriminate attack upon non-military objectives.



THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY AS
RINGERS KNEW IT.

The famous Guildhall and eight Wren churches were gutted by fire. The churches were St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Stephen's, Coleman Street; St. Vedast's, Foster Lane; St. Mary's, Aldermanbury; St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe; St. Anne and St. Agnes, Gresham Street; and Christ Church, Newgate Street, as well as St. Mary Woolnoth and St. Mary Matfelon.

The Guildhall has been so completely destroyed that only the shell remains, and with it must have gone many of its treasures. At the beginning of the raid several incendiary bombs fell on the roof, and efforts to extinguish them seemed likely to be successful until the fire at the nearby Church of St. Lawrence Jewry spread to the Guildhall, and the conflagration got beyond control.

Three of the lost churches are of outstanding interest in the history of change ringing, and a fourth possessed one of the three rings of six in the metropolis. Full particulars of the damage to the bells is not yet available, but we fear it will prove to be serious. It is already known, however, that the rings at St. Lawrence and St. Bride's have been destroyed.

St. Lawrence Jewry, which stands in Gresham Street, and from which the blaze spread to the Guildhall, was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of 1666, and was the most expensive of all those designed by him, if we except the steeple at St. Mary-le-Bow. It was especially noted for the plaster work of its ceilings and its wood carvings, the latter being the work of Grinling Gibbons.

THE BELLS OF JEWRY.

The bells were a noble ring of eight, with a tenor of 32 cwt., and in the opinion of many people they ranked among the very best in the country, some going so far as to give them the first place.

They were cast at Whitechapel by James Bartlet in 1679, the tenor being recast by the same founder in 1687, the treble by Pack and Chapman in 1775, and the second by Richard Phelps in 1770. In recent years they had been restored by Mears and Stainbank, and notwithstanding a very long draught of rope the 'go' was as near perfection as possible.

Not many peals have been rung in the steeple, but it was here that on May 17th, 1735, a band of College Youths rang the first peal of Court Bob Major, with Richard Spicer as conductor. The method was that which later was known as Double London Court Bob, though Jasper Snowdon formed the opinion that it was an unknown variation of that method.

No other peal seems to have been rung on the bells until the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, when a peal of Grandsire Triples was accomplished, also by the College Youths. One other we believe has since been rung.

Though the church itself was not very well known, the striking steeple of St. Vedast, Foster Lane, was one of the most familiar sights to the thousands who passed along Newgate Street towards Cheapside. The bells, six in number, were by John Darbie, of Ipswich, and had a tenor of about 18 cwt. They had not been rung for many years.

For some years, under the leadership of Mr. Albert A. Hughes, there has been a regular and enthusiastic band of ringers connected with St. Lawrence. Formed mainly from choirmen and church keepers, they rang the bells regularly every Sunday.

ST. STEPHEN'S, COLEMAN STREET.

The ring at St. Lawrence was the oldest in London, and the next oldest was at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street. That church is also among those destroyed. The bells were cast in 1693 by James Bartlet, with a tenor of 14 cwt. The original treble, second, third, fifth and sixth were still in the tower, but the tenor had been recast by Mears in 1833 and the others by John Waylett in 1772.

In 1733 the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple, one of Bob Triples, with William Laughton as conductor. The next peal was Bob Major by the Eastern Scholars, and an account of that performance was cut in the lead roof of the church, a unique record which has almost certainly now been destroyed.

(Continued on next page.)

DESTRUCTION OF LONDON BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The Eastern Scholars rang another peal of Bob Major in 1747, and after that there are no known performances until the early years of the nineteenth century.

On April 2nd, 1827, the reconstructed St. James' Society rang their first peal at St. Stephen's, and it was followed by several others.

Of late years there has been very little ringing at the church, but two interesting performances took place there. One was the first peal of London Surprise Major in the City of London, which was rung on January 14th, 1890, by a band from Brighton; the other was the first peal by the Irish Association outside Ireland. It was Bob Major on St. Patrick's Day, 1905.

ST. BRIDE'S BELLS LOST.

Deeply as the loss of St. Lawrence's and St. Stephen's bells will be felt, there are many who will regret even more the destruction of Rudhall's fine ring of twelve at St. Bride's, which now lie smashed and destroyed at the base of the famous steeple. The tenor was the first to crash, and it now lies broken into three pieces among the charred remains of the old oak frame.

The roof of the church has gone, the gallery organ and pews are a mass of charred woodwork, and only the stone walls, the tower and the spire remain.

Few, if any, bells have played a greater part in the history of our art. On them was rung the first peal of Caters and the first peal of Cinques, the first peal of Bob Major, the first of Royal and the first of Maximus. For many years the belfry was a stronghold of the College Youths, at the time when Benjamin Annable was their leader, and beneath its shadow at the Barley Mow they held their meetings. Annable himself sleeps within the tower where he was laid in 1756. A full account of the bells and the ringing on them will be found in our issue of May 10th last and the following weeks.

OTHER DAMAGED CHURCHES

St. Mary Woolnoth stands at the junction of Lombard Street and King William Street on one of the most prominent building sites in the whole world. The church was designed by Hawkesmoor, and has a facade with twin towers, which contain two bells.

St. Anne and St. Agnes is a Wren church of no great artistic or historical value. An early ring of five was destroyed by fire as far back as the end of the sixteenth century, since when the church has never had more than two bells.

The two other city churches which have suffered badly are St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, and St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. Both are Wren churches.

Three bells from Avenbury Church in Herefordshire, which was pulled down, were hung in the steeple of St. Andrew's. One of them, dating from the fifteenth century, was credited with curious powers, for it was said to have tolled of its own accord on the deaths of the last two vicars of Avenbury.

St. Mary's is largely associated with Henry Condall, one of Shakespeare's companions, and one of the men who collected and published the great poet's works. He was, there is reason to suppose, the ancestor of John Cundall, who at one time was so prominent a member of the Society of College Youths.

Christ Church, Newgate Street, was originally the church of the Grey Friars, who came to England in 1224.

(Continued in next column.)

THE FIRST PEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your mention of the peal at Woodstock, South Africa, is interesting to myself, as indirectly my father was concerned in its success.

In the year 1882, shortly after my father commenced ringing he changed his lodgings, going to live at Wanstead with Mrs. Priest, mother of Mr. James Priest, one of the band which rang the peal at Woodstock. James Priest and my father were of the same age and became fast friends, and James needed little persuasion to take up ringing. He was an apt pupil and between the years 1882-1890, when he went to South Africa, rang many peals.

When my father left London for a few years to be closer to his home, James followed him and took part in the first peal on Monmouth bells, which was my father's first as conductor. Soon afterwards they both returned to London.

One of my earliest recollections is coming from Wanstead to Leytonstone, where we lived, with Mr. Priest, who was my godfather, and my father after Sunday morning ringing. I also remember his visit to Crayford to say good-bye before sailing.

Mr. Priest was a Cumberland Youth and with this society he rang his last peal before leaving. It was at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and was his first peal on ten bells.

There are at least two ringers living who will remember Mr. Priest, Mr. Rann, of Loughton, and Mr. Harry Brown, of Newport, late of Monmouth. It is quite possible Mr. Fussell may also recollect him.

Shortly before 1890, two good ringers also left Wanstead for South Africa, Lewis Green and Arthur H. Gardom. The latter was also a clever conductor, and it was to the former that Mr. Priest went. I rather fancy Mr. Green retired and returned to England a few years ago, and I am almost certain that he, too, was in the Woodstock peal.

Some five years ago the late Mr. Alfred Pye spent a holiday in South Africa and visited Mr. Priest. He gave me his address and I wrote to him. He replied, but, unfortunately, in moving about, I have lost his letter and have been unable to write since.

E. BARNETT.

THE DESTRUCTION IN LONDON.

(Continued from previous column.)

The building was destroyed in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren. It has a fine tower, but neither in the old church nor in the later one were there more than two bells.

For hours on Sunday night St. Paul's was surrounded by a veritable sea of fire, but we are thankful to say that the noble cathedral came out of the ordeal unscathed.

Other London churches badly damaged in recent raids, which may now be mentioned by name, are St. John's, Horsleydown, where the first peal of Stedman Caters was rung, St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, where for so many years Matthew A. Wood was steeplekeeper, and St. John's, Waterloo Road, where before the last war many Surprise Major peals were rung.

A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Almost surrounded at one time on Sunday evening by a blazing inferno, the famous old Bell Foundry, known to ringers for nearly five centuries, still stands amid a scene of desolation, and we are very glad to be able to say that, despite a terrifying experience, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes are safe. Buildings all around them went up in flames, burning cinders and sparks, falling like a snowstorm, twice set fire to the temporary roof of one of the workshops, and swept through the broken windows of the carpenters' shop, but always providentially failed to get any hold. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and their son stood by, helpless. St. Mary Matfelon Church nearby was ablaze, the bells fell from the tower with a crash that sounded like a bomb and long after the 'raiders past' signal had been given the dangerous and awe inspiring spectacle went on. Then, when the immediate risk to their own home had passed, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes busied themselves with supplying refreshments to firemen who were working heroically to extinguish the fires all about them.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT COLCHESTER.****The Year Reviewed.**

The annual meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on December 7th at All Saints' Parish Church, Colchester, 21 ringers attending from eleven towers, viz., Colchester, Halstead, Thorington, Tendring, Mistley, Barking, Great Bentley, Braintree, Groton, Harwich and Dedham. Handbell ringing was not indulged in to any great extent, but members seemed content to exchange greetings and talk on the past and present day topics. However, the proceedings, which started at 2 p.m., continued until 9 o'clock.

A service was held in the church at 4 p.m. conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. H. Jack), who gave the members a hearty welcome. He said they were the most enthusiastic of bellringers, otherwise they would not be there. He said how sorry he was for them in not being able to ring the bells owing to the ban. He hoped the day would soon come when they should be ringing the bells again, not for the days of peril, but for peace and great joy in all the world. 'Retain your enthusiasm,' he went on, 'for I fear that when the great day of victory comes, many of our men and the ladies as well will have found new attractions and occupations; strive on and be ready to take your places in the belfries to call people to worship.'

The ringers then returned to the hall for tea, which was followed by the business meeting, with the Master, Mr. G. Waterman, in the chair.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The report of the district secretary (Mr. L. Wright) was read. It was with much regret that in making his first report he was not able to record any great achievements. That, as they knew, was not his fault. During the month of June, campanology for the first time in the history of the art had its activities banned by the Ministry of Home Security. Since then several attempts have been made to get the ban lifted, but so far with no success. The report of the district must not, therefore, be considered too discouraging. During the year one peal was rung, viz., Bob Minor in seven methods, conducted by Urban W. Wildney. Meetings were held at Tendring, Kirby-le-Soken, Ardleigh and All Saints', Colchester, with an average attendance of 20. One honorary and eleven ringing members were elected. The towers in union with the association showed a decrease of one. Ardleigh was rejoining, but Wivenhoe was waiting until after the war before rejoining. Owing to enemy action, one of their churches with its little peal of five no longer existed. The honorary members in the division now numbered seven and ringing members 94. As far as was known, 14 members were now serving in H.M. Forces. If to these names anyone could add others he would be thankful: Noel Foakes and Alfred Osborne, from Mistley; Roger Cadamy, Colchester; Fred Orriss, Great Holland; Victor Morley, Great Tey; Wilfred Gusterson and Jack Edwards, Little Horkesey; Urban Wildney, Kirby-le-Soken; Albert Hales, Tendring; Ernest J. Durrant, Thorpe; Jack Stone, Thorington; B. Leggett and V. B. Leggett, Wormingford; S. Moss, Mistley. Many hours had been spent with the aid of various tower secretaries in trying to bring the news of the district up to date in the report, and if by chance there were still some mistakes that needed rectifying, he hoped someone will bring them to his notice. Lastly, the secretary thanked all the members, and specially the tower secretaries, for giving him their support and help during a very trying year.

The members expressed their pleasure at this new innovation of a secretary's report for the North-Eastern Division.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Mr. G. Waterman was re-elected to serve as District Master for the ensuing year, and Mr. L. Wright as district secretary.

A new item on the agenda (under Rule 1) was the election of two members to serve on the General Committee, and Mr. Alan R. Andrews and Mr. C. A. Ellis were elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Little Clacton some time in March.

Mr. R. W. Stannard conveyed greetings and good wishes from the Master of the College Youths (Mr. E. G. Fenn), who remarked that it gave him much pleasure to see that they were carrying on. He wished the meeting every success.

The Master then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place in his parish and for his warm welcome and address; also to the organist and the blower for their services.—Mr. C. A. Ellis supported the motion and added a word of praise to the district secretary for his services and the very fine report which he had compiled.

The Master, before closing, expressed his pleasure at the presence at the meeting of Miss Hilda G. Snowdon, hon. district secretary of the Northern Division, and Mr. L. W. Wiffen, of Braintree.

The Vicar then added further words of welcome. It gave him great pleasure to have the ringers at his church and parish, and hoped he would again be with them in happier days.

Handbells were lent by St. Peter's ringers and Mr. W. Chalk.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.**ARCHBISHOP'S REGRET.**

That the people of this country missed the sound of the church bells at Christmas is to be found in evidence forthcoming from every part of the land, but the bells were not forgotten.

In addition to the sound of the bells of Bethlehem heard over the wireless on Christmas Eve, the B.B.C. put mention of the bells in the forefront of their Christmas announcements in the 9 o'clock news on Christmas morning, and expressed the widespread regret that this age old feature of the festival had for the first time for more than a thousand years to be lost to us.

MILITARY NECESSITY.

The Archbishop of Canterbury made an effort to get the ban on church bells lifted for Christmas Day and Sunday services, but without success. The following statement was issued by the Archbishop a day or two before Christmas:—

The Archbishop of Canterbury has made strong representations to the Government urging that the time has now come when the existing Order forbidding any ringing of church bells except for the purpose of giving warning in the event of any threatened invasion by the enemy might be modified so as to permit the ringing of the bells on Christmas Day and thereafter on Sundays only immediately before the accustomed hours of morning and evening prayer.

The Secretary of State for War received these representations with full understanding and sympathy. But he has now informed the Archbishop that the highest military authorities are unable to advise that any change in the existing Order should be made and that he feels bound to accept this decision. The Archbishop greatly regrets it and believes that it will cause much disappointment throughout the country.

Many church services were, however, not entirely without bells, for, acting on the suggestion made in 'The Ringing World,' handbells were rung in many places immediately before the services on Christmas Day.

EXPLANATION NEEDED.**To the Editor.**

Dear Sir,—It seems to me that the problem of the ban on bells would be simplified, even if not solved, if only the authorities would give us their reason for the ban, and I am not aware that this has been done up to the present. Has it ever been asked for?

The Englishman is a reasonable person, but it is against his nature to be driven blindly, and I feel that if we were given an adequate motive for the ban we should all willingly agree, and the matter would drop.

If, however, the reason given appeared to be inadequate, then it would be up to us ringers to suggest a better alternative, as criticism should be constructive as well as destructive; for example, if the idea is to reserve the bells solely for use as an alarm in the case of invasion, then this would seem a very inadequate reason, as a bugler going round on a bicycle or in a car would be much more effective. The bugle is a very powerful and penetrating apparatus; it only needs one man to perform on it, and he can go round about with it, whereas the audibility of bells in a fixed position depends on the direction of the wind and the distance you live away from them. Our air raid siren has the same defect, and the wardens' whistles going round seem to be more useful.

If, on the other hand, there is some secret reason for the ban, which would be of value to the enemy if divulged, then we should be told so plainly, and argument would cease.

Could the Central Council be asked to obtain the reason and publish the correspondence in 'The Ringing World'?

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON.

Southcliff, Ventnor, I.W.

MISSED BELLS AT CHRISTMAS.

How much the public missed the bells at Christmas is vividly indicated by the following extract from a private letter from a non-ringing lady at Mayfield, Sussex, to a non-ringing friend. She wrote: 'Wasn't it a nice, quiet Christmas? No bombs or planes for two nights. One could almost forget there was a war but for the bells not ringing out to greet the feast. We did miss them. There were plenty of small carol singers about, but one wanted the peals of the villages round.'

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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

WHERE HANDBELLS WERE RUNG.

At Nuneaton Parish Church, Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells from the chancel steps on Christmas Day by four members of the Warwickshire Guild, Mr. T. Chapman, of Nuneaton, and Mr. E. Stone and his two sons, Percy and Fred, now of Coventry and late of Nuneaton.

It was greatly appreciated by the members of the congregation. Mr. Chapman and Fred Stone (14) are respectively the oldest and youngest active members of the Warwickshire Guild.

At Coalbrookdale, Salop, on Christmas Day, before and after the 11 a.m. service, the local ringers rang handbells from the chancel steps, including well-struck rounds and set changes on twelve bells, also several plain courses of Grandsire Triples. The ringing was very much enjoyed and appreciated by a large congregation, and arrangements will be made in future, whenever possible, to ring handbells before morning and evening services.

Handbells were rung before divine service on Christmas Day at Guildford, both at the Cathedral and at St. Nicolas' Church.

At Donington, Lincolnshire, for morning service on Christmas Day, courses of Grandsire Triples were rung by G. Short 1-2, P. Markham 3-4, C. Warder 5-6, S. V. Woods 7-8.

At Tunstall, on handbells, for divine services, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,260 changes, was rung by G. H. Spice 1-2, Miss Betty Spice 3-4, John E. Spice 5-6, and W. Spice, sen. 7-8. Conducted by W. Spice and rung in the belfry, which is on the ground floor of the church. Also touches of Grandsire Triples and plain courses of Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters with the following other members of the Tunstall band taking part: Mrs. G. H. Spice, W. Spice, jun., and J. Webb.

A HALESWORTH COMMENT.

Touches of Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob were rung on handbells at Halesworth Parish Church before the morning service on Christmas Day. 'The Halesworth Times' had the following comment:

The church bells are silent. If they ring it would not be a peaceful summons to worship but a call to arms. They would be proclaiming warning of an enemy invasion.

It would not be the first time in our history that church bells have been used as an urgent summons to men to protect their homes. The old prayers of the church are full of phrases reflecting days of danger and assault in words that have come alive again in these last months. Our fathers won our liberties for us at a great price of vigilance and sacrifice.

Whether or not we are to hear the church bells ring the tocsin before this war is over, let their very silence remind us of our debt to the past and our responsibility in the present. We must watch and work, for our land is in peril and with it the liberties of mankind.

If we are faithful, one day the church bells will rock the steeples to celebrate victory and we shall reap in joy what we have sown in tears.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is an account of an alleged peal which appeared in 'The Bell News' some 40 years ago, which some of your readers may remember, and which was produced, I suppose, partly in fun and partly in satire on those who delight in ringing peals with some uncommon feature, such as 'Johns' or 'James' or even colours of surnames. Here it is:—

BALD-HEADED PEAL.

On the 1st day of April 18—

At the Church of St. Mudstan,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5,040 CHANGES.

Holt's Ten-Part.		Tenor 350th size in B sharp.	
*John Ketch	Treble	Lowes Moore	5
†Citron Peel	2	Jno. McArony	6
Shore Ditch, Esq.	3	Merry Vale	7
*Guy Fawkes	4	†Titus Oates	Tenor

Conducted by Jno. McArony, who marked off every lead as it was rung. All the above band were bald-headed. Some difficulty was experienced in getting a company together having this peculiarity, which was surmounted by those marked * having their heads shaved off (i.e., their hair) previous to starting for the peal. † First peal inside. † First peal outside. Great credit is due to the ringers of the above, as the weather being very warm at the time, the flies were very troublesome.

J. R. B.

JOHN BOWTELL, OF CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Ringing in Cambridge during the last hundred years has never reached a very high standard, but there was a time when the town had a good twelve bell band, and 'on Monday, January 21st, 1788, was rung, in the Tower of St. Mary-the-Great a true and exquisite peal, consisting of 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus, in 5 hours and 5 minutes, tenor 28 cwt., without a false change, by the under-mentioned Cambridge Youths: J. Smith, first; W. Bland, second; R. Laughton, third; J. Lawson, fourth; J. Coe, fifth; T. Steers, sixth; T. Jones, seventh; P. Gould, eighth; C. Day, ninth; W. Young, tenth; J. Hazard, eleventh; J. Bowtell, tenor. Bobs by C. Day.'

It will be 153 years ago next January since this peal was rung, and as far as I know this length of Bob Maximus still stands as the record in the method. It may well be the longest time any peal has stood as a record.

John Bowtell, who rang the tenor, was a bookseller. I have before me a half-length portrait of him reproduced from the original which hangs in the board room of Addenbrook's Hospital, Cambridge.

He was born in the parish of Holy Trinity on August 1st, 1753. On October 21st, 1773, he was elected a member of the Society of Cambridge Youths and resigned on September 6th, 1810. Why he resigned at the early age of 57 I do not know. Probably an explanation may be found in his will, in which he left considerable sums of money to St. Michael's and Holy Trinity Churches, but none to St. Mary's, the headquarters of the Cambridge Youths. Something may have happened to displease him.

His marriage took place at St. Edward's Church in October, 1786, and he lived from 1791 to 1813 at the red brick Georgian house, 32, Trinity Street. This house still remains, the ground floor now being used as a clothier's shop.

Bowtell also rang the tenor at St. Mary-the-Great to 6,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal on February 16th, 1790, and to 7,002 Grandsire Caters on October 31st, 1791. He died on December 1st, 1813, and was buried in the east end of St. Michael's Church beside his wife. E. E. HIBBINS.

LONG STANDING RECORDS.

In his account of John Bowtell, of Cambridge, Mr. Ernest Hibbins mentions the peal of Bob Maximus, 6,600 changes, rung at Great St. Mary's in 1788, which, after 152 years, still remains the longest length in the method, and he asks whether any other record has ever stood so long.

The answer is that there are some others which have stood even longer, but obviously only records in more or less standard methods can be compared to this one. The 10,080 of Double Bob Major at Harrietham (1746) has stood as the record for 194 years, and the 8,100 of Bob Royal at Leeds in Kent (1751) for 189 years. The 12,000 of Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch in 1784 has stood unbeaten for 156 years. The College Youths held for 152 years the Grandsire Cinques record, which they gained by ringing 8,008 changes at Southwark in 1735, and the Norwich Scholars held the Grandsire Caters record with 12,600 changes from 1737 till 1888, 151 years. One of these two latter equals the Cambridge record, the other is one year less. The Cumberlands have held the record for Oxford Treble Bob Maximus since 1802, 138 years.

BELLS OF VICTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In olden times we rang the bells when the news came of great victories like Blenheim and Trafalgar and Waterloo, and it is natural for men to ask why we should be forbidden to ring for the good news from Egypt. But the cases are not alike.

The old victories were the culmination of the campaigns. They were fought within very narrow fields and between sunrise and sunset and the results were decisive.

The most striking successes in modern warfare are usually only the preliminaries to operations which extend over scores and perhaps hundreds of miles and may take weeks and even months. They are not victories, though they may lead on to victories. Too often they lead to disappointment and disillusionment. We remember the first day of the Somme, that loudly proclaimed victory with its thousands of prisoners and hundreds of captured guns. We know now that it was no victory and but a qualified success.

Once only during the last war did we ring our bells. That was for Cambrai in 1917, a resounding success followed within a week or so with a disastrous setback. There is only one victory for which we need really ring our bells and that is the last one. Meanwhile we must hope and work and endure.

SPES.

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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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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.

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.—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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Saturday, January 4th, 1941, at 3 p.m. Handbell ringing afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held in the Synod Hall, Holyrood, Quadrant, W.3, on Saturday, January 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea 4 p.m., followed by tower bells (10). All ringers welcome. We extend the compliments of the season to all.—E. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 11th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m., other arrangements as usual. A good attendance is desired.—H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Bells (6) without clappers and handbells available. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me before Wednesday. Fourth annual dinner February 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Committee meet 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m., in St. Peter's Parish Hall (adjoining church). Tea at nearby cafe. Handbells will be available, and it is hoped a good muster of members and friends will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting, which was not held on December 14th, has been rearranged for Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church in the Horsefair). Handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. The meeting will be over by 5 o'clock for those who wish to get away.—A. M. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th. Handbell contest at Rectory Rooms at 3.30 p.m., followed by the general meeting. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5.30 p.m., followed by social evening and handbell ringing. Those requiring teas must notify me not later than January 10th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, January 18th. Open from 2.30. Handbell practice and social chats. Tea arranged. All who are interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey (City 4270).

HANDELLS WANTED.

WANTED.—Set of 12 HANDBELLS by Shaw in B flat, with extra semitone if possible.—Box 33, 'The Ringing World.'

GREETINGS.

To all my friends.—Many thanks for Christmas good wishes. Best of luck to you all for 1941.—Fred Price, 273, Albert Road, Aston Manor, Birmingham, 6.

J. A.
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 1941.

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THE PROTECTION OF TOWERS.

The recent destructive fires which have occurred, as the result of enemy action, in London and other cities, bringing about the loss of churches among other valuable buildings, have led to an overhaul of the methods to combat the menace which the dropping of incendiary bombs creates. New measures are to be taken, and we hope that they will include provision for the watching of churches as well as other structures. Had this practice been insisted upon in the past it is likely that we should have had to regret the loss of fewer churches than we do to-day. It has been proved that, when promptly attacked, fire bombs can often be extinguished before real destruction of property takes place, and it is as essential to preserve our churches as it is buildings of other types. The damage which has occurred among churches has shown that, so far as the structure is concerned, the tower has best withstood the fire, but, unfortunately, the contents, including the bells, have in most cases been destroyed. This is not surprising, because, once the blaze, sweeping through the church itself, reaches the tower, the latter tends to act as a shaft, and the fire roars up it as through a chimney flue. How far this can be guarded against must depend upon the circumstances of each building and the practicable steps that are open to those responsible.

Mr. E. A. Young, a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council, and himself an architect with a vast experience of fire protection in London buildings, writes in this issue on the subject and makes suggestions which ringers might well bring to the notice of their Church Councils. There may be many instances where it will be impossible to take any effective steps, on the ground of lack of the essential materials or labour, or for other reasons, but there will be other cases where protection may well be possible. No building wherever situated is now safe from enemy action, although, of course, some places are more liable to attack than others, but the more vulnerable the position the more important it is that steps should be taken for the safety of the towers and their contents. It is sometimes overlooked that the bells are among the most valuable and often the most historic possessions in the church, and where it is possible to protect them by blocking up with fire-resisting material any openings leading from the church into the tower, such action ought assuredly to be taken. Where the tower opens into the church with an arch or even a doorway, the problem is, of course, a much more difficult one, but the protection of the underside of the first floor should receive consideration. There may

(Continued on page 14.)

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be many places where this matter has never even been given thought, and ringers may be doing a great service by calling attention to risks which might be averted.

Next to protecting the interior of the tower itself is the safeguarding of the contents. The general removal of bells would be a prodigious task which, we imagine, is out of the question, and at this stage even the removal of historic bells appears almost an impossibility. Bells, therefore, seem destined to be left to their fate unless they can be safeguarded where they hang. There are, however, minor possessions which might well be removed, and we particularly refer to peal boards and any interesting books which may be in the towers. Some historic boards have been lost in the last week or two, including the record of the first peal ever rung by the College Youths, which was also the first peal on twelve bells. This has been destroyed at St. Bride's, in London. The question, of course, at once arises as to whether it is safer to leave such things in a church or take them away, but if they can be taken to fireproof protection we feel that recent experience points to removal with, of course, the official approval of responsible church authorities. Merely to take them from the tower to a private house, when one is as likely to be bombed as the other, would be of no advantage; if anything is done it should be to store these treasures in places of increased safety. An example of this may be seen in the wise action taken by the College Youths when they placed their most valuable property in the strong room at St. Paul's Cathedral. The chances of losing it in its customary keeping were at one time not very great; but fire fell upon the headquarters premises of the society on Sunday week and, but for the foresight exercised, many valuable and irreplaceable records might have been lost. It may be that in some places it will be felt that the church tower is still the safest spot in which to keep these old boards. That is a matter which the ringers, in conjunction with the church authorities, must decide, but whatever is or is not done, where there are boards of any interest and value they should be carefully copied, so that at any rate future generations may have precise details of what these ancient records had to tell us.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BOLTON. FORMER MASTER OF LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

The death took place on Sunday, December 29th, of Mr. William Bolton, of Cardiff. He had been ill for a long time and had taken no actual part in ringing for the last few years. Previous to his going to South Wales Mr. Bolton was a ringer at Bradford, Yorkshire. He joined the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association on July 2nd, 1910, at Bridgend, prior to the ringing of a peal of Grandsire Triples. He soon became a useful and helpful member and did his Sunday service ringing at Cardiff and Llandaff Cathedral. In 1918 Mr. Bolton was elected Master. In 1925 he was one of the representatives of the association on the Central Council, which he attended at Chester. On this occasion he rang a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Harold J. Poole. He rang many peals in the four standard methods from Triples to Royal and was always to be found on the heavy end.

His profession as a clerk of works for several years took him to many parts of the country, where he made many friends.

The funeral took place on Friday, January 3rd, at Marshfield, near Cardiff, two of his oldest peal ringing colleagues being present, namely, Mr. G. Large and Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. secretary of the association). A contingent of the 5th Battalion South Wales Borderers stationed at Marshfield also attended. He was buried close to the tower where he had rung several peals.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.—At Perry Farm on handbells on December 15th, 120 each of London Doubles, Morning Star, Hudebras, College Doubles and April Day. Also 180 Bob Minor. On December 22nd, 360 Bob Minor: J. E. Lilley 1-2, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 3-4, E. W. Beckworth 5-6.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, December 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,*

AT 21 STONAR ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.13.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

*JOHN C. NASH 1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Triples. W. J. Bowden's 100th peal.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 28, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT BROOKLYN COTTAGE, HINCKLEY ROAD.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;Consisting of 1,440 Canterbury, 2,160 Plain Bob and 1,440 Grandsire.
Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED JORDON 1-2	ALFRED BALLARD 3-4
WALTER J. CLOUGH 5-6	

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. J. H. Baileys, of Croft, and Miss I. Jervis, of Stoney Stanton. The bridegroom is a very active member of the Hinckley District of the M.C.A.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, December 29, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,*

AT 21, STONARD ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.13.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS AND
THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS,
MANCHESTER UNITY.*On Tuesday, December 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,*

AT PERRY FARM,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;Being one six-score each of Morning Star and London Doubles and
40 of Grandsire (10 callings).

JAMES E. LILLEY, Earl of Mount Edcombe Lodge 1-2
CHARLES R. LILLEY, P.G.M. Hearts of Oak Lodge 3-4
*BRIAN PIDGEON, Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY, P.G.M.

Umpire—Herbert Till.

* First handbell peal, also first in three methods. Also first Odd-fellows' handbell peal.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT 19, HOWARD ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM**SAMUEL THURSTON.****APPRECIATION OF FAMOUS NORWICH RINGER.**

By CHARLES E. BORRETT.

One hundred years ago yesterday died Samuel Thurston, a famous Norwich ringer, whose name crops up even in these days of 'The Ringing World.'

Ringing in his time was in a more leisurely way than now, but although his score of peals amounted to only 36 and his peal ringing career (1809 to 1839) barely 30 years, he crowded in some meritorious performances.

These are well known—the first peals of Court Bob Twelve, Double Oxford Major and London Surprise, the second of Superlative and various lengths of Double Norwich and Treble Bob Major and others.

But his individuality concerns me more, as it is so great a contrast to that of John Chamberlin, who flourished 40 years earlier, and of whom I have recently written. The latter was clearly a man of lovable character, but Samuel Thurston must have been an 'awkward' man in any ringing band. We know that frequently 'star' performers, in any line, can be very trying, and I fear Thurston's brother ringers were well aware of the fact. While no steeple-boards proclaim the deeds of Chamberlin, Thurston evidently saw to it that most of his peals, even down to Holt's Ten-Part, should be perpetuated in the belfry, and always in the extravagant language of the times in which he lived.

He rang 17 peals in Norwich churches and 15 of them are so recorded, and in the county of Norfolk the same thing occurs. He was a great man for publicity and took pains that no bushel was big enough to hide his light. Even tapping three courses of Bob Major on handbells was described in most of the Norwich papers as 'most nobly brought round in 14 minutes, being the greatest performance in the art in the British Dominions.'

He had two presentations made him—one for the peal of Court Twelve, and the other for a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples double-handed, rung in 1822, and, I think, the first on record. I have never understood the delay in making the first of these presentations 'for his eminent services in composing the peal of 5,016 of Norwich Court Twelve in, and ringing the tenor in a superior style.' The peal was rung in 1817 and the presentation was made in 1825, by which time the conductor of the peal and two others in the band were dead. Sometimes presentations are organised by the recipient, and this may well have been an instance.

The two following announcements in the newspapers of the day are typical of the man, and make amusing reading:—

'Bell-hanging. April 16th, 1825.—A short time since the tenor of St. Peter's Mancroft was rehung and repaired by Mr. Samuel Thurston of this city. Formerly the strength of three men were necessary to raise the bell, from its great weight, but by Mr. Thurston's alteration it is now raised with great ease by one man with a single hand.'

April 23rd, 1825.—Mr. Hurry has called upon us and requested us to state that the paragraph concerning St. Peter's tenor bell was totally incorrect, Mr. Hurry having repaired the bell four years ago, since which period it has never been altered by any other person.'

I like the idea of raising Mancroft tenor 'with great ease with a single hand.' And—recent writers please note—in plain bearings too!

No. Thurston would have publicity, and I think his celebrated 'challenge,' which appeared in your issue of September 20th last, was simply for that purpose. It was all too silly and bombastic to be taken seriously. The stars of Hollywood were not first in the field in this line of business.

The registers of the Church of St. Martin at Oak, Norwich, show that Thurston's mother was Frances Thurston and unmarried, and it is evident her son was a boastful and arrogant type of man, and not at all an easy bed-fellow in a band of ringers.

He must have been in and out of the company at Mancroft more than once, for it is significant that in 30 years he rang only two peals there, the Court Twelve and Oxford Royal, which latter he conducted. Except for the years from 1830 to 1835, he did not appear to command the help of the same men for long at a time, and in short appears to have been the exact opposite of John Chamberlin in every way.

He died very suddenly and was buried near the belfry door at Mancroft. His obituary notice is all in keeping with the man:—

'1841. On Saturday, January 9th, died suddenly in the 52nd year of his age. Mr. Samuel Thurston, who was for more than 30 years one of St. Peter Mancroft ringers. As a practical ringer and theorist combined, the Art has lost one of its brightest ornaments, but though dead, the tablets erected in different parishes throughout the City and County will yet live to record his fame as a ringer, and those who best knew him can testify that the best ringers our City can boast of are indebted to this great artist in the profession for the knowledge they possess in the Art of Ringing, Norwich being able to compete with any other band of ringers.'

I am glad Thurston's 'publicity agent' was spared to write this eulogy!

RESURGAM.

THE RUINED CITY CHURCHES.

Two and a half centuries ago a little group of men were standing in an open space on the summit of the hill that marks the centre of the city of London. An open space then, but ground which for untold centuries had been dedicated to the service of religion, and where a few short years before had stood one of the largest and most magnificent churches in the world. Now it was all gone, and only heaps of broken stones here and there were left, while all around, far and wide, were the signs of the most famous fire that had ever devastated a great city. Hundreds of houses, scores of churches, and all the public buildings, had been ruined.

The leader of the party was Christopher Wren, and the great architect was giving instructions for the beginning of a new Cathedral. He wanted to mark a spot, and called for a piece of stone. When the workmen brought it to him, it proved to be a broken part of a memorial, and on it was carved the word Resurgam—I shall rise again. It was an omen, a promise of hope, and a prophecy which was abundantly fulfilled; for on that open space not many years later stood the glorious Church of St. Paul we know so well to-day.

I could not help thinking of this scene when just now I walked up the same hill from Ludgate amid scenes which have not been paralleled in London since 1666.

But between then and now, while in both cases the damage was immense, there is this difference: then the fire swept in one steady stream right across the City, destroying everything that lay in its path, now the destruction is in patches, and one continually passes from a burnt out area, through streets which appear to be untouched, and then into another burnt area. So it happens fortunately that heavy and grievous as has been the loss of famous churches, there are many more that stand unharmed.

This is especially the case with the great Cathedral. How St. Paul's escaped is a marvel. All around, even within a few feet, are great buildings entirely gutted. Those who watched the fires from a distance or who saw the red glow in the sky can imagine something of what that Sunday night was like, but to those who had to be on the spot it must have been awesome.

The object of my visit was to see, if possible, what had happened to the steeples and bells which are so famous in the story of the Exercise. St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Sepulchre's hard by, are untouched, though the Central Criminal Court is said to have been damaged. In the distance St. Bride's steeple seems to stand up as it always has done, though the white stone appears to be smoke blackened. Or is it fancy? A nearer view shows gaping holes where the belfry louvres were, and we know, alas, that the fine ring of bells is destroyed with all that was in the church.

Of St. Lawrence Jewry nothing is left but the bare walls of church and tower. All the fittings, all the woodwork, are utterly destroyed, and not even a trace of the bells can be seen amid the ruins. Yet, strange to say, the stark walls struck me with a sense of nobility and an admiration for the genius of the architect which I never felt when I saw the unburnt church.

The bells of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, are gone, and so, I fear, are those of St. Vedast's. That steeple stands as it ever did, but any close inspection is impossible.

St. Michael's, Cornhill, is untouched, and St. Mary Woolnoth, which was one of those reported to be burnt, does not appear to have suffered much damage. Nor does St. Magnus', though there are signs of earlier raids. The graceful spire of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East still stands above the narrow and dirty lanes of Billingsgate, though masses of broken masonry block the streets that lead to it. A little further on another famous church and a ring of eight bells at All Hallows', Barking, have been destroyed. This was a pre-Reformation building which escaped the great fire of 1666 with nothing worse than a burnt clock face. St. Olave's, Hart Street, another pre-Reformation church, with eight bells, is safe.

St. Botolph's, Aldgate, stands, as of old, sentinel to the eastern approaches of the City, and as one looks down the Whitechapel Road the lofty spire of St. Mary's appears the same as ever. But as we draw nearer we can see that all that is left is the brick walls of the church and steeple. The famous old bell foundry had a miraculous escape. It is hemmed in by buildings and these on three sides were destroyed. Even the roof caught alight and there was no means to put the fire out. Fortunately it burnt out without doing much damage.

The whole area between St. Paul's and Newgate Street has been gutted, and here stood The Coffee Pot, where for so many years the Society of College Youths have held their meetings. Here they kept their property, which is of no small value, not only to the society, but to the Exercise at large. It was contained in two fireproof safes, one other safe, three boxes of handbells, and a box of books. At

present all lie buried in a mass of ruins, and it is impossible even to get near the place. We may trust that the two safes will be salvaged, but there is little hope for the others. **Very fortunately the irreplaceable peal and name books, the silver bell and other trophies, and the engraved plate by Bartolozzi, were removed to a place of safety some time ago.**

London will be built up again. Some at least of the churches will be restored, St. Bride's and St. Lawrence certainly, we hope. Once



WREN'S STEEPLE AT ST. BRIDE'S.

again a peal of bells will ring out from St. Lawrence's steeple, but St. Bride's bells had already fulfilled their mission and were of very little use where they hung. We cannot expect, nor should we particularly wish, that they will be replaced. If all the other ruined churches are not rebuilt in their old positions, there are many places in new districts where new churches, built by money provided by the sale of their sites and bearing their names, will still carry on the work they have performed for a thousand years. For them and for London as a whole the promise given to old St. Paul's still stands, Resurgam.

J. A. T.

Since the above was written, the churchwarden of St. Lawrence Jewry, in a broadcast speech, has promised that the metal from the bells will be recast into a new peal at the foundry whence they originally came.

DEATH OF DEAN OF HOBART.**INSTALLED BELLS IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.**

The death took place at Hobart, Tasmania, on November 1st, of the Very Rev. A. R. Rivers, Dean of Hobart since 1920. Dean Rivers, who was born at Teignmouth, Devon, went to Australia in 1884 as precentor and choirmaster of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, and later became Archdeacon of Wide Bay and Burnett in Queensland, and afterwards of Toowoomba.

Since his appointment as Dean of Hobart, St. David's Cathedral has been his life's work. When the English ringers visited Tasmania in 1934 he was about to begin the erection of the tower and the provision of bells. The Dean's desire was for a carillon, but as a result of the contact with the English ringers it was decided to have eight of the bells hung for ringing.

The Dean was a brilliant scholar, accomplished musician and painter, and a cultured linguist. He studied at St. John's College, Oxford, and proceeded to M.A. in 1884. He was ordained deacon in 1882 and priest in 1883 in Gloucester Cathedral. He had composed many beautiful carols and hymns and was the author of many books, including 'A History of the Church of England.'

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SECRETARIES.**MOONLIGHT NIGHTS IN 1941.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I append a lunar calendar for the benefit of secretaries and others arranging ringers' meetings and handbell practices which may be found useful if you will kindly publish it, as you did last January.

Moonlight nights are from the period between the end of the first quarter to the beginning of the last quarter of the moon. These periods for 1941, with date of full moon, are as follow:—

Moonlight	Full Moon	Moonlight	Full Moon
Jan. 5 to 20	Jan. 13	July 2 to 16	July 8
Feb. 4 to 12	Feb. 12	July 31 to Aug. 15	Aug. 7
Mar. 6 to 20	Mar. 13	Aug. 29 to Sept. 13	Sept. 5
April 5 to 18	April 11	Sept. 27 to Oct. 13	Oct. 5
May 4 to 18	May 11	Oct. 27 to Nov. 12	Nov. 4
June 4 to 16	June 9	Nov. 25 to Dec. 11	Dec. 3

Wishing you all prosperity, an early peace and a restoration of our tower activities.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.

SEAGE'S APPARATUS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Sargent's inquiry as to apparatus for dumb practice, we have one fixed to eight bells at Devizes, Wiltshire. It was put in about 45 years ago, made by Messrs. Seage, of Exeter, and, as nearly as I can remember, the cost was about £2 a bell complete without fixing.

It is a good job; nothing to get out of order after fixed. If any ringer would like more details about it I would be pleased to give it.

When the apparatus was first erected it was on a wood frame, but when our bells were rehung it was fitted to the iron frame by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

About 35 years ago I fitted the same apparatus to the bells at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, Mon.

I don't know whether the firm that made it still exists or not.

S. HILLIER.

26, Southbroom, Devizes, Wilts.

INSTALLATION AT CAMBRIDGE.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Leslie Evans' enquiry re apparatus for tower bells, I presume he refers to Seage's apparatus, such as is installed at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and St. Mary's, Ely.

If Mr. Evans is anticipating installation of such an apparatus and cares to communicate with me, I could furnish him with necessary illustrations which it would be difficult for the Press to show.

HAROLD J. HAZELL.

15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

RINGING IN OLDEN TIMES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope is very good at getting past history for us bellringers. He is very interesting to read. At a sale recently I bought some old books, and among them is one of 1838, which records a passage of bells being rung in Oxford for King Henry II. about 1149. This, I presume, would be his accession to the throne. Perhaps someone can get the dates in Oxford. Later mention is made of London bells being rung to notify of an invasion. Perhaps Mr. Trollope can help here. Best wishes to you and all.

FRANK WARRINGTON.

Swavesey, Cambs.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

THE**LEADING BELL FOUNDERS**

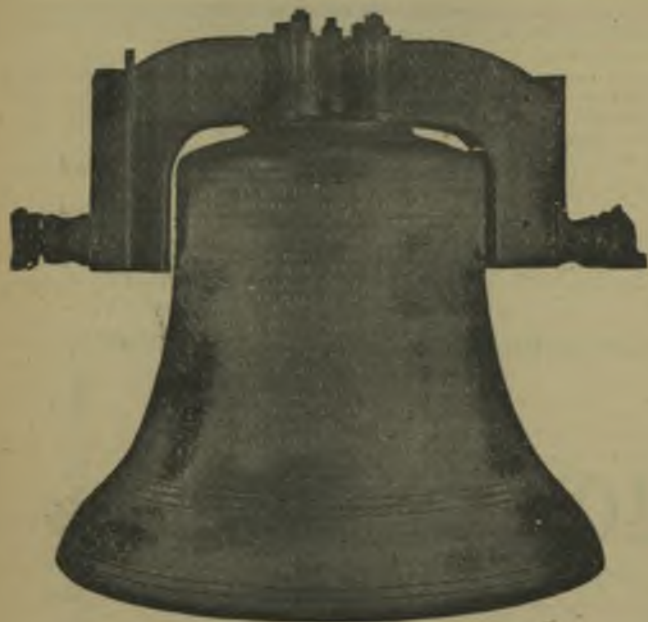
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Broadcasting on Monday evening upon the capture of Bardia, the Minister of Information (Mr. Duff Cooper) said it was a victory of the first order, and added, 'If it were not for the good reason against it, of which you know, we might well be ringing our church bells.'

The Duke of Kent visited Fleet Street on Monday, and, referring to the result of a recent raid, said he very much regretted the damage done to St. Bride's, 'the Cathedral of Fleet Street.'

Next Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Frank I. Hairs will celebrate their silver wedding. Congratulations of their many ringing friends will be extended to them.

A handbell practice is held each week at Mr. and Mrs. Hairs' home, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, Sussex. If any ringers who may be stationed in the neighbourhood will communicate with Mr. Hairs, he will be pleased to welcome them at the practice.

The loss by fire of the carillon at Cattistock, which we announced last September, was not due to enemy action.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917. In his time he was one of the best known and most active of ringers, and his record of 250 peals rung in two years has never been equalled. Among his performances were the 15,264 Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch, the first peal of Waterloo Major, and the first peal of Brighton Surprise Major.

On the same date in 1912, Tom Reynolds, of Birmingham, died.

The St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham rang in that city on January 7th, 1817, the first and only peal of Oxford Treble Bob Caters. It was composed and conducted by Thomas Thurstans.

Henry Johnson, who holds an honoured place in the history of the Exercise both as a ringer and a composer, died at Aston on January 7th, 1809.

To-day is the 224th anniversary of the first peal on the famous bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, which perished in the recent great fire raid. The method was Grandsire Caters, and it was rung by the London Scholars.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was Bob Triples, two were Grandsire Triples, and two were Kent Treble Bob Major.

A very fine heavy bell feat was performed on January 11th, 1911, when Mr. Henry R. Newton turned the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow in to 5,088 changes of London Surprise Major. No other bell of equal weight has ever been rung single handed to a peal of Major.

GOOD REASON FOR BAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I regret no less than other of your correspondents the ban on the use of church bells and the loss which it means to us. I happen to know, on excellent authority, however, that there is a very good reason for the complete silence of the bells at the present time.

J. H. B. HESSE.

Olivers, Haslemere.

RINGING NOT AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The dictionary definition of worship is 'The act of paying divine honours to the Supreme Being,' and for Mr. Elphick to say that 'we are all agreed that ringing of church bells is an act of worship' is pure imagination. Why not include the organ blower, the church cleaner and others? If the 'State has forbidden ringers to worship God in the way that they feel best able' (i.e., ringing), I suggest it is a poor compliment to the spiritual lives of ringers. But it is not so, for there is no worship in ringing, it is simply a cheerful and fascinating recreative hobby, to many, and to others, a duty as a church worker. To state that by 'one stroke of the pen' the State has destroyed our 'most precious freedom of worship' is rubbish. It has stopped ringing, certainly, and that is all, for no power on earth, not even the devil himself, can take away the blood-bought freedom that Jesus Christ has bestowed upon His Church. Ringers and churchpeople regret the stoppage, and think it a grave injustice; but with the war many injustices have accumulated. The Archbishop of Canterbury has failed to get the ban removed, and it is not right to suggest that the ringers should strive to impede the work of those responsible for the present war effort.

ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

RINGERS' HOMES 'BLITZED.'

Owing to air raid damage to their houses, Mr. C. A. Hughes, of 92, Stanley Road, Woodford, has now removed to 21, Malford Court, South Woodford, E.18, and Mr. A. Prior (late Master, S.W. District, Essex Association) to 12, Walwood Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

Mr. G. Dawson, of the Leytonstone band, has also suffered air raid damage, but is able to continue at 143, Norman Road, Leytonstone. They send greetings for 1941 to all ringing friends.

THE 'COFFEE POT' HAS GONE. COLLEGE YOUTHS' HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED.

Society Meets in Fire Area.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone.

It went down in fire and ruin when many more famous buildings perished in the German attack on London on the night of the last Sunday of the year.

And with the 'Coffee Pot' have gone, it is feared, some of the possessions of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Nothing but debris remains on the site where stood this house, so well known, by name at any rate, to the present generation of ringers and so intimately associated with the College Youths for more than forty years.

Under this debris are the safes which the society owns. It is hoped their contents will be found intact, but in boxes were the society's three sets of handbells and cup bells, and minute books going back for something like a hundred years, as well as pictures, books and other things. It is feared that these may be lost.

Happily the most valuable of the society's property is deposited for safe keeping in the strong room at St. Paul's Cathedral. This includes four peal books, three name books, the silver mace, the silver cups, the Wellington candlesticks, the Master's badge, and the Bartilozzi engraved plate used for the membership certificate. The present happening shows how wise was the precaution taken to safeguard these irreplaceable possessions.

Last Saturday the society should have held its fortnightly meeting at the 'Coffee Pot,' which has been the headquarters since September, 1897. Formerly, of course, these meetings were on Tuesday evenings after practice at St. Paul's Cathedral or some other famous city church, but war-time conditions had made that impossible. The continuity of the meetings, however, was maintained by holding them during daylight hours on Saturday afternoons.

A DARING PROCEDURE.

The demolition of the 'Coffee Pot' presented a sudden difficulty this week, but hasty arrangements were made to hold Saturday's meeting at the Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, where, it will be remembered, one of the social gatherings was staged when last the Central Council met in London. As many as possible of the 'regulars' were notified by telephone or post that 'owing to enemy action' the venue of the meeting had been changed.

It was, in a way, a daring procedure—not the changing of the venue, which was imperative if a meeting was to be held, but to hold the meeting at all, and those responsible are to be congratulated upon their action. For well over forty years the business of the society had been transacted at the 'Coffee Pot,' until, last November, the annual meeting followed the anniversary luncheon at Slater's Restaurant in Basinghall Street. That, of course, broke away from precedent.

Saturday's meeting, however, was something different. It was held in a city that, less than a week before, had gone through an ordeal of fire such as no city had ever suffered from the air. The Ancient Society, which in its early days had witnessed many of London's churches perish in the Great Fire of 1666, has again seen some of the most cherished city churches swallowed up in flames, and it held its meeting almost among the ruins, determined, with the rest of that which constitutes what is best expressed as 'the life of the city,' to show its proud spirit and its unshakable resolution to 'carry on.'

In this respect the meeting was a memorable one and one which I determined, if possible, not to miss. To keep an appointment in town in these days is something of a gamble, with trains arriving late and unexpected traffic diversions in many places, and I found in this case that what should have been a short walk from the Underground station needed a considerable detour, but it provided a glimpse of some of the terrific damage done in the city. The walk through St. Paul's Churchyard revealed the miraculous escape which this shrine had from the inferno that blazed around it. Incidentally I arrived half an hour late, but well in time for the meeting.

The party of College Youths that assembled to 'keep the flag flying' was not a large one—the marvel is that there was a party at all. They sat at one of the round tables in the buffet and transacted their business, what time other customers came in and sat about consuming refreshment.

THE SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

The Master (Mr. Ernest Fenn) presided, but it was not in the atmosphere we were wont to see him. He wore no badge of office, no silver adorned the table, there was no ceremony of lighting the candles in those famous candlesticks which the Duke of Wellington used in his Peninsular campaign. In fact, the onlooker would not have known who was chairman, so informal were the proceedings. The others present were the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), Mr. E. Alex. Young, Mr. H. Langdon, Mr. R. F. Deal, Mr. E. Murrell and Mr. H. Belcher.

At the outset, the Master congratulated Mr. Hughes upon his escape in the air raid of the previous Sunday night. Knowing a little of what happened on that occasion, he said, they were very pleased to see the hon. treasurer with them.

Mr. Hughes thanked the Master and said it was an experience he hoped he would never have to go through again.

The secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting. Two of the items, routine matters at the time, had a new significance. One

was 'that the rent of the meeting room be paid'; the other was, 'Notice was given that the next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot on January 4th at 3 p.m.'

The Hon. Treasurer said that on the day after the raid he went to the City and found the Coffee Pot no longer there. He wanted to see what the position was with regard to their property, and was told by the police to get a permit. After waiting an hour in a queue and with the prospect of waiting another hour and a half he gave up the idea and communicated with the owners of the premises, to whom he had supplied information as to the society's property left at the Coffee Pot. He had also informed the insurance company. The brewers had promised to do their best to salvage everything that was possible. Whatever was recovered from the ruins he would arrange to take possession of for the time being.

Mr. Hughes was thanked for his prompt action, and the meeting confirmed the steps he had taken.

CONTINUITY OF MEETINGS.

Mr. Hughes said there was another question about which he felt strongly, and that was that, although they had lost their headquarters, they ought not to let any dirty Germans upset the continuity of their meetings. They should keep the meetings going as long as they could, and he suggested that under the circumstances there was no better place to meet than where they were then assembled. Until the longer days came they could not expect to get a much larger attendance.

Other members expressed similar views, and the proposal was agreed to, but Mr. Langdon suggested they might consider the possibility of migrating to some safer district for their meetings.

The Whitecap Foundry was suggested as a last resource, and Mr. Hughes said that if it came to a last extremity the society would be welcome there.

A letter from Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham, enclosing a contribution to the 'Challis Winney Memorial Fund,' conveyed his greetings to the members and referred to some of Birmingham's recent experiences.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., also sent his good wishes in a letter apologising for his absence from the meetings in these days, and greetings were also received from Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere), Mr. Roland Fenn (Cheltenham) and Mr. A. W. Davis (Hereford).

It was resolved to meet again—blitz permitting—on Saturday, January 18th.

And so the informal 'formalities' ended. The College Youths had met and discharged their business under the grimmest conditions of their long history.

The members lingered awhile to discuss experiences, as people will do in these momentous times, and once or twice loud explosions reminded them of the work of demolition going on near at hand.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone, but not the memories of many interesting meetings of the College Youths held there and the notable ringers who have spent happy evenings in the meeting room.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone, but the College Youths carry on.

J. S. G.

A SUSSEX CHURCH SOLD.

MODEL OF DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

It is a rare thing to find a church offered for sale by public auction, yet this has been the fate of a very beautiful little building, the Church of St. Richard de Wych, standing in Ashdown Forest. A model of Durham Cathedral, it was built in 1886 by Thomas Charles Thompson and his wife, of Ashdown Park and Sherburn Hall, Durham, in memory of their two sons.

At one time services were regularly held there, but a dwindling population in the area resulted in its being used only seldom. There has been no incumbent for over a year. The church was never consecrated, and after being privately owned for some time it passed to the Chichester Diocesan Board, but became a considerable liability.

At first, attempts were made to dispose of the building privately, but the offers were so small that it was decided to put it up to public auction. The sale took place at the Dorset Arms Hotel, East Grinstead, and the bidding, which began at £200, rose by sums of £50 and £25 to £1,275, at which figure the church and its contents, which includes six bells, became the property of Mr. Stephen Easton, a well-known Sussex landowner, chairman of the Worthing Rural Council and a member of the Shoreham Urban District Council. It is understood that he proposes to have the church dismantled and removed to a parish which is in need of one, but the actual work will not be undertaken until after the war.

Conditions of the sale were that the purchaser might retain the church in its present condition with the memorials and fittings, but, if it should be sold for demolition, provision was made for the removal of the memorials.

A tablet in the church records that the building is 'Sacred to the dear memory of Thomas Charles Thompson, of Sherburn Hall, Durham, and Ashdown Park, Sussex, by whom, and his wife, Marianne Thompson, this church was built, 1886, as a memorial to their two sons, Thomas Moore and Harold. He died September 26th, 1892. This tablet was erected by George Carnac Fisher, Bishop of Ipswich (son-in-law), and Mary Penelope Gwendoline, his wife, and their children.'

From the ringers' point of view, the strange thing seems to be that they were not aware of the existence of the ring of six bells in the tower, although at Coleman's Hatch, in which parish the church is situated, there is a peal of eight put up not many years ago.

LOSS OF CHURCH BELLS.

SUGGESTED PRECAUTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From your pages and from other sources of information the Exercise is learning of the great losses which it is now sustaining by enemy action.

It is generally known that we in London have lost rings of outstanding interest, and there are others elsewhere. These bells cannot be replaced; it is true that their fragments could be collected and recast with further metal, but their identity, linked with the men who made them and the ringers who rang them, is gone for ever.

The time is come when ringers should take every possible action. For instance, we can urge our clergy and the Church authority to have the bells isolated, fire partitioned, asbestos jacketed, etc., all inflammable linings, peal boards, etc., temporarily taken down and the remaining carcase timber made more fire-resisting. Then, in regard to the towers, the unnecessary openings into the church, or those overlooking roofs, should be completely sealed and the others fitted with fire-resisting curtains or screens. Isolate the tower, for at one period of the fire it will become its own blow-pipe generating enormous heat!

Again, we ringers can offer with others of the parishioners to form a fire-watch and become properly trained. (I myself joined that at St. Paul's Cathedral 1915-18, where I was allotted to the Thursdays and various Saturdays and Sundays during those years.)

I observe that much of the most valuable stained glass has been removed for safety, as has other property of the Church. Is it not time for us to urge that outstanding rings of bells should also be saved? They could be soon lowered to the churchyard and protected by sandbags.

I should be glad to hear, as a beginning, that St. Michael's, Cornhill, the Abbey, Southwark, Fulham, St. Clement's, St. Magnus, St. Martin's, and the Holborn, Aldgate and Smithfield (2) rings are saved. Of the newer ones, St. Paul's should come first.

The country would soon follow London's lead.

E. ALEX. YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retd.).

THE FIRE RAID ON LONDON.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DAMAGED CHURCHES.

In addition to the churches mentioned in our last issue, St. Alban's, Wood Street, was destroyed recently by enemy action.

At the time of King Edward VI. there were 'in the Belfry, a Chime and a Clocke, v belles and one small belle called a saintes bell.'

In 1633 the old church had become so dilapidated that it was in danger of falling down and people were afraid to enter it. A Commission reported that it was beyond repair, and it was pulled down and rebuilt by Inigo Jones. It was partly destroyed by the fire of 1666 and afterwards restored by Wren at a cost of £3,165. Wren built the very striking Gothic tower, which contained two bells, one of them by I.P., dated 1704.

The old Church of St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe had in 1552 'iij bells in the Steple and a vestry bell.' The latter was an unusual name; probably it was the sanctus which hung at the east end of the church in a cot over the vestry, instead of, as was usual in London churches, with the ringing peal in the steeple. After the fire of 1666 Wren rebuilt the church and only one bell was hung in the tower.

The tower of the Church of St. Anne and St. Agnes does not appear to have been destroyed. It contains only one bell, not two as stated last week.

The old church had 'v greate belles in the steple and a lyttle bell,' but about 1560 the building was destroyed by fire 'as far as it was combustible,' and there is no evidence of any bells later.

St. Mary Aldermanbury possessed in 1552 'v bells in the steple one greater than another and a litle sanctus bell—vj belles greate and small.'

St. Mary's was burnt in the fire of 1666. The vestry paid £8 2s. 6d. for removing stones and rubbish and gathering up the lead and bell metal. Instead of keeping the latter as some parishes did with the idea of having new bells, they sold it for £41 10s.

The new church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and on April 30th, 1673, 'twenty guineas were paid to Dr. Professor Wren and ten to Mr. Hooke that they may be encouraged to assist in the perfecting the building.'

In 1675 a bell was hung in the new tower and there was
paid for ye treble bell ... 37 10 0
paid ye bell hangars ... 3 18 0

The small bell hung in the lantern was by Mears and Son and was dated 1809.

Though badly damaged, the church is not completely destroyed, and the tower, which largely survived the fire of 1666, still stands. But the bell turret at the top is gone and it looks as if the steeple has been gutted.

St. Mary Woolnoth, which has not been destroyed, had in Edward VI.'s reign 'in the Steple fyve greatt bells and a littill bell wt. a clock and a chyme and ropes to the same.' There are now three bells, all by William Eldridge, the treble and tenor dated 1670 and the second 1672.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, LIVERPOOL.

DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION.

Bells Safe.

The Ministry of Information has released the news that St. Nicholas', the old Parish Church of Liverpool, was destroyed in a recent air raid. We understand, however, that the tower is standing and the bells are safe.

In the eighteenth century a new spire was added to the old tower, which was raised in height. It was completed in 1750 and stood for 60 years, but on Sunday morning, February 11th, 1810, 'a few minutes' before the commencement of divine service, while the bells were ringing the second peal, the whole structure collapsed, and falling on the church killed 25 people, including 18 children.



ST. NICHOLAS' TOWER HAS DEFIED THE FIRE.

The present tower was begun in 1810 and finished in 1815.

William Dobson, of Downham Market, in Norfolk, was given an order for a new ring of twelve, and his instructions were to make a replica of the bells at St. Peter, Mancroft, Norwich, which had the reputation of being the best in England. Dobson is said to have taken careful measurements of the Norwich bells, but he did not succeed in reproducing their peculiar qualities.

The tenor, which weighed 41 cwt. 14 lb., was recast by Warners in 1911 and now weighs 39 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

The new bells were opened on June 4th, 1814, 'when a numerous assemblage of amateurs were invited,' and a beautiful silver cup of the value of 20 guineas was presented by the town for the best performance of the day.

The prize was won by a band who rang under the auspices of the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham; but it included such famous ringers as James Dovey from Stourbridge, William Hudson and William Booth from Sheffield, and Samuel Lawrence from Shifnal.

The touch was 3,000 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and 14 men took part, two to each of the big bells, which looks as if the 'go' was not of the best.

Henry Cooper, who rang the seventh and probably conducted, was afterwards entrusted with the custody of the cup. He was a silver plater by trade, and as the cup disappeared in a mysterious manner, nasty things were said and Cooper's reputation suffered.

On the day after the opening, the St. Martin's Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques.

(Continued on next page)

NEW YEAR'S EVE.**RINGING AT THE LYCH GATE.**

As Christmas, in the past most astonishing and eventful year—now happily past—could not be welcomed in by the ringing of church tower bells, so that year could not be rung out, or the New Year rung in, in the immemorial and time honoured way.

Yet there were some who determined hopefully not to be quite beaten by the ban on tower bells and thought that possibly a substitute—though of necessity only a poor one—might be found in handbells, rung out of doors by the church lych-gate. Such ringing could not, of course, be done on large bells, which might have been heard at some distance away; but fortunately the parish in which the above mentioned 'some' live, but which must remain unnamed, possesses a ring of ten handbells in G; and also, fortunately, the Rector saw the possibility and gave his sanction and encouragement.

The first step was taken by obtaining leave of the local military authority, readily granted on the assurance that these bells would not be heard above a distance of 200 yards. Due thanks for this permission have been gratefully given to this authority.

So in the evening of the last day of the old year, in the home of one of the ringers, a band of five assembled, including one of the most experienced ringers in England to conduct, and a boy who had never rung a handbell before. After some two hours' practice, it was found possible to ring rounds and certain call changes, including tittums, the plain course of Original Doubles (each ringer ringing his two bells, one after the other, as one), and a carol, 'The First Noel.'

The hour of midnight was struck by 'firing,' and the ten bells broke out into rounds.

At 11.50 p.m. ringing at the lych-gate began, and there was only time to ring these changes and the carol a few times each before midnight. The changes were repeated after midnight, when some half-dozen people from nearby cottages came out of doors to listen and welcome the ringers; though several more, who live farther away, said afterwards that they wished that they had heard them, as they would have come and joined in the welcome.

So 'somewhere in England,' in a country parish in a safe area, the old year of 1940 was rung—limpingly—out, and the new year of 1941 was rung—more hopefully—in.

HOBART RINGERS' ASSOCIATION.**CHANGE IN MASTERSHIP.**

At the annual meeting of the Holy Trinity Bell Ringers' Association, Hobart, Tasmania, Mr. J. Quarmby resigned the Mastership, after many years in that office. Mr. Smith, a native of Suffolk, who went to Hobart a few years ago, succeeds him, and under him the society hope to make further progress. Mr. R. A. Wilson was re-elected hon. secretary.

The membership of the association is now eleven and the funds show a balance in hand of £8 13s. 1d.

It was decided to have the bell frame inspected and, where necessary, renew the timbers.

The bell frame was put in when the bells were sent out from the Whitechapel Foundry in 1847. Before the visit of the English ringers in 1934 only two peals had been rung on them, both Grandsire Triples, by Melbourne ringers, on December 29th and December 31st, 1890. The English ringers rang two peals, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major, and failed in two other attempts—Treble Bob lost near the end through a rope slipping wheel, and Grandsire Triples, in which Mr. Quarmby was ringing the tenor.

The Hobart ringers send their greetings to all ringers in this country.

PEALS AT LIVERPOOL.

(Continued from previous page.)

Between 1815 and 1850 five peals of Grandsire Cinques and one of Stedman Cinques were rung in the steeple, and in every case two men were needed for each of the two big bells.

For some years St. Nicholas' has had a skilled and energetic band, and their performances included peals of Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Cambridge Surprise Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus.

Mr. George R. Newton is the enthusiastic and popular leader of the company.

A SOMERSET MEETING.**ENJOYABLE GATHERING AT WATCHET.**

The quarterly meeting of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held in December at St. Decuman's, Watchet. The six bells (tenor 18½ cwt.) had been rendered mute by boarding the clappers in the centre, and these were raised at about 3 p.m. and rung to touches of Grandsire and Stedman. Service was held at 3.30 p.m., and those present soon raised the echoes of the old church with the well-known hymns and psalms.

An excellent address was given by the Rev. W. Cottrell, who took as his text the words, 'How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' He said he wanted to see handbells brought into the services of the church instead of being rung only beforehand, and suggested that they might be introduced into the Communion service to the greater glory of God. Dwelling upon his own reminiscences of the sound of church bells, he said that it was indeed a poor compliment from the State to the ringers of this country that no differentiation was to be made between the careful ringing of bells as practised by a band of ringers, and the harsh tocsin when they were clashed in alarm. 'How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' Truly, a strange land of war, in which there was never so much need of the bells as now.

Tea, provided by the Vicar and local band, was ready in the Church Room, and a touch of colour was provided by fresh flowers on the tables and flags on the walls. About thirty sat down to a repast which would not be frowned upon in peace time, and did justice to farmhouse butter, tea with sugar in it, and all the other mysteriously-present items. It was a most regrettable fact that cream was unavailable, as otherwise this commodity, so popular at ringers' teas in this part of the country, would have been present, as it was at the Hawkridge meeting.

After tea the business meeting was opened by the Rev. Newman, of Timberscombe, in the absence of the president, the Rev. Etherington, who was prevented by weather and lack of petrol from leaving his eyrie in the hills. (It was rumoured that he was busily engaged in the Withypool Winter Sports, but this story was found to be no more reliable than the one about the 'Ark Royal'). Mr. George Stacey, the hon. secretary, enlivened the meeting, as usual, with an inexhaustible store of jokes at the expense of those present; his accomplice, Mr. Jack Pugsley, assisting, while contriving (somehow) to assume an innocent expression.

On the proposition of Mr. W. E. Challice, seconded by Mr. H. J. Prole, Miss S. B. Chidgey (St. Decuman's) was elected a performing member. Outcome was selected for the annual meeting, to be held in March, whether Hitler permits or not.

Messrs. Stacey and Pugsley approached the Vicar of St. Decuman's (Canon R. J. Pearce) with regard to the augmenting of St. Decuman's bells from six to eight for the years of peace which are soon to come.

The Vicar said he would certainly do his best to secure the necessary precious metal for the purchase of two new trebles at as early date as possible, but mentioned that there was still a pound or two owing on the organ restoration fund.

Touches and courses of Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob on handbells followed, ending with rounds and Queens on the twelve. A very enjoyable meeting then terminated with a cordial invitation, from Canon R. J. Pearce to the ringers, to come to Watchet at any time they liked, 'the sooner the better.'

General dispersal followed, some going in the direction of the bus-stop, some dart-wards, and others to sundry places of refreshment. Just at this time Mr. Stacey forgot where he had put his bag, and an immediate search of all the neighbouring hostleries was contemplated when one member produced it from beneath his arm. Farewells were said, hands shaken, and away they all went until the spring meeting.

W. E. C.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

On Christmas morning, touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung in the nave of St. Leonard's Church, Eynsham, Oxon: Cecil Calcutt 1-2, Harry Floyd 3-4, Thomas W. Bond 5-6. The ringing was much appreciated by members of the congregation.

At the Parish Church, Selston, Nottingham, handbells were rung for the early Communion service and also at 11 a.m. The ringers were warmly thanked for their services by the Vicar and members of the congregation, who hope for a repetition.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES.

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART REVERSED.

To get an absolute reversal of Thurstans' Four-Part peal of Stedman Triples we should take the original composition as it stands. We should start at backstroke in the middle of a quick Six, rounds being a handstroke row and 1325476 the first backstroke row. We should then ring or prick out the rows in exactly the reverse order of the original, beginning at the end and ending at the beginning.

Everything, rows, bobs, course-ends, observation bells, and the rest, would be exactly as in the original version except only in the order they appear. That would be an absolute reversal.

But we object, and with good reason, to any start other than at handstroke, and though we allow (also with good reason) various starts in Stedman Caters, we do not like to begin Stedman Triples except in the traditional manner.

For that reason an absolute reversal of Thurstans' composition has little more than an academic interest for us, but with a very slight variation it can be turned into a very good and useful peal.

Take the absolute reversal, and instead of starting at backstroke, start in the usual way. Put rounds where 1325476 comes in the absolute reversal and ring or prick the peal in exactly the same manner.

The treble will do throughout the same work, in the same order, as in Thurstans' original composition. The Sixth will do the same work as the Seventh, and so be the observation bell. The Seventh will do the same work as the Sixth and be the sub-observation bell. Two and Three will interchange their work; and Four and Five. All as in the original, but, of course, backwards.

When we study this peal we shall find that it is not just a curiosity. It is a very useful composition, quite as good in every way as the original, and is fully worthy of the Stedman conductor's notice. The calling positions are fixed by the work of the Sixth and are similar to those when the Seventh is the observation bell, but, of course, they come at different Sixes in the course. The course-end is when the Sixth is dodging in 6-7 down, and therefore Q, S, H and L come at 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. The Singles are made after Slow instead of after Quick; the Fifth makes the first and the Sixth the second, the Seventh lying behind at both.

A comparison of this variation with the original will show several very interesting features. Actually the quarter-peal on which Thurstans' four-part is based reverses to the same composition, which is the reason why the out-of-course half of the peal is called in the same way (except for the omits) as the in-course half. This gives the result that the reversal of the whole peal is much the same thing as the variation produced by altering the observation bell. We shall notice that in the standard calling (which is marked A), the order of the bobs is just the same as in the original.

The figures as we now give them are the only composition which has the right to be called Thurstans' Four-Part reversed, without any qualification.

2314567	Q	S	H	L		Q	S	H	L
3457261	(a)					4351267	A		
4572361	x		x	x		(3457261)		x	(b)
3612467		x		x		3217564		x	
A 5317462			x			2175364	x	x	x
3174562	x		x	x		3145267		x	x
5124367		x		x					
C 1527364			x		B 5247361		x	x	
5273164	x		x	x	2473561	x		x	x
5342167				x	5413267		x		x
34215	A				41325	A			
42153	A				13254	A			
21534	A				32541	A			
15342	A				25413	A			
12435	C				14523	B			
24351	A				45231	A			
(a) Single VI. at 1.					52314	A			
					23145	A			
					(b) Single V. at 13.				

HENRY JOHNSON'S REVERSAL.

Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham, sends us the following figures of Thurstans' peal as reversed by Henry Johnson, at the request of one of the St. Martin's ringers of that day, who wished to call the peal from the light end and wanted also to ring an observation bell. It will be observed that 1-2 take the place of 7-6 in the original, and

(Continued on next page.)

WATH RINGER MARRIED

On Boxing Day at Huddersfield Parish Church, Mr. W. Bramham, of Wath, was married. Mr. Bramham has been a ringer at Wath-on-Dearne, Yorks, for a number of years, and is a member of the Yorkshire Association and of the smaller societies within the Southern District of Yorks. His new abode will be at Huddersfield.

To celebrate the happy event, 720 of Bob Minor was rung on the same date at 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by Daniel Smith 1-2, Harold Chant (conductor) 3-4, Arthur Gill 5-6.

ROBERT PERRY.

A RINGER WHO TURNED OUT ROGUE.

Mr. Theodore Slater, of Glemsford, has supplied us with further notes taken from his father's notebooks concerning old Suffolk ringers. Here is the story of one ringer who, while he had his good qualities, turned rogue and presumably left the country for his country's good. He must, however, have been thought something of in London, for when news of his death came from America, a muffled peal was rung.

This man was Robert Perry, who rang a peal at St. Giles', Cripplegate. He was a native of Long Melford, and, as a boy, went to work at Churchyard's hair factory and rose to be manager of the factory. When he got this position he soon betrayed the trust put in him and was dismissed for dishonest practices. After this he went to Glemsford and obtained work at a horse hair factory, and again rose to be manager, but he was soon at his tricks again and was dismissed for dishonesty. Then he went to London and there found work in a gas works. What he did in London is not really known, but the old ringers who knew him used to say that when things got 'too hot' he emigrated and went to Boston, U.S.A., and there worked in a gas works for some time.

He was found dead in the stokehole, suffocated, while working on a night shift. The news of his death did not reach London for some time, but when it did the St. James' Society rang a muffled peal for him at St. Clement Danes. Perry knew every process in the manufacture of horse hair.

He called, from the 4th, a peal of Bob Major on Long Melford bells and rang the 3rd in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lavenham in 1853.

When Perry went to Glemsford many men were working on the land as agricultural labourers; single men for 7s. 6d. a week and married men for 8s. 6d. a week, the week's work being 60 hours. Perry took pity on these men and taught some of them various processes in the manufacture of horse hair, thereby reducing their hours of labour and doubling their wages. Perry thus had some good characteristics in his make-up.

The peal of Bob Major that Perry called at Melford is described on a tablet in Melford steeple as being the composition of Mr. H. Haley. Some time before his death Samuel Slater had a pocket book lent him by Hiram Ambrose, and the calling of the peal was copied by Samuel Slater. It proves to be one of Annable's in three parts.

On looking over an old note book Mr. Theodore Slater has found that Perry died at Boston in America on November 27th, 1874, at the age of 56 years, and the muffled peal for him was rung at St. Clement Danes, January 11th, 1875, by the St. James' Society.

Here are notes about other Suffolk ringers who figured later in London peal ringing:—

William Brett, who rang the tenor at Clerkenwell in 1840 to a peal of Double Norwich, was born at Somerton, Suffolk, in 1808, and learned to ring on the four bells at Somerton, the five bells at Hartest, the six bells at Glemsford, and eight and ten bells at Bury St. Edmunds.

In 1835 an attempt was made to ring a peal of Bob Royal on the Norman Tower bells, Bury St. Edmunds, but the attempt failed after ringing 3 hours and 35 minutes. Brett acted as conductor and rang the 9th bell. He is described by those who have seen him to have been a fine well-built man, dark complexion and a pork butcher. His sister died at Hartest in 1902. Her name was Clarke. She was then a widow.

Augustus George Frost, who rang the tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to a peal of Royal, was a painter, signwriter and house decorator by trade. He was a native of Bury St. Edmunds and a member of the Norman Tower band before migrating to London.

James Marlton, who rang the tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to another peal of Royal, is said to have belonged to East Anglia. At one time there was a James Marlton a ringer at Redenhall, Norfolk, and it has been wondered if they were one and the same man.

We are able to add that James Marlton's feats included ringing the tenors at Southwark and Spitalfields to 7,104 changes of Treble Bob Maximus and Bow tenor to 5,200 Treble Bob Royal.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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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.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held in the Synod Hall, Holyrood, Quadrant, W.3, on Saturday, January 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea 4 p.m., followed by tower bells (10). All ringers welcome. We extend the compliments of the season to all.—E. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 11th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m., other arrangements as usual. A good attendance is desired.—H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Bells (6) without clappers and handbells available. Fourth annual dinner February 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Committee meet 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m., in St. Peter's Parish Hall (adjoining church). Tea at nearby cafe. Handbells will be available, and it is hoped a good muster of members and friends will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting, which was not held on December 14th, has been rearranged for Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church in the Horsefair). Handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. The meeting will be over by 5 o'clock for those who wish to get away.—A. M. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th. Handbell contest at Rectory Rooms at

3.30 p.m., followed by the general meeting. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5.30 p.m., followed by social evening and handbell ringing. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, January 18th. Open from 2.30. Handbell practice and social chats. Tea arranged. All who are interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Lea in the Institute on Saturday, January 18th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by whist drive at 7 p.m. Refreshments, but bring your own sugar. Please come and bring your friends.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, January 18th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Refreshments can be obtained from the canteen in the Memorial Hall.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Derby, on Saturday, January 18th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives? All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stourbridge St. Thomas (D.V.), 3 p.m., Saturday, January 18th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting, handbell practice and social evening. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, January 15th, if possible, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held in Leicester on January 18th. Silent ringing on Cathedral bells if required, from 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Globe opposite the cathedral at 5 p.m. Those intending to be present for tea must notify me not later than Wednesday, January 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications, which are requested by January 16th.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

DEATH.

WILLSON.—On January 3rd, Ada, the beloved wife of William Willson, 3, Winchester Avenue, Leicester, aged 71 years, the devoted mother of Lily, Hilda, Muriel and Winnie. 'Underneath are the everlasting arms.'

HANDELLS WANTED.

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STEDMAN TRIPLES

(Continued from previous page.)

it follows closely the plan of the original in that the extras are in the 4th and 9th parts and the omits in the 13th and 15th parts.

2314567	Q	S	H	L	4356721	S	H	L	Q
4675321	1	4(S)			A 3647521				
					A 6735421				
A 4526371	x		x		C 4725631	x			
5643271	x	x		x	7546231	x	x		x
6543721		x			5746321		x		
A 5367421					A 7653421				
A 3754621					A 6374521				
B 3427651	x		x		A 3465721				
4736251	x	x		x	A 4537621				
5634721		x	x		C 7564321				
					A 5473621				
A 6457321					5324671	x		x	
A 4763521					2314567	x	x	x	x
A 7345621					4356721		x	14(S)	17,18
A 3576421									
B 7436521									
7624531	x		x						
6475231	x	x		x					

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THE COMING YEAR.

Had the times been normal, the coming weeks would have been full of activity among the ringing associations, for it has been the habit of many of them to hold the annual meetings of districts in the early part of the year. Circumstances, however, compel a vastly modified programme. It is not only the present restraint on all ringing of church bells that enforces the abandonment of meetings, but the stern demands made upon the members which prevent so many of them coming together. True, the imposition of the ban has led to a considerable falling off in the number of ringers' gatherings, for much of the attraction is lost by the silence of the bells, but a good deal may, we think, also be rightly attributed to the preoccupation of men in connection with the war, either in the services, or in the front line at home. Coupled with this there has been, of course, the difficulties of transport in the black-out, which have added to the obstacles besetting those who are responsible for organising meetings. All the same, there is good reason why the associations should endeavour to keep up the continuity of their meetings. They have before them the splendid example set by the Ancient Society of College Youths, which, driven from its old home by enemy action, has grimly determined to carry on in the very centre of the bombed city. The College Youths meet not once in three months, as is the habit of many of the associations in regard to their districts, but once a fortnight. Moreover, in order to attend the meetings many of the members have to travel a good deal further than provincial ringers. The decision of the old Society should be an inspiration to the faint-hearts, who hesitate to embark on meetings from fear either of difficulties or failure.

We are approaching now the longer hours of daylight and, with the lengthening days, association officials should lay plans to enable their members to meet at any rate with reasonable frequency, without, of course, expecting more than moderate attendances. It is not members that count now, it is the importance of 'keeping the flag flying' in these discouraging days of ringing. There are associations in which little effort has been made in the last few months to keep alive the organisation. Where this has happened, we hope some more energetic action can be taken this year. It is so very easy to let things slide, and to wait upon events. It is impossible to forecast how long the present situation may last; there may be even grimmer days before us, but there is no reason why any ringing organisation

(Continued on page 26.)

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should be allowed to die of inanition. Officials owe a duty to their members to give them the opportunity to meet; members owe a duty to the officials to give them the support their efforts deserve. With a reciprocal response meetings can be made quite worth while; and as the days lengthen so will the attendances grow. But what is needed in the first place is courage to make and carry out plans. To hold back for fear of unpredictable happenings is a defeatist attitude inconsistent with the spirit which is required to-day and which in other walks of life is being so magnificently shown.

As with the associations, so with the Central Council. That body has good reason for planning a meeting for this year, for it is the jubilee of its foundation. The first meeting of the elected Council was held on Easter Tuesday, 1891, and it would be unfortunate if this auspicious anniversary had to be passed over without a meeting, be it ever so modest. Even if it is not possible to hold a business meeting of the customary full-day type, a gathering of those members able to attend would be a gratifying recognition of a notable milestone in the history of the Council. There would, we feel sure, be enough members present to make the assembly worth while, even though only a minimum of business was transacted, for all who could would surely be anxious to join in the celebration. The venue of such a meeting would be a matter for careful thought; and while London might be out of the question, there are other places not far away from the Metropolis that might well serve. At any rate, in view of the fact that this is the jubilee year of the Council, some effort should be made to call it together. Even if the worst came to the worst the meeting could be postponed at the last moment, but it would be a pity if the occasion were allowed to pass without any attempt to mark it.

RINGERS' FEASTS.

WHAT THEY ATE AND DRANK AT NORWICH.

Now that rationing is very much with us, an old 'feast bill' may be of interest.

The 'Purse Club' or Benefit Society connected with St. Peter Mancroft ringers was governed by a set of rules, or articles, dated December 22nd, 1716, and part of rule 8 reads: 'The Feast Makers, with consent of the Headsman, shall have power to appoint the place for the yearly feast, which shall be kept upon Whitsun Monday, at which feast every person belonging to this Society shall pay unto the Feast Makers one shilling and sixpence for their entertainment upon that day.'

The earliest account for this feast day appearing in the books is for the year 1740, and is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Beef, 48 lb.	1	0	0
Mutton, 15 lb.		5	6
Veal, 8 lb.	2	4	1
Bacon and Suet		1	6
Butter, 1 quart		1	2
Bread		2	0
Pickles and Pepper	1	2	1
Porteridge		3	
Tobacco	1	7	1
Pipes		1	0
Servants	2	0	
Vinegar		4	1
	£1	19	0

In 1742, 58 lb. of beef is entered at 3d. per lb., and 1½ lb. of tobacco was bought for 1s. 6d. The costliest feast was in 1762, when they had 70 lb. of beef, 38 lb. of mutton and 78 lb. of veal, the total cost, including drink, amounting to £7 8s. 2d. At this time there were 40 members of the society! As years went on more attention was apparently paid to liquid refreshment, for in 1827 '108 quarts of ale and porter, £2 14s.' is one of the items in the bill. What would these old heroes think of present-day rationing?

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

St. Martin's was made a separate parish in 1542 by letters patent of Henry VIII., and the tradition was that it was done because the king objected to funeral processions passing down Whitehall through the palace precincts on their way to St. Margaret's, Westminster, the mother church.



[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

We do well, however, to mistrust such traditions. There had been a Chapel of St. Martin from early times, and it was only natural that, as the district developed, it should become a parish church.

There were then three bells besides the sanctus bell and the sacring bell. The latter is referred to as the mass bell and it was hung in the chancel within the church, either on the screen or on the wall.

In 1530, John Brook was paid for two days' work trussing the great bell at the rate of eightpence a day. That will give us some idea of the money earned by workmen at the time. Brook was, of course, a skilled artisan, and probably would have to pay the labourer who helped him.

Trussing the bell was tightening it up on the stock. In those days there were no such things as bolts and nuts, for there was no means of cutting a thread. The bell was hung by straps of iron called stirrups, which were passed through the canons and fastened to the sides of the stock with dogs or large iron nails. Such an arrangement was bound to work loose in course of time, and to be affected by the shrinkage of the wood caused by changes of weather. Old churchwardens' accounts usually contain frequent items of charges for trussing.

The church was rebuilt about 1544, and three or four years before that the bells were recast and hung in a new frame, the cost being partly defrayed by gifts from the parishioners. John Young, the saddler, who regularly supplied the baldricks, made a gift of three for the new bells. About the same time a parishioner gave a new saunce or sanctus bell.

The baldricks were leather straps, by which the clapper was hung, and were passed through the crown staple and a loop at the top of the clapper shank. They very quickly wore out, and their renewal was a very considerable charge on the parish revenue.

Some time after the bells were hung the stock of the tenor began to shrink, and this necessitated 'winding up the great bell' and shutting (i.e. welding) the stirrup by which it was hung.

In 1544 a new treble was added by a founder whose foundry was at Houndsditch, but who cannot be identified. In 1572 the third was recast, and in 1581 the tenor was recast by Hugh Walker. The first time he did the work it was unsatisfactory, and the bell had to be recast a second time.

In 1584 the whole ring was recast by Robert Mot, of Whitechapel, the cost being defrayed by public subscription. The list of 67 names includes those of Sir Thomas Bromley, the Lord Chancellor of England, the Earl of Rutland, and Sir Francis Knowles.

In 1586 Hugh Walker recast Mot's treble and added another bell to increase the number of the ring to five. A good deal of work was done to the bells at the same time, the total cost being £17 9s. 11d. 'So,' say the churchwardens, 'we have laid out more than we received 49s. 11d.'

Only six years later Lawrence Wright recast the tenor at a cost of £10, and a year later still the fourth at a cost of £8. These charges were met by public subscription, and as ninety persons contributed it is evident that the bells were very popular.

The payments for ringing were similar to those in other churches, but, as at St. Margaret's, a large proportion of them were for occasions when royalty passed. The earliest on record was a payment of fourpence when Henry VIII. passed by in 1538. Tenpence was paid when Queen Mary came to Whitehall, and sixteenpence when Mary and Philip of Spain arrived in London. When Mary died, eightpence was paid for ringing her knell, and the same amount to welcome her successor.

All through Elizabeth's reign there was ringing whenever the queen came to or left Whitehall or St. James' Palace, until January 21st, 1602, when she removed to Richmond, where she died.

Two months later the bells were rung 'at the proclaiming of our king,' and as the large amount of two shillings and eightpence was paid, there was probably a full day's ringing.

(Continued on next page.)

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

LEGEND OF NELL GWYNN.

(Continued from previous page.)

There is no record of any payment when the Spanish Armada was defeated, but, as at all the other London churches, the bells were rung when the Spaniards beat the Turks at the battle of Lepanto, and for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

In 1663 the tower of St. Martin's was rebuilt. The weather vane at the top was in the form of a ship and marked some traditional connection between the church and the Board of Admiralty. It was long the custom, and perhaps still is, for the latter to supply the flag that is flown on festivals. All through the seventeenth century there was a ring of five in the steeple, and in after years a tradition grew up that Nell Gwynn, Duchess of St. Albans and mistress of Charles II., had left in her will money to provide the ringers with a weekly leg of mutton supper. The editor of Thomas Betterton's 'History of the English Stage,' published in 1741, says that 'among her donations was a sum of money for a weekly entertainment of the ringers of St. Martin's which they enjoy to this day.' A writer in 'The Champion' of June 3rd, 1742, referring to the fraudulent practices of parish vestries, and particularly that of St. Martin's, says, 'I cannot forbear mentioning one action more laid to the charge of these honest men. Nell Gwynn, player, left a handsome income yearly to St. Martin's on condition that on every Thursday evening in the year there should be six men employed for the space of one hour in ringing, for which they were to have a roasted shoulder of mutton and ten shillings for beer, but the legacy is of late diverted, and no such allowance is now given.'

Actually no such legacy ever was left by Nell Gwynn or by anyone else. One explanation given of the fable is that it was the custom of the ringers after their practice to adjourn to the 'Nell Gwynn' public-house near the Adelphi Theatre, where the landlord reserved a private room and provided a hot leg of mutton supper at an inclusive charge of one shilling per head for the bell-ringers and any friends belonging to the different societies of ringers that used to attend the weekly practice. Whether there is any more truth in this explanation than in the original legend may perhaps be doubted.

St. Martin's was not the only parish at which there was supposed to be endowment for providing the ringers with a leg of mutton supper. There was a similar tradition at Fulham and several other places.

As at St. Martin's, most of these traditions were probably baseless fables. It is true that during some centuries a good many bequests were left in different places by various men, in order that bells might be rung, but very few of them were primarily for the benefit of the ringers. Usually it was to mark the anniversary of the testator's death. He provided money for the ringing of the bells, but so long as they were rung it mattered not at all who rang them. There was, however, a legacy at Chertsey, Surrey, of one pound yearly for 'young men to ring and make merry with' on August 6th, and a similar legacy at East Molesey. In the year 1841 the Charity Commission reported that these legacies had not been paid for some years, but the authorities evidently had been brought to book and promised to renew the payment.

At Harlington, in Middlesex, there was a genuine legacy for a leg of pork supper for the ringers. It was a charge on a piece of land and was paid regularly. To this day the ringers annually have their leg of pork, served at the local inn, but this is the only instance in the country of an ancient endowment for such a supper.

In the early years of the eighteenth century, St. Martin's Church had become altogether inadequate for the needs of the parish, and in the reign of George I. an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable the parishioners to rebuild. The design was supplied by James Gibbs, the first stone was laid on March 19th, 1721, and the new building was consecrated on October 24th, 1726, by Dr. Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London. A rate was levied on the parish, but money poured in so liberally that a gift of £500 towards the enrichment of the altar was declined.

It was decided to recast the old six bells. On November 3rd, 1724, eight new bells were ordered to be hung; on the following December 8th it was resolved that two be added to the number agreed on, and in the next year it was decided to have a full ring of twelve.

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, then at the height of his career, and the cost, including old and new metal, was £1,264 18s. 3d.

Rudhall apparently had some difficulty in casting the trebles, and they were not ready at first, for when the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple, three days before the church was consecrated, it was one of Grandsire Caters. When the trebles were supplied they were not a success, and in 1728 they were replaced by two new ones. The old bells some time after went to All Saints', Fulham, and one of them is there still, where it blends perfectly with the rest of the ring.

The College Youths' peal was conducted by Benjamin Annable, and the band included such famous ringers as Robert Catlin, Peter Merrygarts, William Laughton and Matthew East.

In 1728, after the two trebles had been hung, a match was arranged to take place at St. Martin's between the London Scholars and the College Youths. Whether it was the result of a challenge or by invitation of the parish authorities we do not know, but probably it was the latter. And we do not know what the terms of the contest were, but most likely there were none. Almost certainly there was no prize or stake money, though there may have been a dinner for the winners. The London Scholars were asked to ring first, and they gave their best; the College Youths followed and tried to do better.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT SPALDING.

VETERAN RINGER DIES AT BECCLES.

Many ringers in East Anglia, particularly of the older generation, will be sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Robert Spalding, on January 6th, at the age of 90 years. 'Old Bob,' as he was known to the majority of his friends, spent most of his life at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, where he was parish clerk for over 25 years, and most of his ringing was then done on the five bells at Haddiscoe, with occasional visits to Beccles and Yarmouth districts.

After the death of his wife about 20 years ago he went to live with his son, also a ringer, near Beccles, and then he commenced ringing seriously, and he was the most regular attendant at Beccles belfry, rarely missing a Sunday service or practice until failing health compelled him to give up. Even then he took a keen interest in ringing matters and always listened for the bells.

He had taken part in four peals, the last being his first peal of Major at Lowestoft when in his 80th year. His devotion to the art and regularity in attendance were an example to all, and the memory of him will be cherished by all who knew him.

E. R. G.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

APPRECIATED BY CONGREGATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—‘Nemo’ in your issue of December 27th asked those who have tried handbells in church to report on how the bells appealed to the congregation.

Here, in Diss, we have a large parish church and I decided to fix up my handbell frame in the chancel for Christmas. Our Rector was very enthusiastic about it when I mentioned this to him. I ‘tapped’ ten bells for five minutes before the 7 and 8 a.m. Holy Communion services by the aid of a torch in the almost dark church, and I was told the effect was simply grand. Again before the 11 a.m. service the organist played until five minutes before service, then I came in with the bells. It was so appreciated by all the congregation that I continued on the following Sunday for the morning and afternoon services.

Our Rector afterwards said it was simply surprising the number of people who told him how much they appreciated the bells and many had asked, ‘Why cannot we have the handbells every Sunday?’ I have been asked the same question by many people. So now I hope to continue the five minutes before each service until we can have our tower bells again.

If ‘Nemo’ could come to Diss he might make up his mind whether he likes handbells in church or not. I, for one, would like to hear a few more of his reasons against it.

ALBERT G. HARRISON.

Diss, Norfolk.

PROGRESS AT ACCRINGTON.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps ‘Nemo’ would be interested to know we have rung handbells in church on several occasions since the ban on tower bells. The Vicar voiced his appreciation; the vergers reported to us that numerous members of the congregation expressed pleasure with our performance and would like us to repeat it. The organist also was very friendly towards us.

The following is a copy from the ‘Padiham Advertiser’ of October 13th, 1940:—

‘Before the evening service some of the Parish Church bellringers, assisted by friends from Accrington, rang short touches on handbells inside the church—a beautiful innovation.’

A summary of our activities may encourage others. We have steadily practised for the last 18 months and now include Plain Bob, Double Bob, Reverse Bob and St. Clement’s as regular ringing methods. We are progressing very nicely with Oxford and Kent

Treble Bob. We adopted Westminster Surprise for practice, but it was too much of a surprise for me. Two of us rang Stedman Triples double-handed at Bolton on the occasion of the last Lancashire Association meeting, the only touch of Stedman my friend has ever rung, and my only attempt on handbells.

From our interest in the art has sprung another infant society. The boys at Accrington Grammar School have contributed and acquired a set of twelve handbells, since augmented to thirteen, to provide two minor rings. The thirteenth, I think, they made from an old relic someone had at home, but it is correct pitch. We are working all out to get them going, but the future only can give us the results we so earnestly wish for.

CHARLES W. BLAKEY.

Accrington.

MORE WANTED.

At All Saints’ Church, Rettendon, Essex, on Christmas Day, handbells were rung in church for 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. Holy Communion service and the 11 a.m. morning service. Several plain courses of Grandsire Triples were rung on each occasion, those taking part being Charles W. Jay, Frank S. Jay, Roy Wheston, Gerald Frost and Frank C. May.

During the course of the morning service the Rector, on behalf of the churchwardens and the congregation, thanked the ringers for all that they had done, and expressed the hope that they would continue to ring the handbells week by week for all the Sunday services.

On Sunday, January 5th, for evensong at 3.30 p.m., courses of Grandsire Triples were again rung for 15 minutes before the service by Charles W. Jay, Frank S. Jay, Pte. Harry Jay and Frank C. May. The Rector again thanked the ringers for what they had done, and delayed the start of the service for a few minutes so that he might sit in church with the congregation and listen to what he called the beautiful music of the handbells.

BEARINGS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—For a long time now I have waited to see the real reason why ‘plain bearings’ are preferred to ball bearings. If anyone, like myself, who attend to the ‘going,’ they might say ball bearings are better. Should one try to ring a bell without a stay to a peal as I have done several times, then ‘plain bearings’ are undoubtedly to be preferred. With regard to ringing heavy bells, my experience is that you can ring a 30 cwt. bell easier at Saffron Walden than at Cambridge. No stones cast at anyone.

FRANK WARRINGTON.

Swavesey, Cambs.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

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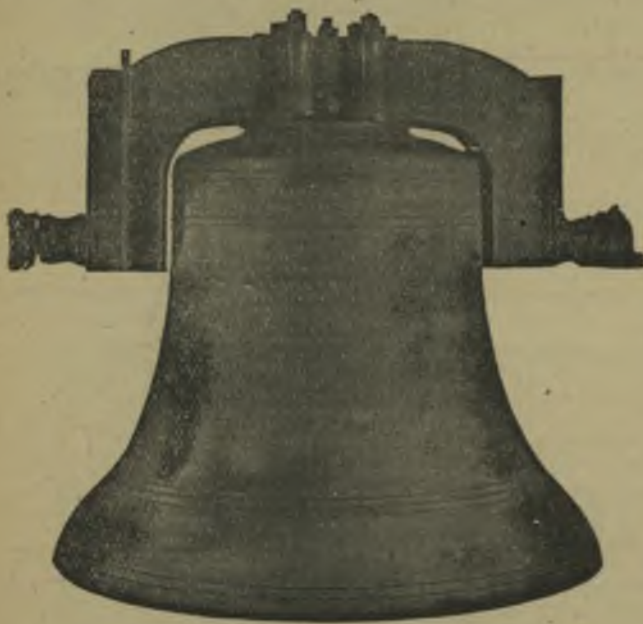
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. C. H. Jennings, the hon. secretary of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, was recently installed Worshipful Master of the United Service (Dorset) Masonic Mark Lodge.

In reply to enquiries, we are pleased to say that St. Peter Mancroft Church and its famous bells, with the other churches of Norwich, have not sustained any damage by enemy action.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred last Saturday, of Mrs. C. D. Potter, widow of the late president of the Bagnsley and District Society.

On January 13th, 1772, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 6,048 changes of Imperial the Third Major. The method, which has irregular lead ends and is now obsolete, was composed by William Porter, the author of Double Norwich Court Bob. It was much practised by the Norwich Scholars during the eighteenth century and is a difficult method, but though it was given in the 'Clavis' and by Shipway, only one peal was rung away from the city of its birth. Christopher Lindsey composed the Coslany peal, and John Chamberlin, of whom Mr. C. E. Borrett recently gave us an account, called the bobs.

On the same date in 1903, the St. Martin's Youths rang at Birmingham the first peal of Forward Maximus. This method, which was introduced by John Carter, has some good qualities, but is almost intolerably monotonous for peal ringing.

The band from St. Peter's, Brighton, rang the first peal of London Surprise Major in the city of London on January 14th, 1899. It was on the bells of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, which were destroyed in the recent air raid.

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

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They consisted of two Kent Treble Bob Major, and one each of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Union Triples and Stedman Triples.

Mr. George Williams, the doyen of conductors, who, we are pleased to say, is hale and hearty despite the enemy's close attention, rang his first peal 57 years ago to-day. It was one of Grandsire Triples at Soberton in Hampshire.

The Mancroft record peal of 7,126 Stedman Cinques was rung on January 18th, 1844.

Next Sunday is the 216th anniversary of the first peal by the College Youths. It was also the first peal on twelve bells and was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Henry Bastable, for many years the leading conductor in Birmingham, and the Ringing Master of the St. Martin's Society, died on January 19th, 1899, at the age of 50.

'RINGING NOT AN ACT OF WORSHIP.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is not my usual practice to reply to folk sheltering under anonymity. No doubt our friend the 'Association Secretary' is convinced that he has reasons justifying his doing so. So in reply I would say that we seem to agree that when we worship God we honour Him. If he does not honour God in his ringing, by making it a testimony of his esteem for all that God has done for him, I would respectfully suggest that he ought to. When we praise God we worship Him. We praise God in various ways, as, for instance, Psalm 150 will show. Once one accepts the fact that they can (and should) worship God by their ringing, my other points will hold true.

G. P. ELPHICK.

Priory Street, Lewes.

SOUVENIRS OF OLD NORWICH RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter from Mr. L. W. Bunce in your current issue—the Court Royal at Leeds in 1765 was the London variation. The Norwich peal in 1769 was the Norwich variation, and, therefore, the first in the latter method. All authorities agree upon this.

As to the old Norwich ringers and the property their 'Purse Society' acquired, I would refer him to your issue of September 1st, 1939, where he will find his question answered by Mr. Trollope in one of a series of articles he has so ably contributed on this and other most interesting matters.

The property was divided amongst the members when the Purse Society—it was a small benefit society—was dissolved. I was able to purchase two pieces of the pewter set, a quart flagon and a half-pint mug. The former is engraved, 'The Society of Ringers, July 19th, 1821, Peckover Hill, Headsman,' and the mug similarly, save the omission of the Headsman's name. I have also several pieces of the pewter 'token money.' They are about the size of a five-shilling piece, and engraved round the edge, 'St. Peter's Mancroft Ringers.'

I have spent a good many delightful Old Years' Nights in the company of these pewter drinking vessels and token money, and am sorry such convivial days are a thing of the past.

The number and variety of the peals we rang on each of these nights, with our tongues, after the pewters had been filled with 'hot-pot' from the great stone jug, and handed round by the stewards a few times, was prodigious, and 10 p.m. was not the closing hour in those days!

Sheringham, Norfolk.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

THE OXFORD SOCIETY.

SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR'S PARTY.

The Oxford Society had planned to go to Nottingham, Leicester and Loughborough for their annual outing last Whitsuntide, but for obvious reasons it had to be cancelled at the last moment. This year a precedent was set when a New Year's party was held on Sunday, January 5th, at the Oriel Restaurant.

The weather, although dry, was very cold, but the ringers were shown into a warm and comfortable room, where the heavily laden tables were a sight for sore eyes. The shortage of meat offered no problem to the proprietor, as turkey held pride of place on the menu.

The society was honoured with the presence of the Mayor (Mr. C. Bellamy) and others present included the president (Alderman Brown) and Mrs. Brown, Mr. V. Bennett (secretary) and Mr. R. Post (Ringing Master). The ringers and their wives and friends totalled about 30.

The president proposed the toast of His Majesty the King. In these difficult times, he said, they were fortunate to be able to have such a happy gathering. He and his wife had done a little arithmetic, and it might interest the Mayor to know that there were 27 rings and 172 bells within the environs of Oxford. He hoped that good care would be taken of them, as it would be a tragedy if their victory peals came to an untimely end through faulty bearings or ropes.

Mr. W. Collett proposed the toast of the Mayor and Corporation. He expressed the society's pleasure in having His Worship with them that day. Although they had not met under those conditions before, the Mayor had been in the belfry of Christ Church more than once. Besides, added Mr. Collett, the Mayor has a very good press, and it will help get the society more publicity.

Since ringing has ceased, continued Mr. Collett, he had been looking for some other diversion, as his wife thought he should have one. He used to get a good deal of pleasure from playing tennis, although he had never got beyond the 'rabbit' class, so he thought he would take it up again. Unfortunately, when he got his flannels out he found that they would not go round any more. His wife was still insistent and entered him as a member of a bowls club. He thought before one could become a bowls player one must be a similar shape as a wood. Whilst playing in the park last summer he overheard two ladies talking. One suggested that they should stop and watch the game for a while. The other protested and said it was an old man's game. 'But that man over there is not very old,' said the other (meaning me, I hope, said Mr. Collett). 'Come on,' said the second lady, 'there must be something the matter with him.' Needless to say, he added, I am still looking for a diversion.

THE MAYOR AND THE BELLS.

Replying, the Mayor said how happy he was to be with them that day. Mrs. Bellamy had been looking forward to it also, but regretted that only a few hours before she had found it impossible to be present. He had much enjoyed listening to the handbells, and he thought the music was beautiful; it stirred something inside him when he first heard them. As for the other 172 bells, he continued, he was afraid he could not do anything about them, as his time was fully occupied in keeping his 60 councillors in order, but he hoped that the bells would be looked after and it was the ringers' duty to the public. His knowledge of ringing was not very much, and he had to go to the ringers' archives to find out what he should speak about. He went on to speak of the many peals that had been rung in the city in the early days. He noticed that in one peal there was a potash maker, a cork-cutter, a tailor, a schoolmaster, butler and two college servants. Surely ringers were as democratic as England herself, and he hoped it would always be so. The enthusiasm of those College Youths who walked from London to Oxford, a distance of 54 miles, must have been tremendous.

Continuing, His Worship said that one old Oxford ringer, Jonathan Pavier, who was a blacksmith by trade, lived in a small cottage in Gloucester Green. When he was 80 years of age, he approached a well-known Oxford solicitor and offered him his cottage if he would pay him £1 a week for the rest of his life. The solicitor, thinking he was on a good thing, readily agreed, but it didn't turn out so good, as old Jonathan lived to be over 100.

Mr. R. Post said he was speaking for all the ringers present when he said how much he missed the draw of the belfry. Handbells were a very pleasant hobby, but they were a poor substitute for the tower bells. He hoped it would not be long before they could mount the familiar steps to ring for victory.

Mr. V. Bennett then proposed that all present should stand for a minute in memory of Charles Eustace, a member of the society, who was killed at Dunkirk. He was trying to get in touch with Alec Gammon, who was a prisoner of war in Poland, and he went on to read letters of good wishes and thanks for the presents which were sent to six members now in the Services.

Mr. T. Trollope said that much greater effort was needed to get more beginners to take up ringing. He felt there was no dearth of talent about, and the ringers would endeavour to get the public acquainted with the art, not only amongst men, but ladies as well.

He went on to pay tribute to the good work Miss Marie Cross was doing as secretary to the City branch of the Diocesan Guild and to the great help she was to beginners on handbells as well as in the tower.

The handbells were frequently in use during the afternoon and included in the methods was a very well-struck course of Stedman
(Continued in next column.)

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION TO BE HELD.

The annual meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, January 4th.

In the absence of the Master (Alderman J. S. Pritchett), Councillor A. Paddon Smith occupied the chair. The attendance of members, although not up to the usual number for an annual meeting, was quite satisfactory and showed that, although there could be no ringing on the tower bells, the interest in the Guild's business was still very much alive.

The Master wrote regretting his inability to attend and the opportunity of shaking hands with old friends. Unfortunately, his house had been bombed and he was much upset, but luckily no one was injured. He sincerely hoped we were entering upon a happier year and that 1941 would bring peace and happiness. He hoped to be 86 on January 8th. The secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of the Guild with him in his misfortune, and their hearty congratulations and best wishes on his birthday and throughout the year.

The treasurer presented the annual accounts, which showed a small loss on the year caused by the increased cost of the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner. The auditors having given their report, the accounts were unanimously adopted.

The secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. James George, now of Wolverton, thanking him and the members of the Guild for their letters of sympathy and good wishes during his very dangerous illness and serious operation. He enclosed cheque in settlement of his subscription for the current year and also a donation of £1 5s. towards the Guild's funds as a mark of appreciation. It was proposed by the chairman and unanimously agreed that a letter be sent Mr. George thanking him for his kindly thought and donation and wishing him continued good health and that in time he would overcome the disadvantage of the loss of his leg.

Mr. W. C. Dowding, now of Martley, Worcestershire, wrote apologising for his absence. He enclosed his subscription and sent best wishes to all the members and expressed the hope that it would not be long before the bells could be rung as usual.

Confidence was expressed in the officers of the Guild and all were unanimously re-elected as follows: Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett; Ringing Master, F. E. Haynes; trustees, Councillor A. Paddon Smith and E. T. Allaway; auditors, F. Price and G. E. Fearn; librarian, G. F. Swann; hon. secretary and treasurer, T. H. Reeves.

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed not to let the Henry Johnson Commemoration drop, but on account of present conditions it would not be possible to hold it in the evening or on the same scale as hitherto. It was proposed by Councillor Paddon Smith, seconded by Mr. Albert Walker and agreed that the commemoration this year be held on Saturday, March 1st, and take the form of a mid-day lunch at 1.30 p.m., and that the speeches be curtailed so that everyone can get home before black-out time. Should the Master not be able to preside, it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Paddon Smith be chairman.

Mr. G. F. Swann reminded those present that Mr. John Jaggar was celebrating his 80th birthday on that day. He moved that the hearty congratulations of the Guild should be accorded him. This was carried unanimously and Mr. Jaggar suitably responded. Unfortunately tea could not be provided at the Tamworth Arms, so after some handbell practice and social intercourse the proceedings terminated.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION'S LOSS.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES CLIFF, BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.

Captain of the belfry of St. Cuthbert's, Blaydon, for many years, Mr. James Cliff passed away at the age of 67 years on Tuesday, January 7th, after only a fortnight's illness. He was a tower of strength to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, whose ranks he joined in 1898. Although he had only rung in two peals, one of Bob Major and one of Minor methods, he had done a good work in instruction in his belfry and in those in the Western District of the association.

One of his sons, Herbert P. Cliff, is a prominent and popular member of the Newcastle Cathedral Guild, while one of his daughters, also a ringer, is married to a well-known ringer of Croydon, Mr. Fred Collins.

The interment took place at Blaydon Cemetery on Friday, January 10th. A service was held in the Parish Church previously, and amongst the tokens laid on his grave was a wreath from the president and members of the association.

Mr. Cliff was of a happy, genial nature and his presence will be sincerely missed at future meetings. He leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters to mourn their loss.

THE OXFORD SOCIETY.

(Continued from previous column.)

Cinques. Some carols and other well-known tunes played by Mr. R. A. Post and his wife were greatly appreciated by all.

It was suggested that these parties should become an annual affair for the duration. This brought many varied opinions as to how long the war would last, which only ceased when there was a general dispersal of the party at 4.30 p.m.

PEALS OF STEDMAN.

A FALLACY IN TRIPLES.

We rather expected that some of our experts would have replied to Mr. G. E. Symonds' enquiry which appeared in our issue of December 27th last.

Mr. Symonds said he had been told of a peal of Stedman Triples, called by James W. Washbrook, in which the treble was a quick bell throughout. He rather doubted the report, but said the figures would be highly interesting.

If such a peal was ever claimed to be rung, which is inconceivable, it would have been false. Washbrook did many fine and many remarkable things, but this is beyond anyone's powers. In any peal of Triples each bell must strike an equal number of times in every position. Now if the treble is always to be a quick bell it must be bobbed in 6-7, either up or down, every time it goes out behind. That means that in each journey from the lead to the back and down again it will strike twice in each firsts, seconds and thirds places, six times in each fourths and fifths, and nine times in sixths and sevenths.

From this we get 40 as the full number of possible courses and therefore 1,440 changes as the extent on the plan, the number of changes in each course being 36.

But what is possible is to have a peal of Stedman Caters in which one bell always goes in quick, for the number of changes on nine bells is so great that it is no longer necessary for an individual bell to fall an equal number of times into every position.

Peals of this sort have been composed and rung. It is said that when Henry Hubbard went from Norwich to Leeds he tried to induce the local men to ring Stedman Caters, but there was the stumbling-block that one of them could not, or would not, learn the slow work. To get over the difficulty Hubbard composed touches and a peal in which one bell always went in quick. They rang the touches, but not the peal.

Henry Johnson composed peals with the sixth always a quick bell. They were on the short course plan with alternate 7689 and 6789 course ends. One of these compositions was rung at Christ Church, Dublin, on May 25th, 1901, by a band which consisted of W. H. Barber, J. S. Goldsmith, G. R. Pye, P. W. Davies, I. G. Shade, W. Short, E. Pye, J. George, W. Pye and J. Buffery.

Mr. Barber called the bobs and it was the first time such a composition had been called from a non-observation bell.

IPSWICH RINGERS.

ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY MEETS WEEKLY.

The annual meeting of St. Mary-le-Tower Society was held on Sunday morning, January 5th, when all the officers for the ensuing year were re-elected en bloc.

Two members were prevented from being present by illness, the veteran Mr. Robert H. Brundle and Mr. Charles A. Catchpole, who had contracted influenza. Hope was expressed for their speedy recovery.

After the meeting 880 changes of Kent Treble Bob Royal were rung by G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. P. Garrett 9-10.

The society is keeping alive by meeting every Sunday morning for handbell practice. On two recent occasions over 1,000 Bob Major were rung, also touches of Grandeire Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Maximus, etc.

THE BELLS OF ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that the bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, will never ring again, I am sure there are many who, like myself, would like to say a word of thanks to those gentlemen who opened up the tower in recent years, thus enabling many to make their first acquaintance or renew old acquaintances with those historic bells.

For many years the bells were only allowed to be rung once or twice a year on special occasions, and the 'go' of the bells and the condition of the ropes can be better imagined than described. The ringing was undertaken by the Cumberlands, and through the efforts of the Master of the society, Mr. G. H. Cross, a new set of ropes was obtained, and eventually permission was granted for the bells to be rung for Sunday evening services, when a band could be arranged. He also obtained permission for the bells to be rung on Whit Monday, 1936, when the Central Council met in London. On that occasion there must have been numerous ringers who rang for the first time on St. Bride's bells.

The late Mr. Frank Smith and Mr. T. Bevan, the present senior steward of the society, also deserve our thanks for their efforts to make the bells go a little better. Those of us who have been in the neglected bell chamber of a city church realise the nature of their task.

Although the efforts of these gentlemen may seem to have been frustrated by the destruction of the bells, I, for one, will always remember the gloomy ringing chamber, with its circular windows and big ancient peal boards, and be grateful for the chance to ring in such an historic tower.

J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford, Kent.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD?

ARE PRACTICAL RINGERS THE BEST JUDGES?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Melville's letter is interesting. He is correct in saying that, in Cambridge, the tenors are divided by more than two places in 90 rows in the course. I quoted the Rev. E. Bankes James without checking his figures. This is another drawback to an attractive but very faulty method. It seems certain that it would never have attained its present-day popularity had more perfect methods been available, or, at least, better known. The fact that it extends so well to Royal and Maximus does not, in my opinion, make up for its deficiencies.

I am not acquainted with Bedford Surprise, but it sounds good; one false course end, correct coursing order, variety, good music and easy extension are first class qualities. Perhaps you would be kind enough to repeat the publication of a lead, so that your readers may have an opportunity of judging if, amongst all these, it has any faults.

Whether practical ringers are always the best judges of the qualities of a method I'm not so sure. Just as a good musician can judge the qualities of a piece of music without playing it, so it is possible to assess the qualities of a method, both theoretically and musically, without ringing it. The great majority of ringers, I should say, consider interest first, and then music, and, unless they happen to be composers, rarely go beyond these. Just to have a little dig at my good Yorkshire friends, capable ringers may spoil excellent methods, as they have been doing, for many years past, with their 'cart-wheel' Minor.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

BEDFORD SURPRISE.

Bedford Surprise Major, by Mr. Frederick Dench, was first published in 'The Ringing World' on April 7th, 1911. It has a perfect extension to Royal and Maximus. It has only one false course end in Major, 24365, and therefore all peals of Treble Bob on all numbers can be used with the bob made in 4th's. If the bob is made on the three back bells, peals with the 6th its extent in 6th's can be obtained.

Below is a lead of Major and a half lead of Royal and Maximus:—

12345678	1234567890	123456789012
21436587	2143658709	214365870910
12463857	1246385079	124638507910
21648375	2164830597	216483059710
26143857	2614385079	261438507910
62413857	6241380597	624138059710
26148357	2614835079	261483507910
62418375	6241830597	624183059710
26481735	2648103957	264810395710
62847153	6284019375	628401937510
68241735	6824103957	682410395710
86427153	8642019375	864201937510
68472513	6840291735	684029173510
86745231	8604927153	860492715310
87654213	8069421735	806942173510
78562431	0896247153	089624715310
87652341	8069274513	806927451310
78563214	0896725431	089672543110
75836241	0987624513	098762451310
57382614	9078265431	907826543110
75328164	0987256341	098725634110
57231846	.....	.....
52738164	1243658709	124365870910
25371846	1426385079	142638507910
52317486	.....	.....
25137468	.....	.....
52314786	.....	.....
25134768	.....	.....
21537486	.....	.....
12354768	.....	.....
21345678	.....	.....
12436587	.....	.....
14263857	.....	.....

DEATH OF MRS. LAURA SNOWDON.

We much regret to announce the death of Mrs. Laura Snowdon, who passed away on January 6th at the advanced age of 91 years at her home at Woodlands, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Lancashire.

Mrs. Snowdon was the widow of the late Mr. William Snowdon, to whom she was married in 1883. She was buried in a grave next to her husband at Cartmel, Lancs, on January 9th.

The deepest sympathy of the Exercise will go out to her devoted daughter, Miss Margaret Snowdon.

MORE ABOUT RINGERS' TALES.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

When a man has reached a certain age and has fallen, or is about to fall, into what Shakespeare picturesquely calls the sere and yellow leaf, there are two grave faults to which he is very prone. One is the habit of giving good advice to younger people; the other is telling tales of what he did when he was a young man.

According to a witty Frenchman, old men give good advice because they can no longer set bad examples. Whether that is so I will not now seek to determine, but I must and will say it is a fault from which I myself am singularly free. I have lived a long and not uneventful life, spent in many places and under diverse conditions. I have had my faults and made my mistakes. I have missed bobs I should have called. I have gone in quick when I ought to have gone in slow. I have lost myself at the crucial time in a peal. These things I have done, but no one, no, not my most candid friend, can say that I give good advice.

Unfortunately, it seems to be a law that if in one thing a man is blameless, then he must make up for it by a superfluity of naughtiness in another thing, and when I turn to the other grave fault I confess my conscience makes me tremble. Here, alas, I have great cause to beat the breast, and to cry out in a loud and lamentable voice, *Mea culpa! Mea maxima culpa!* Set me on my Sunday morning walk with mine own familiar friend; put me in a saloon bar with three or four ringers after a peal or practice meeting—and the urge to talk is well nigh irresistible. Ask those members of the Central Council what happens in the hotel lounge long after midnight has chimed. Ask them, but don't forget to remind them that I am not the only offender, nor yet the worst.

It has been held by authorities that faults and offences lose half their badness when they are performed elegantly and gracefully. Be that as it may, I think we may admit that much talking (in itself an offence) can be made tolerable if done in the right way. In the puritanical circles wherein I was born and nurtured it used to be said that idle talk was a sin, and perhaps no good talker can be wholly a righteous man. He must be a bit of a liar, something of an egotist, and he needs a suspicion of malice, and a reasonable amount of naughtiness.

Thinking these things over, I wondered whether I could reproduce for the benefit of the readers of 'The Ringing World' some of the good tales I have heard and told; but, alas, a tale good to tell or to hear, nearly always turns out a poor feeble thing when it is set down in print. You shall judge. Here is what I call quite a good yarn.

Many years ago I had to go to the East End of London, and after I had finished my business I went into a public-house to get a drink. There were a number of men in the bar and among them a big, hulking bully of a fellow, who was throwing his weight about, insulting people and generally making himself a nuisance. The rest of the company were getting pretty well fed up with him, and, remembering that bullies are generally cowards at heart, were hoping that someone would stand up to him and slosh him across the jaw. But each waited for the other to begin and so no one acted.

There was, however, one man who was sitting by himself quietly drinking his glass of beer. He was a rather small man not quite of middle age, and as one looked at his face one could see that he was a man of force of character, who would not readily enter into a quarrel, but once in would not be a quitter.

Well, he sat there quietly, and as I watched him I could notice the anger and disgust that were mounting in his mind.

Presently the bully went across to where a small man was sitting on a stool, pushed him off it rudely and sat down himself.

That decided the quiet man. He got up, walked over to the bully, and said calmly but sternly, 'Let that man have his stool again!'

The bully put his pint pot down and half turned with a look of blank surprise and amazement on his face.

'Eh?' he said.

'Get off that stool, I tell you, and get off it quick!' ordered the quiet man, and I noticed that his right arm was taut and his right fist was clenched.

The bully put his feet slowly to the ground and stood up, and the two men stood facing each other while the company looked on in tense silence.

For a few seconds they faced each other, then the bully stretched out his two great paws. Grasping the other's collar with one hand and the seat of his trousers with the other, he tossed him through the open door into the street, and, having done so, he climbed on to the stool again and finished his beer.

Properly told, that is quite a good tale. I got it out of a book, and I did my utmost to turn it into a ringing tale, but, try as I would, I could not.

Now here are two other tales which happen to be true, and you will see how inferior they are to the first.

During the last war when I was in France I was sent to Divisional Headquarters on a signalling course. It was supposed to be a refresher course for men who were already signallers, but actually I knew nothing about it, and I suspect it was a bit of favouritism on the part of my company commander to give me five or six weeks out of the trenches, which I appreciated accordingly. But that's neither here nor there.

One day I was walking across the field which served as a football field and parade ground, and at the other end there was a party

(Continued in next column.)

THE BAN ON RINGING.

QUESTIONING M.P.'s.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Smith's letter in 'The Ringing World' of December 20th reads like a 'Haw Haw' broadcast talk—it is abusive without being constructive and written by a person who does not care to put his address. In it (as in the letter underneath it) the presence of argument is negligible.

If I made a guess, I don't think I should be far wrong in saying that what Mr. Smith does not like about my letter is that it bears the wrong 'identity card,' and was a case of 'sour grapes.' There is no doubt by writing such a 'blitz' to your columns Mr. Smith thinks he has delivered a 'knock-out' blow, but the next time he tries such a move I'll advise him to fill his 'bombs' with something a little bit different to wind.

I could write at considerable length on his 'letter,' but there are one or two points I wish to make a few observations upon. One is, is Mr. Smith in favour of the ban or is he against it? If he is in favour of it, then he has no case and it is simply another instance of abusing the opposing attorney.

If he is against it, he should know perfectly well that to write such a letter is just the way to create an impression that there is a split among the rank and file of the fraternity, and this is just what those in favour of the ban are looking for. After all, how does he know but that the Government and military authorities may come up against his letter, and perhaps even file it for reference to support their case at some future date! I have heard of this being done more than once.

Perhaps Mr. Smith takes the attitude that because it is the Government it is no use putting up a fight, but exactly the opposite should be the case if Mr. Smith respects the freedom we are supposed to be fighting for. Let me remind him that it is this attitude which has led to the stalemate in politics which has given the Government many of the dictatorial powers which they now possess. Laziness and indifference to the things of life which matter most is the true description of this principle. If Mr. Smith resents going into action he should not (if he disagrees with the ban) adopt a 'dog in the manger' attitude towards others doing so. After all, the vote is a precious thing, which our forefathers sacrificed many things to secure, and it should be used whenever possible. Far from resenting questions, I find a great many M.P.'s and others welcome them, and often express the wish that more people would take the trouble of using the opportunity when it is afforded. Personally, I fail to see what it matters whether the question is put collectively or personally so long as it is put to the fountain head (which is Parliament itself) and not to any agents, and is supported by written views of a majority (as was done in this case with material from 'The Ringing World'), and that a strong case is made out.

A little initiative is worth more than all the officialdom in the world—and this latter phrase I would ask Mr. Smith and your other correspondent 'to go to bed and sleep on it.'

P. AMOS.

Northampton.

MORE ABOUT RINGERS' TALES.

(Continued from previous column.)

practising sending flag messages in morse. I stopped to take down the message, and there in the village of Saily Laboure, which, as everybody knows, is on the high road between Bethune and Lens, I read to my surprise that someone (I forget his name) had pulled up Bow tenor in so many minutes.

Away in the distance one of Jerry's balloons was up, and I should like to know what his observers, who certainly read that message, made of it. No doubt it was referred to the intelligence department as a new code which had to be solved.

The explanation, of course, was simple and even tame. I had had 'The Ringing World' sent out to me and dropped a copy, which the sergeant instructor picked up and used for his test message.

The other tale concerns something that happened not so long ago. I was walking on a Sunday morning with a very well known and distinguished ringer in a suburb of London where there are no bells. Presently I stopped and said, 'I heard bells,' but my companion said it was only a distant train and my imagination. So we walked on. I stopped again and said, 'I heard bells,' but my companion said it was only somebody's gramophone playing jazz dance music.

So we walked on. Again I stopped and this time we both thought we heard bells. 'Somebody has got a gramophone and St. Margaret's, Westminster, record,' said my companion, and we walked across the road to listen near the house where the sound seemed to come from; but it was not there.

We walked down a couple of roads still hearing the noise and we turned a corner and then there was no doubt about it. It was bells all right and not only bells but change ringing, and not only change ringing but Stedman Cinques, Stedman Cinques rung with a three ton tenor and rung as Stedman Cinques should be rung. And by all the laws of man and nature no Stedman Cinques should have been within miles of that place.

We followed the sound through several streets as it got louder and louder, and at last it led us to a small Roman Catholic church with a turret hardly big enough to hold a decent sized handbell. I should not say anything if they had rung Grand sire Doubles with a six hundredweight tenor, but Stedman Cinques from such a place! Now, I ask you, is it playing the game?

DOUBLE LONDON COURT BOB.

AN OBSOLETE METHOD.

In records of early ringing we often come across accounts of peals of Court Bob Major and occasionally of Court Bob Royal, and doubts sometimes arise as to what method was actually rung. It is generally recognised that the peal of Royal rung at Norwich in 1769 was what we now call Double Norwich Court Bob, but as our correspondent, Mr. L. W. Bunce, pointed out, Barham's band had already in 1765 rung 6,720 changes of Court Bob Royal at Leeds. If that was Double Norwich, how could the Mancroft peal be the first in the method?

The explanation is as Mr. Borrett points out, that the two peals were not rung in the same method.

Double Court Bob Minor, or, as it was at first called, Court Bob Minor, was one of the earliest and most popular of six-bell methods. It deserved to be and it was natural that men should try and extend it first to eight bells and then to ten, as they had already done to Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob.

But then a difficulty arose. In theory there may be more than one correct way of extending either Plain and Treble Bob, but there is only one way which satisfies the practical requirements of the belfry. That does not apply to Court Bob, and the men who tried to extend it to eight and ten bells took different views of what are the essential things in the method.

William Porter and the Norwich men said in effect: The one important thing in Court Bob Minor is that the bell which the treble turns from the lead makes fourth's and third's places round the treble, and the bell which the treble turns from the back similarly makes the fourth's and the third's places counted from behind. We will reproduce this feature on the higher numbers and let the other bells fit their work to it. The London men took a different view.

MAJOR.	ROYAL.
12345678	1234567890
21436587	2143658709
24163857	2416385790
42618375	4261837509
24681357	2468173059
42863175	4286710395
48236715	4827601359
84327651	8472063185
48372561	4870236915
84735216	8407329651
87453126	8043792561
78541362	0834975216
87514326	8039457126
78153462	0893541762
71835642	0985314726
17386524	9058137462
13768542	0951873642
	9015786324
	9107568342
	1970653824
	1796035284

They said that the principal feature of Court Bob is that every bell dodges on the lead and behind, before and after leading and lying full, except when the treble intervenes; the bell that the treble turns from the front or from behind makes third's place counted from the back and third's place counted from the front continually, until it follows the treble to the front or to the back; elsewhere all the work is plain hunting.

Either of these plans will give an extension which appears to satisfy the requirements of the belfry, and we are not surprised that both had their advocates who maintained that their extension was the correct one.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and while the Norwich extension showed itself to be one of the very best and most musical of methods, the London extension, although quite easy to ring, breaks up the tenors and makes it very difficult to get anything like a decent peal composition. It also has irregular lead ends, but the old ringers, though they preferred to have Bob Major lead ends, would not have condemned London Court because it lacks them if it had any compensating good qualities.

WINNIFY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £18. Further donations have been received from G. W. Cartmell, St. Albans, 10s.; W. H. Shuker, Manchester, 3s.; J. E. Davis, London, 2s. 6d.; J. Bullock, Dagenham, 2s. 6d.; A. Walker, Birmingham, 5s.; J. Emery, Bromley, 2s.; F. Smith, Bushey, 2s. 6d.; J. S. Goldsmith, Woking, 5s.; to whom the thanks of the committee are tendered.—A. B. Peck.

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TRANSPPOSITION.

'MINORMANIA' EXPLAINS HOW IT IS DONE.

The letters from two correspondents, asking about transposition, have reminded me of the difficulty of an experienced ringer and conductor with whom, years ago, I was discussing Minor 'splicing.'

He would rattle off lead ends and course ends galore, far quicker than I, but when the treble was no longer at lead he went to pieces for some reason. He just could not see it.

One thing he did, with which I disagree, was to ignore the treble, and I think that this was his main trouble. I have noticed that the articles on proof, published recently, do this—not only when the treble is at lead, but also internally in the rows, and I think that the practice is most confusing. And, having scanned all of the articles, I am more convinced than ever of the necessity to examine everything fully, as one goes along, if the matter is to be digested properly by those who really need it at all. Any subsequent enlargement is most likely never to be read, or, if read, to remain unconnected with the original problem of the reader.

However, that ringer and I got down to 'examples,' and the upshot was the publication of an article on transposition, with cards for the job, which might be worth repetition. It cannot be the same, since I write from memory while resting in a dug-out somewhere in a 'target area.'

When row (a) is 'transposed by' row (b), it means this: The numbers in row (a) are read as *bells*, while those of row (b) are read as *positions*, and positions in two ways. First, the positions visually obvious by the numbers you read; and second, the positions they hold in the row, from left to right. Thus, row (a) 24316587 transposed by row (b) 47263581 means that 24316587 are bells in the (understood) positions of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., respectively, while 47263581 each denote a position to which you look in row (a); and in that position you will find a *bell* (in a), which must now go down to another order (from left to right) which is (again understood) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th (in b). In other words, the 'understood' positions are 'rounds order,' while the positions (denoted by b) for which you look (in a) are not in rounds order.

If you work strictly from left to right (from b) you will write (naturally, from left to right) what you find (in a) from the given positions (in b), thus: 24316587 x 47263581 = 18453672.

The Rector, in Miss Sayers' story, 'The Nine Tailors,' did not do it from left to right, but he learnt his business from Troyte!

And that is all there is in 'forward' transposition, i.e., any row (a) by any row (b). But if it is not clear, get three sets of cards numbered from '1' to '8'; two sets of black and one set of red. Put down one black set in 'rounds order'—12345678. Cover it up with the red set (a) 24316587. Put row (b) under, in black, 47263581.

Now uncover the black above, one at a time and in no particular order, and cover the black below, but in strict order from left to right there, with the red cards. Take no notice of the numbers on the red cards until the job is completed. What you want to do is to uncover the black '4' above (which you cannot see) and bring down the red card on to the black '4' below. Then uncover the hidden '7' above, taking the red card to the '7' below. And so on. You cannot see the black hidden cards, but the point is that you know where to find them, because they are in 'rounds order,' hidden beneath row (a).

When you transpose 'backwards,' as you do when finding the false course ends from two rows, it means this: You couple together the bells appearing *one above another* in two rows. You then pick the coupled pairs up (together), and put them down again in any order you may want.

When looking for false course ends, from the articles, you require to put the coupled pairs down in rounds order, either from the top row, the bottom row, or from both. Thus, from the top, using (a) and (b) again:—

24.3.1.6.5.8.7 } becomes 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8
4.7.2.6.3.5.8.1 } 6.4.2.7.5.3.1.8

When the top row (a) bells are written in rounds order, each bell has carried its 'mate' along with it, and you get 64275318. This tells you that if 24316587 comes from 12345678, then 47263581 will come from 64275318. (I have, purposely, not exemplified a lead end here, in order to show the general application of the principle.)

If you prick rounds from the bottom row, similarly, you get this:—

2.4.3.1.6.5.8.7 } becomes 7.3.6.2.5.1.4.8
4.7.2.6.3.5.8.1 } 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8

Which means a similar result to the above.

In other words, you 'read' rounds (in one row) and 'find' (in the other row), as you go along, those bells which are coupled to the rounds you are reading. And that's all there is in 'backward' transposition.

If you can transpose 'forwards' by any row you like (as, of course, you can do), it follows that you can transpose 'back' to what you like. In the articles on proof you transpose back to rounds. But you can, if you wish, halve the job by transposing back to 12345678 by reversing certain of the instructions, as I said when originally I criticised the articles.

(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.

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.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, January 18th. Open from 2.30. Handbell practice and social chats. Tea arranged. All who are interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Lea in the Institute on Saturday, January 18th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by whist drive at 7 p.m. Refreshments, but bring your own sugar. Please come and bring your friends.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, January 18th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Refreshments can be obtained from the canteen in the Memorial Hall.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Derby, on Saturday, January 18th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives? All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

TRANSPPOSITION.

(Continued from previous page.)

In the article of October 4th there were given some examples, where two rows of opposite nature produced four different course ends. I do not think that the explanation was very clear as to how the 'other two' come, but no matter. I am using them again to instance 'backward' transposition to something other than rounds.

Two rows were used (c), and, following the instruction, by transposing lead heads by one, then lead ends by the other, we get two rows (d). If we then transpose back to rounds, by 'reading' rounds in the top row, we 'find' in the bottom row, 16234578. And if we 'read' rounds in the bottom row, we 'find' in the top row 13456278. That is, the course ends Q and P, which are quoted. Now transpose ends by the one, and heads by the other of the rows (c), and we get two other rows with the tenors in similar places (e). Transposing back to rounds (down and up), we get 15426378 and 14632578—the course ends R and S quoted.

Now alter the given rules thus: When rows are opposite nature; transpose heads by both; when like nature, transpose heads by one and ends by the other (just the opposite to the instructions of the articles). You will arrive at one row from (d), and one row from (e), with tenors in like but opposite places (f). Then transpose back to 12345687 by 'reading' that row in the top and you 'find,' in the bottom, 15426378. Next read in the bottom, and find, in the top, 13456278, and you have course ends R and P quoted in the article. If you are proving a peal only, you need go no farther, because S and Q are merely 'reflections' of R and P. But, if you do want them for some reason, you can obtain them (and any others similarly) by a sort of 'double transposition' thus: Read in R (154263) the positions occupied therein by rounds (123456). They are 1.4.6.3.2.5, which is course end S. Read in P (134562) the positions of rounds therein. They are 1.6.2.3.4.5, which is course end Q.

If there are mistakes, I apologise. Conditions are difficult and I am not able to take the usual care.

Here's 'good transposing' to all!

'MINORMANIA.'

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stourbridge St. Thomas (D.V.), 3 p.m., Saturday, January 18th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting, handbell practice and social evening.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held in Leicester on January 18th. Silent ringing on Cathedral bells if required, from 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Globe opposite the cathedral at 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The next meeting will be held at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet on Saturday, Jan. 18th, at 2.30 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. — The annual district meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Full details later. — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbell ringing in the belfry from 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in Parish Room at 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by the 18th.—J. C. Dean, 4, Court Road, Northampton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting, at the café (opposite the church). Kindly inform me of the number for tea by Tuesday, 21st inst.—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke-Regis, Weymouth.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 25th, at 3.30 p.m. A substantial meat tea will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a social evening, including handbell ringing until 8.30 p.m., at an inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. per head. Names for tea must reach me not later than the first post on Tuesday, Jan. 21st. Reports will be available at this meeting.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but send names for tea to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

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THE NAME OF SNOWDON.

There are in every generation names which stand out in the Exercise in striking relief, names which will live in the history of ringing and hold an abiding place because of the contribution which in life these men made to the progress of the art. This applies equally to those of a generation still remembered by ringers of to-day as to the famous men of other centuries. Names of this kind are recalled from time to time by some passing event, and we are reminded to-day of the name of Snowdon by the death of the last of her generation, Mrs. Laura Snowdon, widow of one who served the Yorkshire Association and the Exercise at large in a measure which few men have done. He carried on the work of which his brother Jasper had so securely laid the foundations, and behind the scenes was helped by his wife, who not only ably assisted him as a 'proof reader' when new or revised books were in the press, but after his death continued the publication of the Snowdon series—books which have had, for over sixty years, an important share in popularising and developing scientific change ringing.

The part which has been played by the men who have substantially contributed to the advancement of ringing, by the books they have written and published, is perhaps not always fully appreciated. Beginning with Richard Duckworth, who wrote 'Tintinnalogia,' published by Stedman in 1668, there have appeared men who were ready to impart their knowledge to the Exercise through the printed word. During nearly three centuries these courageous men, inspired by a love of the art, have devoted their time and talents to preparing and publishing textbooks which have brought the art along, stage by stage, to its present high level. They were courageous because they had to risk financial loss. In the early days this risk must have been considerable, for the field of circulation was extremely limited, but as each succeeding author has come upon the scene, he has found encouragement through the ground being better prepared and his public larger than his predecessor's.

It was Jasper Snowdon, however, who really popularised the ringing textbook, and he did it by a new principle. Up to his time all ringing books had tried to cover the entire field of at least the most practised methods, and some of them printed as much as could be compressed into one volume about all that was known. Snowdon broke away from this tradition, and the scheme which he conceived was for a series of books, each dealing exclusively with one method. He only departed from this in that very popular book, 'Standard Methods,' in

(Continued on page 38.)

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which, however, he made another innovation by including diagrams. And here, by the way, he introduced a plan which has served the Exercise better than he knew. These diagrams were included to illustrate his letterpress. To-day, at any rate among advanced ringers, the letterpress, and even the figures, have become unnecessary. The diagram is all that matters to the man who wants to learn a method just sufficiently to ring it. Snowdon's work, in a way, was a revolution in ringing textbooks, both in style and in instructional value and, as far as they go, they may still be considered the standard works.

But Jasper Snowdon did not live to complete the task he set himself. His comparatively early death left a large part of his work undone. That were tragedy enough, but it might have ended with his passing. Fortunately, however, for the good of ringing, his brother William was prompted to take up the task, and with the help of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies he finished what Jasper had begun. He undertook responsibility for the publication of the concluding books of the series, revised and issued new editions as they became necessary, and for thirty years provided the Exercise with its greatest need in the way of instructional literature. The broad foundations of modern ringing knowledge can be said to lie in the books of the Snowdon series, and they still form the vade-mecum of the average ringer. The extent to which the Exercise is indebted to the family of Snowdon is immeasurable, and in the gentle lady who has now passed to her rest the last member of the family of that generation has gone from us, and a link has been broken with the days when the first appearance of these then novel textbooks was something of a sensation among ringers. But the work of that generation remains and will go on in the future providing young ringers with the best and surest material upon which to base their practical knowledge of the art. The Snowdon books have always moved with the times. Every new edition has been revised, and now, to meet the modern trend, some of them have been entirely rewritten. But they bear the stamp of the house of Snowdon, a hall-mark that makes them still the most useful and valuable aid to his education that the young ringer can possess.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

AN ACCOUNTS DIFFICULTY IN S.W. DIVISION.

The South-Western Division of the Essex Association held its annual meeting at Wanstead on Saturday, January 4th. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties of travelling and the black-out, only a few members attended.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. Chalk, who was re-elected District Master for the coming year.

Owing to the secretary, Mr. J. H. Crampion, being in H.M. Forces, his wife was elected secretary pro tem.

Unfortunately, no accounts could be submitted at the meeting owing to the fact that the books and accounts had not been returned from the auditors, who had had them since January of last year in spite of repeated requests for their return.

It was proposed that the secretary should write a letter of protest to the secretary of the association with regard to this matter.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. J. Chalk for the work he had done during the year, and also to Mr. J. H. Crampion for having made it a record year as regards new members. It was hoped that he would return safely to carry on the good work.

It was proposed that Mr. A. Prior and Mr. G. Dawson be elected to attend the committee meeting of the association for the coming year on behalf of the district.

The Master said that since the last meeting two most loyal members of the district, Mr. G. Lucas, of Walthamstow, and Mr. S. Bingham, of Rayleigh, had passed away.

The meeting was brought to a close with one or two touches of Grandsire and Plain Bob rung on handbells.

ST. PETER MANCROFT, NORWICH.

CONCERNING TWO TENORS.

BY CHARLES E. BORRETT.

The order given by the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, to Messrs. Pack and Chapman, of Whitechapel, in the year 1775, for a new ring of twelve, specified the tenor was to be 38 cwt., but she came out of the mould 41 cwt. 4 lb. This is the weight given in the church records, and there is little doubt of its correctness, for when the bells were delivered at the church the tenor was hauled to the Hay House on Hay Hill, adjoining the south side of the churchyard, and weighed.

For this job the churchwardens stood sixteen shillings worth of ale to the ringers and carters, and as the month was May, it is probable the spring of 1775 was warm and dry!

The bells were conveyed from the Thames to Great Yarmouth by water, and were then transhipped to a 'wherry' (a Norfolk river trading vessel) for the journey up the river to Norwich, and were finally unloaded under the tower on May 25th.

The tenor was broken early in 1814 through the clapper wearing loose, the flight catching the frame and knocking off the lip a piece of metal the size of a man's hand, causing a crack in her side 18 inches long.

Thomas Mears was now at the Whitechapel foundry, and on July 30th, 1814, we read he had 'contracted with St. Peter's parish to take their fractured great bell in exchange, and to send down a new tenor for £110, exclusive of carriage and hanging.'

THE NEW BELL.

The new bell arrived in December, and for some unaccountable reason her weight was put at precisely the same as the broken one—41 cwt. 4 lb. It is hardly credible that both should be the same to a pound, but, at any rate, it passed muster for 90 years. In 1904, however, a packet of letters, from Thomas Mears to the churchwardens, were found in an old vestment chest in the treasury room beneath the sacristy, and they rather upset previous calculations. They tell us the new bell was not recast from the metal of the old one, and they describe some of the difficulties of transport in the 'good old days,' and lastly they give the weight as 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb., and in another letter appears, 'Freight, 43 cwt. at 2s. per cwt.'

In passing, I may say that when she was weighed at Loughborough in 1924, her weight was 40 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. before tuning and removal of cannons. So she had evidently practised 'slimming'!

I think these letters written by Thomas Mears 127 years ago may be of interest to some, and so here they are:—

November 10th, 1814.

'You have no doubt been in expectation of hearing of the Bell which has been ready since last week, the reason of the delay is that none of the Yarmouth Vessels that I have been able to find have a hatchway wide enough to take it in, and they are not willing to take it on Deck, therefore I am at present at a loss to know what to do to forward it, but I have been to Mr. Marsh, of the Four Swans, who says he will take it down at 8 shillings p. cwt., which will not exceed a great deal, the Wharfage, Freight, loading at Yarmouth and Insurance, but you are no doubt acquainted with Mr. Marsh, and probably may be able to make a better agreement with him than I can. I have been calculating as near as I can the expense by water, which from what I can learn will be nearly as follows: Cartage and wharfage in London, it being a heavy article they will charge more than for the usual sort of goods, £1 10s., Freight I am informed to Yarmouth, 43 cwt. at 2s. per cwt., £4 6s., Insurance £5 5s. The expense of unloading at Yarmouth and loading in the Norwich Vessel, with again unloading at Norwich and conveyance to the church, I am at a loss to state, but probably will amount to the difference between the before-stated expense and land carriage. You will please to favour me with a line to give me your wishes and directions in this business, which shall be attended to immediately.'

'P.S.—The old bell may be broken and put into casks so that it may come by water to save expense.'

A HITCH IN SHIPMENT.

November, 1814.

'In reply to your favour, I went to Symon's Wharf on receipt of your letter, and they had not a vessel that could take it till this day. It was sent in order to be ship'd on Board the Thames, Capt. Nicholls, when it arrived at the wharf the wharfinger said he could not permit him to take it, tho' he had previously fix'd with my man to take it in, but during the time I was talking with him another capt'n of a Yarmouth Vessel came and said he would take it if he would allow it to be taken out of the waggon and put on a truck so that it might stand by till he loaded his vessel, which he consented to, in doing of which an accident happened, their chain of the crane broke after it raised the bell about 6 inches, and fell into the waggon, but fortunately without doing the bell any damage, he then would not permit of another crane to be tried and compelled me to bring it back to Whitechapel, as he would not take any charge of it, it is now safe in my yard. I have now no other chance than to try the Custom House vessels which hitherto have not been able to take it down their Hatchways, or send it by the waggon. I shall wait till I have tried all means of sending it by water.'

(Continued in next column.)

CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following is a copy of an entry taken from the original Manuscript Book of the late John Alfred Parnell, the noted Gothic Traveller of Sheffield:—

'On Tuesday June 25th, 1811, the Society of Saint Peters Independent Youths of Sheffield was invited to the Opening of the two new Treble Bells, added to the old Peal of Six to make them a Ring of Eight at Saint John's Church, village of Staveley in Derbyshire, when they performed on them a Musical true and Intricate Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major—containing 5,280 Changes—which was Boldly Struck and nobly brought Round in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes by the 8 undermentioned Change Ringing Artists, viz:—

Treble Mr. James Dovey, of Stourbridge in Worcestershire.

2 Mr. Thomas Arrundell, of Rotherham, Yorkshire.

3 Mr. Joseph Grayson, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

4 Mr. William Hudson, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

5 Mr. William Booth, of Sheffield, Yorkshire.

6 Mr. Samuel Shirt, from Sheffield, Yorkshire.

7 Mr. William Rowin, of Sheffield in Yorkshire.

Tenor Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal, Shropshire.

The Conductor of the Peal—Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal. Weight of the Tenor, 30 cwt. net Bell Metal in the Key of F.

On Monday the 24th June, 1811, was the first Opening Day and the Joint Band of Wakefield and Leeds joint Company Rung a Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major composed of 5,184 changes.

The Sheffield Youths took down their Peal when Ringing and do pronounce it to be a false one.'

Here is evidence that even as long as 129 years ago some ringers were able to take down a peal outside the tower.

Apparently there was some friendly local rivalry at this time, and the Sheffield Independent Youths by their gift of checking the peal on the actual opening day and pronouncing it false, were able to score the first true peal on the following day. SIDNEY F. PALMER, Sheffield.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ENJOY PUDSEY HOSPITALITY.

In order to avoid clashing with the general meeting of the Yorkshire Association, the January meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held on the 11th instead of, as usual, on the last Saturday of the month.

A room was reserved at the Pudsey headquarters and handbells were kept going from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., when tea was served with the usual Pudsey generosity. At the business meeting, owing to the absence of the president, Canon Marshall was voted to the chair.

The vote of thanks to the Pudsey company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Miss L. K. Bowling. In putting the vote to the meeting, the Chairman said that it was amazing how the Pudsey company managed to live up to their reputation with such generous hospitality, and he would like to know how it was done.

Mr. Barton, acknowledging the vote, said that no answer would be given to Canon Marshall's question, and, continuing, he compared the present meeting with some before the war, when the tower had been full by 3.30 p.m. In conclusion, he reminded those present of the Pudsey motto, 'The more the merrier,' and hoped that next year would see the old conditions prevailing.

The next meeting will be held at Liversedge on February 22nd, and due notice will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENORS.

(Continued from previous column.)

December 3rd, 1814.

'I beg to inform you that the bell was this day ship'd on board the Hannah (Capt. Butcher) for Yarmouth, which I hope will arrive safe and give satisfaction. My man will be with you next week to hang it. I have insured it according to Mr. Back's directions.'

January 18th, 1815.

'Your favour came duly to hand, and I should have answered by return of post, but was from home. In reply to yours, I am quite ready to sanction the estimate for re-hanging the eleven bells according to the particulars given by Ansell, and also the money you have been so kind to advance, with any future sum you should please to let him have, shall be placed to the credit of the account. The new tenor weighed 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. The old metal I received this morning, which is not unpacked. I hope the bell will give satisfaction.'

The new tenor was 'opened' on Saturday, February 25th, 1815, and to round off the story, there was another little item for ale supplied to Ansell, the bellhanger, and Mr. Trowse, a ringer, who helped him, which the churchwardens duly settled.

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CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PEALS AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

On Thursday, March 14th, on the twelve bells at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the London Scholars accomplished 'the first compleat peal of Six Thousand Cinques.' They started at one o'clock and finished at 6.30, which, if the times are correct, was slow ringing, at a rate of nearly four hours and a half for a five-thousand. Probably the timing was only approximate; the board says nothing about it.

Next day the College Youths 'held it 5 hours and a quarter.' They rang 6,314 changes of Cinques, the longest that had been rung at the time, and as 'it was allowed to be the finest yet known of that nature,' presumably they won the match. But the others were well satisfied with themselves, and erected a large and costly frame in the belfry to commemorate their performance. They seem to have had more money than their rivals for that sort of thing.

The board still exists and is one of the very scanty sources of information about the London Scholars. Of the band only one is more than just a name. William Underwood, the ringer of the second, was one of the most prominent of London ringers, and he left a son called by the same name, who afterwards was for a time the leading man among the College Youths.

The College Youths' peal was conducted by Benjamin Annable, and the band included Robert Catlin, William Laughton, Peter Merrygarts and John Trenell.

Both companies had to put two men to the tenor, and six months later one of the gudgeons broke during the ringing and the bell came down with a crash. The scared ringers left their flying ropes and ran to the windows, but the bell lodged in the pit, and no further damage was done.

The first peal of Maximus in the steeple was one of Plain Bob, consisting of, 5,280 changes, rung on May 8th, 1731, by the College Youths. Annable did not conduct, and was not even in the band. John Cundell called the bobs, and the party included some who were, like Cundell himself, rather jealous of Annable's supremacy in the society, or were offended by his sharp tongue and dictatorial manner. William Jackson, who composed the first peal the College Youths had ever achieved, but had been far overshadowed as a composer by Annable and had since stood out of every peal band, rang the seventh to the Maximus. Robert Catlin rang the second, and he did not again stand in a peal with Annable. William Laughton and John Hayward were also included.

The Eastern Scholars rang 5,600 changes of Grandsire Caters in 1734, with Philemon Mainwaring as conductor, and the Union Scholars 5,040 changes of Bob Royal with John Denmead as conductor.

A fortnight after this last performance a very interesting peal was rung in the steeple, on the front eight bells. This was 'the first Compleat Peal of 5,040 Grandsire Trebles. Prickt and call. by Jn. Denmead.'

The figures of the composition are not given in the peal book and we cannot be sure what was rung, but there was a very old traditional peal on the Bob and Single plan which was printed in the 'Clavis' and was

sometimes ascribed to John Holt. It was not by Holt, but it very likely came from the Union Scholars, of which society both Holt and Denmead were members. There is at least a likelihood that this was the peal rung at St. Martin's, and, if so, with the possible exception of one at Cambridge in 1734, it would be the first true peal of Grandsire Triples rung with ordinary bobs and singles.

Two years later, John Denmead 'prickt and call'd' another seven-bell peal, and the Union Scholars again rang it on the front eight. This was '5,040 Bob Major Trebles, containing the Treble Leads and Bobs of ye compleat Peal of 40,320 Bob Major Eight-in.'

If we take an extent of Bob Major and write out the back and hand changes when the treble is leading we shall have the 5,040 changes on 2345678 in such a form that they can be rung to a peal. Nowadays it would be called a peal of Original Triples, but the bobs were made on the front three bells.

John Holt called three peals for the Union Scholars at St. Martin's—Bob Major in 1748, Bob Triples in 1749, and Grandsire Caters in 1751. The first two, like the other eight-bell peals, were rung on the small octave, which shows that the hanging of the bells was not too good.

When the Society of College Youths split into two companies after the death of Annable in 1756, the older branch left St. Bride's and the meeting place at 'The Barley Mow' and betook themselves to St. Martin's. They held their meetings at 'The Barn' in St. Martin's Lane, a house which was pulled down when Trafalgar Square was laid out. They did little peal ringing, and St. Martin's does not again figure in the records until 1771, when a peal of Real Double Bob Maximus was rung 'with as many bobs before as behind.' It was the first of its kind, but there is little doubt from what is said in the 'Clavis' that it was false.

It was thirteen years before the next peal was rung in the steeple. This was 5,080 changes of Grandsire Cinques on November 13th, 1784, by the 'junior' Society of College Youths.

Following the example of Edward Osborn, I call them the 'junior' society to distinguish them from the ancient Society of College Youths, but they called themselves and everybody at the time knew them as the Society of College Youths without qualification of any kind. The word 'ancient' as applied to the older branch was not a part of the title, but only an ordinary adjective meaning 'old.'

Robert Pye Donkin was the conductor of the Grandsire Cinques, and the band was made up of some of the best and most famous men in the history of the London ringing Exercise—Winstanley Richardson, William Lyford, Robert Pye Donkin, William Wilson, James Worster, Israel Johnson, George Scarsbrook, Stapley Blandford, Thomas Verren, John Povey, John Lyford and Philip Pilgrim.

At that time the ancient society was enjoying a brief period of activity and brilliance before its final dissolution three years later, and two months after their rivals' Cinques on January 6th, 1785, the company rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on the bells.

The band was equal in all respects to the other, and included in it are such famous names as John Reeves, Christopher Wells, Thomas Blakemore, Richard Moore, John Inville, Nathaniel Williamson and George Harris.

Blakemore was the conductor, and he and Reeves at the time were assisting William Jones with the compilation of the 'Clavis.' Wells, by his investigations into the proof of peals of Treble Bob Major, did the whole Exercise a lasting service. George Harris was one of the very select number of men who turned a 50 cwt. tenor into more than six thousand changes of Maximus.

The number of changes as given in the peal book was 5,113, but that we may be pretty sure was the writer's error.

The dissolution of the ancient society was mainly due to a quarrel between John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore over the calling of the first peal of Stedman Caters. The upshot was that Reeves went to the Cumberlands and Blakemore and the majority of the other members threw in their lot with the 'junior' company. The latter now left St. Bride's and 'The Barley Mow' in Salisbury Court and migrated to St. Martin's and 'The Barn,' which remained the headquarters of the Society of College Youths for nearly forty years, when it was transferred to 'The King's Head' at Southwark.

The reunited society practised Stedman Cinques which, until a few years before, had been rung nowhere except in Norwich.

On October 6th, 1788, at St. Martin's, Thomas Blakemore called the first peal ever achieved in the method. The number of changes was 6,206. Jasper Snowdon, in his account of the method, suggested that this number was chosen because it would take a lot of beating and so stand as the record for a long time. This seemed a good reason, and in my book on Stedman I reproduced the statement. It was only after the book was printed that

I noticed the real truth of the matter. 6,206 changes of Cinques is the same composition as 5,184 changes of Caters. Not much was known at the time about Stedman composition, and Blakemore evidently played for safety by calling one of the peals of Caters from the 'Clavis.'

The band, in addition to Blakemore, included some of the most skilful men from both the old companies—Donkin, Povey, Wells, Worster, Inville, Williamson, William Lyford, Edmund Sylvester, and Philip Pilgrim. Two were comparatively new men, James Hammett, who lived in Hungerford Market, and Samuel Lawrence, from Shifnal, in Shropshire.

When Lawrence returned home, he took Stedman with him and introduced it to the Birmingham men who, ever since, have been almost the leading exponents of the method.

At St. Martin's in 1792, Blakemore called another peal of Stedman Cinques for the College Youths, this time 5,088 changes, and in 1797 he called the first peal of Grandsire Cinques ever brought round at hand. The plan adopted was to let 89 lie still at the go-off and to use the traditional Cater way of bringing the bells round.

There was a good deal to be said in favour of this plan. It put the bells at once into the tittums with the 8th behind the 11th, and it saved the long and risky coming home course. The departure from the strict method was, in the eyes of the men of the time, no worse than the use of a single.

The last peal on the bells during the eighteenth century was also Grandsire Cinques. John Noonan called it, and the band belonged to the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths.

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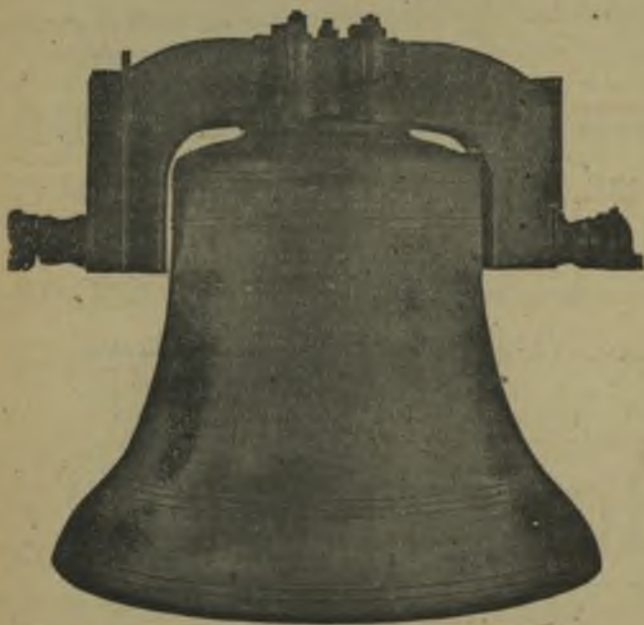
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We understand that the bells of St. Mary's, Southampton, which was gutted in a recent raid, have been destroyed and the sixth melted in the fire.

Fifty-five churches in the Liverpool Diocese have been damaged by enemy action, and it is reported that part of the east end of the Cathedral will have to be rebuilt.

On January 20th, 1854, William Cooter rang 3-4, and called the first true double-handed peal of Stedman Triples. The honour thus went to the College Youths, for the previous peal by the Cumberlands was false through Cox changing his hands for part of a course.

On Sunday morning, January 12th, at Kington Magna Church, thanksgiving was offered for the victory of the British forces in Libya. At the conclusion of the National Anthem handbells were rung in rounds and set changes with eight blows of firing.

The Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild is to hold two meetings to-morrow. This is to put in order the proceedings of the annual district meeting, which has, under the rules, to be preceded by a meeting at which the nomination of officers has to take place. Only a legal mind would have thought of this.

The first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus was rung at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, on January 20th, 1817. Mr. C. E. Borrett has referred to this in his recent interesting articles.

The Cambridge Youths rang 6,600 changes of Bob Maximus on January 21st, 1788. This remains the record for the method.

An unusual peal was performed at Shifnal in Worcestershire on January 23rd, 1844, when the local men rang 5,040 changes of Treble Bob Triples. To get a true composition, the two variations, Oxford and Kent, were mixed.

Two long peals, both false in composition, were rung on January 25th, 1842. One was 8,105 Stedman Caters at Painswick, the other 8,081 Grandsire Caters at Stroud.

Elijah Roberts, who distinguished himself by tapping some extraordinary peals on handbells, committed suicide at Liverpool on January 26th, 1865. Among his performances were 7,536 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 5,016 Stedman Cinques, and 19,440 Treble Twelve. Most of his peals were rung in the presence of competent witnesses.

An early long peal, 10,080 changes of Bob Major, was rung at Fulham on January 26th, 1735, by the Fulham Youths.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

THE FUNERAL BELL.

A WEST COUNTRY USAGE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the very interesting discussion on the subject of the death knell that occupied your columns for many weeks, I do not think that any of your correspondents mentioned one usage traditional in some parishes, namely, that of chiming each of the bells in turn at a fixed hour in the morning, when a funeral is to take place later in the day. It has never been the custom in my own village of Kington Magna, but in the neighbouring parish of Marnhull—Hardy's 'Marlott'—the practice is still maintained.

The Rector interprets it as welcoming home the deceased to his parish church for the last time. I surmise that it originated in the Requiem Mass held before a burial. I have heard the same done at Wedmore. and in the island of Cyprus a similar practice obtains both in the Latin and Eastern Orthodox Churches, each bell being chimed three strokes at a time. Mr. Trollope's researches may throw some further light on this tradition.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

P.S.—Now that even the Archbishop has failed to obtain leave for ringing, it may interest you to know that I made ineffectual appeals to the Prime Minister, Mr. Duff Cooper, the Ministry of Home Security and the War Office! The Ministry of Home Security did take the trouble to forward my letter to the War Office, but that authority proved obdurate.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

CLAPPERLESS BELLS PROVIDE PRACTICE.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 11th, a few members being present from Stoke, Burslem, Longton, Hanley and Newcastle. Handbells were used and also the tower bells (six without the clappers). Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor were practised in the afternoon.

A splendid tea was kindly provided by the Newcastle ringers, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. N. Sargeant (Hanley) to the Rector of Newcastle for the use of the bells and for the welcome extended to the visiting ringers.—This was seconded by Mr. E. Steele (Longton).

After tea, handbells were again used, and on the tower bells 720 Bob Minor was brought round and brought a happy gathering to a close.

The next meeting will be held on February 1st at Longton, where there will be seven bells for use without clappers.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS. PROPERTY LOST IN LONDON FIRE.

Damaged Books Salvaged.

The College Youths now know the worst about the property which was deposited at The Coffee Pot on the night that the fire raid was made on London. A number of things have been irretrievably lost and the rest damaged, for even the contents of the safes did not escape. The details of the loss were given to the members at a meeting held on Saturday at the Holborn Viaduct Station Restaurant. The hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) had spent much time in the work of salvage and visited the site three times. On the second occasion, in company with Messrs. Charrington's representative, he salvaged the contents of the small old safe, which was not fireproof. The greater part of the contents had been destroyed. A few scorched minute books were saved, but all the rest was useless. The safe, falling from the first floor into the cellar, had been burst open.

On the third visit the smaller fireproof safe was removed and had to be cut open. The greater part of the contents had been destroyed. The larger safe was opened after much trouble, and all the property inside was found to be much damaged.

Of the property saved, the 'pence box' was found only slightly scorched. It contained £1 6s. 5d. in coins that were much discoloured.

The mace stand and gavel were scorched, but repairable. The silver cup, presented by Mr. E. H. Lewis on the occasion of the tercentenary, was quite sound, but will need cleaning and regilding.

The two tercentenary record books were both badly damaged and the covers and binding ruined. The pages, however, can be cleaned and re-bound. The letter book was not much damaged, and the old name book, restored by Mr. E. A. Young, had the cover damaged, but the book is readable. The framed print of Canon Ellacombe needs reglazing, and the late M. A. Wood's peal book was found in fair condition with cover damaged.

Composition book, 'Campanologia,' and five minute books all had covers badly damaged, but the printing is quite readable.

The small peal book, containing a list of bills and inventory 1755-1792, had the cover damaged, and the covers of the two photo albums have been rendered useless. The audit book was scorched but readable, although the cover is useless, while the pages of the Pettit testimonial were intact, but the cover useless.

The three sets of handbells, the cup bells, muffles, gramophone records, older minute books, membership certificates, ancient vase and all other books were destroyed.

This, of course, is a sorry tale, but it is gratifying that some at least of the property can be restored. Such as was salvaged is now stored in a vaulted cellar at the Whitechapel Foundry.

The nine members present at the meeting expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the hon. treasurer for the great pains he had taken over the salvage of the property. A letter from the proprietress of the Coffee Pot was read, in which it was stated that the brewers had promised her a house in the vicinity of St. Paul's and expressing the hope that the society will again make its home there when she reopens.

A message of sympathy and good wishes was brought by Mr. Fred Collins from Mr. W. H. Barber and the rest of the Newcastle ringers. Steps to find a temporary meeting room where members can ring handbells, etc., were discussed.

An interesting letter from Mr. L. Fox, one of the younger members of the society serving with the Forces, was read, in which, in sending his good wishes, he wrote: 'In common with every other member of the society, the passing of the Coffee Pot was a sad blow. Directly I heard about it I began thinking of the happy times I had spent there. As a matter of fact, they were all happy times, except, of course, when we learned of the passing of members.'

'What struck me when reading "The Ringing World" was the fact that the faithful few were—with one possible exception—among those who kept the society going during the last war. The future generations of College Youths will undoubtedly have cause to remember them with gratitude. When we have won this World War No. 2 I hope that their services will not go by unnoticed by the present generation.'

Nine was a very good muster for the meeting considering that a violent snowstorm was raging all the morning. As usual, a warning went during the meeting, the first in the City since the previous Sunday.

DEATH OF MR. H. J. MEE.

A WELL-KNOWN SUFFOLK RINGER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. J. Mee, of Sproughton, who passed away on Saturday, December 28th, at the age of 70.

The funeral service, which took place at Sproughton Parish Church on New Year's Day, was choral, special hymns being sung. After the committal prayers a course of Grandshire Triples was rung over the grave by C. F. Mee (nephew) 1-2, C. Mee (brother) 3-4, C. Rivers 5-6, and F. Rolfe 7-8.

The deceased was a member of the Parochial Church Council and had been a ringer at the Parish Church for many years. He had taken part in over 100 peals, and his last wish was to have his peal cards buried with him. One of his greatest delights was to teach beginners to ring.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

PENDING RESIGNATION OF THE HON. TREASURER.

The various calls of national service, transport difficulties and illness of some members were no doubt causes responsible for the very meagre attendance at the Midland Counties Association meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Of 32 committee members, only nine were present, and of ordinary members numbering several hundreds, two turned up. Pte. Barnabas Key, of Wolverhampton, who is stationed in the vicinity, was a welcome non-resident member, and the total of 13 was made up by Miss White, of Cotgrave, who kindly brought some correspondence from her father, Mr. W. E. White, the association's hon. treasurer, who was ill with cardiac-asthma. Owing to other duties, neither the president (Canon Fitzherbert), nor the general hon. secretary (Mr. E. Morris) could be present, so the chair was taken by the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison.

The committee meeting began at 3 p.m. in St. Peter's Church Room and the discussions were so protracted that it was nearly 5 p.m. when the business finished. As only two ordinary members were present at 4 p.m. when the general meeting was scheduled to commence, these latter sat throughout the remainder of the meeting and no general meeting was held.

After much deliberation, it was decided to publish a report for 1940, and, with a view to making this as accurate as possible, members are asked to notify the general hon. secretary of any alterations, details of members serving in the Forces, etc., before the end of this month.

The election of two auditors presented something of a problem, as neither of the ordinary members present could undertake this duty. The secretary will, therefore, communicate with two suitable members, named at the meeting, to ask for their co-operation in this matter.

Owing to the uncertainty as to whether Easter Monday will be a Bank Holiday, it was decided that the annual meeting, to be held at Nottingham, should be on the Saturday before Easter Sunday, i.e., during the afternoon of April 12th, the arrangements being left in the hands of Mr. Salter, secretary for Nottingham District.

Owing to ill-health and advancing years, Mr. W. E. White wrote to say that he would be unable to continue as hon. treasurer after the annual meeting, and, much as the committee regretted it, they felt it would be an injustice to Mr. White if they refused his resignation.

Nominations for a new treasurer and for the other official posts of the association are, therefore, solicited, and these should be in the general hon. secretary's hands by March 12th.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE.

SOME NOTABLE PEALS AT IPSWICH.

The company of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, has sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. Charles A. Catchpole, which took place on January 10th in his sixty-fourth year.

The funeral, on the following Thursday, was at All Saints' Church, Ipswich, and among the mourners were his widow, sons, daughters, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. Mr. W. P. Garrett and Mr. George E. Symonds represented the St. Mary-le-Tower Society. There were numerous wreaths, including one from the ringers.

Mr. Catchpole will be greatly missed by his many friends, to whom he was endeared by a genial nature and his almost unlimited store of anecdotes. As a member of the talented band at St. Mary's, he had taken part in many meritorious performances. They included the first peals ever rung of Superlative Maximus, Yorkshire Maximus, Pudsey Maximus, Rochester Maximus, Little Albion Treble Bob Maximus and York Maximus, as well as peals of Forward, Duffield, Cambridge and New Cambridge Maximus. He rang 11-12 to a peal of Grandshire Cinques on handbells, and 9-10 to one of Caters. In all he rang 100 peals on twelve bells, about half being Cinques and half Maximus.

His total list of peals was 293, of which 118 were rung for the Norwich Diocesan Association and 175 for the Suffolk Guild. He called one peal, Kent Treble Bob Major at Henley in Suffolk.

Mr. Catchpole's connection with the St. Mary-le-Tower company lasted for upwards of 34 years, and he bore a name which was associated with the belfry for a much longer time still, for his father, William L. Catchpole, was one of the two men who more than anyone else put Ipswich in a unique place among twelve-bell bands. He and James Motts, both of them excellent composers and conductors, worked together in perfect harmony for many years without jealousy and without friction, and they had their reward in the establishment of a band which in method ringing stands entirely by itself among twelve-bell bands. Motts died on January 21st, 1923.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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THE DEATH OF MRS. SNOWDON.

THE FAMILY'S WORK FOR RINGING.

As we briefly recorded in our last issue, the death occurred on January 6th of Mrs. Laura Snowdon, widow of the late Mr. William Snowdon, who died in 1915. Had she lived until May, Mrs. Snowdon would have been 92 years of age. She had been in failing health for a good many years, devotedly nursed by her daughter, Miss Margaret Snowdon. Seven years ago she became blind and for the past three years was a complete invalid.

As Miss Archer, of Stockton-on-Tees, she married Mr. William Snowdon in 1883, when he was practising as a civil and consulting engineer in Leeds. They retired to Cartmel in 1913, but Mr. Snowdon lived only two years to enjoy the well-earned rest after a life of great activity.

Although Mrs. Snowdon was little known to ringers, she was a great help to her husband when new ringing books or editions were being published in the Snowdon series, as she was a most accurate proof reader.

The funeral of Mrs. Snowdon took place on the 9th inst., the service being held in the Priory Church at Cartmel, where for so many years, before she removed to Newby Bridge she was a regular worshipper. The interment took place in the churchyard in a grave next to that of her husband, the Rev. Laurence Dykes, Vicar of Cartmel, officiating. It is a coincidence worth recording that William Snowdon's father, the Rev. John Snowdon, Vicar of Ilkley, Yorks, for 63 years, laid to rest in Ilkley Churchyard some of a past generation of Dykes, and now, three generations on in this family, the Vicar of Cartmel should lay to rest the last of her generation of Snowdons.

WILLIAM SNOWDON'S CONTRIBUTION.

No one family has done such great service to the Exercise over so long a period of time as have the Snowdons. Everyone recognises the value of Jasper's work, though perhaps younger generations do not fully know all they owe to what he did sixty years ago. It was his supreme excellence that he not only knew a great deal about the practical side of ringing, but he was able to teach, and his books are still the standard works for the simpler methods.

But Jasper Snowdon's work, with all its excellence, would not have been fully available to later generations had it not been for other members of his family. He died at a comparatively early age, and before he had published all he had written. It well might have been that much of what he had prepared would never have seen the light of day and that the books he did publish would, when the first editions had been sold out, have become rarities in the hands of older men.

This is where his brother William performed his greatest service to the Exercise. The book on Grandsire which Jasper had left unfinished he completed with the efficient help of C. D. P. Davies, and he saw to it that when the earlier editions of his brother's books were sold out they were reprinted, so that a steady supply has always been available for each succeeding generation.

To this there was but one exception. 'Double Norwich' was never reprinted, probably because there was not sufficient demand for it to warrant the cost. In a sense this was a pity, for no other text book had dealt with any one method so completely and withal so clearly from the point of the average ringer. It formed the model on which Sir Arthur Heywood based his excellent book on Duffield.

William Snowdon did not content himself with merely reproducing his brother's work, though he was always thoroughly loyal to the tradition the other had left. When the time came that 'Standard Methods' had become somewhat out of date, he gave it a thorough revision, altered the selection of methods, and brought the book up to the needs of the time. He did more. He employed Davies to write the book on Stedman, which Jasper had projected but had left in only a fragmentary state.

William Snowdon served the Exercise in other ways, and some of them were ways in which only a man like him could act. The Central Council and associations like the Yorkshire Association have benefited enormously from the very fact that they have had as leaders men of the character and personality of William Snowdon.

THE GOOD WORK GOES ON.

In the year 1915 he died, but the good work wrought by his family did not cease.

The gracious lady who has just passed to her rest full of years and of honour carried on the work. Not only were the books still kept on sale, but a project which William had formed before his death was carried out, and C. D. P. Davies was commissioned to incorporate Jasper's fragments in the Surprise Major methods in a book which appeared in 1927.

Still later, when increasing years compelled Mrs. Snowdon to relinquish active work, the tradition was carried on by Miss Margaret Snowdon, who had already been her mother's capable and enthusiastic helper. She, as much as her father and mother, fostered the sale of the books, and as editions were exhausted, saw to it that they were reprinted.

When Davies' Stedman was sold out and the impossibility of re-issuing the book at the same price had to be faced, instead of resigning herself to allowing the book to lapse, she arranged for an entirely new book to be written, and courageously faced the very heavy outlay of capital involved. The same thing has happened with regard to

(Continued in next column.)

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A HANDBELL CONTEST.

Prize Goes to Sheffield Air Raid Distress Fund.

The annual meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th, when the following towers were represented: Cawthorne, Eastwood, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Sandal and Wath.

A handbell contest was held in the afternoon. It had been arranged with the hope of inducing more of the members to take up this form of ringing. Two bands, Eastwood and Felkirk, competed. A big entry had not been expected, but it is hoped that this will be the foundation of something greater.

At the general meeting which followed, Canon W. E. Wilkinson (hon. president) occupied the chair and was supported by the president (Mr. E. Brookes).

Before commencing the business the Chairman announced that Mrs. C. D. Potter, the widow of the late president and one of the founders of the society (Mr. C. D. Potter), had passed peacefully away that morning, and the members stood while prayer was offered by the chairman.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H. Potter and Mr. A. Panther.

The auditor's report on the balance sheet showed a loss on the year's working of 15s., this being due to the non-payment of subscriptions, which had fallen 50 per cent. in 1940 compared with 1939. This, the report said, is no doubt due chiefly to the ban on tower-bell ringing and with it the cancelling of the annual shield contest, which used to bring a large number of members into touch with the treasurer and a consequent substantial increase in receipts. There is no doubt, however, that as soon as the officers can get into touch with these members this matter will be put right.

The report of the hon. secretary (Mr. D. Smith) showed that twelve meetings had been held during 1940 apart from the annual meeting. The average attendance before the ban on ringing was 17; the average attendance after the ban was nine. This, considering all the difficulties, was really as much as could be expected. Seven new members were elected during the year and three had been lost by death, viz., Mr. A. Walker, Pontefract; Mr. T. Dunbireh, South Kirkby, and Mr. F. Mortemore, Ecclesfield.

FUNDS TO BE INVESTED IN WAR SAVINGS.

The officers were all re-elected. The result of the handbell contest was then announced by the judge, Mr. C. Robinson (Cawthorne). Felkirk got through with 61 faults and Eastwood with 65 faults.

The prize for the competition was provided by the president (Mr. E. Brookes) and took the form of a £1 note, the condition, to which everyone agreed, being that the winning team should forward it to the Sheffield Air Raid Distress Fund.

This, with the help of the Rector and the judge, and a collection taken among the members, enabled a sum of £2 10s. to be handed over to the chairman to be forwarded to the fund.

The question of the society's account with Barclays Bank was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed to withdraw the whole of the balance and invest it in the war savings to help the war effort. It was also agreed that, as this would mean the closing of the account with this bank, the treasurer should open a new account for any further deposits with the Yorkshire Penny Bank, as this was deemed to be more convenient.

It was decided to arrange the next meeting at Silkstone on Saturday, February 8th.

Mr. Moxon (Sandal) proposed that the heartiest thanks be accorded to the Rector for all he had done for the members' comfort, for the help he had given in allowing them to use the Rectory Room free of charge and for conducting the meeting.

The Rector, in reply, said he was always pleased to welcome ringers and to help them in every way he could. It was a good thing to think that the work of the society had been carried on and that twelve meetings had been held in a year when the ringing of church bells had been banned entirely. He wished the society every success in the future.

This concluded the business and the party then adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where a good meal was partaken of, after which the rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and social intercourse.

The methods practised during the evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Bob Minor and Major and Oxford Treble Bob Minor. The best piece rung by both bands in the competition was 300 changes of Bob Minor.

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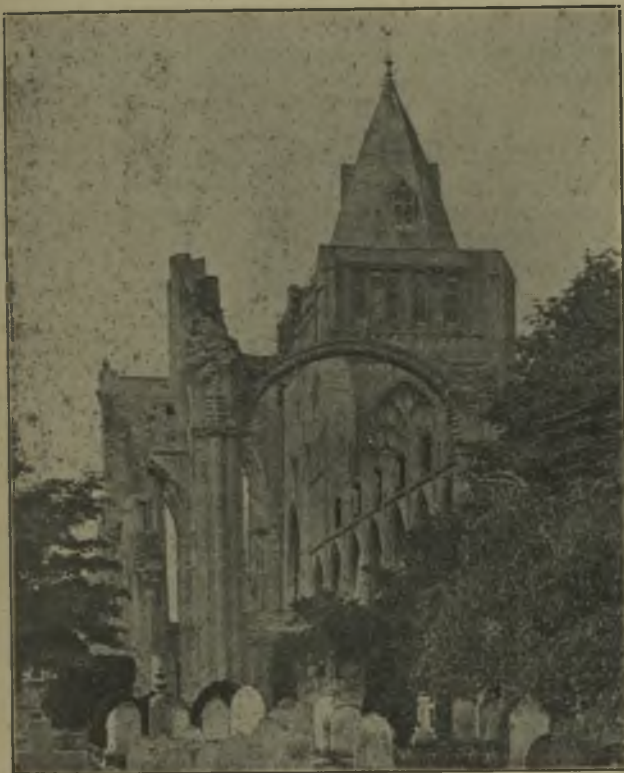
(Continued from previous column.)

'Standard Methods.' Since the present war started a new edition has been printed, which is an entirely new book, in which the Exercise has been given the advantage of the great alteration which has taken place in recent years in method ringing, and of the modern ways of learning and ringing methods.

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FIRST SET OF BELLS EVER HUNG.

THE RECORD OF CROWLAND ABBEY.



PARNELL'S VISITS TO CROWLAND.
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The first set of bells ever hung in England is supposed to be at Crowland Abbey. In support of this supposition I beg to give a copy of an entry taken from the original Manuscript Book of the late John Alfred Parnell, of Sheffield.

'The first Set of Tuneable Bells in England was put up (say hung up) in the Tower of Crowland Abbey, in Lincolnshire (near Holbeach and Spalding), which was a Musical Peal of five about the year 900—or a little before that time or period of the Christian Aera.

I, (John Alfred Parnell) paid this once large Gothic Building—now most of it in Ruins except the North Aisle which is Patched up or rather say slightly Built up for Crowland Abbey Parish Church—a walking visit in October 1814—and found only 5 Bells. When I descended the very low West End Gothic Tower on Examining it I say very minutely and the old Inhabitants informed me (the Grandsire Ringers also) there were never any more than 5 Bells at one time. These 5 Bells were not the Originals—some of them cast as late as 1783 and one in 1788 by Mr. Arnold of the Town of Leicester.

I have paid the Ruins of this once large Abbey 3 Walking Visits—in 1809, in 1812, and 1814.

The Town is a very small one situated in a very flat part of the County of Lincoln and has an old Gothic Bridge—Built Triangular—with three entrances on to it from three different Streets, and suppose it was Built in 600 or 700 of the Christian Aera—its like is not in Great Britain says the *Gothic Traveller*

John Alfred Parnell.

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THE REVERSAL OF COMPOSITIONS.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

In a recent letter to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Edwin Barnett drew attention to a peal of Stedman Triples which James W. Washbrook used to call and which he described as Thurstans' Reversed. It had a single at 2, and Mr. Barnett asked if, and how, such a peal was possible.

He has been answered by two men, Mr. Lindoff and Mr. Powell, both of them competent experts, and we need add nothing to what they say. The general subject of reversal is, however, an interesting one and may be worth a few minutes' study.

The composition Washbrook actually called seems not to be known, but in justice to him it should be pointed out that he really did know a great deal about Thurstans' peal and twin-bob composition generally, and when he wrote that he had called so many variations of Thurstans' peal that he could not remember which he actually called on that particular occasion, he no doubt was stating the literal truth.

To begin at the very beginning, we must be clear that reversal means starting from the end and going back to the beginning in reverse order, and a true and complete reverse variation is that and nothing else.

But the term, like all similar terms, is used in a rather wider sense, and is legitimately so used, provided the main underlying principle is there. What we will do now is to see what that underlying principle is. To follow what we are going to say, it is most helpful to do experimental pricking and to test by examples every point as we come to it.

First let us take any one of the standard Major methods, say Double Norwich, and examine the full plain course. If we follow the changes or the work of the bells either singly or collectively from the first row to the last, and then turn to the last row and similarly follow the work backwards to the first row, we shall find that both are exactly similar. In other words, if we start from 13254768 and prick out a full course we get exactly the same result as in the plain course, the only difference being that the order in which the rows come is reversed. That is an example of a full true reversal.

This reversal must not be confused with another sort of reversal, which is implied when we speak of a Reverse method, such as, for instance, Reverse Bob; for methods have two dimensions, breadth as well as length, and the work and the rows can be reversed from front and back as well as from beginning and end. This second sort of reversal does not concern us at present.

Double Norwich Major we find, when reversed, gives the same method as in the original version, and the same thing happens in every method on any number of bells, which has one hunt only, and is nowadays considered as 'regular.' But it does not happen in 'regular' methods which have two hunts, or, as the ordinary saying is, have a treble and a bell-in-the-hunt. Test a plain course of Grandsire Triples as we just did the plain course of Double Norwich Major. If we start with 1325476 and write out a full course we shall not get the same rows as in the plain course, but something quite different. It follows from this that no reverse variation of any touch or peal of Grandsire can ever be quite as true and complete a reversal as can one in Plain Bob or Double Norwich Major. It is true that, if we select the appropriate

(Continued on next page.)

HOW REVERSAL WORKS.

CONTRAST BETWEEN GRANDSIRE AND DOUBLE NORWICH.

(Continued from previous page.)

point to reverse from, a course of Grandsire Triples does reverse true, but that avails nothing when bobs are made.

Next let us examine a touch of Double Norwich made up by bobbed and plained leads.

This touch is produced by bobs which come at the first, sixth, eighth and thirteenth lead ends. If we turn to the end of the touch and count the position of the bobs backwards we shall find that from that direction also they come at the first, sixth, eighth and thirteenth leads, and if we start with 13254768 and ring the same touch we shall have the same rows but in the reverse order.

A touch or a peal in which this sort of thing happens is said to reverse to the same thing, and it is due to the symmetrical positions of the bobs. But this sort of thing does not always happen. Sometimes the positions of the bobs counted from the end to the beginning are different from those counted from the beginning to the end. For instance, in a well-known touch the bobs counted from the beginning are at the first, fifth and ninth leads; but counted from the end are at the third, seventh and eleventh leads.

A touch starting from rounds with bobs at the third, seventh and eleventh leads would be the reverse of the original touch, but it would not contain the same rows as our first examples did.

It would also part the tenors and so not be of much practical value, but this is met by making the term 'reverse' cover some variation from the strict counting from the end as from the beginning.

All the touches and peals with which we are at present dealing are round blocks, and they can be illustrated by the face of a clock. We will suppose rounds to be at 12 and the touch to follow the movement of the minute hand round to 12 again. The various hours will stand for the bobs, only they will not be all at the same distance apart.

If we start again at twelve o'clock and go round the face, but this time in anti-clock fashion (that is, though, 11, 10, 9, 8, etc.), until we once more reach twelve o'clock, we shall have the reverse variation. But we can start from a different point. We can start, say, from nine o'clock, and go round to nine o'clock again, and if we go anti-clockwise we still have what we reckon as a reverse variation of the original composition.

We have, therefore, four degrees of reversal. First we have a reversal which not only repeats the work of the method and the order of the bobs, but also the actual rows in the opposite order. Then we have a reversal which repeats the work of the method and the bobs in the opposite order, but does not repeat the actual rows. Then we have a reversal which repeats the bobs in the opposite order, but does not repeat either the method or the rows in the opposite order (reversals of Grandsire are examples of this). And finally we have a reversal which repeats the bobs only, in the opposite order, but which starts from a different point.

All this applies to Stedman Triples, but there are two peculiar features in that method which rather complicate matters.

The first is that the usually accepted division of the course into alternate Sixes, although convenient for most purposes, is not really the scientific division. The Six is not the equivalent of the lead in other methods, nor are two Sixes, one quick and the other slow, following each other. The real division is the first twelve changes, from the middle of the whole pull when one bell leads quick, until the middle of the whole pull when the next bell leads quick.

The question has often been debated why Stedman originally began his Principle in the middle of a Six instead of having first a whole quick Six and then a whole slow Six. So clever a man as C. D. P. Davies thought it was more or less a piece of eccentricity, and ringers for many years have reckoned their peals from 2314567, and not from 1234567.

But Stedman knew what he was about, and the composers who followed him knew too, as we can see from what Thomas Melchior, the Norwich man, wrote. They instinctively recognised the first twelve changes as the correct unit of the method. It would have been better in almost all ways if the fourth row of the quick Six had been taken as the equivalent of the lead end.

The second thing is that the wrong change is taken as the course end. Custom has decided that the course end should be the last row of the Six when the seventh is dodging in 6-7 up after having been in quick. It should have been when the observation bell is striking its second blow on the lead when leading full as a quick bell.

Everybody who has rung any of the more complex methods, and many of those who have only rung the simpler methods, will have noticed that in the plain course (and so in every other natural course) there is a place where the work reverses and where the ringer proceeds to do again what he has already done, but in the opposite order. There is one of these 'turning' places at every lead end made by a different bell each time.

If we want to get a true reversal of a composition we must reverse from one of these 'turning' places; and if we do not want to change our observation bell we must reverse from the change where that bell is making its turning place. In the case of ordinary peals of Stedman Triples, that means that we must reverse from the change in which the Seventh is leading its whole pull as a quick bell. All that part of the composition which is included between two Singles must be reversed from that point. The course which contains exactly the same rows as the plain course, but in the opposite order, is 5643127.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

'HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. E. Bailey's letter gives the impression that the reopening of St. Bride's tower to ringers was entirely due to Mr. Cross and Mr. Bevan. This is not so. For nearly 20 years after that unfortunate peal by the Bristol men, following so closely on one rung there by the late Mr. W. Pye, Mr. Arthur Hardy tried all he knew to induce the then Rector to remove the ban, but with no success.

When the present Rector was appointed soon after the last war, in company with the late Mr. J. D. Matthews, he renewed his efforts, this time with success. It is to these gentlemen that the credit belongs. Sunday ringing and practices were resumed and the Rector became a member of the Cumberlands. He also took an interest in ringing generally, preaching on one occasion at a ringers' service at Shoreditch. I believe he also gave permission for a peal attempt, which was unsuccessful owing to the bad go of the tenor (Mr. Walter Ayre will correct me if I am wrong).

I would not for one moment attempt to belittle the efforts of Mr. Cross and Mr. Bevan in carrying on the good work. We are grateful to them for it.

Mr. Bailey's experience of St. Bride's and ringing there is considerably less than ten years, and his letter is one of those instances where 'little knowledge is a dangerous thing.'

E. BARNETT.

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.**

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GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbell ringing in the belfry from 3 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in Parish Room at 4.30 p.m.—J. C. Dean, 4, Court Road, Northampton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting, at the café (opposite the church).—C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Wyke-Regis, Weymouth.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 25th, at 3.30 p.m. A substantial meat tea will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a social evening, including handbell ringing until 8.30 p.m., at an inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. per head. Reports will be available at this meeting.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual general meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, January 25th. Service in Cathedral at 3.15, meeting and tea at the Lion and Lamb afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Church House, South John Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, February 1st, at 4.30 p.m. Handbells will be available from 2.30. A good attendance is hoped for.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1st, at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, at 2.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Nottingham, on Saturday, February 1st. Handbells available from 2.30. Business meeting for election of officers 3.30. Will members please make an effort to attend. All ringers welcome. Own arrangements for tea.—F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, February 1st. Bells (7), without clappers, and handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Steele, Hawthorne, Caverswall Wood, Meir, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before January 29th. The fourth annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 5.50 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from me on or before February 10th. Please apply early for tickets.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting, at Burbage, will be held at the Chequers Inn, Lutterworth Road, on Saturday, February 1st, at 6 p.m. Good bus service. Handbells and cheerful company. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Fosseway, Croft, Leicestershire.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but *send names for tea* to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Please note that in future meetings of the branch will be held on the second Saturday in every month at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair). The next meeting is on February 8th, from 2.45 p.m. Handbells, tea and meeting.—A. M. Tyler, Sec.

DEATH OF MRS. C. D. POTTER.

As briefly announced in our last issue, the death occurred on Saturday, January 11th, at her residence at 35, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, of Mrs. C. D. Potter. Deceased was 80 years of age. Although she was not very well known to ringers generally, all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance will miss her happy smile, for she was of a cheery disposition.

Mrs. Potter was the widow of Mr. C. D. Potter, late president of the Barnsley and District Society and founder of the society. He died about 18 months ago.

* Mrs. Potter had not been well for a long time, but it was not until after Christmas that she became seriously ill.

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THE LAGGARDS.

The balance sheets of associations now being made up for 1940 are revealing the fact that an unduly large proportion of members failed to pay their subscriptions during the year. For instance, one district of the Guildford Diocesan Guild had no fewer than fifty-four defaulters out of a total of 176, while reports from other parts of the country show an unfortunate falling-off in contributions. By no means all of this is due to men joining H.M. Forces, who in most ringing societies are relieved of their subscriptions. It is, we are afraid, one symptom of what is happening through the ban. Ringers are losing touch with each other and with their associations, because there is no ringing and few meetings. Worse still, many of them seem to be losing their interest and in their apathy they have become lax in their subscriptions.

Those ringers who are in this category would probably deny that their slackness in paying is due to anything more than the pressure of work in the present abnormal conditions, and they will probably say that they would have paid if they had been asked. They should not forget, however, that association secretaries are also busy folk, that their activities have increased like other people's, that they have not time to run after defaulting members, and that whatever they do for the associations is all done voluntarily. It is not that the non-payment of subscriptions is due to any intention to secede from the societies, and most of these ringers would doubtless protest their anxiety to ensure the continuity of the associations through these difficult times. Yet by thoughtlessness they are doing the very thing that can lead to collapse. Of course, there may be a certain number of selfish people who have deliberately given up subscribing because they imagine that, as there is no ringing, they are getting nothing for their money. These ringers, however, are in a minority. The others should realise that the maintenance of ringing organisations depends as much upon them as upon those who, with a greater sense of responsibility, faithfully discharge their obligations, and should realise also that without these associations the task of getting ringing going again when the ban is lifted will be greatly increased.

There is yet another angle from which the question should be considered. In nearly every case the principal charge upon the funds of the territorial associations is the publication of an annual report. Where this is suspended for the period of the war, and the expenditure is correspondingly reduced, it might be possible to reduce the amount of the annual subscription—there was a sug-

(Continued on page 50.)

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Makers to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

gestion on these lines at a recent district meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. But a reduction can only be made if the whole of the members continue to give their support. If half of them drop out, then the loyal section will have to continue to pay on the full basis; and one may well ask will it be quite fair that those who now escape their due liability should come back again on the same terms after the war to gain the advantages which others, who discharge their responsibilities, have retained for them? Perhaps they have not looked at the question quite in this light, but it is an aspect they ought not to lose sight of. It is difficult enough, in all conscience, for association officials to keep their organisations going; it is too much to ask them to call round for the subscriptions of laggard payers. We hope that those who, for whatever reason, are in default, will lose no time in making good their omission, not for what they are getting out of ringing now—which is admittedly very little indeed, although there are still ways in which they can maintain interest—but for what they hope to get out of it in the future.

The associations will have an important part to play when once again the bells are heard over the land. There will be many gaps to fill, many bands that will want help to become re-established. All the effort that can be recruited will be needed, and it is through the contacts that the associations can make that this can best be secured. It is to the future that we must all look and for which we must all work. Unless the members of associations do their share now, the outlook will be a sorry one, and it is not enough to leave everything to others. There are restrictions upon ringing and the time which ringers can devote to those things connected with the art that are still open to us; but these are no excuses for the failure of those who have not been called into the services to pay their small share towards 'keeping the flag flying.'

HANDBELL PEAL.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 22, 1941, in Two Hours,
At PERRY FARM,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, being 1 six-score each of College Pleasure, College Doubles, Dream, Hudibras, Morning Star and London Doubles, and 36 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, 10 different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY... 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY... 3-4

HENRY G. LEWIS... 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

Umpire—E. H. Lilley.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. E. Lilley.

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Borrett, quoting a contemporary newspaper, says that the old tenor at Mancroft was broken by the clapper wearing loose. The flight caught the frame and a crack 18 inches long was made in the bell.

Among the printed letters written by Dr. Samuel Parr is one which gives a different account. He said that the bell was cracked when being tolled for a death. Parr, who was generally accounted the most learned man of his generation, had been a ringer in his young days and kept up his interest in the art and in bells throughout his life. At one time he was Master of Norwich Grammar School and he knew Mancroft bells well.

Which is the correct account? Would it be possible for a clapper to work loose in such a way that it would foul the frame and so break the bell? Especially a bell which would be tucked up to some degree at any rate in the stock. It hardly seems likely, but strange accidents do happen.

On the other hand, if the bell was broken by faulty clocking, would not the sexton have a motive for concealing the fact, especially if, as is likely, he had deputed the job to some incompetent person, instead of doing it himself?

'T.'

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WAR-TIME LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Successful Guildford District Meeting.

When the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild met on Saturday it was disclosed that out of 176 subscribing members in 1939, only 112 paid their subscriptions last year, and that six towers were among those who failed to collect and forward subscriptions to the treasurer. Apart from this, the district has stood up very well to the difficult times, and the annual meeting was attended by over thirty members of the Guild. Through the good offices of Mr. A. H. Pulling, the meeting was held at the Royal Grammar School, Mr. Walter Harrison (vice-president) presiding, supported by the Guild hon. secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover), who has also been acting as district secretary. Among those also present were Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer), Mr. C. E. Smith (District Ringing Master) and ringers from Guildford Cathedral and S. Nicolas', Guildford, Albury, Godalming, Witley, Shalford, Haslemere, Worplesdon, Aldershot, Leatherhead, etc. Sgt. J. Freeman (Lincoln) and Mr. H. S. Hobden (Eastbourne) were welcome visitors. An apology was received from the Guild Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse), who was indisposed.

Actually two meetings were held, first the meeting at which, under the rules, the nomination of district officers had to be made. The nominations were: District Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. A. C. Hazelden; member on Executive Committee, Mr. H. Cherryman and Mr. S. Petter; auditor, Mr. L. C. Hunter.

Mr. Hazelden, on account of pressure of war work, was only reluctantly persuaded to accept nomination to fill the place of Mr. W. F. J. Cope, who has removed from the district, but it was felt that it was hardly worth while electing a secretary liable for military service.

At the annual meeting, which followed immediately, the nominated officers were elected, and a ballot resulted in the election of Mr. S. Petter to serve for three years on the Executive Committee.

The balance sheet showed an increase of £3 5s. 6d. in hand, despite the drop in members' subscriptions. Hon. members contributed £2 17s. 6d. and ringing members £12 3s., which included 14 members arrears from 1939. Of the subscriptions, 50 per cent., viz., £7 10s. 3d., had been paid to the Guild general fund. The district balance is now £27 7s. 7d.—The accounts were adopted, subject to audit.

DIFFICULTIES TO FACE IN THE FUTURE.

The Ringing Master, in his report, said that for obvious reasons there was little to record of ringing events in the district for 1940. What little there was, concerned the first five or six months of the year before the ban. During those few months, what ringing activities there were were conducted under difficulties. Here and there practices were regularly held, notably at S. Nicolas', Guildford, Witley and Godalming, where quite good work was being put in, but the absence of ringers on active service began to be felt, and, he was sure, was the reason that practices were abandoned at a number of towers. At most towers Sunday service ringing was maintained, often with depleted bands, until the time of the ban.

'Since June,' continued the report, 'all ringing has ceased, as well as meetings and social activities, and I am afraid members will, to a large extent, have lost touch with each other. With the continuation of the ban I can foresee great difficulties at some future date when the ban is lifted. However, that is a matter we shall have to face when the occasion arises. I have no doubt that great efforts will then be made to restore our great art to its pre-war strength.'

As regards meetings during the ban, I do not think it practicable to hold them here without the attraction of the tower bells, for handbell ringers are not many or enthusiastic. Perhaps in the summer, with lighter evenings, an experimental meeting may be tried at a fairly accessible spot.

Before the ban, the report added, two meetings were held in the district and four peals rung, while after the ban one handbell peal was rung.

A TWO-FOLD BLOW.

The general secretary, under the heading of 'Secretary's Report,' stated: As there is now no district secretary, there can hardly be a secretary's report, and I do not propose to endeavour to submit one. I cannot, however, let this meeting pass without putting on record the two-fold blow which the Guildford District has sustained this year. First in the total ban on ringings, and, secondly, in the loss of Mr. Cope's services as secretary on his departure from the district.

'Bill' Cope was secretary for a comparatively short period, but while in office he put his whole heart and energy into the job, with the result that when the thunderbolt of the ban fell the Guildford District had never been in a more united and prosperous state.

Evidence of Mr. Cope's popularity and wholehearted enthusiasm is reflected in the fact that during 1939 the district's membership roll touched a new high record, the district meetings throughout his period of office seemed to gather new life and brightness, and peals were rung at towers where hitherto the Guild had not been unduly welcomed.

The late secretary could have told you, had he been presenting a report, of his gratification at the fact that the district members were permitted during his secretaryship to make peal attempts at, among other places, Dunsfold, Bramley, Albury, Old Woking, Shere and Ewhurst. It need hardly be a secret that some of these attempts

were made as the result of very tactful approaches to the local ringers and some real hard work in helping the local practices. Mr. Cope has now left the district and there is very little likelihood of his duties bringing him back to us. I am sure all members would like me to place on record the very sincere and grateful thanks of the district to Mr. Cope for his labours on its behalf.

As was to be expected, our numbers have dropped considerably this year, but I regret to say that the decrease does not appear to have been caused by the fact that many of our members have joined the Services, but appears chiefly to be the result of apathy in certain centres. Doubtless many of our members are now serving with the Forces, but my appeal for particulars of these members has not been complied with except by very few towers.

The paid up membership is 112, against 176 in 1939.

The reports were adopted, and, in a short discussion on future meetings, it was pointed out that in about two months' time the annual meeting of the Guild would be held in Guildford, and the possibility of summer meetings could then be reviewed in the light of prevailing conditions. In the meantime, the matter would be left in the hands of the district officers.

The general officers of the Guild were all renominated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The Ringing Master said he would like the meeting to record its appreciation of the way in which Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was carrying on 'The Ringing World' under the most difficult conditions. The marvellous way in which he had been able to provide an interesting paper, despite the ban and the absence of ringing, deserved their thanks. He (Mr. Smith) used to think at one time that only peals were interesting, but he had found that there were many other things to interest ringers.

Mr. A. C. Hazelden, in endorsing Mr. Smith's remarks, said that in many respects 'The Ringing World' had grown in interest, and he thought everyone had appreciated the historical articles contributed by Mr. Trollope.

The Hon. Secretary said there was one practical way by which members could show their appreciation of what Mr. Goldsmith was doing, and that was by subscribing to the paper.

It was decided to record on the minutes the appreciation of the members, and, in acknowledging this action, Mr. Goldsmith paid a tribute to the assistance he received from Mr. Trollope. He pointed out the difficulty in providing the necessary material every week, and emphasised how necessary it was that all who could do so should lend a hand by contributing what they were able.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed by Mr. A. C. Hazelden to the chairman, whom everyone was pleased to see present again, and to Mr. G. L. Grover, who, in the absence of Mr. Cope, had shouldered the work of the district secretary as well as the general secretaryship.

Afterwards there was handbell ringing, and a number of members took part in Grandsire Triples, Stedman Caters and Bob Major. Later most of those who attended formed a jolly tea party at the Abbot's Kitchen—there were two tables, each with 13! Although there had been doubts about the possibility of holding future district meetings, this one at least was a success and should be an inducement to hold others when the black-out hours are shorter.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRISTOL CITY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held on Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel. Since the formation of the branch the meeting had always been held at the church and parish hall of St. Peter's, but the church unfortunately was one of those badly damaged in the recent air raids on the city.

A blazing fire offered a warm welcome to the early arrivals, and the handbells were soon set going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, to which Caters was added on the arrival of Mr. Wilfred Williams and Mr. Frank Shorter, of St. Lawrence Jewry.

After tea, to which a dozen members sat down, a short business meeting was held. The secretary, Mr. A. M. Tyler, in presenting the balance sheet, said that many members had not yet paid their subscriptions for the year 1940, but he hoped they would do so before the final accounts were handed over to the treasurer.

The retiring officers were re-elected en bloc. Mr. T. Harris pointed out that he would probably be called to the Forces, and suggested that another chairman should be elected in his stead, but he was asked to continue in office as long as possible.

In a review of the past year the secretary drew attention to the great loss which the whole Exercise had sustained by the deaths of Mr. William A. Cave and Mr. Stephen H. Wood. Mr. Cave had done much in his earlier days to advance the standard of ringing in the city, and had helped many a young ringer through his first peal.

The tragic death of Mr. Stephen Wood in an air raid was a severe blow to the future of the young band he was teaching at Clifton Parish Church, and to ringing as a whole.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Chairman voiced the thanks of the meeting to the secretary for his continued efforts and expressed the hope that he would receive the support he deserved.

Further handbell ringing concluded a quiet, successful meeting.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON. ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS IN THE 19th CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The first peal of the nineteenth century was one of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus rung on January 4th, 1801, by the College Youths at St. Martin's. John Povey conducted, and the band was made up of John Lyford, Winstanley Richardson, William Brooke, William Wilson, William Lyford, Daniel Jenkins, John Inville, Charles Barber, William Lowndes, Edward Bartell and Philip Pilgrim.

All these details suggest a typical late eighteenth century performance and, indeed the method, the society, the tower, the band—everything except the date—belong to the period that was passing away and not to the period that was dawning. The Society of College Youths was then enjoying a reputation as high as at any time in its long history. Its members not only inherited the great prestige of their predecessors, but had themselves, one and all, long and distinguished ringing careers behind them. Their enthusiasm had not cooled, and if some of them were less energetic in peal ringing than they once had been, advancing years had brought them authority and the respect of younger men. It was from this period in its history that the later traditions of the society's dignity and importance were directly derived.

An outstanding feature of these men was their extraordinary vitality. Many of them had already been active ringers for a long time, and they continued still to be active ringers for a long time, with the result that, after some years, the company consisted for the most part of elderly men. This was a source of strength to the society up to a point, but it ultimately had the result that the band became not much more than a belated survival from a bygone age. So long as they all lived, they did not welcome younger recruits, and when the time came that death and old age began to thin their ranks, there were no outsiders of their own class from which to fill up their numbers. For the times were changing. The belfry was ceasing to attract the kind of men which had formed the great ringing societies of the eighteenth century, and all over the country companies like the Union Society of Shrewsbury, the College Youths of Hertford, and many a lesser known body were fading away. It was a fate which the College Youths escaped, but they did so narrowly; and, by a process not unlike what happened a century earlier when Benjamin Annable and his companions appeared on the scene, the society was re-established by the influx of a body of younger men, on lines which in many important ways were a breach with the past.

It took several years to bring this about, and we do not see the full results before 1830. For some years the men of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, kept the College Youths among peal-ringing societies, and the company at headquarters usually attempted at least one peal every year, in addition to those they rang on visits to open new bells in the provinces. Charles Barber was the most active conductor.

In March, 1802, Barber called a peal of Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's for the Society, and on that occasion Samuel Laurence, of Shifnal, came up to town and rang the tenor.

For ten years no further peal was rung in the belfry, but on February 8th, 1812, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang there 5,424 changes of Oxford Treble Twelve. The younger George Gross composed and called the peal, Shipway rang the fifth, Henry Symondson the ninth, and Philip Pilgrim, who had left his old friends, rang the tenor.

This was the first peal by the Cumberlands on the bells. They were then visitors, and their close connection with the belfry did not begin until several years later.

The last peal rung by the old College Youths on the twelve bells was on March 11th, 1820. It was 5,055 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and was by a band who may justly be described by that much abused word 'veterans.' John Povey conducted, and included in the band were William Lyford, Charles Barber, Joseph Holdsworth, Peter Ashley and Edward Bartell. The tenth was rung by John Cooper, a younger man, from Shrewsbury, who did his best to maintain the waning fortunes of the society, and nine years later he was able to conduct 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in the steeple.

By this time all the old familiar names had dropped out of the peal band. Charles Barber died in 1823, John Povey in 1825, and William Lyford in 1830. Inville lived until 1837, and Holdsworth until 1838. Inville was 87 when he died, William Lyford was 78, and Povey and Holdsworth much the same age.

Death and retirement had now so thinned the company at St. Martin's that there were scarcely enough ringers to man the ropes, and in 1820 an entirely separate company was formed by Henry Symondson, which was called the Junior Society of College Youths, and rang the bells on alternate weeks. It consisted of a number of younger men who were for the most part excellent ringers; but they were not of the same class as the old College Youths, who could not bring themselves to admit them on a footing of equality.

In 1830, however, the membership of the society was so reduced that a proposal was made to unite the junior society with it, and on July 30th the two companies were formally made one. But the arrangement was not a success. Between the two sets of men there was no sort of sympathy; the older looked down on the younger as their social inferiors, and the younger had no respect or liking for the older. So after a couple of years' uneasy fellowship the union was dissolved.

These events left the Society of College Youths in a very weak state. As the older men fell out of the company, the members of the junior society began to trickle back in ones and twos, and ultimately they became the majority. They then took control, and moved the society's headquarters across the river to the King's Head in Southwark, where it remained for many years.

St. Martin's was abandoned as the regular practice meeting place, and the long connection between the society and the belfry came to an end.

Some time after this the Society of Cumberland Youths, whose headquarters had been at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, since the year 1747, left their old home and moved to St. Martin's.

Meanwhile, on October 26th, 1737, a band of the St. James' Society had rung the longest peal on the bells. This was one of Grandsire Cinques, 7,352 changes, con-

ducted by Thomas Tolladay, and was at the time the longest single-handed peal in the method. It was beaten in 1887 by a peal of 9,020 changes at Birmingham.

The Cumberlands rang 5,151 Stedman Cinques in 1854, with John Cox as conductor, and 5,050 Stedman Caters in 1862, composed and conducted by John Nelms. Nelms, who at the time was the leading man among the Cumberlands, called 5,019 Stedman Cinques in 1865, and 5,103 Grandsire Cinques in 1867. John Cox in 1870 called the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on the bells with a band which included George Newson, James Hewitt, Robert Haworth, William Baron and John Rogers, all of whom will be remembered by persons still living.

As we might have expected, St. Martin's has several ancient and valuable peal boards, though here, as at most of the London towers, there seems to have been some that have been destroyed.

The two most valuable and interesting are not in the belfry, but have been removed to the crypt, which was once a place of sepulchre, but now has been opened up and is used partly as a chapel, partly as a night refuge for destitute people, and, now in these troubled times, as an air-raid shelter.

At one time these two boards hung on the staircase leading to the church gallery. One of them records the long peal of Grandsire Cinques by the London Scholars in 1728, the other the 6,240 of Stedman Cinques by the College Youths in 1788. Both are in good condition.

In the belfry is a board which, through dirt and the discoloration of the varnish, has become unreadable. It probably records the Stedman Cinques of 1792.

(Continued in next column.)

WHY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In trying to produce a new Doubles method I hit on the idea of reducing Erin Triples. The 'Plain Course' runs to 30 changes, as follows:—

12345	45231	31524
21435	54321	13254
12453	45312	31245
14235	43521	32154
41253	34512	23145
42135	35421	21354
24153	53412	12345
42513	35142	
24531	53124	
25413	51342	
52431	15324	
54213	13542	
45231	31524	

Why is it impossible to obtain the extent from this 'method,' and yet it runs true for Triples? I suggest a reply to this in 'The Ringing World' would interest quite a few ringers.

'PUZZLED.'

(Continued from previous column.)

There is a small tablet, elaborately carved and written, which records the 5,184 of Stedman Caters rung at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by the Cumberlands in 1788. It has been restored and rewritten, and is now in excellent condition. It was brought from Shoreditch when the Cumberlands moved their headquarters. Another board, almost unreadable, also came from Shoreditch.

Of the later boards, the most notable is the one recording the long peal of Grandsire Cinques by the St. James Society. This is in fair condition but needs cleaning.

John Taylor & Co.

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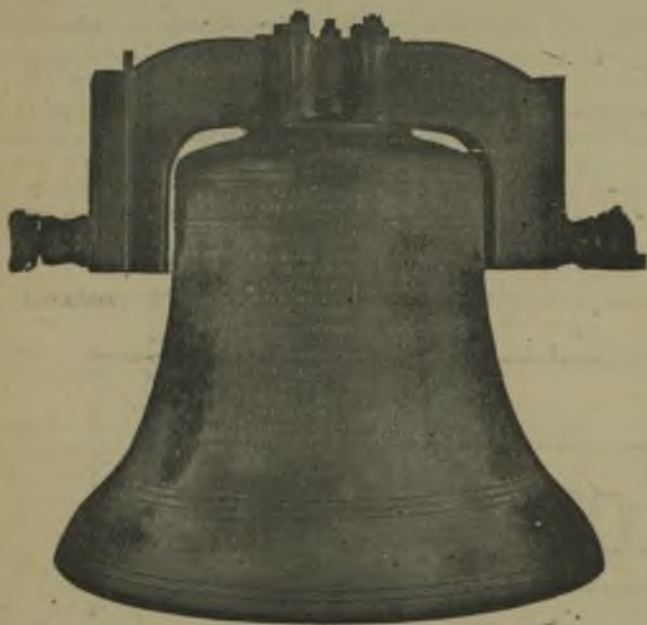
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A correspondent seeks information as to gramophone records of change ringing. Will any ringer who can forward details kindly do so?

At the funeral of the late Charles A. Catchpole, of Ipswich, the St. Margaret's ringers were represented by Mr. James Smith and Mr. James Rose.

Fifty years ago to-day a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Bradford to celebrate the coming of age of Mr. Joe Hardcastle, whose birthday falls on February 2nd. He rang the treble.

The first peal of Cambridge Maximus in London was rung by the College Youths on January 28th, 1911, at St. Michael's, Cornhill.

Two of the most prominent members of the London Exercise in the nineteenth century died on January 29th, John Cox in 1885, and Henry Haley in the following year. They were lifelong rivals, and usually when one was a College Youth the other belonged to the Cumberlands, though they took part together in some famous peals for the St. James' Society.

The record length of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,232 changes, was rung by the Lancashire Association at Bolton on January 29th, 1927. Mr. Edward Jenkins conducted, and the composition was by Mr. T. B. Worsley.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1857, and was buried at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

On the same date in 1832, the Birmingham men rang the first and only peal of Kent Treble Bob Cinques.

The Cambridge University Guild, which has given many excellent ringers to the Exercise, was founded on February 4th, 1879.

Charles Douglas Percy Davies died on February 5th, 1931, aged 74.

Fifty years ago thirteen peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 1, Caters 2, Bob Minor 1, Triples 1, Major 2, Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 2, and one in 2 methods on six bells.

DEATH OF RECTOR AND WIFE.

REV. R. C. AND MRS. THURSFIELD KILLED IN MOTOR CRASH.

The Rector of Cranford, the Rev. Richard Cecil Thursfield, and Mrs. Thursfield lost their lives last week in a tragic manner through an accident caused by their car colliding with a motor bus. Mrs. Thursfield was killed instantly and the Rector died later in Kettering Hospital.

Mr. Thursfield, who was a leading figure in the civic life of Northamptonshire, had been Rector of St. Andrew's with St. John's, Cranford, since 1903. He was Rural Dean of Weldon, and vice-president of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. His daughter, Miss Sylvia Thursfield, is the well-known secretary of the Northampton District of the Ladies' Guild. The sympathy of the whole Exercise will be extended to her in her double bereavement.

THE NECESSITY FOR THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should not have butted in on Mr. Amos' letter but for one word he used. He says 'the freedom we are fighting for or are supposed to be.' One absolute fact we do know and there is no supposition about it. You only have to talk to schoolboy visitors to Germany to hear about *their* freedom. It would have been more to the point if, when Mr. Amos visited his M.P., he had impressed on him the need for the Government to give orders and not so much 'please.'

Just imagine a peal of Stedman in danger of being lost and the conductor saying to one of the band, 'Will you please volunteer to do your last whole turn?' No, he gives a shout to do it. Mr. Amos will query that as an order, but when we are ringing we take it as such, and do not argue, but do as we are told. Now that the nation is in danger it is more important for us to lose our freedom for a time and have definite orders given.

Mr. Amos asks are you in favour of bells being stopped? Well, the general public as well as ringers, especially those of us who have been used to ringing on Sundays for over forty years, are not in favour of it any more than of having our tea rationed; at least I am not, but all of us are prepared to put up with it for a time if our leaders think it is the best thing to help the war. After all, they should know more than we ordinary people or Mr. Amos. There is one thing certain; under Hitler he would not have paid another visit to his M.P. or have written letters.

Guildford Grammar School.

A. H. PULLING.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been reading with interest the letters which have appeared in your paper on handbell ringing for church services, and I would like to state that we at All Saints', Isleworth, have been ringing handbells regularly twice on a Sunday ever since the tower bells were silenced.

The church authorities and members of the congregation have on many occasions expressed their appreciation. They think it is a splendid idea to ring handbells while the ban on church bells exists. 'Nemo' may be interested to read this.

Besides rounds and Queens on 12 bells, we ring courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major.

O. L. ASHBROOK.

DEATH OF ALD. J. S. PRITCHETT.

MASTER OF ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

Close of a Long and Active Life.

We deeply regret to record the death of Alderman John Suckling Pritchett, Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, who passed away at the advanced age of 86 years on January 18th, and was buried at King's Norton Church on Thursday of last week. He had spent a life of great activity and public usefulness, and was held in great esteem in the legal profession which he adorned, in the civic life of Birmingham to which he made a long and valued contribution, in the craft of Freemasonry in which he rose to a distinguished position, as well as in the ringing Exercise, in which he was held in high regard.

Educated at Birmingham and Oxford, Mr. Pritchett early showed signs of brilliant attainments, and in 1869 was first in all England in the Oxford (Junior) Local Examination. An exhibitor to Balliol College in 1873, he took a first class in mathematics in 1877, proceeded M.A. in 1880 and B.C.L. in 1886. In 1881 he was called to the Bar from the Inner Temple and gained a wide practice. For some years past he had been Recorder of Lincoln and had frequently acted as Deputy Stipendiary for the City of Birmingham. Mr. Pritchett was a great linguist, and among his accomplishments in this direction was a mastery of the Welsh, Spanish and Finnish languages.

Formerly a member of the Worcestershire County Council, he became an Alderman of the City of Birmingham, when King's Norton was absorbed by the city in 1911. His chief civic interest was in education. On this important committee he did much good work and became a governor of King Edward's High School, where as a boy he received part of his education.

In Freemasonry he held many and exalted positions, and was one of the very few to attain the 33rd degree. Some twelve months ago, on the death of Col. Wyley, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, he became Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge.

It is, however, with Mr. Pritchett's connection with ringing that we are here principally concerned. As a boy he learned to ring with his three brothers at King's Norton, and he maintained the closest interest in the art throughout his long life. While at Oxford he was an active member of the then newly-formed University Society, and he had been a member of St. Martin's Guild since 1874 and of the College Youths since 1875.

He was a vice-president of the Worcestershire Association, for which he rang and conducted a number of peals, and in 1902 was elected Presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild, an office which afterwards became that of Master. This he held up to the time of his death, having been re-elected as recently as January 4th last. He endeared himself to all the members, for his interest in the Guild never flagged and his speeches at the annual Henry Johnson Dinner, in which he reviewed the work of the Guild, were always a feature of the proceedings.

Mr. Pritchett had been a member of the Central Council since 1894, when he was elected to represent the Worcestershire Association, which he continued to do until 1899, after which he was made an honorary member and had so continued ever since.

In his younger days at King's Norton Mr. Pritchett was an enthusiastic leader of a talented company, which eventually reached the Surprise standard—a rare distinction for a local band in those days. He conducted peals of Superlative, Cambridge and London at King's Norton, his three brothers also taking part. For over fifty years Mr. Pritchett rang regularly for morning service at his Parish Church. One of his last peals was rung for his birthday about eight years ago. Unfortunately, he did not keep a record of his peal performances, but the number he rang was between 100 and 200.

The funeral service took place at King's Norton with full Masonic honours, and in the presence of a distinguished gathering of citizens, headed by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who assembled despite a day of fog and snow. The Bishop of Birmingham, Canon Dunn (Vicar of King's Norton), Canon Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston) and the Rev. R. A. Haysom (Rector of Northfield and P. Asst. Grand Chaplain) took part.

The family mourners were Messrs. C. J. S. Pritchett and V. E. C. Pritchett (sons), and Alderman T. B. Pritchett (Deputy Mayor of Birmingham) and Mr. W. B. Pritchett (nephews).

The pall bearers were Freemasons: Messrs. C. F. M'Enk, P.A.G. Reg., Asst. Prov. Grand Master in charge of the Province of Warwickshire, Mathew H. Clarke, P.G. Treas., Prov. Grand Master, Thomas Burman, P.G.D., Grand Superintendent (R.A.), and S. Guise, P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Secretary. The Ven. H. McGowan, Vicar of Aston, Provincial Grand Chaplain, was also present, and would have taken part in the service had he not been delayed by transport difficulties.

St. Martin's Guild were represented by Councillor A. Paddon Smith (vice-president), M. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), Mr. F. B. Yates and Mr. E. T. Allaway.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.

Cathedral Bells Rung Without Clappers.

The annual meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, January 18th, in Leicester. In spite of very bad weather, visitors were present from Kettering, Anstey, Burbage and Groby. Miss Betty Rayfield, of Eastbourne, who is for the time being living in Leicester, was also present.

The clappers had been taken from the bells at the Cathedral, and a ring (although silent) was very much enjoyed by those present. Two ringers present had their first attempt at Stedman Cinques, and whilst they were handicapped by the number of ropes and the ringing being silent, this was in some measure counterbalanced by advice of 'Dodge in 6-7 with the old gentleman with the grey moustache,' or 'Dodge in 8-9 with the fat man on the box.' This caused no small amusement. A course of London was attempted, but apparently 'Ole Joe' was the only one who knew the method and he had never learned it.

Following the ringing a move was made to a nearby hostelry 'somewhere on the Globe'—we must be careful, 'somewhere in England' is much too precise. Here a very nice tea was ready, and here also was observed a fine example of the old adage, 'Wheels within wheels.' There was a 'Belgrave Barrow' (not on wheels), but very much staying put on 'fire watching' duty in a comfortable seat, and a tea in front of him which would have done good to the eyes of any food controller. The appalling feature was that he was too engrossed either watching the fire or the tea that he did not hear the efforts of the hungry outside waiting to come in.

After tea the handbells were set in motion to some Stedman Caters. One course of Grandsire Triples was rung by the Morris 'crowd,' three of the famous Leicester family with a 'Burley' fellow to make up the band.

A real scare followed, when at 7.10 p.m. someone came in the room and asked if any Cathedral ringers were present. Apparently the clock hammer was still 'doing its stuff' on the tenor for the striking of seven o'clock. A telephone communication had already been made to the Provost asking if the Home Guard should be called out. Bert and Harry went to the rescue, much to the relief of listeners, including a worried looking policeman.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

A business meeting was held during the evening. In the absence of the chairman (Mr. G. T. H. Walker), the chair was occupied by Mr. H. J. Poole.

The hon. secretary, in reading the minutes of the last meeting, said that the two meetings proposed on that occasion had been cancelled owing to the ban on ringing and other difficulties.

The following officers were re-elected: Mr. G. T. H. Walker, chairman; Mr. A. W. Perkins, hon. secretary; Mr. R. Barrows to the committee. Mr. H. Wayne was elected to fill the other vacancy on the committee caused by Mr. S. H. Harrison having joined the Forces.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. S. H. Harrison for the able way in which he had carried out his duties while a member of the local committee, and expressed the hope that he would soon be with them again.—This was endorsed by all present.

When the question was discussed as to whether a quarterly meeting should be held, it was ascertained that there was a possibility of being able to ring silent on the bells of Belgrave Church. Consequently it was unanimously decided that a meeting be held at Belgrave on April 5th.

At the close the chairman made reference to the recent death by enemy action of a promising young member of the Leicester district, Mr. E. Trump. The company stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect, and the secretary was instructed to send a message of sympathy to his widow.

THE BELLS OF STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In connection with the interesting extract relative to Staveley, given in your last issue by Mr. S. F. Palmer, the following notice in the 'Leicester Journal' may prove of interest:—

'July 5th, 1782. On Thursday the 27th of June a new Peal of six bells cast by Mr. Arnold of St. Neots in Huntingdonshire was opened at Staveley near Chesterfield, by three Companies of Ringers, viz., Dronfield, Eckington and Beighton, and to the credit of Mr. Arnold, are universally allowed to be the best Peal of Six Bells in that neighbourhood.

'The many excellent Peals of Bells cast by Mr. Arnold do great credit to his abilities in his profession, and the dispatch he used upon the above occasion in recasting the five old Bells and a new Tenor will do him equal credit for attention to business.—The wagon with the five old Bells left Staveley on Monday, June the 10th, arrived at St. Neots just a hundred miles distant on Thursday the 13th—the five bells were new cast and a new Tenor wt. 18c. 3-22 pitch F was cast the next day Friday the 14th. On Monday the 17th they were taken up, tuned and placed in the wagon on Wednesday evening the 19th,—which arrived at Staveley on Saturday the 22nd—and on the 27th of June the new peal was opened.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD?

A CRITICISM OF BEDFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We are all indebted to you for the re-publishing of the figures of Bedford Surprise, and I hope that some of our experts will give us the benefit of their views. The method has several excellent features, but as your object was to invite possible criticism, I would say that, in my opinion, it has several shortcomings; but so, too, has that 'prince' of methods, Superlative. I know of no perfect method, unless it be Double Norwich, but here we are not dealing with plain methods.

In Bedford, the coursing order is, at the back, nearly, but not quite, correct. The bell which should follow the treble behind (in the first lead the 2) is missing. Then at the front there are three bells out of order. This also is important, as we see in Cambridge, where, in spite of the fact that the coursing order is correct, there is the large number of 92 unmusical rows in the course, due to the fact that the coursing order at the front is all wrong.

In the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th leads of Bedford, the number of rows with two or more bells between the tenors is only four or five. If all leads were as good, there would be only 32 in the whole course. This would approach perfection. But in the 4th and 5th leads the tenors occupy the positions where they are parted, and the number of bad rows jumps up to 15 in each. Still, in the aggregate, the total number is only 53, and this is very good, being, in fact, only one more than in Bristol.

In the latter, the music is good, apart from the fact that there are many back-handers. No bell is separated from its course bell either at the front or back, although they sometimes come up in the reverse order. But when 7,8 occupy the same positions as 3,5 or 4,6, as they do in the 3rd and 6th leads, we have 14 bad rows in each lead. This is caused by the fact that (as in the 1st lead) the bell which courses the 3rd or the 4th only comes to lead for a snap and then deserts its course bell, in the one case going behind while the course bell returns to lead, and in the other vice versa. From this it is obvious that the correct coursing order in the front is also very important.

We come to the place-making in Bedford. In the work in 3-4, three places are made consecutively. The structure of the method makes this inevitable, but more than two consecutive places are to be avoided if possible. These, however, are hand and back, which is to the good.

A further three consecutive places are made in 5-6 when the treble is behind, and these are more serious; for in the extension to Royal they are increased to seven, and in Maximus to no less than eleven consecutive places. The much maligned Cambridge has Bedford soundly beaten here, as its extension merely involves the insertion of sundry extra single dodges.

There is further work, in 5-6, and here we are suddenly faced with a snap followed by a pair of contiguous places, back and hand, repeated on the reverse. Now in Bristol and London, snaps and back-handers are characteristic of the methods. We may or may not like them, but they are true to type, and are to be expected. Bedford, however, is in the main a regular method, and these are exceptions to its general character. They have, consequently, an air of the incongruous. I think that such features, in an otherwise regular method, are out of place, and must reduce somewhat the marks for construction.

We now come to that debatable question on the cross sections. There are eight of them. A method with an inside place at two of them is called an 'Exercise,' at four of them a 'Delight.' There are still six and eight to be filled, and we have only one term left, 'Surprise.' Does this stand for six, seven or eight, or does it cover all three? Far be it from me to attempt to lay down the law where Jasper Snowden failed, but the fact remains that so-called 'Surprise' methods may, apparently, have either six, seven or eight inside places at the cross-sections. The lawyers would say that the classification fails for lack of definition. What I propose to do, in my summing up, is to deduct five points for each cross-section above six which remains unfilled, in this case one, and to leave it to the experts to be more precise in their classification.

To conclude, if I were judging Bedford Surprise I should award and deduct marks as follows (possible marks for each quality 100):—

FOR		AGAINST	
Composition.		3 consecutive places in 3-4 ...	10
One false course end ...	95	The same in 5-6 (more serious) ...	15
Music.		Pair of back-handed and contiguous places ...	10
Rows where tenors are divided 53 ...	95	One cross-section unfilled ...	5
Construction and interest ...	90		
	280		
	Less 40		40
	240		
	240 or 80 per cent.		

Baildon, Yorks

JAMES F. HARVEY.

DEATH OF MR. W. B. SAMPSON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. B. Sampson, who had been president of the Scottish Association since its foundation in 1932. He did most of his ringing at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, where he was conductor for many years. In all he was associated with ringing for close on fifty years.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT.

In spite of the ban on the ringing of bells, the Gainsborough District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting on Saturday, January 18th. In previous years the annual meeting has been held in Gainsborough, but this year it was thought the Institute, Lea, would be a good spot.

A fair number of ringers, representing most of the towers, were present for the meeting at 6 p.m. Canon Fookes (Rector of Lea) presided.

The officers were re-elected en bloc.

A statement on the finances of the Belfry Repair Fund was approved as satisfactory. No collection was taken, as it was thought that members had more pressing claims on their money in these days.

Under the heading of 'any other business,' the secretary (Mr. George L. A. Lunn) made some observations on the future of the Guild.

'It seems,' he said, 'quite impossible to do much of a practical nature at present, and all that could be done was to keep the business side going and replace the actual ringing with social events, as, for instance, the whist drive that was to follow that night. It was regrettable, he said, that the 1939 report was still not published, but it was no doubt due to some good reason. With regard to the 1940 issue, it is improbable that it will be printed, he thought, and if not it might be wise to reduce the subscription.'

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

The whist drive was due to start at seven o'clock, but owing to the terrible weather not many had turned up by that time, but after waiting half an hour and 'scouting round' the village, several more were persuaded to brave the storm. Five tables were made up, and with Miss M. E. Lunn as M.C., things went with a swing. One noticed, however, that the well worn ringing phrase, 'Lead so and so,' is not confined to ringing alone.

Twenty-one hands only were played owing to the late start, refreshments were served (wherever did they come from? everybody wanted to know), and prizes distributed. The winners were: Ladies, 1 Mrs. E. Batters, 2 Mrs. Iredale, 3 Mr. Bingham; gents, 1 M. Smith, 2 Lance-Corpl. Bundell, 3 Gunner Cheeseman.

Mrs. Batters was warmly applauded for winning the home-made pork pie, which she very kindly gave to the soldiers.

ST, BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

'HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In spite of all Mr. E. Barnett has to say about St. Bride's bells, I am still grateful to Mr. G. H. Cross and the rest of the officers of the Cumberlands for the chance to ring on them.

Mr. Barnett left the society about the time the bells were opened in recent years, and I am sure he is not aware of the difficulties which were encountered.

I have re-read my letter, and I can only see one mistake, and that was signing my name. A non-de-plume would have served quite as well, and I doubt if Mr. Barnett would have troubled to make any comment. The columns of 'The Ringing World' should be kept free to carry on the great task of keeping ringing going. A task for which it deserves our thanks and fullest support. With all good wishes.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

MEN WHO DID MUCH IN ST. BRIDE'S.

Dear Sir,—I have very great pleasure in supporting the letter of Mr. J. E. Bailey's, also extend my sincere thanks to the three gentlemen he refers to in his letter and who have done so much in the past year or two in getting St. Bride's bells on the go as often as was possible. I, for one, had had the privilege of ringing on all the bells round as far as No. 9, and I always found the go of these was what I should term 'fairly good.' As for the other three bells, I leave that to those who have handled them, but whatever improvement was effected was all due to those three men who had spent hours of hard and dirty work on the bells. It is a great pity that their labours have ended in vain under such tragic circumstances. Their work was the means of scores of ringers having a pull on these famous bells.

St. Bride's was the first twelve-bell tower I ever visited. It was on the occasion of a practice meeting arranged by the late Mr. J. D. Matthews somewhere about 30 years ago. I travelled from Broxbourne to London in full of hope that the Cumberlands would turn up in great numbers. In the end we mustered only six ringers, including myself, and I well remember the late Master saying, 'I am afraid we shall have to give it up as a bad job, unless anyone wants particularly to ring.' I mustered up courage enough to say I would like a pull, as it was St. Bride's.

I think everyone who knew the late Master will agree with me that he never let anyone go away disappointed if he could help it, so he immediately said, 'Up with the back six.' It was something to be half-way towards ringing on twelve.

I should like to add that we are still trying to keep our heads above water at Broxbourne by silent practice. I myself find it very useful and interesting. Our next practice is fixed for Saturday, February 1st, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. If any ringers care to pay a visit on that date I can assure them a cordial welcome.

Broxbourne.

G. RADLEY.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

ODD BOB PEALS.

Carter's and its Relation to Thurstans' Four-Part.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of the excellent standard maintained by your paper during these past trying months and the debt that the ringers of the future will owe to you for the excellent series of articles which, in my own mind, have more than counter-balanced the temporary loss of the peal columns.

It is not often that a misstatement appears in your columns, but I would call your attention to one appearing on page 513 of your issue of October 25th, wherein it is stated that:—

'Thurstans' peal and the majority of peals which have been rung in the past 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.'

References in the following paragraphs are to the 1903 edition of 'Stedman' in the 'Snowdon' change ringing series.

Whilst no objection can be made to the first part of the quotation, I would point out that Carter's odd bob peal is based on Hudson's course ends. The 'odd bob' is shown on page 68, and if it is set out by the sixty course ends, it will be seen that forty-five appear in Table A on page 183. The remaining fifteen course ends are the 'out of course' course ends occurring between the two singles, but if these fifteen are converted to their 'in course' form by transposing by the factor 425163, it will be seen that the sixty 'in course' course ends of the 'odd bob' are identical with Hudson's sixty course ends.

If twelve round blocks absorbing Hudson's 60 course ends each block of five courses with each course called 3.6.10.12.14 are written out and the repetitions tabulated, it will be found that 5,040 true changes are obtained with the exception that the fourth six of each course repeats with the eighth six of another course and conversely the eighth six of each course repeats with the fourth six of another course. Upon further investigation, it will be found that repetitions are eliminated if pairs of bobs are called at 4-5 in each course or alternatively at 7-8 in each course. In the first instance, 30 round blocks each of two courses (168 changes), in the second case 20 round blocks each of three courses (252 changes) are formed. In each set of round blocks, 5,040 true changes are obtained and so a base for peal composition is obtained.

It thus would appear that John Carter worked upon the plan of obtaining a peal with the observation bell subject to bobs in each course, but brought home at the course ends, and although the use of Hudson's course ends may not have been part of the original scheme, I am inclined to think that they were forced on the composer by the exigencies of the method.

The absence of any analysis of the 'odd bob' in the new edition of Stedman prepared by Mr. Trollope leads me to state an opinion which I have held for a long time, and that is that the 'odd bob' is but a variation of Thurstans' four-part. Most practical ringers will be inclined to question the sanity of the writer, but if the two peals deprived of singles, extras and omits are compared, it will be seen that they have many points in common.

	THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.	CARTER'S ODD-BOB.
1. Nature of peal.	Consists of 4 quarter peals, A.B.C.D.	Consists of 4 quarter peals, E.F.G.H.
2. Nature of quarter peals.	Three course block four times repeated.	Three course block four times repeated.
3. Composition of quarter peals.	Quarter peals A and B called alike. Quarter peals C and D called alike.	Quarter peals E and F called alike. Quarter peals G and H called alike.
4. Union of quarter-peals.	A and B united into one half peal by two pairs of bobs. C and D united into one half peal by omission of two pairs of bobs, i.e., forming two round blocks each of 30 courses.	E, G and H are united by two additional pairs of bobs and the omission of two other pairs of bobs, to form one round block of 45 courses. F remains as a separate round block.

In each peal the two round blocks, obtained by bobs only, are united by two common singles.

When one round block is united to another by the use of singles, from the practical point of view the calling is changed, and in the case of twin bob peals, pairs of bobs at 3-4 become bobs at 7-8 and vice versa. By the greatest stroke of good fortune in the case of Thurstans' peal, the revised calling of the half peal inserted between singles becomes (with the exception of the omits and extras) the same as the calling of the first half peal. In the case of Carter's, however, the whole nature of the calling is altered and bobs at 2.6.8.9.10.12.14 become bobs at 1.3.5.7.8.9.11.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that odd bob composition is the brother of twin bob composition, inasmuch as both have Hudson's course ends as a parent and that instead of the odd bob being an isolated peal, it is but one peal composed on a separate system. Some readers may enquire as to the possibility of further peals on this system and I enclose three which possess a certain interest.

1. A one part peal with only three courses between singles, the first single occurring at the ninth six of the opening course. Several hundred variations of this peal can be obtained with ease.

2. An irregular two part (or ten part) peal, with 120 six-sevens at back stroke.

3. A regular five part peal with 90 six-sevens at back stroke. This peal contains no Q sets, all unions of round blocks being accomplished by singles. From the conductor's point of view, there are only four ways of calling a course to be memorised.

I do not know if these three peals can be considered original compositions, but I leave it to your readers' judgment.

There is one other point concerning Stedman Triples to which I would call attention, and that is J. J. B. 'Lates' peal shown on page 129 of 'Stedman.' This peal comprises 50 courses in ten blocks of five courses each called alike (but for the addition of an extra pair of bobs at 12.13 in two blocks) and would undoubtedly be considered a fine composition but for the use of two doubles to insert the remaining round block of ten courses. It will be found impossible to insert these ten courses between ordinary singles called after quick, but it is a simple matter to do so by the use of singles after slow. Readers may ask why this has not been noticed before—well, it has, and if they will but turn to page 65, this peal will be found as the original composition of the late John Carter without the slightest acknowledgment to Lates for what is really a fine peal. I realise that this statement will raise the ire of angry correspondents, but if they will but turn to pages 65 and 129, it will be seen that the last 47 courses of each peal are identical call for call.

I would add that I have in draft an article on odd bob composition on the lines of the 'Investigations' in the form of an additional chapter to 'Stedman,' and if any readers signify that they would like a copy, I am quite ready to have a few copies prepared and forwarded to any place in the United Kingdom for distribution.

B. H. SWINSON.

c/o Caribbean Petroleum Co., Maracaibo, Venezuela.

AN ODD BOB IRREGULAR TEN PART—ALL 6-7's AT BACK STROKE.

	123456	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A	643125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C	534126	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D	634215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F	423561	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—	—
G	563125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H	514623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I	245136	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	231456														
	431562	F													
	621435	G													
	364521	H													
	235164	H													
	645231	G								435216					
	362145	H													
	614325	I								652341	D				
	314256	F								352416	F				
	125346	I								541326	I				
	325461	F								341265	F				
	634125	H								632541	H				
	261435	H								465132	H				
	653214	I								613452	I				
	253146	F								413526	F				
	514236	I								152436	I				
	624513	A								642153	A				
	524136	F								142536	F				
	213546	I								453126	I				
	513462	F								153264	F				
	654213	H								612453	H				
	521643	I								145623	I				
	316254	D								356412	D				
	462135	D								264531	D				
	162354	F								564312	F				
	635124	I								631542	I				
	135246	F								531426	F				
	324156	I								342516	I				
	124563	F								542163	F				
	615324	H								651342	H				
	263415	H								463251	H				
	641235	I								625431	I				
	241356	F								425316	F				
	435216	I								231456	I				

B. H. Swinson, Bogota, Colombia, South America. Oct. 16th, 1938.
(Continued on next page.)

OTHER ODD BOB PEALS

(Continued from previous page.)

AN ODD BOB FIVE PART (90 OF 6-7's AT BACK STROKE).

123456	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
D 634215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F 423561	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—
H 514623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I 245136	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
231456		125346			514236				453126			342516		
431562 F		325461			214365				153264			542163		
645231 H		634125			623514				612453			651342		
423651 I		312645			4251634				145623			534612		
136245 D		526134			416523				356412			246351		
236451 F		126345			516234				456123			346512		
524136 H		413526			352416				241356			135246		
351624 I		245613			134652				523641			412635		
562314 F		461253			365142				264531			163425		
362145 F		261534			165423				564312			463251		
614325 I		653214			642153				631542			625431		
314256 F		253146			142536				531426			425316		
125346 I		514236			453126				342516			231456		

B. H. Swinson, Bogota, Colombia, South America. Oct. 16th, 1938.

AN ODD BOB ONE PART.

Rung at St. James', Bushey, December 9th, 1937, as a variation of Carter's Odd Bob. Conducted by M. F. R. Hibbert.

123456 2. 45. 6. 89. 10. 12. 14.

A 643125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B 543216	—	x	—	—	—	—	—
C 534126	—	x	—	x	—	—	—
D 634125	—	—	—	x	—	—	—

N.B.—x equals pair of bobs.

231456

421653	Bobs	2.	4.	5.	6.	8.	S9.	10.	11.	13.
546321		1.	3.	5.	7.	8.	9.	11.		
253146		1.	3.	5.	7.	8.	9.	11.		
514236		1.	3.	5.	S7.	8.	10.	12.		

	324156		461253 A		451362
642153 D	541326 C		312645 D		613452 C
321465 D	213546 C		526134 D		534612 C
641235 D	453126 B		416523 A		246351 D
521643 A	631542 D		365142 D		136245 A
316254 D	215364 D		415632 B		562314 D
462135 D	435216 A		356412 C		432561 A
512463 A	652341 D		164352 C		125346 D
624513 C	132654 A		243615 D		653214 D
354621 A	426315 D		536421 D		423651 A
146532 D	563241 D		264531 C		163425 A
265413 D	123564 A		145623 D		234165 C
345261 A	635124 C		256143 C		614325 B
152436 D	251634 C		361524 D		543162 D
324156 C	461253 A		451362 A		231456 D

B. H. Swinson, Hurghada, Egypt. April 25th, 1937.

VETERAN SHEFFIELD RINGER'S DEATH.

MR. J. A. DIXON'S LONG SERVICE AT ST. MARIE'S.

St. Marie's company, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, regret to announce the death of an old and valued member in Mr. James Alfred Dixon, who has passed away at the age of 81 years. As steeplekeeper and ringer he had a connection with the tower of over 60 years' service; and in 1924 was the guest at a dinner given in his honour and the recipient of a gold bell memento suitably inscribed from his many friends and colleagues.

He had taken part in 58 peals and was also a clever handbell ringer. He was always ready to give his services at concerts in aid of charitable objects.

He was one of the oldest members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield and District Society.

A sheet iron worker by trade, he was in the service of the Sheffield Gas Company for over 50 years and had the distinction of being presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Kent on a recent visit to Sheffield.

Taken ill whilst at work, he was removed home, where he finally succumbed and was buried at Norton Cemetery on Thursday, January 16th, the funeral being attended by various officials of the Gas Company and representatives of the ringing companies in the district. Tower bell ringing being forbidden under war restrictions, a course of Grandshire Triples was rung at his home before the cortege left on a miniature peal of bells that his brother, the late Tom Dixon, took with him to India in the 'eighties.'

Mr. Dixon leaves a widow, son and daughter to mourn his death, the son having been resident in Australia for many years.

THE WEIGHTS OF TENORS.

HOW BELLS 'GROW.'

The letters between Thomas Mears and the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft raised a question which has always interested ringers, for there are very few of them who have not at one time or another been engaged in an argument about the correct weight of a tenor.

We are all familiar with village steeples, where the bells have not been weighed for centuries, and where the tenor has a reputed and traditional weight, usually at least half as much as the correct one. That sort of thing is natural and understandable. The local sexton is proud of his bells and likes to think they are better and heavier than those in a neighbouring and rival village. The local ringers are sure the bell must be at least a ton—'You can tell that by the way she goes.' The visitor to the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle is usually told by the custodian that the tenor weighs two tons, and any doubts on the point are treated with scorn. Actually she weighs, we believe, a little less than 30 cwt.

But sextons and village ringers are not the only people who are prone to exaggerate in this way. Even the most modest of ringers, after he has rung to a peal a tenor of which the definite weight is not known, is inclined to give himself the benefit of the doubt, and to think that if there must be a margin of error it had better be on the large side. Then perhaps someone, who thinks he knows all about it, writes to contradict him.

When the long peal of Kent Treble Bob, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram in 1883, the tenor was given as 14 cwt., the same weight as that at Bethnal Green, where the previous longest peal had been rung, but the partisans of the London band were very anxious to show that the Mottram tenor was really no more than 12 cwt.

The weights of several heavy and famous bells have been at times disputed. The old tenor at St. Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol, was always given as 4 cwt., and on the strength of that some fine heavy bell feats were claimed. When she was weighed before being recast, she proved to be less than two tons. This exaggeration did in one instance lead to a misunderstanding. The local men rang a peal of Cinques in about three and a half hours' time, and when they published the record, some person wrote to 'The Bell News' and declared the peal was false. His only reason for saying so was that no man could have rung a bell of that weight to a peal in the time.

AN OXFORD CONTROVERSY.

The tenor at Christ Church, Oxford, was always said to be 40 cwt., and when Washbrook, then a young man, rang it to a peal on the back eight, it was claimed as an outstanding heavy bell performance, as no doubt it was. The weight was challenged, but the Oxford men stuck to their opinion and the controversy lasted for some years. At length F. E. Robinson had the bell weighed, when it turned out to be a little over 30 cwt.

We are not quite clear about the details of this, and do not know how it was managed, or how the net weight of the bell, apart from the stock and clapper, was arrived at. Perhaps some of our Oxford friends may be able to enlighten us.

In the case of many of the best known rings, lists of weights supplied by the founders exist, and it is common enough to find them framed and hung up in belfries. These weights are generally taken to be authoritative and final, and, with modern rings, so they are.

But it is remarkable how many of the older founders' weights have proved inaccurate when the bells have been weighed in recent years. Mancroft tenor is a case in point. Thomas Mears said the bell weighed 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb., and that, of course, was what he was paid for; but when she was weighed at Loughborough she only scaled 40 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

Southwark old tenor, which in Knights' list was over 50 cwt., turned out to be something over 49 cwt. And there are other instances.

What is the reason? We have heard it said that the old founders used to weigh the clappers with the bells, but we hardly think that is likely. The churchwardens in olden times were very businesslike people and would not have been taken in by such a dodge. We must remember that it was usual to pay for bells on the actual weight of metal supplied, not, as at present, a lump sum which the founder quotes to cover everything. Now the parish accepts the bells without questioning the weights. In olden times bells were always carefully weighed before they were handed over to the founder to be recast, a bond was taken from him to cover the churchwardens against any fraud on his part, and the bells were weighed before they were accepted.

This weighing had to be done at public weigh bridges, which were to be found in all large towns and in most market towns.

There could, therefore, be no dispute as to what should be taken as the correct weight for which the parish had to pay. Nevertheless, it seems certain that the weights often were wrong. Very likely the weigh bridges were not accurate, or has the standard ton slightly altered in the course of years?

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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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Church House, South John Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, February 1st, at 4.30 p.m. Handbells will be available from 2.30. A good attendance is hoped for.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphil Road, Liverpool, 17.*

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1st, at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, at 2.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Nottingham, on Saturday, February 1st. Handbells available from 2.30. Business meeting for election of officers 3.30. Will members please make an effort to attend. All ringers welcome. Own arrangements for tea.—F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, February 1st. Bells (7), without clappers, and handbells available from 3 p.m. The fourth annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 5.50 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from me on or before February 10th. Please apply early for tickets.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting, at Burbage, will be held at the Chequers Inn, Lutterworth Road, on Saturday, February 1st, at 6 p.m. Good bus service. Handbells and cheerful company. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Fosseyway, Croft, Leicestershire.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but *send names for tea* to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, February 8th, at the Ring of Bells. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Mann, Fox and Hounds Yard, Silkstone, near Barnsley, not later than February 5th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Please note that in future meetings of the branch will be held on the second Saturday in every month at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair). The next meeting is on February 8th, from 2.45 p.m. Handbells, tea and meeting.—A. M. Tyler, Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Next meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, February 8th, at 3 p.m. Arrangements will be made for tea nearby. All the practice you want on handbells and 'silent' tower bells. Start the new year well with a good meeting.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, February 15th. Handbells available at 47, Cambridge Street, from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent opportunity to practice method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

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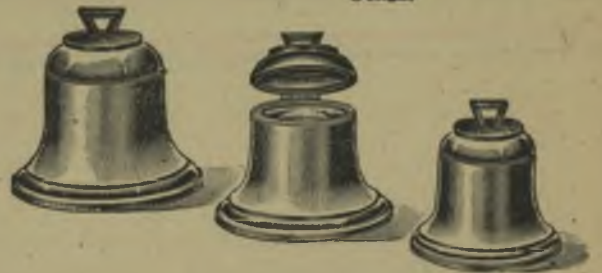
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BELL FRAMES.

The history of church bells and the archæological study which they present have had an increasing interest for ringers, large numbers of whom now realise that this side of campanology can provide a subject of considerable educational value. In the past, ringers concerned themselves very little with the history of the bells they rang, and even to-day there are many who have no interest in bells except as instruments in their hands. They will criticise their tonal qualities, their defects and their merits, but beyond this the bells receive scant consideration. But there is gradually spreading an interest in the antiquarian aspect of bells, an aspect which the labours of writers like North and Walters have opened to a wider circle of the public. By their investigations among the church bells in the towers of many counties, there is now available material for a very fascinating study, and it is a matter for regret that the county bell histories are not more generally available. They have, however, usually been published by subscription or through archæological societies, with the result that only a limited edition has come from the press, and in these days the possessor of anything like a complete collection of the books is a fortunate individual. From these volumes it is possible to trace the art and craft of the bell founder and the development of the bell itself.

Amid all that we can learn about bells, however, there has been, strangely enough, very little written about the frames that carry them. Perhaps antiquarians have thought them of little interest, yet the development of the bell cage and the bell fittings have played no unimportant part in the development of the art of ringing. Or should it be put the other way? Did men adapt their bell cages to suit the expanding desires of the ringers, or did the development of the bell frame to carry the increasing weight of metal which founders put into their bells encourage ringers to further efforts with their flying ropes, and did it make possible that bell control by which alone change ringing can successfully be done? That is a question which we leave ringers to answer for themselves, but the fact remains that very little attention has been paid among ringers to the manner in which the bell frame of to-day took its form. The cage which is found supporting a modern ring of bells fashioned of timbers or metal, but built on engineering lines to take the strains and stresses from the walls of the towers and give that ease of ringing which ringers now expect, is an important structural unit. It has not always been of the design that is installed to-day. It has been gradually evolved from a simple beam, and the changes down the

(Continued on page 62.)

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centuries have been dictated by the slow development of scientific knowledge.

We publish in this issue the first part of a highly interesting illustrated article on this matter. As far as we are aware it is the first time that the subject has been so completely dealt with in a bellringing journal, and it throws an instructive light upon a hitherto neglected feature of our belfries. Ringers are indebted to Mr. G. P. Elphick, hon. secretary of the Southern Guild of Ringers, Lewes, for this article, which has been provided largely from the material discovered from personal inspection of Sussex towers, and obtained only by much patient labour. It is this first-hand investigation which adds so much to the value of work of this kind, for it should be remembered that the results set down in a page or two of 'The Ringing World' have provided a task which has taken months if not years to complete in leisure hours, albeit it has been a congenial occupation.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

THE STORY OF A SIX-BELL PEAL.

It was all fixed up in a hurry. Somehow peals like that go off well and have a happy ending. The conductor came over on Thursday, in search of four more for a peal of Minor on Saturday. He got his band, including a lady who had never started for a peal.

The venue of the peal was a small village some miles away, and the five 'youngsters' and one not so young arranged to meet at the bus stop in a nearby town at an appointed hour. This was all to the good and saved having to wait for the 'odd one' to turn up at the church. En route to the bus, some of the party bumped into a prominent association official, himself off to attempt a peal.

'Where are you off to?' he enquired.

On being told, he said, 'Oh! you will find they are a lively lot. You will be lucky if you ring a peal at the first attempt. Anyway, I wish you luck.'

A local call change ringer was ready to welcome the band on arrival. After assisting with rope adjustments he departed, asking how long they would be.

'About two hours and three-quarters' came the reply.

The ringing chamber, on the first floor, was very small both in length, breadth and height. In fact, the ropes only just appeared through the holes when the bells were set at backhand. The ringer of the fifth had to operate with his back hard against the door, which opened inwards.

The ringers found the 'official' knew what he was talking about, and the first 720 was not without incident. It finally came to grief by a shift near the end. The menfolk were game for a fresh start, but questioned whether the lady would find it too much of a good thing at the first attempt. She waved all such talk on one side and the peal was recommenced. The 720 'practice' made all the difference and all went well until about half-way.

Suddenly the ringer of the fifth shot forward and it seemed all was lost. Recovering his balance, he planted his 14 stone back against the door, telling the intruder to go away. After one or two vain attempts to open the door, the unwelcome visitor departed, but not for long.

The peal was almost 'in the bag' when the heavyweight on the fifth received a nasty jolt from the door. He managed to hold the fort, however, and ringing continued without mishap until the peal was finished.

Long before the end the conductor and the ringer of the fifth had decided what they would say to the intruder. Their words melted in their mouths when a youth appeared in the doorway carrying a tray complete with tea, sugar, milk and biscuits.

'Father is sorry he is not able to see you, but told me to bring this over after you had been ringing about two hours and three-quarters. I waited a long time and you didn't stop, so I thought I had better come over in case you didn't know the time!' Well, it was no use explaining a lost 720, and after all they had rung the peal.

The refreshments were very welcome and everyone was satisfied. Particularly the young lady, who had rung her first peal. As I said at the beginning, it was all fixed up in a hurry and somehow peals like that go off all right.

J. E. B.

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CROWLAND BELLS.

THE FIRST PEAL.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was very interesting to read about Crowland Abbey bells, the first ringing peal. I should like to state that I had the honour of ringing in the first peal rung on the bells 45 years ago. It was my third peal. It was rung by the South Lincolnshire Association on Saturday, November 28th, 1896, in 2 hours 48 minutes, and consisted of 5,040 changes in four methods on tower bells, viz., four six-scores of Canterbury, four six-scores of Bob Doubles, 24 six-scores of St. Dunstan's and 10 six-scores of Grandsire, all called differently. The ringers were P. Cherrington (first peal) treble, W. Ambrose 2, R. Wyche 3, Rev. H. Law James 4, C. R. Lilley tenor. Conducted by the Rev. H. Law James.

It was duly recorded as 'the first peal on this historic ring of bells, there having been a ring of five bells in Crowland Abbey for nearly 1,300 years.'

The five bells are dedicated to five different saints and were rehung by Taylor and Co. in a new frame about 50 years ago. The ringers of 1, 2 and 3 were Crowland men, the 4th then of St. Martin's, Stamford, and the 5th of Peterborough.

All have passed away except the tenor man. Since the peal was rung the bells have been increased to six, and I think a peal of Minor was rung there a few years ago.

If my memory serves me right, they had a band for Grandsire at Crowland at that time, as Mr. Wyche, a solicitor, was living in Stamford, but used to go to Crowland most week-ends.

I well remember our seven miles' drive in a trap. It was a bitterly cold day with the wind blowing from the Fen country.

Ringling in Lincolnshire at that time was at a very low ebb until the Rev. H. Law James came along. I have watched the progress since with great pleasure, for we used to have to cycle 14 miles to get a touch of Triples. I wonder if the young generation of to-day would do it? Surfleet bells had not been rung for years until Mr. James went there. What a difference now! C. R. LILLEY.

BELLS RECAST.

Mr. Lilley is in error in thinking that the five bells upon which he rang are dedicated to five saints. Only the tenor is a pre-Reformation bell, the others of the five are 17th and 18th century: the treble cast by Thomas Norris in 1654, the 2nd and 3rd by Edward Arnold, of Leicester, in 1788, and the 4th at the same foundry in 1797.

The original bells, however, are said to have been named after saints, as were another ring afterwards. The great bell of the first ring, cast by Turketyl, the sixth Abbot (A.D. 946-975), was named Guthlac. Egelric, his nephew and successor (A.D. 975-984), added six more bells, namely, two large ones named Bartholomew and Betelm, two middle ones named Turketyl and Tatwyn, and two lesser ones named Pega and Bega.

The bells were destroyed in the fire of 1091 which engulfed the church. Later the bells were replaced, but again, in 1171, the church was destroyed by fire. Whether the bells suffered, however, is not known.

Abbot Ralph Merske (1253-1281) erected a campanile at the east end of the church, which was known as the 'outward belfry.' There are records of large bells hanging in this belfry, so that at that time the Abbey possessed two rings of bells.

In 1405 there were 'four sweetly sounding bells,' hanging 'in the tower beyond the choir,' which is generally understood to be the central tower. What became of the bells in the 'outer belfry' at the Dissolution is not now known, but, says North in his 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire,' 'at Moulton there is a tradition that the church bells there came originally from Crowland Abbey, and there is a similar tradition at East Pinchbeck, the bells being said to have been sent there because there was no other tower in the neighbourhood large enough for them.'

In 1465 Abbot John Lytlington, 'in order that nothing might remain undone which is considered to tend to the increase of the praise of God, caused five fine and choice bells to be cast at London and substituted for the three old ones, to send forth their sweet sounds with their harmonious chimes. The cost of these, together with the expense of the carriage thereof to Croylund by land and water, amounting in all to one hundred and sixty pounds, was defrayed entirely by himself.'

Apparently one of the four older bells in the central tower had gone since 1405. Before the new bells were hung they were solemnly consecrated and dedicated to the patron saints whose names had been inscribed on them: Guthlac, Bartholomew, Michael, Mary and Trinity. Two of the five probably remained until after 1783, and were those recast of Edward Arnold in 1788.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting on Saturday, February 1st, at the Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, nine members were present.

Kind letters of sympathy and good wishes were received from Mr. C. T. Coles, general secretary of the Middlesex Association, and from Mr. F. J. Rumens, of Chicago, U.S.A.

Some difficulty had been experienced in finding suitable accommodation for meeting on Saturday afternoons, and Mr. H. Langdon kindly offered a room at 15, Farringdon Avenue. The offer was readily accepted by the members.

Respect was paid to the memory of Alderman J. S. Pritchett, of King's Norton, and Mr. C. Catchpole, of Ipswich. Mr. J. S. Hawkins had deposited the peal of handbells (presented to the society by Lady Heywood and loaned to the St. Andrew's, Holborn, ringers) in a 'safe deposit' strongroom in Holborn for safe keeping. Mr. A. A. Hughes and Mr. E. Murrell had been appointed assessors of the damaged property and were making good progress.

HE HAD HIS FIVE POUNDS' WORTH.

A well-known ringer, who shall be nameless, on Monday realised the ambition of his life. Ever since he was a boy, and that is a long time ago, he has wanted to pull the communication cord in a railway train. That notice 'Penalty for improper use £5,' always deterred him.

Bub on Monday, travelling to 'The Ringing World' Office, he found himself on arrival at the usual station, a prisoner in the compartment. Despite all his struggles and that of four hefty fellow passengers, including part of the British Navy, he was unable to open the door into the corridor, which was on the platform side of the train.

There was nothing for it but to pull the communication cord or be carried on to some other station. So he had his five pounds' worth.

At that moment another passenger, entering the corridor from the platform, put his hand on the door latch and, heigh presto, it opened as easily as the stone to the robbers' cave when Aladdin shouted 'Gertcher' or some other such cryptic word.

The gentleman whose destination was 'The Ringing World' office spent a good deal of time explaining to railway officials. They know his name and address: he is now wondering whether he really has had his five pounds' worth.

CHECKING A PEAL OUTSIDE THE TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A peal of Major was attempted at St. Michael's Church, Framlingham, Suffolk, several years ago, and the bells duly came into rounds. The late Rev. J. Holme Pilkington, well known as a composer of Bob Major, sat in his Rectory, which adjoins the churchyard, and listened to the ringing, as he usually did, always being interested.

He met the ringers as they came out of the tower and said to the conductor, 'You are not going to publish that peal, are you?' 'Yes, why not?' the conductor replied. He then explained where the peal was false, and it was not published. G. E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich.

BEDFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank Mr. Melville and Mr. Harvey for their remarks on Bedford Surprise. It was an attempt to produce a method where all the bells were in possible progressive coursing order. From previous attempts I thought this the most musical way. My statement that all peals of Treble Bob would go to Bedford did not mean that these were the only peals possible. The proof of Bedford is much simpler than Treble Bob. The false course end 24365 is false only in the 4th and 5th leads, not together; that is the 4th lead is false with the 4th; also 5th lead, with the 5th. Therefore, the bob Before will separate the two leads as the illustrations will show.

Here are three peals of 5,088 of Bedford Surprise, but they are false to Treble Bob. Probably they have already been used for Bristol.

23456	M	B	W	H	23456	M	B	W	H	23456	M	B	W	H
52364	—	2			32654	2		2		62534	2		1	2
32654		2	1		62534		2	1		65324			1	2
62534		2	1		65324		1	2		62453			2	1
65324	1	—	2	2	46253		—	2	2	26354	2			2
24536	1		2	2	23564	1		1	2	23564			1	2

Each twice repeated.

Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELL-CAGE. WOOD FRAMES THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

By G. P. ELPHICK.

During the last few months ringers have had quite a lot to say about methods of bell-hanging—ball versus plain bearings. There is one important factor that seems to have escaped their notice—the stability of the tower and bell-cage. Most of us have rung in towers where the bells do not run well, in spite of the fact that they are on ball bearings. We blame the bell-hanger, an easy thing to do, and leave it at that.

I have a vivid recollection of examining a cage when the bells, which had the reputation of going 'like houses,' were being rung. The cage was behaving like a ship in a storm at sea; rising and falling at least an inch, at the same time moving sideways about two inches and battering the tower walls. It was the bearings that were getting the blame in the ringing chamber; the real cause had to be seen to be believed. This is a bad example of what will happen through neglect, for a cage that has been well looked after is one of the most rigid pieces of timber framing we have.

Now the question arises how has the modern cage been evolved that it is so rigid? Strange to say, this question has never been answered; even the various archaeological societies have not paid any attention to it. While our knowledge of mediæval bells is considerable, our knowledge of the cages is practically nil. So far as I know, Sussex is the only county of which a survey of its bell-cages has been made. It is to the frames in the towers in this county to which I shall generally refer.

In trying to place the period in which a cage was constructed, we are confronted with a problem much more complex than that of dating mediæval bells. No dated cages appear to be known before the seventeenth century. For earlier cages we have to rely on the evidence of the age of the tower and the bells it contains.

If the cage timbers are built into the tower walls, we can be fairly sure that they are of the same date. The position and roping of the bells may give a clue, as well might a cage that has been altered to fit the tower. All we can do is to obtain a period in which the particular type with which we are dealing was in vogue, relying on the bells to give us a better approximation of the date.

We must also bear in mind the fact that the mediæval smith and carpenter were the bell-hangers of their day and would use principles of construction with which they were familiar. The carpenter, for example, would use the principles of the roof truss for the trusses of a bell-cage. Another point to consider is that in an obviously reconstructed cage the village carpenter would generally use the previous type as a copy, on which to base his idea of proportion and sizes of timber required. Where cages are moulded, help in placing them can be obtained from mouldings in vogue at various periods on beams, door-frames and the general joinery of the time. It must also be borne in mind that most of the types that I shall mention overlap each other by considerable periods.

Belfries did not become part of church structure until the seventh or eighth century. In the latter period mention is made of them by the monk of S. Gall and Amalarius. There is a record of one being built in 770 A.D. by Pope Stephen III., or by his successor two years later. In 926, Athelstan caused a law to be passed conferring the right to sit at the town-gate on any

thane who possessed a belfry on his estate. There are remaining to-day Saxon towers which obviously were built to contain bells of considerable size. Earl's Barton is a notable example.

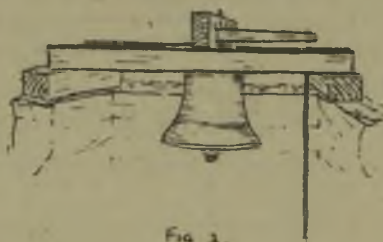


Fig. 1.

been continued above the roof to form a bell-gable. It seems quite reasonable to assume that this was one of the earliest methods of hanging a small bell; it being chimed by a lever. Man, being the creature he is, wanted larger and more bells, and so he had to build a tower to contain them; what was more natural than to hang them between beams, the beams taking the place of stone piers? (Fig. 1).

The earliest example of this method known to me is at Lynchmere. There is a cage for two, which I consider coeval with the thirteenth century bell it contains. The plates, on which the beams rest, are at present built into the walls of the present seventeenth century tower; they are exposed where they pass across the louvre window openings. On closer examination the timber which is buried in the walls proves to have the marks of prolonged exposure to the same degree as the beams which

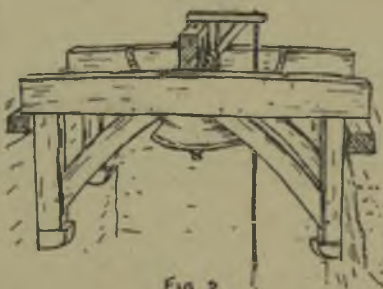


Fig. 2.

support the bells, proving that it was in that condition before the present tower was built. The central beam is of much larger section than the others, showing that the carpenter realised that it had to carry twice the load that was imposed on each of the

end beams. It is also interesting to note that the end beam of the treble pit is laid flat, showing that the carpenter considered it strong enough for the treble but not for the tenor, as the tenor and beam is on edge, although it is of the same section as that used for the treble.

It was soon found that, with the long beams necessary to span large towers, it was essential to stiffen the beams, as it was impossible to obtain sections of sufficient size to be rigid. The method used to stiffen the beams, or 'Heads,' as they will be called, branched into two different types of cages. Either they could be braced to the walls by means of a piece of timber, one end fixed near the centre of the beam and the lower end embedded in the wall of the tower, or by placing a post under the centre of the beam.

The most natural development seems to have been to brace the beam as men braced their roof trusses; and it is as well to notice how much bell-cages and roof trusses have in common. They both have to carry forces acting from the vertical to the horizontal direction.

At East Chilton there are the remains of a cage of this type, as old as the mid-twelfth century tower in which it is built. It is a seven inch tree trunk, with one brace remaining in the tower wall. The bell was hung in the centre, apparently not in alignment with the beam, for there is a groove cut on one side to give clearance for the bell to swing frame high.

There is another example of this type (Fig. 2), showing some improvements in the twelfth century tower at Newhaven. The beams show two advances, for not only are they cambered, but the bells were hung close to the walls to lessen the strain on the beams. Another improvement was that the beams were nearer together than the diameter of the bell's mouth. The carpenters had found out that a short stock was more efficient than a long one; so they cut grooves in the sides of the beams to enable the bell to swing clear and at the same time keep the beams as close as possible. There are many examples of this form of cage generally to be found in the timber spires that adorn so many of our ancient towers. A further development in this type was to have wall posts fixed to the lower end of the brace and the beam at the top, to distribute the thrust over the wall to a greater degree.

The other direction led to the bell-cage as we know it to-day. I only know of two examples of this type of



Fig. 3.

cage (Fig. 3). At Cold Waltham is a fine example in a thirteenth century tower. It is a cage for three, containing two bells probably of fourteenth century date. There are several improvements over the previous types that we have examined. The heads, or beams, are wider in the centre where the bell is hung, and cut down where the lip passes, remaining at this width to the ends. The carpenters had found that once a vertical groove is cut in a beam, the timber between it and the nearest wall was taking no strain; in fact it was a liability of extra weight and the beam was stronger without it. They also had discovered that beams or the joists of a floor need not be so strong if they had a beam supporting them in the centre. In the case of a bell-cage the beam had to be lowered to enable the bell to swing clear, so it was connected to the heads by posts. These were braced to the head to make it more rigid, and the result is a roof-truss upside down. Yet this type of cage grew out of the experience men had gathered from making floors, the braces being the only part borrowed from a roof truss.

(To be continued.)

THE FUNERAL BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards' letter as to chiming each of the bells in turn the morning before a funeral, I have several times heard it done at Hodnet (Bishop Heber's Church), Salop. If I remember correctly, they start with the treble and finish with the tenor for a man, and start with the tenor and finish with the treble for a woman.

At Stanton-on-Hine-Heath, the 5th is raised, rung a few minutes and lowered again in the morning, the tenor being clocked at intervals prior to the funeral, finishing with three sharp strokes as the cortege arrives at the lych gate. Here, according to legend, the ghost of one Madam Brown, of Sowbatch, was 'read down by twelve parsons at midnight' in the year 1777. Singularly enough, when the church was restored in 1891 a leather bottle was found under the stone flooring beneath the Sowbatch pew. I understand the men threw it in the river.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees, Salop.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. George Popnell, of 3, Pant-y-Cefn Road, Markham, Mon., has, we regret to say, been laid up for the past two months. He was bombed out of Bristol General Hospital, where he went for treatment, and is now waiting for a bed in Newport Hospital. Mr. Popnell has many friends in ringing circles and they will wish him a speedy recovery.

We are glad to be able to report that Mr. P. C. Williams, hon. treasurer of the Bristol United Guilds, has now fully recovered from his recent serious operations and hopes to resume work shortly.

Mr. R. Overy, serving in one of the technical branches of the Army, and whose present address is 275, Hornby Street, Bury, Lancs, would like to get into touch with handbell ringers in the district.

To-day is the one hundred and fifty-eighth anniversary of the opening of the bells at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Three complete peals were rung, one by each of the leading London societies.

It is also the sixteenth anniversary of the only peal of Cambridge Maximus rung at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Fifty years ago to-day a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, by a band of bachelors belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths. It was composed and conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

John Carter called at St. Martin's, Birmingham, the first peal of Forward Maximus on February 8th, 1889.

The first true peal of Surprise Major in London, one of Superlative, was rung at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on February 9th, 1850, by the St. James' Society.

Four years later on February 10th the same society rang the first double-handed peal of Stedman Cinques.

The first true peal of Cambridge Surprise was rung at Bennington in Hertford by the local company on February 11th, 1873.

Fifty years ago to-day 13 peals were rung. They consisted of Grand-sire Doubles 2, Triples 3, Union Triples 1, Canterbury Pleasure Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Caters 1, Cinques 1, Bob Major 1, and Kent Treble Bob Major 2.

REVERSAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested by the account of reversing, but cannot agree with the statement that Grandsire does not reverse like Double Norwich. When I reverse Grandsire I make the hunt bell go in front of the treble thus:—

2135476

1234567

1325476

3152746

etc.

They rang Holt's Ten-Part on this plan in Cheshire some time ago with the ordinary Grandsire single.

E. BANKES JAMES.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—On the Sunday afternoon before Christmas a very interesting candle and carol service was held in the ancient Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Woolwich. At the start of the service the church was in darkness, no sound was heard but the ringing of the handbells from the crypt, symbolising the bells of Bethlehem. While these were playing the choir found their way into the church and the service began with the singing by the choir of 'Silent night, Holy night.' The Yule candle was lit during the singing of the last verse representing our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light, entering the world on the first Christmas eve.

The Gospel for Christmas Day was then read and the choir sang the carol, 'Away in a manger.' During this carol the light was passed from lantern to lantern, reminding us of our Lord's commission to 'pass the Light on, to make disciples of all nations.' At the conclusion of the carol the bells were again rung calling us to Bethlehem. While the congregation listened to the bells, the clergy and choir passed to the crypt for the blessing of the crib, at the conclusion of which the choir sang, down in the crypt, 'Sleep, Holy Babe.'

The rest of the service took place in the church itself and consisted of carols and readings from the scriptures. The part played by the handbells was very greatly appreciated by everybody.

In addition to this service, a choir of some 30 to 40 voices from the Parish Church and from the nearby Methodist Church visited 16 public air raid shelters and sang carols there. On several occasions this was preceded by carols played on handbells. Increasingly here in Woolwich we are seeing the possibilities in the use of handbells.

CUTHBERT BARDSLEY, Rector of Woolwich.

DEATH OF THE REV. R. C. THURSFIELD.

A LOSS TO PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

The tragic death of the Rev. Richard Cecil Thursfield and Mrs. M. A. Thursfield, which we briefly recorded in our last issue, has deprived the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of one of its best known clerical members, and removed a leading figure in the civic life of Northamptonshire. They died as a result of a motor crash in their own parish of Cranford, within a mile or so of their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Thursfield were travelling from Kettering in their car, the Rector driving, when it was involved in a violent head-on collision with a motor bus. Mrs. Thursfield was killed instantly, and Mr. Thursfield was terribly injured. He passed away early on Saturday morning, January 25th, in Kettering General Hospital.

The Rev. R. C. Thursfield, who had been Rector of Cranford St. Andrew and St. John since 1903, was 75 years of age, and was Rural Dean of Weldon Second Deanery, chairman of Kettering Rural District Council and of several committees, member of Kettering Guardians' Committee and the Public Assistance Committee. He was also a member of Corby and District Town Planning Committee as well as Kettering Joint Hospital Board.

He had been a member of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild and its predecessor, the Central Northants Association, for almost the whole of his tenure at Cranford, and since 1923 had been president of the Kettering Branch of the Guild, to the affairs of which he had devoted much attention and enthusiasm, and by the members of which he will be sorely missed. He was seldom absent from a meeting; his genial presence and encouragement were an inspiration, and his help and advice of great value.

Mrs. Thursfield was also associated with public life as well as carrying out a great deal of parochial work. She was a member of the Ladies' Guild, and, with her husband, always gave a welcome to ringers at Cranford.

There is a family of four, with whom the deepest sympathy is felt in their sudden bereavement. Mr. Rupert Thursfield is in Burma. Mr. Christopher Thursfield, of the Berkshire Yeomanry, is in the Near East. Mrs. Thompson (daughter) is now resident in Portsmouth, and Miss Sylvia Thursfield now a Regional Organiser for the W.V.S. Before taking up war duties Miss Thursfield was secretary of the Northants Branch of the Ladies' Guild.

At the inquest on Mr. and Mrs. Thursfield a verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned, and the driver of the bus was exonerated from blame. Evidence was given that there was bad visibility at the time of the accident and that Mr. Thursfield did not appear to see the bus and came across into the middle of the road.

The funeral took place at St. John's Church, Cranford, on Wednesday, January 29th, amid signs of mourning and regret from the humblest villagers to the most prominent figures in the county of Northants. The Bishop of Peterborough conducted the service, while the Assistant Bishop (Dr. Norman Lang), the Rector of Kettering (the Rev. G. Holborow) and the Rev. L. H. Lethbridge, an old friend of the deceased, also took part.

The church was filled to capacity with mourners, and the coffins, which had been lying in the church, were carried to the grave by the Cranford ringers. Many robed clergy were in attendance, and other mourners, representing every phase of county life, included Lord Brooke of Oakley (chairman, Northants County Council), Mr. McIntyre (representing the Rural Councils' Association of England and Wales), Alderman Haynes (Mayor of Kettering), etc. Ringers were represented by the Rev. E. S. Powell (Master), Mr. R. G. Black (general secretary), the Rev. A. T. Seggar (president, Northampton Branch) and Mr. H. Baxter (secretary, Kettering Branch), of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, and Mrs. F. Boulton (district president) and Mrs. E. S. Powell (Ladies' Guild).

Lord Brooke of Oakley, at Kettering Petty Sessions, paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Thursfield, typical of many at the meetings of public authorities in the district. Lord Brooke alluded to the great loss sustained by the death under tragic circumstances of the Rev. R. C. Thursfield, and expressed deep sympathy with the members of the family. They mourned, he said, the loss of a valued colleague. Although the end was sudden, perhaps it had a happy side, as it found Mr. Thursfield alert in body and mind, and it found a devoted husband and wife undivided when they walked through the valley of the shadow of death.



THE REV. R. C. THURSFIELD.

By courtesy of the Northampton Printing and Publishing Co.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF DORCHESTER BRANCH.

Though their towers stand silent, members of Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild are seeing to it that the tradition of their ancient English art is well maintained in South Dorset. The zeal which animates the branch was in evidence at the annual meeting at Dorchester on Saturday, January 25th, when it was reported that despite all difficulties the membership had kept well up to the average.

Handbell ringing started at 3 o'clock, the Rector having very thoughtfully placed a table in a comfortable and warm part of the church to place the bells on. Some had their first try out, and certainly became very interested.

The service was conducted by the chairman, assisted by the vicar-chairman. About 50 were present, and it was good to hear the singing, showing that many ringers are also members of choirs.

Tea was served at Mrs. Major's Cafe, followed by the annual meeting. It was good in these anxious times to see how the members turned up from the countryside. Forty-three were present, the towers represented being Bradford Peverell, Charminster, Dorchester St. Peter's, Fordington St. George, Maiden Newton, Preston St. Andrew, Puddletown, Stratton, Sydling St. Nicholas, Upwey, West Lulworth, Wool and Wyke Regis, and there were also visitors from Wimborne and Shroton. Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. F. Llewellyn Edwards and others.

The Master of the Diocesan Guild, the Rev. C. Carew Cox, of Lyme Regis, wrote: 'Interest in ringing must necessarily be rather a struggle to sustain while our bells have to submit to the silencing authority, but if members of the branches can meet occasionally, the brotherhood will function and hopes will be kept alive. . . . We can give more attention to handbell practice these days and I hope your branch will do something towards encouraging that. I hope every tower will keep bells, ropes and fittings regularly overhauled. I could say a lot about the "ban," but no purpose would be gained. We just have to be loyal to what many of us believe was a mistaken and little thought-out policy. Anyway we know our people are only waiting for the glorious day when they will hear our beloved bells again sounding forth the notes of victory and the promised peace. God grant that may be this year.'

The hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Jennings) gave his annual report for 1940. Altogether seven meetings were arranged, but six had to be abandoned owing to the military authorities having taken the halls. One excellent meeting was held at Charminster before the ban, at which 40 were present.

Congratulations were given to the chairman on his preferment to a Canonry in Salisbury Cathedral.

On Armistice Day a wreath had been placed on the branch memorial to the brethren who fell in the last Great War. Regret was expressed at the loss by fire of Cattistock tower with the bells and carillon. It was hoped that when the carillon was replaced it would again contain a good octave for ringing. Membership had been well maintained, although there were many serving in H.M. Forces.

The balance sheet showed receipts for £33 7s. 6d. and expenditure £16 5s. 5d., leaving a balance of £17 2s. 1d. All money was now banked with the Post Office Savings Bank as soon as received, and, in addition, the reserve fund of eight Saving Certificates was now worth £8 12s.

Mr. Jennings said: 'We regret especially the ban on Sunday ringing. Various efforts have been made to get the decision altered without success, but I am given to understand that there is good reason for the enforcement of the complete silence. The past year has been a disastrous one for ringing—it was the first time for more than a thousand years that Christmas and the New Year were not heralded by the bells. I ask you where possible to practise on the handbells. We must meet again this coming summer. We must keep to it and not wait until something turns up. We must keep the flag flying in these discouraging days and be ready when the time comes to ring the bells for victory.'

The importance of keeping a watch on the ropes was emphasised by a member. It would be very unfortunate, he commented, if the ropes broke when they started to ring them for victory!

Discussion followed for the purpose of arranging meetings during 1941, and it was left in the hands of the hon. secretary to make what arrangements he possibly could. He said he hoped to arrange two or three meetings during the summer, where perhaps they would need no hall or room.

The officers of the branch were re-elected as follows: Chairman. Canon Markby; vice-chairman, Canon Slembeck; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. Jennings; Ringing Master, Mr. C. Smart; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. P. Pocock.

The hon. secretary read a paper on fire watching in churches. Some in Dorset have already started this scheme. He appealed for a larger support for 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. Jennings was congratulated on his son, a flight-sergeant in the R.A.F. and a ringer before joining the R.A.F., being mentioned for the second time in despatches. The chairman was asked to write a letter of congratulation and thanks to him.

A very happy meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the chairman for taking the service and the use of the church, and to Mr. J. W. Smith for making the excellent local arrangements. The members then adjourned to St. Peter's Church and practised on the handbells.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

SOME QUESTIONS WORTH DISCUSSING.

In a recent letter to 'The Ringing World,' Mr. James F. Harvey, the president of the Leeds and District Society, referred to the new and as yet unpublished book on the Surprise Major methods, and asked whether, when it does appear, '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.' He goes on to suggest that some scheme should be devised 'whereby the same further half-dozen or so new methods are indicated as being of the highest quality and worthy to rank as Standard Methods.'

Several interesting points are raised here, either directly or indirectly, all of them important, and all of them more or less controversial. There is the question of how a ringing text book should be written and what it should contain. There is the question of how to overcome the difficulties, financial and otherwise, of publishing such a text book. There is the question of what constitutes a standard method, and what are the qualities which should be sought for and encouraged. And there is the question whether the Exercise has not already as many good methods as it needs for the present, and whether it would not be well to make the most of what we have before seeking new ones.

These are, as we said, all controversial questions, and not one of them admits of any definite and clear-cut answer. Even the last, which to some will sound like merely stupid opposition to progress, has something to be said for it.

We can well imagine many ringers with conservative ideas arguing like the following, or if they do not actually put their ideas into words, this is pretty much what they think and upon which they would like to act.

The object of ringing (so they hold) is to sound the bells in such a way that they give pleasure to the people who are listening outside, as well as to the ringers in the belfry. That is all that really matters, and the value of a method depends ultimately on it and on nothing else. To give pleasure we must have methods which produce good music, and however good a method is it will not give pleasure unless it is well struck. Two centuries of practical ringing have abundantly shown that those methods are most musical in which the bells have a sustained beat, which means the methods which are simplest in construction. No Surprise method can ever produce the musical effect that Plain Bob or Treble Bob does. Some would even go further and say for the sake of music Triples and Caters should be encouraged, and Major and Royal, if not actually discouraged, given a relatively less important place in the ringers' repertoire.

Furthermore (these advocates go on to say) no band can properly strike any method unless they know it thoroughly and have practised it often. In olden times when the best bands rang only one or two methods (it might be Treble Bob or it might be Stedman and Grand-sire) they devoted their full attention to good striking, now they are so occupied in learning and attempting new and complex methods that they miss the finer points in striking altogether, and are content with a lower standard than they should be. It is a common thing to find beginners taking a rope in Cambridge or Double

Norwich before they have learnt to ring rounds as it should be done.

A concrete case may be cited in this connection. Year in and year out at St. Paul's Cathedral the custom has all along been, twice on Sundays, to ring three courses of Stedman Cinques. By general consent, St. Paul's bells are rung as they should be, and in a manner worthy of the great church and of the great city it adorns. Would the ringing have been of the same high quality if the band had tried to ring courses of half a dozen Surprise Maximus methods? And if it is desirable to introduce variety into twelve-bell ringing, where is there a belfry in which the conditions necessary for doing so seem to be more favourable?

The very low quality of the striking which almost always obtains at ringing meetings is due to the fact that people will attempt to ring methods which are beyond their present capacity, and so they not only ruin other people's pleasure, but themselves miss what should be the ringer's own greatest delight—to take part in a really well-struck touch, be the method what it may.

Let us then get back to the old simple musical methods which we can strike well if we really try, and let us leave the rarer and more difficult methods for the occasional use of special bands.

We can well imagine with what scorn these opinions will be received in some quarters. They are scarcely likely to be popular with young and ambitious ringers, and we should not care to have them taken as our own opinion. But there is more truth in them than appears at first sight.

The simpler methods are the most musical. Good striking is the first essential. Too many beginners do strive after much method ringing to the detriment of their striking. A good touch of Treble Bob is better and far more enjoyable to take part in than a rough course of Superlative or London. But there is a law of nature which ordains that in such a thing as the ringing Exercise there can be no standing still in the old paths. There must be progress or there will be decay. The tales of the marvellous striking of the bands of olden times are largely myths. Not wholly so, for there were bands then, as there are now, who did strike well, but there was also much bad Grandsire rung. The prize ringing of Yorkshire and the West did produce excellent striking, of methods in one case and rounds in the other, but a price had to be paid for it which no one would willingly pay now.

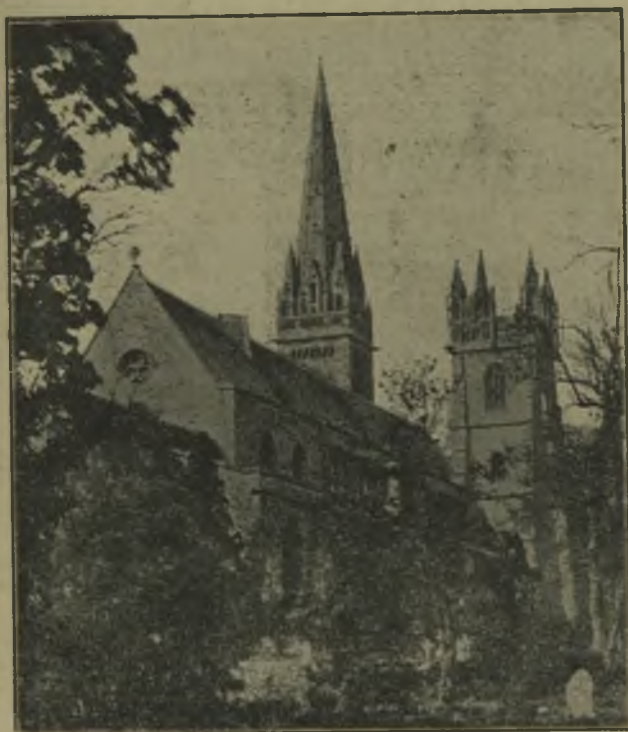
Generally speaking, history teaches us that when the life of the Exercise has been healthiest there have been most new methods rung, and we shall do well to encourage method ringing as much as we can provided we keep a proper sense of proportion and remember that to ring peals in the new Surprise methods is not the only thing nor the most important thing. The old standard methods are still the best, and should not be despised or neglected, but it will be worth our while to see why they are standard methods and whether there are any others which may, as Mr. Harvey suggests, prove worthy to take a place alongside them.

There is, however, one pitfall which we must try to avoid. It is so easy when discussing a matter of this sort to mistake our personal preferences for general laws and to assume that, because a method on paper appears

(Continued on next page.)

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL.

DAMAGED IN AIR RAID.



Llandaff Cathedral was among the buildings damaged during a raid on Cardiff. The whole of the nave on the south side was unroofed from end to end and all the windows, including the fine west window, were blown out. The interior of the Cathedral suffered severely and the roof of the chapter house was destroyed.

The spire suffered some damage, but, happily, the towers and the ring of ten bells are uninjured. Some valuable stained glass had also been removed to a place of safety.

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter of 'T.' in your current issue, I should like to say the bells were being ceased in peal when the accident happened to the tenor. There is some considerable evidence of the truth of this, in spite of Dr. Parr's statement to the contrary.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE STANDARD METHODS.*(Continued from previous page.)*

to us to be all that a method should be, it will prove to be equally valuable in actual practice. Many writers and eminent men have told us in the past what should be good methods and what should be bad ones. Many have prophesied the advent of some new method which was to take its place among the standard ones, and almost always the event has confounded the prophet. There is but one safe test, and that is the general experience and tradition of the Exercise throughout the centuries. Not what ringers have written and said, but what they have done and what has resulted from it. Trial and error, the rough and ready test of humanity is here better than all the logically worked out ideas of experts. But we must have eyes to see, and common sense to use them. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING OF THE LIVERPOOL BRANCH.**

All things considered, the attendance of members at the meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held last Saturday, at the Church House, was most encouraging. The towers represented were Bootle, Oxtan, Bebington, Woolton, St. Luke's, Liverpool, and the Parish Church. Mr. Philip A. Corby, of London, and Mr. R. A. Saulby, of Wrexham, were also present.

Handbells were rung before the meeting, at which the Rev. D. P. Roberts presided until the arrival of the Rector, the Rev. D. Railton.

Tributes of respect were paid to the memories of Messrs. E. Caunce and J. Wilkinson, and the hon. secretary was instructed to convey the meeting's sympathies to the relatives of the deceased gentlemen.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Saturday, March 8th, at the Parish Church, St. Helens, if the necessary permission can be obtained.

The meeting congratulated the band who rang the peal of Stedman Caters on handbells in St. Nicholas' tower last October. It was, as will be remembered, the first of Stedman rung in hand in Liverpool.

The Rector read the reply he had received from the Prime Minister in answer to a request for the removal of the ban on ringing. It was very similar to those received by Mr. Llewellyn Edwards and other persons.

After a most successful and encouraging meeting, the members were entertained to tea by the St. Nicholas' ringers.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**MEETINGS DURING TERM.**

A general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held at New College on Wednesday evening, January 22nd. In the absence of the president (the Rev. C. E. Wigg), the vice-president (Mr. H. Miles) took the chair.

Reports were presented by the treasurer and the Master, the latter expressing the pleasure of the society in welcoming Mr. Miles back again after his illness of the previous term.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice (New College), announced that an extra set of handbells was available from St. Peter's Hall so that members may have more opportunities of ringing at handbell practices.

A motion that the silent tower-bell practice at New College should be changed from Wednesday in view of other attractions of that night was not carried.

Meetings during term at New College were arranged as follows: Tower bells, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; handbells, Saturdays, 5 to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 to 11 a.m.

It was unanimously agreed that, in spite of the war, the custom of an annual lunch should be revived this term, and a sub-committee was appointed to arrange details.

Looking ahead, the Master foresaw the possibility of not more than five members being in Oxford next Michaelmas, and urged all members to a vigorous recruiting campaign. He also announced that an unsuccessful peal attempt had been made last term. However, the band was undaunted and on the very first evening of term a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung. There were ten different callings and the band consisted of W. L. B. Leese 1-2, J. E. Spice (conductor) 3-4, W. F. Gibbons 5-6.

Pressure of work caused the secretary, Mr. W. L. B. Leese (St. John's College) reluctantly to resign his seal of office, and Mr. W. F. Gibbons (Keble College) was elected to the post.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The evening was then concluded with a plain course of Grandsire Caters. It was pleasing to note that, of the five ringers, four had had no previous experience of double-handed ringing before October last, the fifth being the Master, who had exercised such excellent patience in teaching them.

BELLRINGER FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY.**DEATH OF MR. H. WALKER, OF LUTON.**

We regret to record the death of Mr. Harry Walker, of Luton, a member of the Beds and Herts Associations, who died rather suddenly on January 15th at the age of 68 years. He had not been in the best of health lately, but was out and about on the day before his death.

One of the oldest bellringers in the county, he was a member of the Luton Parish Church band, and was a service ringer rather than a peal ringer. He had rung only 18 peals, viz., Bob Minor 3, Bob Major 3, Grandsire Triples 5, Stedman Triples 3, and one each of Double Norwich, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Superlative Surprise and Cambridge Surprise Major.

He first became a ringer at the age of 16 at St. Albans. He joined the Luton band in February, 1909, and continued without a break right up to the outbreak of the present war. For many years he was employed by the Vauxhall Motors, Ltd., retiring last year. He leaves three sons and two daughters in bereavement.

Following a choral service at the Parish Church on January 20th, conducted by the senior curate, the Rev. G. B. Garrish, with Mr. Fred Gostelow at the organ, deceased was interred at the Church Cemetery. The following ringers attended: Messrs. A. King, F. Hunt, J. Herbert, D. Newman and A. J. Smith. Mr. U. Norris represented the Vauxhall Motors, Ltd.

A wreath was sent by the Luton band.

REMINISCENCES.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

The question has often been asked, 'How soon should a man begin to write his reminiscences?' But before that is answered there is this other question. Why should a man write his reminiscences at all? Surely younger people are not in the least bit interested in what some old fogey did and thought fifty or sixty years ago.

And yet it is a fact that autobiographies and reminiscences are among the most popular forms of literature. If someone who, during a long life, has mixed freely with ringers and ringing, would tell us all about it, we should gladly welcome what he has to say. Only he must be someone with wide and varied experiences, he must be able to write good and attractive English, and he must have kept a diary so that his facts may be correct. We shall not, I fear, ever find such a combination in the Exercise.

I am not going to write my reminiscences. I could not if I tried. But I have often wondered idly, at odd moments, what brought me into touch with bells and bellringers. Most ringers, I suppose, have a definite reason. They knew someone who was a ringer, or they were connected with a church where there were bells. With me there was no such reason. My people were chapel folk of the strictest kind. I did not live near any church with bells. I never came into contact with anybody who knew the remotest thing about ringing. And I did not meet a real ringer until after I had got to know quite a lot about bells and ringing.

And yet, from my earliest infancy, church bells seem in some indefinite and mysterious manner to have had an influence over me.

It is most wonderful how some quite trivial things of long, long, ago remain vivid in the memory and keep recurring from time to time for no particular reason, while other and far more important things are forgotten almost as soon as they happen. Ask me what I did last Thursday and I cannot tell you, but I can remember, as if it were yesterday, things which happened in my childhood, and the curious thing is that some of the most vivid of them are more or less connected with bells.

BELLS AND BOILED SWEETS.

When I was about three or four years old I went with my grandmother on some business of hers to the parish clerk of the country town where she lived. The man's name was Philo, and it struck me even then as a peculiar name so that I remembered it. Since then I have never anywhere come across the name, except that I believe there was an ancient person so called, but recently I noticed, in turning over the leaves of Mr. Morris' book, that a James Philo, evidently my man's great-grandfather, rang a peal of Bob Major in 1756.

One day, when I was about ten years old, I happened to go to a cupboard in my first and very elementary school, and then I picked up a book which I opened and read. It contained an account of a visit to a country church. What it was all about I forgot, but I did remember that the visitor was advised to take the rubbings of the bells, only he must be careful in doing so or 'ten hundredweight of metal will crush you against the frame.' What it all meant I did not know, and I don't quite know now, but I do know that I could at this minute go into that schoolroom, open that cupboard and pick up that same book.

To reach the school I had a long walk backwards and forwards twice a day. It led me through the market place, and I can remember stopping underneath the massive church tower and gazing fascinated at the dark shadow of the great bell that slowly swung backwards and forwards behind the louveres. You can stand to-day where I stood and you will see no moving shadow, but it was not imagination, nor was the smell of the boiled sweets which came up from the cellar underneath Sullivan's shop in Red Lion Street, which (goodness knows why) is always associated with it in my mind. I can smell them now as I write.

A RUDIMENTARY BOOK.

I have said that my people were chapel folk. They were, and of the strictest Puritan type. Sunday was Sunday in those days, and you had no cause to forget it. Twice in the day we went to chapel and once at least to Sunday School. So far as I remember we never found it any hardship, and I have no reason to regret it, but that is neither here nor there. It was the custom then for the chapel people to begin their services half an hour earlier than those at the churches. So I used to hear, in the intervals between the singing, the bells from a nearby steeple. They were a minor three, swing chimed. Perhaps they were those of St. Clement's or of St. George's, Colegate, both of which were close. Very lovely they sounded, and to this day I think that a ring of three, swing chimed, is a beautiful sound.

It was some time after this that I began to take a conscious interest in bells, but how it came about I am totally at a loss to know. I and my friend Jack used to go for walks in the country, and when we came to a church, we would try and climb up the steeple, so as to get a good view of the surrounding district. Perhaps that led to us taking an interest in the bells, but I miss the connection. What did, however, introduce us to change ringing was a book by a man called Benjamin Lomax, who, after a popular account of church bells, gave a very rudimentary description of ringing. It was not a very good book, but it gave me the foundations of all I know about the art. Jack and I used to sit next each other (we were, of course, the two top boys of the school), and I have still Latin and mathematical text books with changes written wherever there was a blank space. For we began to work out changes experimentally before ever we had met a real living ringer.

In those days the curfew was still rung occasionally at one of the churches, and there we learnt to handle a bell. There was little or no ringing in that steeple, so it did not bring us in touch with any ringers, but there was another tower which had five bells, and there we used to go and practise pulling up and ringing the bells singly. About the same time Jack's elder brother came home from school and we roped him in, so that we had a fully competent three-bell band. We used to go to this five-bell tower—Moutergate it was—at any odd time and practise changes on three bells.

We had no connection with the church and knew nothing about the parson or the churchwardens, neither did they know anything about us. How did we manage it? We just knocked at Mrs. Farrow's door and asked for the key. She told me, not once nor twice, that we were a nuisance and what did we want to come bothering people for, and causing an annoyance with all that row, but she always let me have the key. I suppose I must have had a way with me.

At the same time we started to make a set of handbells for ourselves. The first attempt was a weird lot of contraptions with two hammers one on each side of a metal plate. Jack and I started for a 5,000 of Bob Singles on them, but we gave it up as altogether too monotonous and not worth while. Ultimately we manufactured a quite decent set out of door bells, reasonably in tune, and we cast the fittings out of zinc after wood had proved a failure. By means of them we got quite a lot of useful double-handed practice, and in the end we rang seven 720's of Bob Minor on them, the first peal by all and my first as conductor.

INTRODUCTION TO A TOWER.

Before this we had increased our band to five by the addition of Charlie and Alfred. They were both senior to us, and already had rung with the real ringers. It was through Charlie that I was brought in touch with them. He arranged to introduce me to the captain of the band, and on the allotted day I went into the Belfry, a very famous one, but not one where the traditions welcomed young beginners.

I was received kindly. The captain had written out a full course of Bob Major on a large sheet of paper and distinctively marked the treble. He explained to me what hunting was, and asked if I understood. I said I thought I did. Did I think I could ring the treble single-handed on the handbells to a course? I said I would try and I did so, the other bells being rung double-handed. I was warmly congratulated on my performance and then I asked if I might try 1-2. That somewhat surprised them, but they let me try, and I rang it all right.

There was, of course, nothing in it really, because though I had not met any ringers before I did know quite a lot about ringing. Nobody then or since has ever suggested that I am anything more than a very average ringer. He would be wrong if he did, though I have had the luck during my lifetime to come in contact with more than one really good band, and so take part in a few good performances. But to this day I can ring 1-2 to Bob Major; even my two boys will not deny that.

Well, I suppose by that time I had become a ringer. For two or three years we made quite decent progress. Jack called a five-thousand in seven methods for us at Moutergate. Charlie made up our handbell band, and we rang several peals of Triples, Major, Caters and Royal. One of them was the record length at the time, and I will say that I have never rung a better struck peal than that was. There were no trips, for a trip would (since we knew nothing about conducting) have broken us up. Charlie called this peal, for we let the conducting go round.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A REVERSAL OF THURSTANS' PEAL.

A correspondent sends us the following figures which were given him by someone in Birmingham (he does not remember who) as a reversal of Thurstans' Four-part by Henry Johnson. These figures differ from those which we published recently as Johnson's reversal.

2314567 S H L Q				4671325 S H L Q			
4675321	1	4S		7413256	x		
				C 7416523	x	x	x
3415726	x	x		2613475	x	x	x
A 2516437	x	x	x				
7615243	x			2716354	C		
4513267	A			4617235		x	
6317254	A			D 6417325			
				2715463	x	x	x
6314527	x	x					
B 2417365	x	x	x	2617534	C		
7516234	x	x		2316745	C		
				2413657	C		
3614257	A			2514376	D		
5417263	A			2517643	D		
6713245	A			2415736	C		
4315276	A						
5714236	B			6514273	x		
3416275	A			6513724	x	x	
				1234567	x	x	and 12 only
4671325	S2 (2 Sixes only)						

All course ends are at a six-end when treble goes in quick.

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.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, February 8th, at the Ring of Bells. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Macclesfield Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8th; at Christ Church Institute, Macclesfield. Tea 4.30 p.m., meeting after. Handbells and billiards for all who wait. Owing to the hon. secretary being in H.M. Forces, all names for tea to J. Worth, The Clock, Broken Cross, Macclesfield.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Next meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, February 8th, at 3 p.m. Arrangements will be made for tea nearby. All the practice you want on handbells and 'silent' tower bells. Start the new year well with a good meeting.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Please note that in future meetings of the branch will be held on the second Saturday in every month at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair). The next meeting is on February 8th, from 2.45 p.m. Handbells, tea and meeting.—A. M. Tyler, Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, February 15th. Handbells available at 47, Cambridge Street, from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15th. Members will meet at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet at 2.30 p.m. By kind invitation of Mr. H. Langdon, the business meeting with handbell ringing will take place at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Kettering on Saturday, February 15th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please notify me if you require tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 15th. Service 3.30 in Parish Church. Tea at the Duke's Head at 4.30, followed by the usual business meeting. Handbells available for the rest of the evening. Please remember catering difficulties and notify Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as soon as possible, if you require tea.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Abbey Buildings, Daventry, on Saturday, February 15th. Chair to be taken at 5.30 p.m. Will members kindly make an effort to attend?—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent opportunity to practice method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 3.30. No arrangements for tea. Come along and meet old friends and have a social afternoon together. Handbells available.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid-up members at 1s. each; to other members and friends at 5s. 6d. each. All applications for tickets must be received by Saturday, February 22nd. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

J. A.
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THE CHOICE OF SURPRISE METHODS

The roots of our art were planted so far back in the centuries that it is hardly realised by the majority of present-day ringers that Surprise Major ringing has become a common practice only within living memory. Yet so it is. We are reminded of the fact by the mention elsewhere of the anniversary of the birth of William Wakley, the man who was leader of the band at Burton-on-Trent in the eighties which put Surprise ringing on a new plane. Before those days, there had been solitary peals rung in various parts of the country, but it was at Burton-on-Trent that Surprise ringing first gained a permanent hold upon the Exercise. Up to that time, and even for a while afterwards, Surprise methods were regarded as 'crank' productions by those who looked askance at anything outside the standard methods, but Wakley and his band, who were followed by Washbrook and his Oxford Guild company, with the St. Peter's, Brighton, ringers close after them, showed that Surprise ringing was no freak and that the methods—Superlative, Cambridge and London—had no terrors for those bold enough to tackle them. Thereafter the practice of Surprise methods spread to different parts of the country, and there was quite a keen rivalry between certain well-known bands. Although from lack of material little was done to break away from the old methods, the Burton ringers were again the first to take the initiative with New Cumberland.

What has followed since in the development of Surprise ringing has happened with increasing velocity. All over the country local companies which could muster Surprise bands grew up. New methods were sought and rung, until to-day well over a hundred of them have been placed on the records in peal performances, and there is waiting to be published a 'Collection' which will provide hundreds more. The volume contains but a selection from a much larger number of methods that have been worked out in detail, but the extent of the Surprise Major methods, good, bad and indifferent, is nearly two hundred million—to be exact, according to one of the leading mathematicians of the Exercise, 188,655,880. This is a staggering total, leaving more than ample scope for those ringers who take methods in their stride and are for ever seeking pastures new. It is a good thing that the Central Council have an expert committee to sift the grain from the chaff. In the Collection that is awaiting a more appropriate time to make its appearance, every care has been taken to give what is considered the best of the various types of method, and the selection should be wide enough to satisfy the most ambitious ringer.

(Continued on page 74.)

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That there is now a wide interest in the Surprise methods as a class cannot be denied. There are other and equally difficult methods to be found in other classes, but Surprise ringing seems to have an attraction of its own. On the foundation laid by the pioneers of fifty or sixty years ago others have built and reaped the benefit. Last century a Surprise peal was something to be proud of and to talk about; it came only after careful study and painstaking practice. Modern Surprise ringing is no less praiseworthy, but does not offer a tithe of the difficulties that appeared to present themselves to the ringers of a generation ago. It has been the same, of course, through the ages; the simpler methods in the early days offered difficulties which seemed to evaporate with the years. Leaving aside the complications added by 'splicing,' scores of Surprise methods were being rung before the war, many of them just once and then forgotten.

There is this difference in the way in which such methods were rung in the early period, and the manner in which they have been rung in later times. Wakley and those who came in the immediately succeeding years tackled a method with the intention of remembering it; most of the new methods rung in the last fifteen or twenty years have been 'crammed' for the purpose of ringing a peal or two and then cast aside. And yet there are few ringers even to-day who, when approaching the three old methods which have formed the basis of Surprise ringing, have not mastered them with sufficient thoroughness to remember them for the rest of their lives. A few ringers there are who carry one or two other methods in their heads, methods which have grown in popularity like Bristol and Yorkshire, but this cannot be said of any large number.

There is, we feel, a good deal to be said for the plea recently made in these columns that a selection of the best of the Surprise methods should be popularised. Perhaps, in course of time, when ringing is resumed and bands are once more built up, encouragement will be given on these lines, and the ringer of the future will have a repertoire of a dozen or more Surprise Major methods to which he can turn as readily as he does now to Superlative or Cambridge. These methods have stood the test of time; it may be because when Surprise ringing began there was nothing else to practise, and they became ingrained, as it were, in the ringer's method make-up. Be that as it may, whatever else comes to take their place or supplement them, it will have to be able to stand the same test. Let its merits be what they may on paper, it is the trial in the tower that counts, and while we may look for guidance from those best able to advise us, ringers will make their own choice ultimately. But the progress of the art can be served if the best that is available can be laid bare to choose from, with a frank exposition of the merits and demerits of what is given us.

BILLINGSHURST, SUSSEX.—On Monday, January 27th, at Nye-wood, Station Road, 720 Bob Minor: Harold Wood 1-2, Pte. E. Rapley (conductor) 3-4, Cecil Longhurst 5-6.

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HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, January 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's each called differently.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4

* HAROLD HOWSON ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Monday, February 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At PERRY FARM,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one six-score each of St. Dunstan's, Dream, Morning Star, College Pleasure, College Doubles, London Doubles, Primrose, April Day and Old Doubles, four six-scores of Bob Doubles and 29 of Grand-sire Doubles (10 callings).

JAMES E. LILLEY ... 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 3-4

HENRY G. LEWIS ... 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

The conductor has now rung a peal on every day in the year.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 5, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's, with seven different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

* LEONARD LUCK ... 1-2 | CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4

EDWIN JENNINGS ... 5-6

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Witness: Mrs. Jennings.

* First peal of Minor on handbells.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM DISTRICT MAINTAINS FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild will not hold an annual meeting this year, but a report and balance sheet has been issued to the members. Financially the district has maintained its position despite the war. Subscriptions amounted to £13, of which £6 10s. was remitted to the general treasurer. The expenditure was £6 4s. 5d. and the balance in hand is £13 12s. 1d., against £13 6s. 6d. at the end of the previous year.

The report, presented by Miss E. C. Southby, the acting hon. secretary, says:—

Apart from the annual general meeting, the district has had no activity during the past year, although two attempts were made to arrange meetings. Hawley had various reasons why a meeting could not be held there, and at Crondall arrangements were cancelled the day before the fixed date, owing to a military circular being received by the Vicar to the effect that bells should cease to be rung.

Combined practices were held at Seale, Bentley and Frensham during the earlier part of the year with very satisfactory results.

The membership has not dropped very much below average, however, and now stands at 125, twenty-two less than last year. We have 105 ringing members and 20 honorary members. Expenses have not been high, and the balance in hand of £13 12s. 1d. is an increase of only 6s. 7d. in 1939. This comparatively small increased balance is due to the fact that we have lost 22 members—a good number of whom have joined the fighting forces.

Tower contributions to the Benevolent, Cathedral Bells and Sanctus Bell Funds amount to £1 7s. They are as follows: Aldershot, Sanctus Bell £1; Frensham, Cathedral Bells 3s. 6d., and Benevolent Fund 3s. 6d. I shall be pleased to receive any amount, however small, for the above funds.

Two of our oldest and most loyal members, Mr. H. Prior, of Farnham, and Mr. George Andrews, of Ash, have passed to their rest. They were most staunch supporters at district and other Guild meetings. We have lost by death two of our lady supporters, Mrs. Dimes, wife of the captain of the Crondall band, and Mrs. Rowsell, wife of the Vicar of Aldershot, and mother of a young Aldershot ringer. We offer our deepest sympathy to relatives left in bereavement.

Handbell practices have been held regularly each week under arrangements made by Mr. W. H. Viggers, of 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot, who will be very pleased to hear from any ringers interested in this branch of the art.

FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

By CHARLES E. BORRETT.

1.—ROBERT CHESNUTT.

Robert Chesnutt, an old Norwich ringer, may be recalled by some as the conductor of the Double Norwich Maximus rung in 1817, which stood as the 'first and only' until the Ipswich men broke the ice again 79 years later.

He also conducted a 6,272 Oxford Treble Bob Major, with 6th's place bobs, in 1813, a 5,040 Double Norwich Major in 1815 at St. Giles' and St. Michael's, Norwich, respectively, and the first on the bells at Helmingham, Suffolk, a 5,376 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 1816. This, in all probability, is not a complete list, but no more have come under my notice.

Chesnutt was a hairdresser, and married Mary Brown at St. Gregory's Church, Norwich, on March 27th, 1799. He was buried at St. Giles' in May, 1821, in his 53rd year, and four others of his family were buried in the same churchyard between the years 1797 and 1839. One of the latter, John, an older brother, was also a hairdresser, and a wig maker to the Stock Company at the Theatre Royal. He also appeared on the boards occasionally. He was described as 'the very best representative of the Apothecary in "Romeo and Juliet," and the Friar in "The Duenna" that ever graced a stage.' I do not think this John was a ringer, for his duties would give him little leisure in the evenings.

The obituary notice in the 'Norfolk Chronicle' of the ringer Robert is a very striking one, and portrays him as a most lovable man and one worth his weight in gold in any band of ringers:—

'On Friday morning, May the 18th, 1821, the muffled bell of St. Peter's, Mancroft, announced the mournful tidings of the death of Mr. Robert Chesnutt in the 53rd year of his age. He was a useful member of St. Peter's Ringers, of which he might with propriety be termed "the leader of the band," as it was principally owing to his judicious instructions the company arrived to that degree of science, and we may say, perfection, for which they are so justly and eminently entitled. As it frequently happens that amongst the sons of harmony the most grating discord will prevail, yet by his mild and persuasive manner he could restore friendship and promote a reconciliation amongst the most violent and contentious spirits, so that 'he made even his enemies to be at peace with him.' In every sense of the word he was a lover of harmony and endeared every heart in his favour.'

Another newspaper says he was 'well known for his skill as a ringer and not less respected for quiet, inoffensive and obliging manners in the intercourse of life.'

These notices show that his leadership was not always in fair weather, and I have a notion that amongst the 'most violent and contentious spirits' would usually be found the composer and tenor ringer of the peal of Court Twelve—Samuel Thurston!

2.—ELIJAH MASON.

This name will convey little to the average reader of this paper, but, nevertheless, Elijah Mason was an able and accomplished ringer and a very versatile man.

He took part in some great and historical peals, and though the total was small, the variety, for the days in which he lived, was unmatched outside Norwich. I do not suppose it is a complete list, but I have come across the following:—

1822.—5,120 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Kenninghall.

1823.—6,400 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Hingham.

1824.—8,448 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at St. Michael's, Norwich.

1824.—5,040 Grand-sire Triples, at St. Andrew's, Norwich.

1827.—5,120 Oxford Treble Bob Major, on handbells.

1827.—5,376 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at St. Giles', Norwich.

1831.—6,160 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at St. Michael's, Norwich.

1832.—6,000 Double Oxford Bob Major, at St. Giles', Norwich.

1835.—5,376 Superlative Surprise Major, at St. Giles', Norwich.

1835.—5,280 London Surprise Major, at St. Andrew's, Norwich.

1844.—7,128 Stedman Cinques, at St. Peter's, Norwich.

It may be noted that the Double Norwich in 1831 and Stedman Cinques in 1844 were record lengths at the time, the Double Oxford and London Surprise were the first ever rung, and the Superlative the second one rung in the method. The handbell peal in 1827 he conducted, ringing the treble. It was arranged 'to oblige Elijah Mason, who wished to call a peal, and was not a double-handed ringer.' He joined the Cumberlands in 1820.

Besides his ringing skill he must have possessed great character and spirit, and this is well pointed out in the following extract from a memoir I have recently come across:—

'Elijah Mason was a linen weaver and a native of North Lopham, near Diss, in the south of Norfolk. He came to Norwich twice a year to sell his goods, and eventually settled in the city and became a small manufacturer of paramattas and bombazines. These he took to London in spring and autumn to sell to wholesalers. About 1842 he became bankrupt through the failure of a London firm, and was only able to pay 2s. 3d. in the £.

'He then took to making telescopes and microscopes, and travelled the country with them—his sole means of livelihood during the last two or three years of his life. He was a Chartist, and a very gentlemanly man. He died at Worcester on January 3rd, 1845, and was about 47 years of age.'

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

A DISTINGUISHED EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

No place is more associated with the rise and early development of change ringing than Cambridge; it shares with Oxford and London the distinction of being the places at which we know the earliest 'peals' were composed and first practised. In one of these places, perhaps simultaneously in all three, the Sixes first appeared soon after the death of Queen Elizabeth, and they were followed by the 'Twenty and the Twenty-four, with several other Changes. But,' says Richard Duckworth, 'Cambridge Forty-eight, for many years, was the greatest Peal that was rang or invented.'

It was a five-bell method in which one bell led for a number of changes and another lay behind, while the three middle bells rang the Six. Neither the treble nor the second ever went behind; and the fourth and fifth never went to the lead.

All through the seventeenth century change ringing was practised at the University. Many of the ringers went on to the Inns of Court, and they formed a steady supply of recruits to the College Youths and the other leading London societies.

Compared with Oxford, Cambridge never had many bells. Great St. Mary's from the first was the principal tower, the University church, and the place where most of the ringing was done. In 1478 the present building was begun on the site of an older church, and in 1519 it was finished; but the tower was not completed until 1608. In 1595 there were four bells, which were increased to five in 1611, and to eight in 1667, the year in which the Tinnallogia was completed.

Holy Trinity had four pre-Reformation bells, St. Andrew's had five, St. Edward-the-Confessor six in 1669, and the mixed lot at St. Benedict's were increased from five to six in 1663.

The ring of six at St. Benet's is of especial interest to ringers, for it was there that, in 1931, the memorial to Fabian Stedman was placed. The scheme, promoted and carried through by the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' and supported by the whole Exercise, consisted of a thorough restoration and rehanging of the bells, and the strengthening of the ancient Saxon tower to hold them. The amount raised was between £500 and £600.

St. Benet's was chosen as the place of the memorial because it is the church which traditionally has been most associated with Fabian Stedman, and no better or more fitting memorial could have been found. It was here that, according to Parnell, the College Youths first rang the Principle, and the tale is likely enough except for the date he gives.

I find it difficult, however, to believe that Stedman's own ringing was at St. Benet's more than at any other church in the town. It was quite contrary to the usual custom of the time for a band to be confined to one tower, and since the belfry at St. Benet's was then a dark inconvenient place reached by a ladder, while St. Mary's was the most important tower and had eight bells, it is surely more than probable that Stedman's ringing was chiefly at the latter tower and not at the former.

The definite statement, however, has been made that Stedman was parish clerk at St. Benet's. If it were so, that would, of course, give him a special connection with

the belfry, but I do not think the statement is correct. The only evidence for it is in a book called 'Memorials of Cambridge,' by C. H. Cooper, published in 1880. The passage reads, 'Fabian Stedman, clerk of this parish about 1650, invented the art of change-ringing. Stedman's Principle, Stedman Slow Course, Stedman Triples and Stedman Caters are well known, as also is the Cambridge Surprise. His Campanalogia, or the Art of Ringing improved, was published 12mo. 1677.'



THE SAXON TOWER OF ST. BENET'S, CAMBRIDGE.

'About 1650' is very vague, and shows that Cooper was not relying on any contemporary evidence he had discovered, but upon some other writer, and I suspect that his only authority was Ellacombe, and Ellacombe misunderstood.

The legend that Stedman was the inventor of change ringing and the Father of the Art was widely believed in for many years, but has now been shown to be untenable. Change ringing was practised before he was born, and there were other clever composers who preceded him or were his contemporaries. We know the names and we have some of the work of three of them. Robert Roan, the composer of Grandsire Doubles and the standard 720 of Bob Minor, and John Tending, the composer of several five-bell methods, were members of the Society of College Youths. Samuel Scattergood was a Cambridge University man, and afterwards a clergyman and preacher of some considerable note. He was a composer of five-bell methods, and, although none of them is now rung, they are interesting stages in the development of the art.

In the early years of the eighteenth century change ringing ceased to be a popular sport at the two Universities, and at Cambridge all that was left was a tradition, supported by some ancient and fragmentary manuscripts, of a society which dated from the time of Queen Elizabeth and consisted chiefly of undergraduates.

In 1724, the year which marks the beginnings of important activity in the Society of College Youths, there was a renaissance of the art in Cambridge, and on August 3rd the Society of Cambridge Youths was established. It was symptomatic of the changing social status of the leading members of the Exercise that it was composed of townsmen and not of University men, though, like the leading London societies, it included a sprinkling of them during the century.

The new company showed their skill by ringing at St. Mary's on November 5th a peal of Grandsire Triples. Two men, Henry Mulliner and William Anderson, the ringers of the treble and the seventh, were gentlemen. The others were Thomas Scare, a cabinet maker, Hewes Carter, a watchmaker, John Tuck, a bricklayer, John White, verger of Trinity College, Robert Barber, and Thomas Cornwall, a sawyer. Anderson was the leading man in the company and probably the bob caller. What composition they rang is doubtful, but most likely it was Doleman's false peal.

Another man who did not take part in this performance, but who afterwards became the most distinguished member of the society, was Charles Mason. He was born at Prees, in Shropshire, in 1699, the son of Charles Mason. He went to school at Wem, and at the age of 19 entered Trinity College as a pensioner. He matriculated in 1718, was scholar in 1720, and he graduated B.A. in 1723 and M.A. in 1726.

In 1727 the College Youths visited Cambridge. They took their best company, and, according to their wont, spent a day or two ringing at the various towers. Their main performance and the central object of their visit was a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5,040 changes on the new ring of ten which had just been supplied by the White-chapel foundry to Great St. Mary's. The peal was rung on May 25th, and the band was made up of William Woodruff, John Ward, John Hardham, the famous tobaccoist, Samuel Jeacock, James Richardson, John Dearmore, William Laughton, Peter Merrygarts, Benjamin Annable and Matthew East. Annable called the bobs.

The band, and especially Annable, left a good impression behind them when they went home, and Charles Mason and Henry Mulliner joined the Society of College Youths.

Nine years later the Cambridge Youths rang another five-thousand of Grandsire Triples, with Charles Mason at the seventh. It was described as a 'true' peal (the other was a 'complete' peal), and I suspect that Mason, who took a great interest in composition, had found out that the first peal was false, and had substituted this time Vicar's six-part bob and single composition, which we know from his manuscripts he had proved. He probably was the conductor.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We referred last week to the fact that Mr. G. P. Elphick collected the information for the article on Bell Cages by personal inspection. In the course of the last five years, we learn, he has visited 347 Sussex churches in his research work dealing with bells and cages.

Handbell practices are held every Tuesday and Friday at 18, Manchester Road, Reading, at 7.30 p.m., and any ringers interested in handbell ringing will be made welcome.

On February 12th, 1821, 14,016 changes of Kent Treble Bob were rung in the old Church of St. Mary's, Oldham. The peal was by William Eversfield and was at the time the longest either composed or rung.

The Birmingham men rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Caters at Aston on February 13th, 1848.

To-day is the anniversary of two long peals of Grandsire Cinques. The College Youths rang 7,018 changes at St. Michael's, Cornhill, in 1731, and the Painswick men rang 13,001 changes in 1920. The latter still stands as the record length in the method, as the 17,000 afterwards rung in the same tower unfortunately turned out to be false.

Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, a noted composer of the early nineteenth century and the author of a very meritorious peal of Stedman Triples, died on February 14th, 1836, aged 68.

A peal of Grandsire Major, 9,999 changes, was rung at Oldham on February 15th, 1825.

John Holt called a peal of the now obsolete method, Double London Court Bob Major, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on February 16th, 1752.

On the same day of the month four long peals were rung—14,224 Bob Major at Aston in 1789, 6,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Cambridge in 1790, 8,448 Oxford Treble Bob Major by the Cumberlands on the bells of All Hallows', Barking, recently destroyed in an air raid, in 1818, and 8,448 Stedman Cinques at Painswick in 1858.

The only peal of Imperial the Third Major ever rung away from Norwich was accomplished on February 17th, 1800, at the village of Soham, in Cambridge, where there was a very skilful band largely made up of one family of the name of Tebbit.

Christ Church, Spitalfields, with its ring of twelve bells, was destroyed by fire on February 17th, 1836, as related in a recent article in 'The Ringing World,' and on the same date in 1856 the Birmingham men rang a peal of Stedman Major.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 2, Royal 1, Stedman Triples 1, Caters 2, and Violet Major 1. The last was one of William Sottanstell's methods and was rung at Liversedge in Yorkshire. The Grandsire Triples was at Wombourn, Staffordshire, and the ringer of the fourth was Benjamin Gough, of whose recent death we have just received notice.

BELLS ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your request, His Master's Voice Company have the following records of change ringing:—

C.2098.—St. Margaret's, Westminster, London: Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters.

B.4090.—St. Margaret's, Westminster: Easter music with bells and choir and organ.

B.3120.—St. Margaret's, Westminster: Wedding music with bells and choir and organ.

B.2691.—York Minster bells: Changes on the peal of 12 bells (introducing 'Great Peter,' the 10½ ton tenor). York Minster Society of Change Ringers.

Novelty records.—B.2853: Nightingales and Church Bells. B.3345: On same lines with choir and organ.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Similar information is also supplied by Mr. F. W. Woodman, of Boreham.

'MOANING MINNIE' STOPS A PEAL.

On Monday evening, February 3rd, in the choir vestry of St. Margaret's, Leicester, six members of the Midland Counties Association went for a peal of Stedman Cinques. All went smoothly and the striking was very good. The turning course came and went, and the band were just settling down to the 'home-at-hand' position when '!!xx!! off went 'Moaning Minnie' with her dismal wail—after 1 hour 50 minutes' excellent ringing. As the policemen of the band were on siren duty, stand was called, and so ended what would have been a good peal. The band were Alfred Ballard 1-2, Harold J. Poole 3-4, Percy Harrison 5-6, Ernest Morris 7-8, Fred J. Wilson 9-10, Josiah Morris 11-12. Umpire: G. Stedman Morris.

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WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD?

MERITS AND DEFECTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am interested in this correspondence, having listened to quite a number of new Surprise methods being rung. I think one essential of a good method, which your correspondents seem to have missed, is that coursing pairs of bells should remain at the back together for a reasonable time, so that the musical effect produced can be appreciated. The greatest defect of London is that no pair stays longer than a dodge and a half at any time, and generally not even for a single dodge. The whole movement is much too rapid. I would suggest, too, that in Royal and Maximus methods the tenors should come together behind elsewhere than just at the course-end; the back bells ought to come home more often than once in a quarter of an hour.

Mr. Harvey's system of assessing methods is commendable, but I think his likes and dislikes require amending in certain particulars. The tenors in any row should not be counted as separated unless three or more bells come between them. If Mr. Harvey will do this he will find that the figure for Bedford is 30, which is good; he will also obtain the figure 60 for Cambridge. If the method is to contain second's place at the lead-end, which he seems to desire, and the places are all made right, rows with the tenors separated by two bells are bound to occur. It seems hardly fair on any method to stipulate that it shall contain a certain internal place, and then penalise it for containing certain rows which such a place inevitably produces. And if we are going to object to parting of the tenors, then we must put a black mark against Superlative for containing the Queen's change in the plain course.

I have heard quite a number of ringers condemn methods for containing contiguous places; yet the majority can only have heard such places in Treble Bob. I have always considered these a very pleasing feature, especially when they occur in 5-6; and the more so when one or both bells concerned remain in 5-6 and make further places.

It was surely decided some years ago that the whole pulls during which the treble leads or lies do not constitute cross-sections; but, whatever the opinion about that point, it is a mistake to insist that internal places in these rows will always make for improvement. In plain methods, Double Norwich is a better method than Double Oxford, or those two mixtures which have one or other place. In Surprise, Cambridge and Superlative are certainly improved by having second's and seventh's; but put these places into Bristol and a very inferior method results.

In assessing Bedford, Mr. Harvey misses what seems to me a very strong recommendation, that is, that it is a method on the 'lengthening lead' plan. That is one of the great features of Bristol, and about the only redeeming one of Treble Bob. I should add about 50 points, but Mr. Harvey deducts five because the method has not second's, a place, incidentally, which would bring it round at the first lead-end.

The idea that snaps on the front and so-called 'backhanders' (dreadful word!), which are merely leads at back and hand, should constitute a defect is surely out of date. It originated, I believe, in the book 'Surprise Methods,' by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. The author, on his own admission, strongly disliked all even bell methods of ringing, and many of his views on the subject are not acceptable. Possibly it was considered that a lead which commenced at back could not be struck correctly; but we cannot blame a method for the shortcomings of the ringers, and such an idea would certainly not be accepted now. Bristol, which has a rich mixture of snaps, leads right and wrong, and forward and backward ringing, is one of the finest—if not the finest—of methods in any class.

Finally, although the subject is one of interest, I doubt if any method, however good, will ever take its place as a standard method along with the well-known four. One of the great drawbacks to Surprise ringing—the lack of touches short enough for service or practice ringing—has now been overcome by the introduction of spliced. The old idea that a method required years of practice to learn properly is fast disappearing, and I believe that in the future we shall see many more methods rung to peals as more ringers realise how really easy it is to learn new ones; but I cannot see any of these new methods, however good, taking the place of the established four.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushy.

REVERSAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Banks James says that when he reverses Grandsire he makes the hunt go in front of the treble. Surely what he gets is neither Reverse Grandsire nor ordinary Grandsire, though it may be a legitimate variation. When it was rung it was, I believe, called 'New' Grandsire.

WINNERSH, BERKS.—On Saturday, February 8th, at The Briars, Westfields Road, a quarter-peal of Doubles in three methods—360 Reverse Canterbury, 480 Plain Bob, 420 Grandsire (eight different callings): Mrs. B. C. Castle 1-2, B. C. Castle (conductor) 3-4, T. Davies 5-6. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6, and first 'in hand' by the conductor. The result of a weekly practice since September.

BELLS FOR NEW CATHEDRAL.

RING OF TEN FROM CITY CHURCH OFFERED TO GUILDFORD.

It has been announced that the bells of All Hallows', Lombard Street, London, which were taken down before the church was demolished, have been offered as a gift for the new Guildford Cathedral.

The building of the Cathedral is still progressing, but the completion of the tower may be delayed for a long time. If the bells are accepted they will, therefore, be hung 'dead' in the upper part of the building for the time being.

The architect's plans for the Cathedral include the provision of a ring of ten, but it is hardly likely that the peal from All Hallows' will eventually satisfy the dignity of the new Cathedral, acceptable though they may be as a temporary measure.

If these bells find a place at Guildford it will be their third home. They were originally cast for the Church of St. Dionis Backchurch, which stood in Fenchurch Street at the corner of Lime Street. They replaced an earlier ring of six installed on the rebuilding of the church after the great fire. Richard Phelps, of Whitechapel, cast them in 1727, and in 1732 recast the treble, which had been broken. In 1750, the fourth and fifth, having also been cracked, were cast by Thomas Lester.

The first peal on the bells was rung on October 10th, 1729, by the College Youths. It was a peal of Grandsire Caters, which Benjamin Annable conducted from the treble. Seven years later the Eastern Scholars rang there a peal of 6,210 Grandsire Caters. John Holt also called a peal of Grandsire Caters there while he was a member of the College Youths. The first recorded peal of Royal on the bells was 5,040 Double Bob by the same society in 1766, and the first peal of Treble Bob Royal on them was rung by the ancient Society of College Youths in 1785.

There is no other record of a peal on the bells until, in 1850, the Cumberlands rang 5,079 Stedman Caters and the College Youths rang a similar length in the same method in 1852.

When, early in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, an Act for Union of Benefices was passed to enable certain city churches to be pulled down and the money from the sale of sites devoted to building new churches in the populous suburbs, St. Dionis' was one of the first to go, but the Order in Council stipulated that the bells were to be presented to the church of the united parishes.

Thus it was that the bells of St. Dionis' went to All Hallows', Lombard Street. Now, in turn, All Hallows' has come by the same fate. The church has been pulled down and its fittings, including the very fine carved woodwork, has been transferred to a new church at Twickenham, bearing the same dedication. The tower has been built of the stone from the tower in Lombard Street, but the bells had to be refused because of a condition made in the purchase of the site that no bells should be placed in the church.

Before the tower in the city was demolished, the bells were removed to the Whitechapel Foundry, where they still are.

A HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

LONDON AND NORWICH RIVALRY.

Here is an extract from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of June 6th, 1789: 'A company of ringers from the Metropolis arrived in Norwich at the beginning of this week on a visit to Messrs. the St. Peter's ringers. It has been reported that the strangers came with a view to contest the claim to superiority in their art with the Norwichians, but this report has been strenuously contradicted by a correspondent, who asserts that the sole inducement of the Londoners for making the journey was to enjoy the pleasure of ringing so unrivalled and much admired peal of bells as that of St. Peter's.'

'However, be that as it may, it seems that a fracas took place between the rival sons of the clapper, and the strangers departed in disgust. Our correspondent appears to be shocked at the impolite treatment of our rustics to their town brethren, and that the harmony of their bells should be contrasted by such discordant behaviour. In vindication of the treatment of the Londoners, our correspondent requested us to insert the following paragraph from "The London General Advertiser" of October 8th, 1788—

'Monday last the Society of College Youths rang on the peal of twelve bells at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields a true and complete peal of 6,204 Stedman Principle in 4 hours and 47 minutes, being the greatest number of changes of that Peal ever rung in England. This very curious and intricate composition was invented in the last century, but was by the connoisseurs of the present day deemed impracticable to be achieved until these darling sons of distinction have by this in addition to many other performances shewn to their contemporaries that industry and resolution united will ever get through the most arduous task.'

READING.—On January 24th, at 18, Manchester Road, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Gunner Harold V. Frost, R.A. 1-2, Pte. Rowland Biggs, Royal Berkshires 3-4, Albert Diserens (conductor) 5-6, Thomas N. Lanaghan 7-8. On January 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Stanley C. Davis 1-2, Rowland Biggs 3-4, Albert Diserens (conductor) 5-6, Peter Kearvell 7-8. This was Mr. Peter Kearvell's first quarter-peal.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELL-CAGE. WOOD FRAMES THROUGH THE CENTURIES

By G. P. ELPHICK.

(Continued from page 65.)

The next step in the development of the bell frame came when men had mastered the principles of the king-post roof truss. When they found that by straining the king or centre post into tension, the braces or principal rafters were thrown into compression, this had the effect

of moving the load from the centre of the beam to its ends; enabling the size and weight of the beam to be reduced.

The earliest type where these trusses are used to carry bells is shown in Fig. 4. There is a cage of this type at Tarring Neville. This

cage for three shows one great advantage over the earlier types. The cage sills are supported at their ends by plates, these being fixed to the beams forming the floor on which they rest. The centre posts are similar to the heads of the Cold Waltham cage, the whole truss being fastened together with draw-bore pins. The date of the tower is about 1220 A.D.; no doubt that is also the date of the cage.

There is another example of this type, rather more primitive in construction, at Southease, containing a bell cast about 1280 A.D. It is a cage for two and the tie beams of the spire are used for the sills of the trusses. The centre-post of the spire taking the place of the central truss has the brasses let in either side; a most unusual method of dispensing with a

truss.

It will be noticed that the braces in the first example are of circular sweep. The early carpenters wanted to direct the horizontal thrust of the swinging bell into a vertical thrust at the ends of the sills. They appar-

ently thought that it would travel round the brace. This is not so; although the conception of directing forces by curved pieces of timber continued well into the middle of the seventeenth century. It was also found that the brasses housed into endgrain were more difficult to fasten in place than if they were housed into the long grain; so the next step was to add a short head (Fig. 5).

The cage for three at Birdham is a good example of this type. The tower is fourteenth century and one of the bells it contains was cast between 1320-30 A.D. There seems no reason to doubt that this is also the age of the cage. The advantages of the head have already been

pointed out. The other great improvement was brace ties; corresponding to the purlin on a roof truss. These horizontal timbers are coggd and pinned to the braces to prevent lateral movement of the trusses. It did not prove sufficient in this case, for struts were built into the walls to wedge the end trusses. Alas! men knew of that bad habit many years ago, and still continue to wedge rickety cages against the walls of a tower. The braces are housed into the heads; a joint that proved unsatisfactory because the grain across the centre-post shrank more than that of the head.

It is interesting to notice that here the original half wheels are over six feet in diameter for a bell weighing about three and a half cwt., a testimony to the quality of the bearings in those early days; one trembles at the thought of the wheel required for a tenor of a ton in weight.

The next step was to lower the braces, generally between two and four inches from the head (Fig.

6). An example of this is at Chalvington. The next problem to solve was to prevent the head from working loose. This was done by two small struts (Fig. 7) between the heads and the braces. These struts later became the jack braces of the eighteenth century cages. The cages up to the present type have an average height of four feet three inches.

As the cages became more elaborate, so man's ambition soared. He hung his bells high off the floor and as high in the spire as he could. In some cases, he nearly lost his sense of proportion to the degree that some of our late Victorian architects, who became bell-hangers, did.

West Wittering is an example of the next type. It is five feet ten inches high. Two improvements are noticeable. The sill is cambered to place the centre-post in greater tension, and the brace ties are strutted from the sills and braced; in fact the whole cage is rather complex (Fig. 7).

(To be continued.)

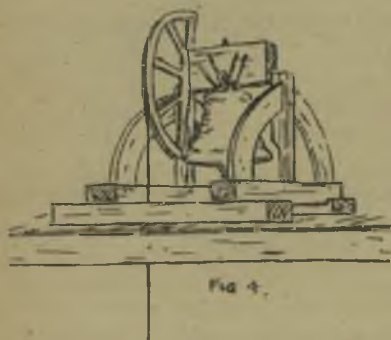


Fig. 4.

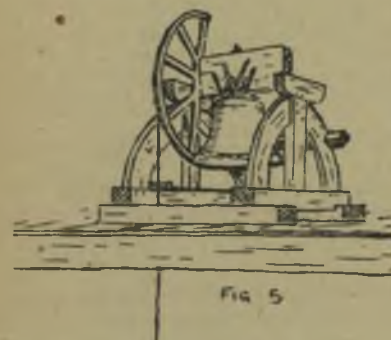


Fig. 5.

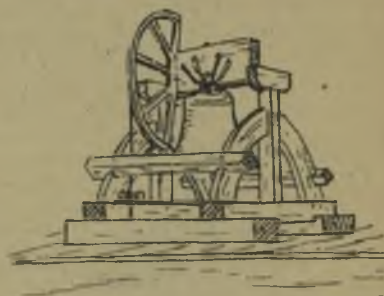


Fig. 6.

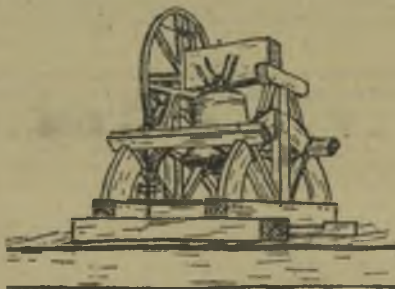


Fig. 7.

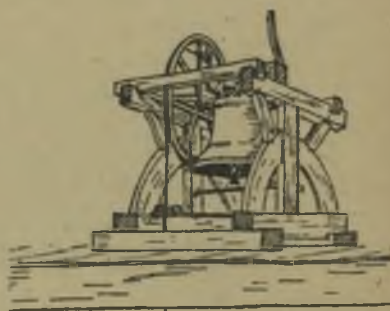


Fig. 8.

MR. C. R. LILLEY'S ACHIEVEMENT.

A PEAL ON EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

By ringing a handbell peal of Doubles on February 3rd, Mr. Charles R. Lilley has joined the select number of those who have scored a peal on every day in the year, including February 29th and Christmas Day.

Mr. Lilley was born on April 8th, 1874, at Candlesby, Lincolnshire, where his father was for many years a churchwarden. He inherited his love of ringing, however, from his great-grandfather, William Fant, of Freiston, and still possesses his ancestor's ringing books. Mr. Lilley learnt to ring in Lincolnshire and his first peal was in 12 methods of Doubles at Wrangle in 1894. He rang his first peal as conductor on August 7th, 1897, at Bennington, Lincs, where he called seven 720's of Bob Minor. In 1897 he moved to Bedford, where he was associated with Mr. Charles Clarke, who, as Mr. Lilley describes it, put the finishing touches on him. About this time the bells at St. Paul's, Bedford, were made into ten, and he took part in some of the first peals on this augmented ring, including the first peals of Kent Treble Bob Royal and Bob Royal, as well as Superlative Major for the Beds Association. Afterwards Mr. Lilley moved to various places, including Oxfordshire, where he took part in the famous 17,024 of Double Norwich Major, rung at Kidlington in 11 hours 12 minutes on May 22nd, 1899, conducted by James Washbrook.



MR. C. R. LILLEY.

He went to Shrewsbury in 1913, where he conducted the first peal of Stedman Triples in the town at St. Alkmund's and was afterwards appointed Ringing Master and Towerkeeper at St. Chad's. The bells there were then in bad order, and Mr. Lilley urged their restoration, which was eventually carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., who recast the bells into what Mr. Lilley considers the finest twelve in England. He conducted a number of first peals on these bells, including Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and Plain and Treble Bob Maximus, and was possibly the first ringer to conduct peals in the four standard methods on twelve bells in his own tower. In this tower he brought along a young band until they could ring Cambridge, and he also served for some years as a sidesman in the church. On one occasion at Wem in Shropshire he conducted a peal of Grandsire Triples, ringing the fifth in the first half and the seventh to the second half. The seventh was going badly and the change over was made to relieve the man who had started on her.

After he went to Devon Mr. Lilley devoted much time to teaching, and among other performances has called the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major in the West, the first peal of Triples at Truro Cathedral and the first peal of Double Norwich Major by resident Devonshire ringers.

Mr. Lilley represented the Shropshire Association on the Central Council from 1924 to 1926, and has been chairman of the Exeter Branch of the Devon Guild.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire and District Association was held at Longton on February 1st, when the following towers were represented: Stoke, Hanley, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burslem, Uttoxeter and Longton. Ringing, on handbells, of touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Minor were well struck. The seven bells without clappers also were set going and the following methods were practised before and after tea: Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and Doubles and Bob Minor were rung, and rounds for the young members.

Fourteen members were present at tea, and the Rector (the Rev. T. H. Brooks) gave the visitors a hearty welcome.

Mr. A. Thompson, of Newcastle, proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for his welcome and the use of bells and also to the ringers for the splendid tea they had provided.—Mr. N. Sargeant, of Hanley, seconded.

As the association had a few days earlier lost one of its old members, Mr. J. Pointon, of Brown Edge, the members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

Although the attendance was not large, the members spent a happy afternoon and evening.

WILLIAM WAKLEY, OF BURTON-ON-TRENT

AND HIS BAND.

Last Wednesday was the eighty-eighth anniversary of the birth of William Wakley, a man who holds an honoured position in the story of change ringing, for he was the captain of the earliest band who were method ringers in the modern sense of the term.

By birth he was a Devon man, but in 1874 he went to Burton-on-Trent, where he lived until his death in April, 1906. Burton is well known as the town of breweries, and there Michael Thomas Bass, the head of the world-famous firm, built and endowed a church, not sparing for expense. The building was designed by Lord Grimthorpe, a man of extraordinary intellectual powers, who not only made an immense fortune as a lawyer, but proved himself no mean expert in other things, such as clockmaking, church building and bell designing.

The views he held were very pronounced and not always altogether sound. At St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, he had a free hand, and those who remember the eight bells Taylor's hung there from his designs have some idea of what he thought bells should be like.

These were the bells on which William Wakley and his men performed their great feats, for great feats they were, though the level of method ringing has been raised so much since.

The first memorable thing they did was to make Double Norwich Court Bob a standard method. It is hard to realise that before the Burton men rang their first peal in 1882, only 16 peals had been rung in the method by other bands than the Norwich Scholars; harder still to realise that two of the men who rang in the 1882 peal, Mr. Joseph Griffin and Mr. John Jagger, are still alive and hale and hearty. The Burton men then went on to the Surprise Major methods, and in turn Superlative, Cambridge and London became standard methods instead of being very occasionally rung by selected companies, because Wakley and his band showed the Exercise that the thing could be done. Theirs was the eighth peal of Superlative, the second true peal of Cambridge and the fourth peal of London. They did not, like the older companies, ring one peal, and then drop the method. They rang many and so set a new standard for the Exercise.

One other method, New Cumberland Surprise Major, which they rang for the first time, was by Henry Earle Bulwer. It has many merits, and is well worth the attention of any first-class modern band.

It is difficult perhaps to say why it should be so, but the fact that one man or one band has done a thing makes it much easier for others to do the same. There is nothing very much nowadays in ringing a peal of Cambridge or of Superlative. Once, and not so long ago, both were really difficult methods. The fact that they have become the common property of the average skilled ringer is entirely due to the example set by the Burton men fifty or sixty years ago.

ERIN DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your correspondent, I forward an extent which I obtained some two years ago, and which may be of some interest to him.

There are two calls both having the effect of a single (i.e., to turn the course of the rows), which I have named 'Bob' and 'Single' to avoid confusion. As will be seen, there are 20 variations of this extent.

May I express my appreciation of your splendid efforts to keep 'The Ringing World' as interesting as ever, and I feel sure that the whole Exercise is grateful to you for your work to maintain interest in these difficult times.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

An extent by the first and last rows of the sixes.

12345	15243	Continued	34512
21435 +	51423 +	35214 +	43152 +
24153	54132	32541	41325
	B		B
42513 +	45132 —	23451 +	14325 —
45231	41523	24315	13452
B		B	
54231 —	14253 —	42315 —	31542 —
52413	12435	43251	35124
		S	
25143 —	21345 —	34521 —	35142 +
21534	23154	35412	31524
B		S	
12534 +	32514 —	35421 +	13254 +
15243	35241	34512	12345
	S		
	35214 +		

Twenty variations may be obtained by starting from each of the twenty sixes.

For the benefit of those who do not know Erin, here is the method and the Bobs and Singles shown:—

12345	12345	12345
21435	21435	21435
12453	12453	12453
14235	14235	14235
41253	41253	41253
42135	42135	42135
24153	24153	24153
	B	S
42513	42153	24135

THE STANDARD METHODS.

AND SOMETHING ABOUT THE SURPRISE MAJOR BOOK.

We often hear and read about the Standard Methods, and sometimes the question is asked, What are these Standard Methods? What is it that particularly distinguishes them, and why should they be confined to a small and limited number?

The answer given in the latest textbook to be printed is that 'so far as eight-bell ringing goes, the standard methods are those which a competent and well-equipped ringer may at any time need when he goes to a ringing meeting or into a strange belfry.'

This may serve as a good general definition, but it still leaves open the question why there should be this particular group, and it may be worth our while to spend a few minutes looking at the subject.

The standard methods include one or two which have been practised ever since the art was, and which, we need not doubt, will always be practised; but the group as a whole has changed, though slowly, from time to time, and will continue to change. In the eighteenth century the standard methods were Plain Bob, on all even numbers as well as on seven, Grandsire on all odd numbers, Double Bob, and Oxford Treble Bob. Soon after 1800 Stedman and Kent Treble Bob were added, but Double Bob was dropped. The great revival of ringing toward the end of the century added Double Norwich, and the three Surprise Methods—Cambridge Superlative and London—all of which had been known for long, but had not been taken into general use. Early in the present century Bristol Surprise took its place among the number.

To-day the group is not quite the same. Oxford Treble Bob, for so many years the most popular of all Major methods, has become almost obsolete and is seldom ever rung even in its last home, the Eastern Counties. Bob Triples has fallen under the ban of the Central Council and is not now considered 'regular.' On the other hand there are one or two which may fairly be called standard methods. Little Bob is frequently rung and probably has come to stay. Rutland Surprise, perhaps, and Yorkshire Surprise, certainly, must be included in the group, and there are a few others which seem as if they are likely to join the select circle.

But no one can say definitely. This is a case where the prophets are usually confounded by the event. Duffield, which was to have revolutionised ten and twelve-bell ringing, and which was introduced to the Exercise by one of the very best textbooks we possess, has proved a complete failure; Double Oxford Major, which is given by nearly every book on ringing, is seldom practised; Albion Treble Bob, 'the most even and regular of any Treble Bob method,' is not looked at; and Norfolk Surprise, which five and twenty years ago began to be extensively practised, is now forgotten. On the other hand Cambridge, which to the experts of forty or fifty years ago was almost everything a method should not be, has become the most popular of all Surprise methods, supplanting Superlative, which to those same experts was the queen of Major methods.

Between the two great wars, and due, we believe, largely to the change in men's outlook caused by those great events, there was a notable advance in many matters connected with change ringing, and very notably in the number of new methods which were rung. A large

proportion of them were Surprise Major methods, and to meet the demand for such the new book on Surprise Major was prepared, and would have been published by now had the times been normal. To the compilation of that book a very large amount of care, thought and experience was devoted and particularly in making the selection of methods. The number is large, though it is but a tiny fraction of the total possible number. It does not include all, or anything like all, the methods that are fit for ringing, though perhaps as a representative collection it may hold its own against any adverse criticism.

Bands wanting new methods to ring will still, no doubt, seek what they require outside its pages, and, no doubt, they will find what they require. At the same time, the very large number given leaves the Exercise in doubt as to what methods, if any, are most worthy of being practised and of being received into the select group of the standard methods. This is the point recently raised by Mr. James Harvey. Can it be satisfactorily met?

It may be worth while to describe how the selection was made. After a very large amount of investigation, extending over many years, into the general laws of method construction, a collection of several thousands of Surprise Major methods was worked out, and to it were added not only the many methods which at times had been published in the ringing papers, but also the much larger number produced by well-known composers which existed in manuscript.

From them a preliminary selection was made consisting of over eight hundred methods. These were arranged in proper order, their false course ends worked out, and a skeleton course of each drawn.

The size of the final selection was settled roughly by the space available in the printed book, which in its turn was settled by the cost of printing. It was decided to give 150 methods in full, and to add directions by which some hundreds more could be obtained by more or less mechanical means from the 150 given.

Then the various classes of methods were examined and a due proportion allotted to each, such a number to the easiest, such a number to the most difficult, and so on. As each method was passed in review its claims were decided, first by its skeleton course, then by the way it brought coursing bells together on the leads and at the back and then by the number and nature of its false course ends.

Some considerable thought was given as to the best order in which to arrange the methods. There were several alternative ways, and all of them with their advantages. It would have been an excellent thing to have started with the simplest and easiest, to have followed them by those of increasing difficulty, and so work up to the most complex of all. It would have been a good thing to have adopted the plan used in the Minor Methods collection, in which a knowledge of the place making enables a person to find any particular method with the minimum of trouble. The plan actually adopted groups together all those methods which have peal compositions in common. It was the only way in which satisfactory cross references could be made between the leads of the methods and the full selection of suitable peals which is given elsewhere in the book.

The result, however, is that easy and difficult methods are mixed without any order, and the reader has largely

(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.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, February 15th. Handbells available at 47, Cambridge Street, from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15th. Members will meet at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet at 2.30 p.m. By kind invitation of Mr. H. Langdon, the business meeting with handbell ringing will take place at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Kettering on Saturday, February 15th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Please notify me if you require tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 15th. Service 3.30 in Parish Church. Tea at the Duke's Head at 4.30, followed by the usual business meeting. Handbells available for the rest of the evening.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Abbey Buildings, Daventry, on Saturday, February 15th. Chair to be taken at 5.30 p.m. Will members kindly make an effort to attend?—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

to find out for himself what sort of thing any particular method will prove in actual practice.

The difficulty is partially met by marking a certain number of the simplest by one star and a few of the most difficult by two stars, those of intermediate difficulty being left unmarked. The point, however, raised by Mr. Harvey cannot be said to have been met, and it is not quite easy to see how it can be within the limits imposed by the cost of the published book. But the point is certainly worthy of further consideration.

Let us see, if we can, what exactly we do want in a method worthy to rank as a standard method, and let us examine the claims of a few candidates for the honour. If our investigations give any satisfactory results, perhaps space may be found for them in the Surprise Major book before it finally goes to the printer.

opportunity to practise method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 3.30. No arrangements for tea. Come along and meet old friends and have a social afternoon together. Handbells available.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, February 22nd. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30 at the Lincoln Arms Hotel (near High Bridge), followed by meeting and social evening. Bring your wives and sweethearts. Those requiring tea must let me know before February 18th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, at Deller's Cafe, High Street, Exeter. Tea 4.30, free to members. Business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify me by February 19th?—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Handbells from 3 p.m., in the Old Oak Inn, Bradford Road. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good muster is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid-up members at 1s. each; to other members and friends at 5s. 6d. each. All applications for tickets must be received by Saturday, February 22nd. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 1st. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, February 24th? A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, March 1st. Six 'silent' bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells also available. It is necessary to elect two members for the general committee, so members please make an effort to be present. Please see that we have a better attendance than at the annual meeting. Names for tea should be sent no later than Wednesday, February 26th, to Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Bell Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. C. H. Kippin, Hon. Treasurer of the Surrey Association, is now 17a, The Broadway, Beddington, Croydon.

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THE EDITOR.

When we wrote on another page that all readers of 'The Ringing World' will learn with regret of the serious illness of the Editor, we were not just using the journalistic formula which is usual on such occasions. Mr. Goldsmith has, during a ringing career which is approaching the half-century, created for himself a position which is unique in the Exercise, and is based not only on his proprietorship of this journal, but on the personal esteem and friendship of hundreds of ringers throughout the country.

It is one of the fine traditions of English journalism that an editor, while he has to praise and write much of the good work other people do, must never allude to what he himself has done, and this is the first opportunity which has occurred of pointing out to ringers something of what they owe to 'The Ringing World' and to its Editor. There are, no doubt, hundreds who need no such pointing out, but there is always a tendency for people to take their blessings for granted and not to appreciate them fully until they lose them.

How much the prosperity of the Exercise and the ringing associations during these last thirty years is directly due to 'The Ringing World' is difficult to say, but this at least is certain: that the Exercise as it is at present organised could not function without the help of a weekly paper. There was a time when it seemed very doubtful if such a paper could exist. For many years 'The Bell News' had supplied ringers' needs, but it was carried on largely by the financial support of Sir Arthur Heywood, and when the man who was its editor died, and the paper passed into other hands, its days were numbered.

A new journal was needed, but the difficulties in the way were enormous, and it is quite safe to say that in the whole Exercise there was but one man who had the necessary qualifications to surmount them. The situation called for a man who was not only a skilled ringer, but also a trained journalist and competent reporter, one who thoroughly understood the technical side of making up a paper, and, above all, one who had faith in himself and his work, and was prepared to face the financial uncertainty. For the very great good of the Exercise, Mr. Goldsmith rose to the occasion.

The first number was published on March 24th, 1911, and except for the few months when he was on the memorable visit to Australia and a different series of articles was substituted, this is the first week in which he has not himself written the leading article. That, in itself is no mean achievement. It needs a very wide

(Continued on page 86.)

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and varied knowledge of ringers and ringing to write week by week, year in and year out, something which will give ringers at least one thought to help them to carry on with their work or to stimulate them to further advance. This the Editor has done.

Since the beginning of the war, Mr. Goldsmith has done his share in the national effort, and as food controller for the Woking district has fully employed his time and abilities in an important sphere outside the ringing Exercise. His present enforced inactivity will necessarily last for some weeks, but we have full trust and faith that before long he will be enabled to resume his activity to ours and the Exercise's great content and benefit.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5065 CHANGES,

Tenor size 15 in C.

SIDNEY HARRISON	...	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	...	5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE	...	3-4	ERNEST MORRIS	...	7-8
			JOSIAH MORRIS	...	9-10

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Specially arranged and rung for S. Harrison, of the 7th Leicesters, who was home on leave. This is his first handbell peal, and he is to be congratulated on the way he rang his bells throughout, having had little practice. Mrs. Poole heard the last portion of the peal.

READING, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 14, UPPER REDLANDS ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

ARTHUR WIGGINS	...	1-2	ALBERT DISERENS	...	5-6
WALTER HUNT	...	3-4	THOMAS N. LANAGHAN	...	7-8

Conducted by A. DISERENS.

Umpire: Richard T. Hibbert.

First peal on handbells by all.

GUILDFORD RINGER A PRISONER OF WAR.

Official notification was received last week by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bristow, of Camelot, Old Farm Road, Guildford, that their son, Sergt. Donald Eric Bristow, R.A.F. (V.R.), was missing. On Tuesday the German radio announced that he was a prisoner of war. Sgt. Bristow, aged 20, is a wireless operator and machine gunner. He was the most promising of the young ringers of Holy Trinity Cathedral Church, Guildford, under the conductorship of Mr. A. H. Pulling, and rang his first peal about three years ago with his pal, Mr. Victor Elliott, who is also a sergeant in the R.A.F. (V.R.), and is engaged on similar duties. Last November Sergt. Bristow had a narrow escape from death when he was wounded in the leg. He resumed duty a month ago.

ILLNESS OF MR. J. P. HYETT.

The many ringing friends of Mr. J. P. Hyett, of 2, Dulas Terrace, Hay, Hereford, will learn with regret that he has been confined to bed for over three months with heart trouble.

Mr. Hyett represents the Hereford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council, he is assistant secretary to the Hereford Diocesan Guild, hon. secretary of the Northern Branch of the Swansea and Brecon Guild and peal recorder to both guilds.

He has done a lot of spade-work for ringing, teaching and helping young ringers through their first peals. He himself has rung about 270 peals, and in pursuit of ringing has cycled thousands of miles.

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DOUBLE NORWICH ON HANDBELLS.

A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Next Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of a peal which forms an important landmark in the development of double-handed handbell ringing, for on Monday, February 23rd, 1891, at Trinity College, the Cambridge University Guild scored the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob in hand. The band was made up of the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey, who rang 1-2, E. Banks James 3-4, Henry Law James 5-6, and Charles A. Clements 7-8. The same four had previously rung Bob Major in November, 1890, and three of them had taken part in the first peal by the Guild, Bob Triples, six months earlier.

Law James called the Double Norwich, and the composition, by his brother, was the earliest of a type of peal which has always been popular with the Cambridge University men. Throughout 5-6 are always either in their home positions, or are coursing.

Double-handed handbell ringing was a rather late development in change ringing. It was not until the opening years of the nineteenth century that it was a generally recognised branch of the art. As early as 1754, the Cumberlands rang a course of Oxford Treble Ten, and two years later a course of Treble Twelve, but it was not until 1811 that the Sheffield men rang the first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major. The Norwich men rang early peals of Bob Major, and the London men rang Grandsire Triples in 1840 and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques in 1854.

By that time any advance in method ringing had practically ceased, even on tower bells, so it is not to be wondered at that men's ambitions in handbell ringing were centred in Stedman and did not reach to any other even-bell methods than Plain Bob and Treble Bob.

It is to the credit of the Cambridge men that they were the first to break fresh ground. Other bands followed in time. The College Youths were the first to ring Superlative Surprise, and the brothers Pye with Mr. W. Keeble rang Bristol and London. The fine performances of the Bushey band in Spiced Surprise Major will be remembered by all.

LONDON AND NORWICH RIVALRY.

A FOOTNOTE TO THE HISTORY OF STEDMAN.

The extract from the 'Norfolk Chronicle' of June 6th, 1789, which was sent us by Mr. C. E. Borrett, and which we printed last week, supplies a very interesting footnote to the early history of Stedman's Principle.

Readers of the 'History of the College Youths' will remember that in 1785 a band of that company visited Norwich to attempt a peal in which they were not successful. After the failure the local men went up into the belfry, and, to show their skill, rang a touch of Stedman Cinques. It was a new method to the Londoners and greatly took their fancy, so that when they got home they began at once to practise it, and in 1787 they rang the first peal of Caters. In the next year, after the two companies into which for some time the original society had been divided, had become reunited, they rang at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the first peal of Cinques.

The leading men among the visitors in 1785 were the three authors of the 'Clavis,' which was then in preparation, and after the rest had gone home, one of them, Thomas Blakemore, stayed behind to gather material for the new book. He stayed with Christopher Lindsey, one of the Norwich Scholars, and was supposed to have copied surreptitiously papers which his host had prepared for a book the Norwich men intended to write themselves.

Whether true or false, the tale was believed, and caused much ill-feeling in Norwich, so that when the Clavis did appear, the Norwich Scholars were almost the only one of the leading provincial companies that did not support it.

It would seem from the latest piece of information that the London men, flushed with pride at the success of their long peal of Cinques, determined to go to Norwich and ring another, so as to show off before the men who had introduced Stedman Cinques, but had never rung a peal of it.

The Norwich men always considered that they were at least as good as any Londoners, and this challenge and the earlier incident excited their strong resentment, so that, when the College Youths arrived in the city, their reception was so unfriendly that a 'fracas' took place between the rival parties and the College Youths returned home in disgust.

It is a little strange that no memory should have survived of this visit among the strong traditions preserved by Osborn of the ill-feeling caused by the earlier visit, but the evidence of the contemporary newspaper is quite good enough and certainly there was at least one man in Norwich who thought that the Londoners had not been fairly treated.

FIRE GUARDS FOR CITY CHURCHES.

The special committee recently set up by the Bishop of London, Dr. G. F. Fisher, for carrying on the work of the bombed City churches is also to see that fire watchers are provided for churches not already destroyed.

In some cases the staff of the church will assume the responsibility; in others members of the regular congregation may take on the duty. There remain a number for which it may be necessary to engage paid watchers. City church finances are, however, difficult, despite the fact that some vicarages have been converted and let as office buildings.

USE OF CHURCH BELLS AS A WARNING.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARLIAMENT.

The widespread doubt which exists throughout the country as to what part church bells are expected to play as warnings in the event of a hostile invasion is shown by questions asked last week in the House of Commons.

Mr. Wedgwood (Soc.) asked what exactly was to be the alarm signal for invasion, if anything was to precede the church bells, especially in London, and if those in the Services or civilians were to receive any general advice as to action or inaction, whether by day or night, at work or at home.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Wedgwood may be sure that these matters are not neglected, but I hardly think they are conveniently dealt with at this moment by question and answer in the House.

Mr. Wedgwood: The Prime Minister will realise, I hope, that it is urgently important that the people of this country, civilians as well as military people, should know what to do and what the signal should be that starts the balloon going up (laughter).

Mr. Churchill: Exactly—and at the proper moment the information will be imparted.

Mr. Thorne (Soc.): Will the Prime Minister consider the advisability of broadcasting as soon as he knows that invasion is coming?

Mr. Churchill: I have no doubt that some public comment will be made (laughter).

The majority of people appear to think that if the enemy attempts to land in this country all the church bells, wherever they are, will at once be rung. This opinion seems to be shared not only by church parsons and officials, but also by some of the civil and military authorities.

This, however, was not the original intention as shown by the wording of the order. It was to give notice to those concerned that enemy forces had been landed or were being landed, by aeroplane or parachute from the air. Obviously it was to give a local and immediate warning.

The exact wording of the Order is as follows:—

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.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT IRTHLINGBOROUGH.

A most encouraging and satisfactory meeting of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Irtlingborough on Saturday, February 8th, when ringers and friends were present from Finedon, Wellingborough, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Wilby, Mears Ashby, Easton Maudit, Wollaston, Bozeat, Earls Barton, Burton Latimer, Warkton, Keystone, Addington and Surfleet, besides members of the local band.

In the absence, through illness, of the Rector, the service was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Elcock, curate at Finedon Parish Church, who gave an interesting address. After referring to the Rector's illness, he said how pleased he was to see such a fine gathering, despite present conditions, and went on to discuss the comparison of our lives with those of the bells.

The organist was Mr. E. J. Holloway (Wollaston), and the collection for belfry repairs amounted to 13s. 3d.

Tea was provided in the Co-operative Hall and 53 members sat down to it, a much larger number than had been expected. The wives of four of the local ringers worked hard for the comfort of the visitors.

At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the president, the Rev. J. H. Marlow.

As a token of respect to the late Rev. E. C. Thursfield and Mrs. Thursfield, the members stood for a minute in silence, and sympathetic reference was made to the illness of Mr. A. H. Martin, of Higham Ferrers.

For the next meeting it was decided to await an invitation to Irchester, where Mr. C. Payne is trying to get the bells fitted with silencers.

The secretary's report and balance sheet, which showed a balance of £1 11s. 2d., were accepted. The membership now stood at four honorary life, 11 honorary and 146 ringing members.

The officers were all re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. J. H. Marlow; secretary, Mr. A. Bigley; Ringing Master, Mr. J. R. Main; Branch Committee, Messrs. A. Y. Tyler, C. Payne and A. Boddington; Central Committee, Messrs. G. Basford and A. Plowman. The auditor, whose work was appreciated, was Mr. E. W. Johnson.

On the proposition of the president, it was decided to form a committee to see that the bells, in towers where it was needed, could be looked over occasionally, and Messrs. F. Barber, G. D. Deighton and A. Bigley were appointed. Mr. Marlow suggested that it was advisable to include particulars of peal boards in the church inventories.

After a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. J. Mawby and seconded by Mr. F. Barber, to all concerned, had been passed, the climax of the evening was the cinema display by Mr. R. Richardson, of Surfleet. The Australian tour and films of famous ringers were shown, and, thanks to the friends from Glyn Garth, an instructive and very interesting evening was spent. Handbells were used by some of the visitors when time and opportunity permitted.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Some of the men who had rung in the first peal of Grandsire Triples at Great St. Mary's in 1724 took part in the second in 1734; there were also John Ball, a gardener, John Saville, a baker, and Samuel Roe, who rang the tenor. Roe was a Master of Arts and Fellow of Trinity. He was afterwards Vicar of Stotfold, in Bedfordshire, and the author of a controversial book written against John Wesley and the Methodists, 'as the most probable Means to banish corrupt Notions out of our Thoughts by suppressing the wild and impure Torrent of Enthusiasm.' He told the famous preacher and evangelist that 'your principles, wherever you borrowed them from, are very erroneous and wicked.' Like all such books on dead and gone religious controversies, it is exceedingly dry and arid and totally unreadable.

Charles Mason attained to a position of considerable dignity in college and university. He became Fellow of Trinity in 1736, Doctor of Divinity in 1749, and Woodwardian Professor of Geology from 1734 to 1762. From 1760 to 1762 he was senior dean of Trinity, an office which in later years was held by another distinguished member of the Exercise, the Rev. A. H. Boughey, sometime president of the Central Council.

Dr. Mason's interests were scientific rather than classic when such a mental attitude was comparatively rare in the English universities, and it was said of him that, 'owing to his devotion to mechanical art generally, and in particular in ringing, he sacrificed to Vulcan much more than to the Graces.'

In the belfry of Downing College there are three manuscript volumes which contain his notes and investigations into change ringing. There is also a manuscript by him in the British Museum, but it has no reference to ringing. He died on December 18th, 1770, in his seventy-second year. Henry Mulliner died on October 29th, 1785, in his eighty-sixth year.

Another very distinguished member of the Cambridge Youths was Richard Dawes who joined the society on April 1st, 1931. He was a Leicestershire man born in 1708, near Market Bosworth. He matriculated at Emmanuel College in 1726, and in due course graduated B.A., became Fellow of his college and proceeded M.A. He became a candidate for the office of Esquire Beadle but was not elected, the reason being thus given by his biographer. 'When care for his health compelled him to rouse himself out of the state of bodily inactivity into which his leisure and studies had brought him, he chose bellringing as an exercise, and being of an athletic frame of body and impelled in everything he engaged by such a genius as could not stop at mediocrity, he quickly became leader of the band, and carried the art to the highest perfection.' But our author goes on to tell us that Margaret, daughter and heir of John, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, was said to have bequeathed a certain allowance of ale to the ringers of Great St. Mary's, 'in which Dawes made no scruple of indulging after a long lesson in campanology, and on such occasions he seasoned the nut brown draughts with a spicing of wit and humour in which he was rich and overflowing when his spirits were high enough to bring him into the kind of company in which he delighted.'

Dr. Paley's father is cited as the authority for this statement, and the writer goes on to say that this 'asso-

ciating with companions unsuited to a gownsman, and amusing them with humour and opinions which became the subject of conversations and were at variance with the prevailing opinions of the University led to his being rejected when he offered himself for the office of Esquire Beadle.'

This was written in 1828, and the author was judging the early Cambridge Youths by the ringers and standards of his own time. Dawes' companions in the belfry included Dr. Mason, the Reverend Samuel Roe, and the Reverend Mr. Windle, besides a number of worthy and respectable townsmen, but evidently he had strong and not very complimentary opinions about some of the great men in the University and was not over particular as to who should know it.

Dawes left Cambridge and became master of the Grammar School at Newcastle-on-Tyne, but he was not a success there, and his life was not a happy one. He ultimately retired to Haworth, where he died in 1766 practically insane. He kept his love of ringing until his death, though he took part in no peal. His claim to fame rests on the fact that he was one of the greatest Greek scholars England has ever produced. He joined the College Youths in 1735.

Richard Dawes was one of those rare men who, both in greatness and in weakness, stand outside ordinary society, and cannot be judged by ordinary standards.

Readers of Jasper Snowden's history of Grandsire Triples will perhaps remember that he quotes a letter from John Webster, of Norwich, to Dr. Mason, in which the writer says he had sent to the Rev. Mr. Windhall 'an infallible rule how to make any proper peal on all numbers that go with a quick hunt.' The Mr. Windhall referred to was William Windle, who was the son of a grazier at Hadleigh, in Suffolk, and was admitted to Caius College, Cambridge, in the year 1724. He took orders and held some preferments in the Church. He was a man of considerable intellectual capacity, and wrote a book entitled 'An Enquiry into the Immateriality of Thinking Substance,' a philosophical and theological treatise and a contribution to the deist controversy which at the time was exercising the minds of thinking men.

Windle was among the subscribers to John Holt's broadsheet, and was himself a composer. He was not the least distinguished of the Cambridge Youths.

Throughout the eighteenth century the Society of Cambridge Youths remained an active and flourishing company. It consisted mainly of tradesmen of the town, with a number of professional men and some few University men.

Among its members were James Griffiths, who was Mayor of Cambridge, John Hazzard and John Robines, members of the town council, Humphrey Argent, an organ builder, and James Bennett, James Crowther, John Hewitt, and William Robson, musicians and singers connected with the choirs of the colleges and the parish churches. Richard York was an attorney-at-law, and John Bowman a parish clerk. Others were gardeners, whitesmiths, leather cutters, ironmongers and members of suchlike trades. One was a cook at King's College, and another a baker at Trinity. Two or three were undergraduates.

After the Grandsire Triples in 1734, the company had little ambition in peal ringing, but in 1769 a misfortune befel them which, in the end, stirred them to greater activity.

AN EARLY TWELVE BELL BAND

In that year the tenor at Great St. Mary's was broken, and Charles Day and a Mr. Pafis exerted themselves to collect money for its restoration with such success that, not only was the bell recast in September, but in the following year two trebles were added by Pack and Chapman to complete the full ring of twelve.

Cambridge was thus the third provincial town to possess a ring of twelve bells. The earliest, at York Minster, was not suitable for change ringing, and had already been replaced by a ring of ten.

Charles Day, who had joined the Society on May 31st, 1750, and was a surveyor of taxes, and a man of position, now took the lead in the company. The band was already a skilful one, and, not many months after the new bells were hung, by ringing 5,610 changes of Grandsire Cinques on Christmas Eve in the year 1770, they gained the honour of being the first provincial company to score a twelve-bell peal. It was rung six days after the death of Charles Mason.

Charles Day rang the eleventh and called the bobs. The other ringers were William Young, who was a farrier, John Laughton, the Yeoman Beadle of the University, John Sanders, an ironmonger, John Incarsole, William Robson, who was an organist, Joseph Gee, a bookbinder and stationer, Thomas Jones, a weaver, John Hinkin, who is described as a gentleman, William Greaves, a cabinet maker, Joseph Crowther, one of the choirmen at Trinity and St. John's Colleges, and Richard Widnell, the cook of King's College.

John Incarsole was totally blind, but notwithstanding 'was remarkable for his extensive knowledge of the art of ringing and other musical professions.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SILKSTONE.

Members of the Barnsley and District Society were present at the meeting held on February 8th at Silkstone from Cawthorne, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

Handbells were rung in the afternoon and tea was followed by the usual business meeting, with the president, Mr. E. Brookes, in the chair. Mr. Chant moved the best thanks to the local secretary for the splendid arrangements he had made and for arranging the splendid tea which all had enjoyed so much.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing and social intercourse. The methods practised were Grandsire Doubles, Plain, Double and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Plain and Gainsborough Major spliced.

It is hoped to arrange the next meeting at Darfield on Saturday, March 8th. This will be announced in 'The Ringing World' in due course.

GOOD STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Reference has occasionally been made in 'The Ringing World' to the excellent striking of St. Paul's Cathedral bells to Stedman Cinques on Sundays, and I have not heard elsewhere anything to equal it.

Credit is due to the band for such fine performances, but it should be noted that only Stedman is rung year in and year out.

The St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, company, however, never knew what was to be rung for the Sunday services until the bells were raised, and a course of the Surprise Maximus method then decided upon would be tapped off remarkably well.

If time permitted, a touch of Stedman or Grandsire Cinques would immediately follow, but the striking of this, I must admit, was inferior to that previously accomplished.

W. J. G. BROWN.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

J. A.
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A History of the Society

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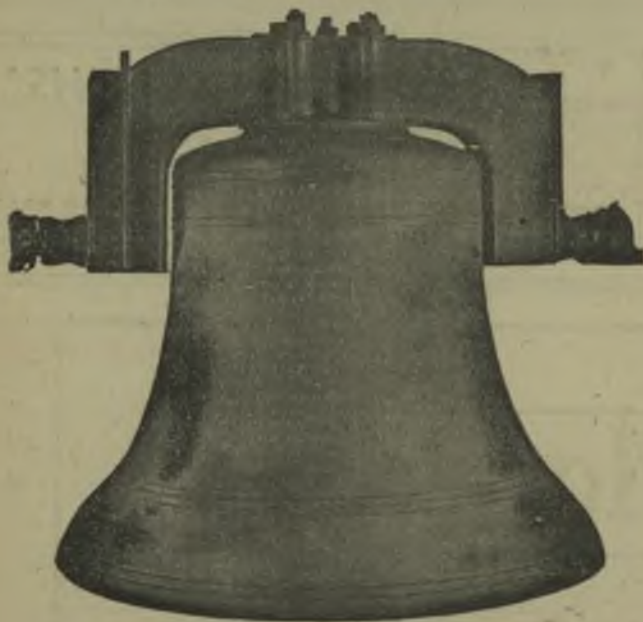
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MR. J. S. GOLDSMITH.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE EDITOR.

All readers of 'The Ringing World' will learn with regret that the Editor, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, was taken seriously ill on Wednesday night in last week and had to be moved at once to hospital.

A preliminary operation was successfully performed during the early hours of the morning, and a major operation will be necessary in the course of about 18 days.

Fortunately the trouble was tackled without any delay and, although the matter is serious, no undue complications are feared.

The latest report as we go to press is that Mr. Goldsmith's condition is very satisfactory. Will any friends who wish to enquire by telephone ring up Byfleet 370 after 7 p.m.?

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. C. E. Wigg, Vicar of Chearsley, and Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, is to be married at Hayes Parish Church on February 24th. The good wishes of his many friends in the Exercise and particularly in the Oxford Diocesan Guild will go out to him on that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hough, whose wedding is announced on another page, have both been ringers at Knutsford for about ten years.

After the handbell peal at Reading, the band were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins, and touches of Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung. The umpire, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, tells us that he was very pleased with the quality of the striking.

The 'Mad Hand' reciprocates the good wishes of Paymaster Lieut. C. Glem, R.N.V.R., and expresses earnest hope for an early reunion.

If sufficient funds are available it is intended to take down the bells of St. Clement Danes and store them in a safe place until the end of the war. The church has already twice suffered from enemy action.

On the grounds, evidently, that if you make up your mind to do a thing it is as good as done, so why not say it is done? 'Observer,' who contributes a weekly column to 'The Observer,' writes as follows in last Sunday's issue:—

It is pleasant to know that the Bells of St. Clement's, so famous in legend and nursery rhyme, are now safely buried beyond reach of the Hun, not to be resurrected till the bells of London unite in ringing Hitler out to his own place. There are some ghosts who should make a point of being present on the occasion: the Doctor himself, whose church at Streatham and whose workroom at Gough Square have both been desecrated; Canute (as representing the Danes), Mrs. Thrale (for old acquaintance sake), Nell Gwynn (for the oranges). As for the lemons, they might stand for our answer to Hitler.

By the way, St. Clement Danes has for a number of years claimed to be the St. Clement's whose bells talk about 'oranges and lemons,' but we doubt if there is any real authority for the claim. We should like to know who was the author of that famous nursery rhyme and when it first appeared. Can any of our readers enlighten us?

In a recent air raid the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, which, according to tradition, was said by Queen Elizabeth to be 'the fairest parish church in England,' and which contains a noble ring of twelve bells, was hit by a high explosive bomb as well as by incendiaries. Happily no serious damage was done.

Nathan J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, one of the best known composers of an earlier generation, died on February 18th, 1914, at the age of 67.

The year 1777 was one of the most notable in the whole history of change ringing. Among other events the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was then at its height. On February 17th the former secured the record for Treble Ten by ringing 10,000 changes at Shoreditch. They lost it in the following May and regained it nine days later by ringing 11,000 changes.

Henry Haley, for many years a leading London ringer, and, in the end, the principal bob caller in the Ancient Society of College Youths, was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1819.

On the same date in 1751, John Holt called a peal of Grandsire Caters for the Union Scholars at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

The Oxford University Guild was formed on February 20th, 1872.

Mr. W. H. Barber performed a remarkable feat at Gateshead on February 21st, 1908, when he rang and conducted a peal of Stedman Triples blindfolded.

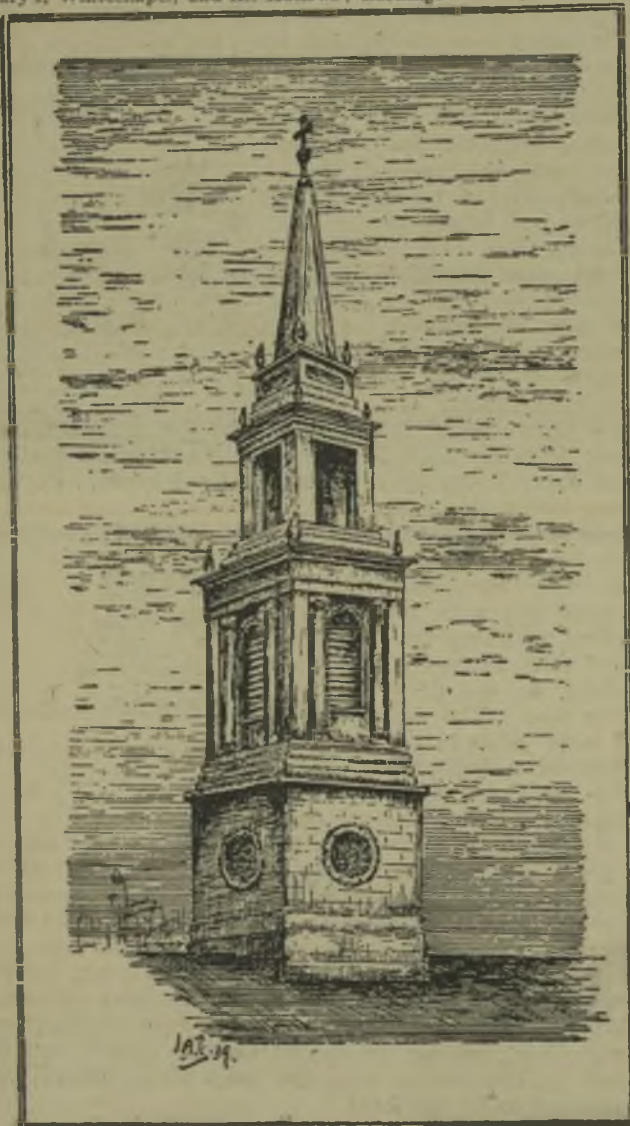
Fifty years ago to-day ten peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Union Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2.

LOST LONDON BELLS.

THE FATE OF THE RING AT CRIPPLEGATE.

Whenever it is announced that a church has been damaged in an air raid, ringers naturally wonder whether it is one of those they know and what has been the fate of the bells.

For obvious reasons, particulars cannot often be published or names given until the lapse of some weeks, but now and then the authorities, very wisely, release full details almost as soon as the disaster has happened. Thus we were enabled to let our readers know of the fate of the bells at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Mary's, Whitechapel, and All Hallows', Barking.



ST. JOHN'S, WATERLOO ROAD.

There were other churches which suffered about the same time. They were mentioned by name, but it was difficult to ascertain exactly what had happened to the bells. Of them the best known are St. Giles', Cripplegate, and St. John's, Waterloo Road.

The worst has, we fear, happened to Cripplegate bells. The whole parish was practically destroyed, nothing is now left in the surrounding district but ruined walls, and any approach to the church is impossible.

A person whose connection with the church enabled him to visit the ruin writes as follows: 'The church and vicarage have only the walls standing, the tower was burnt out, and the cupola has gone. As far as I can see, some of the bells must have crashed, but have not fallen right through. All the woodwork, including the stairs, has gone. In the church there is nothing left, everything that could burn or melt has gone, including the peal board at the west entrance.'

The board referred to was one erected at the base of the tower by the Vicar and churchwardens to record a peal of Stedman Cinques (Continued in next column.)

FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.

3.—PECKOVER HILL.

Another little known name, yet one of a capable ringer, and of a well-to-do and respected man of business. He was married at St. Michael's, Coslany, on July 14th, 1793, to Ann Russell, and was buried at the same church on September 29th, 1850, aged 75.

He was 'Headman' of the Mancroft Company in 1821 and also in 1845, but whether uninterruptedly between those years I am not able to say. So far as I can trace, he rang in only six peals, and, oddly enough, they were all of different kinds:—

- 1809.—5,040 Bob Major, at St. Giles'.
- 1813.—6,272 Oxford Treble Bob Major, at St. Giles'.
- 1817.—5,016 Double Norwich Maximus, at St. Peter's.
- 1827.—5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, at St. Peter's.
- 1831.—6,160 Double Norwich Major, at St. Michael's.
- 1832.—6,000 Double Oxford Major, at St. Giles'.

In addition, in 1831 he rang in 4,884 Stedman Cinques, when the bells came home a course too soon, owing to a mistake on the part of Samuel Thurston, who was calling it.

Although the following, taken from the 'Norfolk Chronicle,' is outside the province of a ringing journal, it is interesting as a sample of the times in his day.

'DISCLAIMER.'

'We are particularly requested to state that the name of Mr. Peckover Hill, Manufacturer, of St. Michael's at Coslany, was introduced into the list of the Manufacturers who have declared their adhesion to the cause of Messrs. Gurney and Ker without his knowledge or sanction, and in direct opposition to the principles which it is well known he professes. If this (says our correspondent) is to be deemed a specimen of the art of getting up addresses and requisitions, as practised by the Reformers of Norwich (which there is every reason to suppose it is), we must say this much, that we think a winning party would never use such paltry means to impose upon the credulity of the public, and of the gentlemen who have offered themselves as candidates for the honour of representing their interests in the Reformed House of Commons.'

ERIN DOUBLES.

THE PROBLEM OF COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following notes do not profess to be in any sense exhaustive, but, written as they are in non-technical language, they may be of some help to 'Puzzled.'

In the first place, Erin is based on the slow six of three bells, viz.:
 123 If bobs are called in the interior of the six, this three bell work
 213 is necessarily disturbed. Indeed, any six-score that could be
 231 obtained would break up the three-bell work to such an extent
 321 that all resemblance to Erin would be lost. So we may lay it
 312 down as an obligation that bobs be called only at the parting
 132 of the sixes.

A true six-score of Erin would consist of 20 sixes, 10 of them being positive and ten negative. To avoid repetition each of the positive sixes (the same applying to the negative sixes) must have a different pair of bells in 4-5. The pairs in the Plain Course are 53, 31, 12, 24, 45. Thus there remain to be introduced 52, 23, 34, 41 and 15. These same pairs must also all be used once and once only in the negative half. Further, in starting from rounds, all rows will be positive which are produced plain or hobbled. After one, or any odd number of Singles, all rows will be negative: after an even number of Singles the rows will be positive.

If a Bob be made between any two sixes by a third's place instead of fifth's, the same pair of bells will be kept in 4-5, the result being that the last six changes will be repeated, though in a different order. Taking this in conjunction with what has been written above, it follows that the use of Bobs is altogether excluded, and we are confined to the employment of Singles alone if we are to get a true six-score.

With the problem thus reduced to its simplest terms, 'Puzzled' may like to try his hand at obtaining a six-score with Singles only; but I fear he will not succeed in getting one true. (Perhaps I ought to add that a pair bells, e.g., 2 and 5, can appear at the six-end as either 25 or 52, so long as each pair occurs once and once only in the positive and negative portions respectively.)

Also Singles can be called on the bells in 4-5 in the interior of the six without disturbing the three-bell works. E. S. POWELL.
 Staverton Vicarage, Daventry.

(Continued from previous column.)

rung by the Middlesex Association on May 6th, 1935, in honour of the silver jubilee of King George V. It was conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles.

The Church of St. John, Waterloo Road, was hit by a high explosive bomb some time ago and seriously damaged. The roof has gone and all the interior fittings, but the men who built this did their work well and the walls stand. The tower and spire appear to be the least damaged part of the building. The louvres are still in the windows of the bell chamber, and if they are of wood, and not slate or stone, it is probable that the bells are safe.

The six bells at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, may have come through untouched. The very fine steeple, Wren's latest and one of his best, appears to be all right, though the church itself is gutted.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELL-CAGE. WOOD FRAMES THROUGH THE CENTURIES

(Continued from page 80.)

Following the two improvements mentioned in the last issue, the next noticeable stage in the development of the bell cage was to do away with the brace ties and their framing. The heads were then lengthened to that of the sills, what was formerly the brace tie being framed on to the ends of the heads and becoming the head of the end frame (Fig. 8). The cage for three at Iford is an example of this type. It contains three bells



Fig. 9.

of early fifteenth century date, probably the same age as the cage. There is a dated example, 1652 A.D., of this type of cage at Dilhorn, Stafford. The sills show it is a late example, as the plates are missing. The average height of this type is about five feet, but as time passes the cages get

lower and lower until in the nineteenth century they reach the other extreme. The head struts or jack braces were next discarded (Fig. 9) and replaced by end-posts, and at the same time the braces were housed into both head and centre-post (Fig. 10), which again proved a retrograde step. The cage at Botolph's is a fine example of this type; it contains a ring of three cast in 1536. By now it was usual to brace the end frames as is shown in Fig. 10.

At this time the carpenters often moulded the edges of the grooves or sinkings in both heads and centre posts. A most elaborate example is to be seen at South Malling, where there is a cage that was evidently intended for a ring of four, but only the tenor pit was completed. The braces were again lowered and fixed only to the centre post.

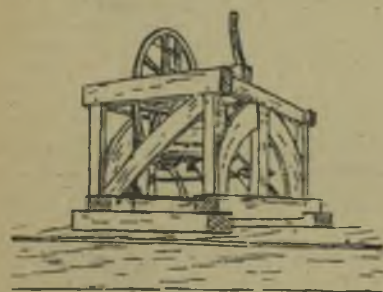


Fig. 10.

1655 and 1671 respectively. Rustington appears to be a reconstruction of an earlier type.

The next development seems to do away with the end posts, a dated example is at Newick, in 1682. A most important step was next taken. The carpenters for several centuries had kept on moving the position of the top joint of the braces. At last they broke away from tradition and the brace was fixed direct to both head and sill. At Donnington is a transitional type with braces from head to sill and retaining the centre-post. I am inclined to regard this cage as a local reconstruction of an earlier cage of the same type. Bury has a cage,

containing bells of late sixteenth and early seventeenth century date, which has dispensed with the centre-post altogether; a bold step, but one in the right direction. Up to the present type the bells have, as a rule, been hung in a row, generally roped the same way, especially in the earlier examples.

A great advance is shown in the cage at Beddingham, dated 1709. It is for a ring of four, each pit is placed against a side of the tower, leaving a space in the centre. The bells are roped the same way, but by the fact of being in a circle greatly reduce the strain on the tower. The plates under the sills have been dispensed with, and instead, the sills are framed together like the heads, the braces being stiffened by a set of jack braces at the top (Fig. 11).

By the mid-18th century another set of jack braces were introduced from the centre of the sill to the main braces. The jack braces were dispensed with by the nineteenth century, it being again found, as in the fifteenth century, that many joints were a source of weakness. Perhaps the greatest advance, since dispensing with the centre-post, was to bolt the head braces and sills together with long vertical bolts, instead of relying on the draw bore pin. The day of loose joints in the truss of a bell-cage had gone for ever, provided the steeplekeeper did his job.

It is difficult to see where any improvement can be made in the modern timber cage (Fig. 12). When given the attention it deserves, it does its job as well as any of iron or steel, and, what is more, will outlast them by centuries. He would indeed be a rash man who prophesied that the modern steel cage will last for 700 years like some of the examples that we have been considering. Even now, some of these metal frames look rather sick, having barely reached the half a century mark. The timber cage has been tried, proved, and found not to be wanting.

G. P. ELPHICK.

MR. C. KENNETH LEWIS' EXTENTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—By general consent greater latitude is permitted in methods on five bells than in those on the higher numbers to compensate in some degree for the small scope offered by Doubles. But there are limits. I can hardly believe that either the Central Council or practical five-bell ringers will countenance a call (Mr. Lewis' so-called Single) which alters the work of every one of the five bells.

If this is Erin—!

E. S. POWELL.

TREBLE BOB AND CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE. A COMPARISON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not think what Mr. C. W. Woolley says about Treble Bob should go without being contradicted. Treble Bob is a good method, and Cambridge Surprise, which Mr. Woolley and others seem to think so much of, is only Treble Bob spoiled. At least it is so musically.

A COUNTRY RINGER.

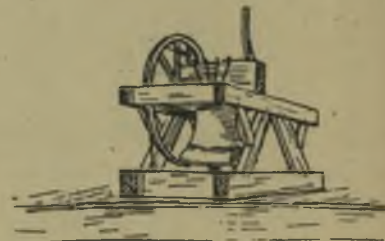


Fig. 11.

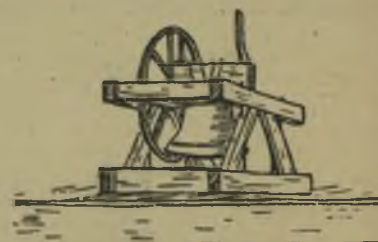


Fig. 12.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE OPINIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL RINGER.

In the long run a method is good or bad in so far as it fulfils well or ill two distinct purposes. One is to provide something which will interest the men who are practising it, the other to produce music which will satisfy the ears of the people who are outside the belfry as well as those who are inside. For neither of these two can there be an absolute standard. What interests one man or one band will not necessarily interest another man or band; and opinions and tastes differ widely as to what is good music in bellringing. We have, however, the experience of the Exercise during more than two centuries to guide us, and there are some general principles and considerations which are worth studying in this connection.

There are several features in change ringing which attract the ringer and make it worth while for him. There is the physical delight of handling a bell, there is the æsthetic delight of music and rhythm, and there is the intellectual delight of performing a more or less intricate method. To the majority, perhaps, the last is the most important.

When a band attempts a peal they set themselves to accomplish two tasks. One of them, which is the business of the band as a whole, including the composer and the conductor, is to ring a given number of changes without ever repeating a single one. No ringer by himself can ensure that; he does not know what changes actually are rung, and he does not concern himself about the matter.

What does concern him is the particular work which he himself must do, and his business is to see that in doing it he makes no mistake.

A method, therefore, can be looked at and judged in two ways. It can be considered as a means of producing true changes and it can be looked at as a means of giving the individual ringer a definite work.

When we study the one, we use the figures which represent a lead; when we study the other we use the skeleton course. They are equally important and, indeed, complementary to each other. As the old records used to say, a peal must be without the repetition of a single change and with never a bell out of course.

Many men at different times have attempted to set up standards and to lay down rules to decide what should be considered as a good method, but in the majority of cases their opinions have been spoilt because they have judged entirely from the lead and ignored the skeleton course.

For the individual ringer a peal really amounts to a long-drawn-out and complicated journey through the other bells. This idea of a journey and of movement is the idea which did in fact create the art of change ringing and which still dominates it from first to last. Yet curiously enough it has been totally overlooked by most of those experts who have done so much by their work and their writing to develop the scientific side of ringing.

As soon as we recognise this idea of ringing as a journey we can see that the things which attract and interest the ringer are very similar to those which attract and interest him when he is taking a physical walk across country.

When we go for a walking tour, what are the things we most desire? They are variety, novelty, comfort,

good companionship, and enough difficulty to give us at our journey's end the satisfaction of having done something. Sometimes we forgo the comfort for the sake of the difficulty; sometimes we shirk the difficulty for the sake of the comfort. We are just like that when we go for a peal, and we react to our surroundings in a quite similar way.

The things we most of all try to avoid in our physical journey are monotony and boredom. No one would willingly walk, for instance, along a French military road that goes mile after mile across the country as straight as a rule. It is the quickest way, no doubt, to get from one place to another, but it is killing. So, too, in a method the one deadly sin is monotony.

But it is not easy to say offhand what does create monotony in a method. It used to be the fashion some years ago to talk about the monotony of the long courses of Treble Bob, and to praise in contradistinction the short courses of Duffield and Forward. General experience has reversed that verdict. The great popularity of Treble Bob during two centuries is sufficient evidence that the majority of ringers have not found it monotonous, though some may have done so. And Duffield and Forward, for all their apparent advantages, have failed just because they did prove monotonous in use. Those methods should be a warning to us not to give a final judgment on any method before it has stood the test of actual practice.

The marked decline in the popularity of Superlative, which once was so highly praised, may confidently be attributed to the monotony of the five-pull dodges, and the same thing spoilt the chances of Double Oxford Bob and Norfolk Surprise, both of which at one time were likely candidates for the honour of being included among the standard methods.

Now, among the newer and as yet fully untried Surprise methods there are several which have four-pull dodging behind or in front. Some of them seem to have the necessary qualities for a standard method. Will this four-pull dodging bar them? It is difficult to say. We have had considerable experience of these methods, and to us a four-pull dodge does not seem to be so very excessive, but that may be accounted for by the novelty of the thing.

Variety, which is the antithesis of monotony, was the first thing we said was desirable in our walking tour, and we appreciate the same thing in our journey through a peal. Variety is not the same thing as difficulty, for there is plenty of variety in Double Norwich Major, for instance, but very little difficulty.

When William Pye's band was ringing their series of Spliced Surprise Major peals, one of the methods given them was Peterborough. Peterborough, on the face of it, should be an excellent method, but the work consists largely of backward hunting in the four front positions and then backward hunting in the four hind positions. The method was included in one of the peals, and previously the band thought they would like to ring a five-thousand of it. They had one attempt, but the method proved so uninteresting from lack of variety (though it was by no means an easy method) that they all agreed it was not worth ringing to a peal. Variety, and not particularly difficulty, is the great attraction in spliced ringing.

(Continued on next page.)

REMINISCENCES.

BY A VETERAN NOT QUITE SO TOUGH.

The reminiscences of 'A Tough Veteran' are interesting and give a chance for others to follow up. 'What brought me into touch with bells and ringers?' he asks and answers.

My own beginnings were much more clear-cut than his, and hang on two incidents only. The first was a great national rejoicing, and the second a muffled peal. The 1887 Jubilee celebrations made up a great day. As a chorister I took part in a civic service at the Cathedral, where a massed choir from the parish churches was accompanied by the fine band of a regiment of Hussars quartered in the city. For this service the Cathedral organist had composed a *Te Deum* in B flat, and it opened with a long roll on the drums. The effect was electric, and I can hear those drums now.

A sumptuous lunch followed the service, and then, as a schoolboy, I was due to take part with thousands of other scholars in a children's fete in the Market Square, during which we sang the National Anthem, 'God bless the Prince of Wales,' etc.

A big church dominates the square, and, as we were assembling, these bells were doing their part with a vengeance!

Like the roll of the drums, the firing of the bells made an indelible impression on me, and for days after I wondered how the job was worked. No one could tell me, for, like 'Tough Veteran,' I had no forebears or relatives in the business, but I kept on thinking about it. Jubilee Day didn't mean to me Queen Victoria, but rather the roll of military drums and the firing of bells!

Two years went by, and one evening I crossed the same square, and heard booming out of the big tower some very different sounds to those of Jubilee Day. It greatly attracted me, and I asked bystanders what it meant. One said he thought it was a muffled peal for someone recently dead. I stayed until the end of the ringing, and on my way home determined to find out about this bellringing and to become a ringer myself. The following morning the local newspaper told its readers the muffled peal was to the memory of one of the city clergy who was also secretary to the Diocesan Association of Ringers.

Fate must have had a hand in it, for less than 13 years after the muffled peal I became secretary of that same association! But that is getting ahead of the story. My mind fixed on becoming a ringer, I made enquiries of a friendly parish clerk, and found the ringers of the city had a whole series of towers at their disposal, which they visited as fancy took them. The ring of twelve in the Market Square was headquarters with a fortnightly practice, but there was no Sunday ringing anywhere.

So when I heard bells going I tracked them down, and sometimes saw men going in or coming out of the steeple doors. Once or twice someone would say, 'Hallo! You here again?' which was not very encouraging to me with strong ambitions burning under my waistcoat!

Months of this sort of thing went on, and harvest festival, 1890, time arrived. At a church with a fine ring of six the ringers met one night in September to ring for the festival. I plucked up courage and followed the men up the stairs and watched the ringing, and afterwards a gruff member of the company asked if I was interested and would like to become a ringer. I jumped at it, and he at once wrote me out a lot of figures and arranged to meet me the next night to start teaching me to pull a bell. He, like all his comrades, was a stickler for mastery and style, and no one had a chance of ringing rounds or changes until it was certain the ringer, and not the bell, was top dog. Unfortunately this sort of thing has somewhat died away!

I still have the dates of my early efforts. Thus I find, on tower bells, September 24th, 1890, first attempt at pulling a bell; February 9th, 1891, first course of Bob Minor; May 11th, 1891, first 720; February 18th, 1892, first 1,008 Bob Major; and February 29th, 1892, first 5,040, seven 720's Bob Minor. A good deal of handbell ringing was also done during this period, which helped enormously.

By present-day standards my progress was absurdly slow, but, looking back, I am glad I was so well 'blooded,' and taught that striking was the thing.

I also feel glad that most of my ringing has been done without the help of 'expert' conductors, a species I look upon with suspicion. It is better to ring in a peal where one man 'calls the bobs' than when the whole band is 'conducted' by the conductor!

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

One thing which strongly appeals to many travellers is rapidity of movement, and we get the same attraction in peal ringing. Much of the good quality of London Surprise lies in the fact that a bell is always freely on the move, and the same thing in a different degree marks out Rutland, but on the other hand the fact that in Double Oxford Bob a bell goes from front to back and from back to front only once in a course, has a lot to do with the failure of the method to become a popular one.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

FIRST STEPS IN HANDBELL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would first like to say what a pleasure it is to me to receive 'The Ringing World,' which I always read from cover to cover. Several questions in particular in recent issues have interested me.

Concerning the ban on bells it should not be very difficult to fix up an electric mechanism in each tower, so that by means of contacts placed at appropriate points on the bell-wheels, handbells hung in the belfry could be made to sound at exactly the same moment as the tower bell would have done. This is admittedly a poor substitute for the real thing, but as there doesn't appear to be any prospect of the ban being lifted soon, it would serve to keep the bells going till happier times, and even then would be useful on occasions when the bells could not otherwise be rung—for example, due to illness close to the church.

Readers may be interested to hear of the experience of a beginner on handbells. I had always looked on handbell ringing as beyond my capabilities, but as change ringing on tower bells in South Africa is practically unknown and I happened to get hold of a set of handbells quite cheaply, I naturally turned my attention to it. I failed to interest my friends in change ringing, but a few months back I met a clergyman and his sister who are experienced handbell ringers. We tackle Bob Minor, and I take 1-2 generally. I studied the work of those two bells in a plain course and we had our first practice.

I forget if we rang the plain course at the first attempt, but we were going for touches later on that same evening. Unfortunately, we are unable to meet regularly for practice (which I can see is essential if progress is to be made), and the result is that we have not yet rung a 720, but the few practices have taught me that to ring Bob Minor, at any rate on handbells, does not require the superhuman brain power I had imagined was necessary.

I find a practice tiring if there has been more than a week's interval since the last, otherwise it is a vigorous mental exercise and very exhilarating.

Last Sunday I rang the 6th to call changes at St. Paul's, Durban, a church which is mentioned under 'Bells Abroad' in your issue of July 19th, 1940. The conductor doesn't seem to have much difficulty in getting together a band, as nine turned up, excluding myself, on Sunday evening. All of the ringers at St. Paul's Church learnt to ring there, and have rung nowhere else. They are keen and I should like to help them to learn change ringing, but Durban is over 400 miles from Johannesburg, and this makes any attempt of mine to help them impossible, unless it can be done by correspondence.

In one of Mr. Trollope's articles he mentions a ringer named Dovey, who was ringing at St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, in the years 1770 to 1780. It is quite possible this man is an ancestor of mine, as my father's mother, who was born in Kidderminster about 1840, was a Miss Dovey before her marriage.

Wishing 'The Ringing World' continued success.

C. CHAMBERS.

16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg, South Africa.

DEATH OF TWO COSELEY RINGERS.

As briefly mentioned in our last issue, Mr. Benjamin Gough, of Castle Road, Tipton, passed away on Sunday, January 25th, at the age of 70 after a long and painful illness. He had been a ringer since 1887, ringing at Christ Church, Coseley, for many years, and later at St. Thomas', Dudley. During his long illness he was always talking of the happy hours he had spent in ringing famous peals in different churches in the Midlands.

Mr. A. E. H. Law, who was for long a member of the Coseley band, died on February 9th at the age of 75. For many years he had suffered from rheumatism and had to give up bellringing, but he still took a keen interest in it until the time of his death.

MARRIAGE.

HOUGH—NORBURY.—On February 15th, at Knutsford Parish Church, by the Rev. Norman Hook, Ronald, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hough, of 12, Hayton Street, to Ruth, youngest daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. George Norbury, of 26, Tabley Grove, Knutsford.

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NOTICES.

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

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent opportunity to practise method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 3.30. No arrangements for tea. Come along and meet old friends and have a social afternoon together. Handbells available.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, February 22nd. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30 at the Lincoln Arms Hotel (near High Bridge), followed by meeting and social evening. Bring your wives and sweethearts.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, at Deller's Cafe, High Street, Exeter. Tea 4.30, free to members. Business meeting to follow.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Handbells from 3 p.m., in the Old Oak Inn, Bradford Road. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good muster is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, February 22nd, beginning at 3 p.m. Handbells available, but owing to present circumstances no tea can be arranged. All members are requested to attend if possible.—F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair. Tickets will be issued to fully paid-up members at 1s. each; to other members and friends at 5s. 6d. each. All applications for tickets must be received by Saturday, February 22nd. Apply T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, March 1st. Six 'silent' bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells also available. It is necessary to elect two members for the general committee, so members please make an effort to be present. Please see that we have a better attendance than at the annual meeting. Names for tea should be sent no later than Wednesday, February 26th, to Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Bell Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 1st. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, February 24th? A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe, Promenade, Cheltenham. Will friends meet at above from 4 p.m.? Tea 4.30 sharp. We hope to have some good handbell practice, as some of our London friends are in the district. I must have names for tea by February 26th.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, March 1st. Tower bells available with the 'Seage silent apparatus' from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and meeting. Please notify for tea by Monday, the 24th inst.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 3 o'clock at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 1st, for the usual monthly meeting. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. No charge to those who send in names by Tuesday, March 4th, to Mr. F. W. Dixon, 1, Greenshaw Terrace, Guiseley. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1941.

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OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

One of the most encouraging features in these sombre days, when ringers must forgo all active participation in their beloved art, is the interest so many of them have taken in what we may call side issues. This interest is shown by the letters we have received from all sorts of people dealing with such things as ball bearings, death knells, the speed of ringing, minor fives and the rest. In normal times we should probably look on these and similar topics as quite interesting subjects to chat about when ringers forgather at their meeting places, but hardly of any importance in the real life and activities of the Exercise; but they remind us how very varied are the interests which are more or less closely connected with the belfry, and how very diverse are the attractions bells present to different people.

To some, method ringing and peal ringing are the great attractions; to others, composition and the science of ringing are all absorbing. Archæology and history attract some; and to yet others, the social life is the one thing which makes the whole worth while. To most of us perhaps these things appeal in varying degree, though we stress some and neglect the others.

In these dark days the life of the Exercise is largely at a standstill; but we have faith, and we look forward to the time (not, we hope, so very far distant) when we can resume our activities. But we shall not be able to do so if we simply sit still and wait. When the war is over there will be a new world, with new thoughts, new outlooks, and new interests. A cataclysm like this brings more fundamental changes than fifty normal years of peace. We found that out twenty-five years ago. Many things will pass away or be radically altered. Is there no risk that change ringing will be one of them? We hope not. We believe not. But we must do more than just hope; we must keep alive our own interest in the art and that of others. And to do so, we must use and foster all or any of the varied interests that centre round the belfry.

We may not ring the church bells, some of us cannot ring handbells, but there are many other things in which we can take an interest. Some perhaps are not of any great importance in themselves, but they will, at any rate serve to bridge the gap between the times that were and the times that will be.

Other things there are which are, and always will be, of vital importance to the Exercise, and chief of them the questions of composition and method construction. Many ringers look on these subjects as being beyond them, and calling for too great a mental effort to understand. Yet the effort is worth making if only to gain a

(Continued on page 98.)

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rough outline of the science of ringing. The man who now learns something about the way Cambridge is constructed, and why Middleton's peal is the only true composition in the method, will derive a lot more pleasure from ringing it in the happier days to come.

For these reasons we invite those of our readers who have opinions on any subject in any way connected with bells or ringing, to air them in our correspondence columns. Whether they be about composition, or methods, or bell hanging, or archæology, or organisation, or bob calling, or practical ringing, or any other thing, it does not much matter. Such opinions will not always be sound, but so long as they give readers something to think about (if it is only to disagree) they will do good.

Our thanks are due to those men who have already written to us. Some of them are men well known to all ringers (though they often prefer to be anonymous); others are comparatively new comers, but all alike are welcome.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

A NEW ORGANISATION FOR HANDBELL RINGING.

A year ago, on February 19th, 1940, some Swindon enthusiasts started meeting together for handbell practice, and they have marked the anniversary of their first practice by forming themselves into a society, to be known as the Highcliffe Society, primarily for the pursuit of change ringing.

An inaugural meeting was held at headquarters, and during the course of it the founder presented a report on the activities of the first year. He traced the birth and growth of the society from the Doubles and Minor stage, which was reached at the end of four months' practice, to the Spliced Surprise Major, which they were now practising. The present membership stood at four fully qualified members, but four others who had not yet qualified for admission—the ringing of an 'inside pair' to Major—were making good progress at a probationers' class.

At that class recruits, whose ages ranged from 7 to 17 years of age, were being trained by one of the society's members, who is fresh enough to the art to remember his own early difficulties; and a system of teaching was employed having many novel features, and which had been evolved in the light of experience gained by the seniors during their own preliminary stages.

Of the four who were now practising Surprise Major, two were youths of 13 and 16 years of age, and neither had done any ringing, either in the tower or in hand, a year ago.

The report further mentioned visits made to Christ Church, Swindon, where combined efforts have produced some enjoyable ringing to Caters, Royal and Cinques.

One peal had been accomplished during the year, a peal of Grand-sire Doubles rung after three months' practice as an 'appetite wetter.' Further 'tests of endurance' might be forthcoming in the future, but whatever peals or methods were rung, the report concluded, was of secondary importance. What really mattered was that the Highcliffe Society might be no flash in the pan, but that it might continue from year to year, and increase from strength to strength as the years went by.

After the meeting a 'dinner' was held, and in the speeches which followed, 'continuity of the society' was the hope expressed by more than one speaker. The proposer of the toast 'Church and State' pointed out that the public not only looked forward to, but expected the church bells to ring at all times of national joy or sorrow, and he regretted that the present ban on ringing did not allow of our bells being pealed for recent victories against the enemy.

The next toast was 'Prosperity and long life to the new society.' The speaker said he had watched the growth of the society during the last year under the careful and painstaking leadership of their founder, and although perforce he would soon have to leave them for other work, he hoped the society would continue to thrive for many years to come.

One more toast was drunk, and it was to 'The Allies.' Some good had come out of this war, declared the proposer, for if it had not been for the ban on tower-bell ringing, he, for one, would not have been so interested in handbells. He hoped the society would make a name for itself, and to that end he personally would have liked to have seen the qualification for membership raised higher; however, he thought they would all look back in years to come to that evening as a memorable occasion.

The rest of the evening was spent in fun and games, handbells, just for once, being taboo.

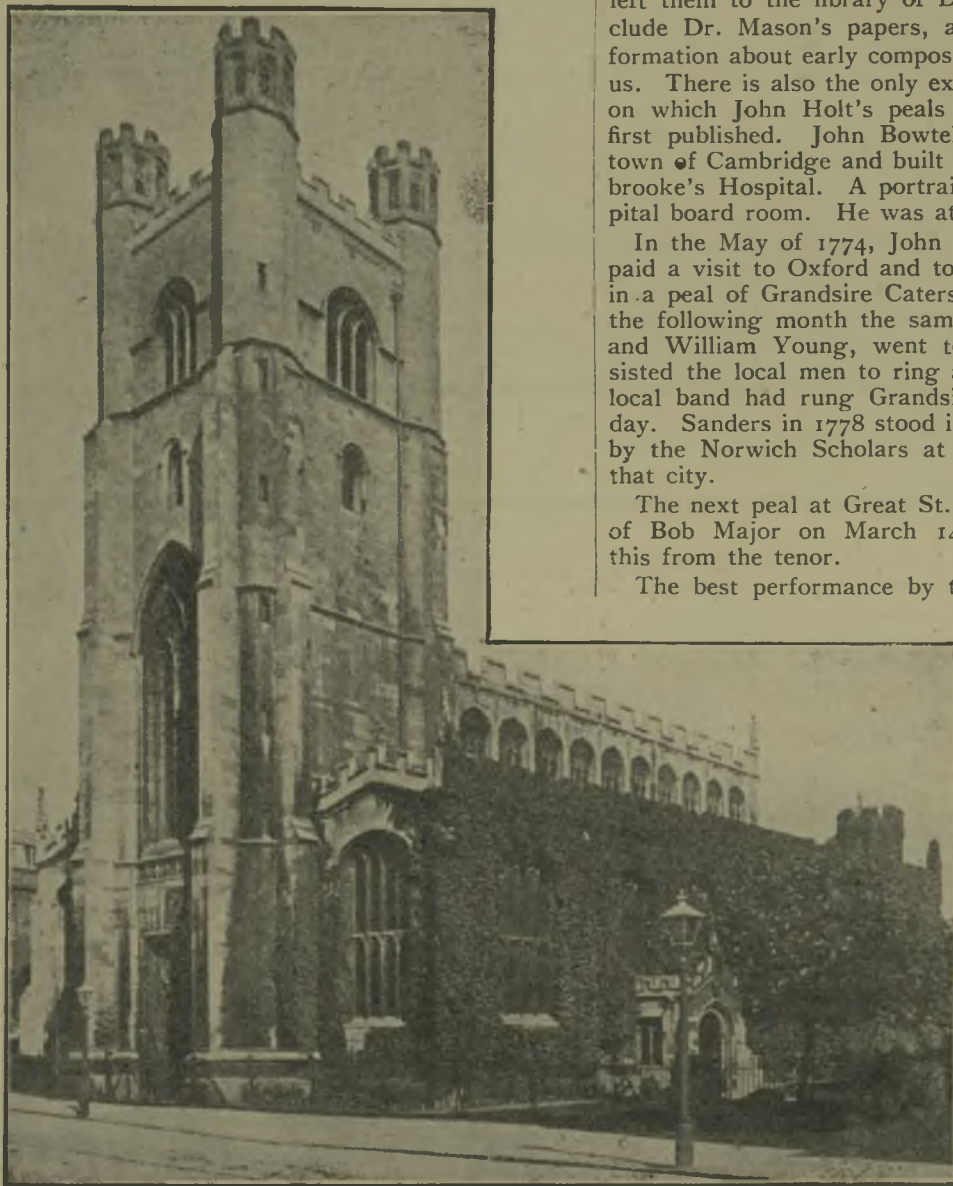
THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

A RECORD PEAL OF MAXIMUS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

(Continued from page 89.)

It was two and a half years before the next peal was rung at St. Mary's. The method was Bob Royal, and Charles Day was again the conductor, ringing the tenor. All the band had taken part in the previous peal except



GREAT ST. MARY'S, CAMBRIDGE.

the ringer of the second, John Hazzard. He was an inn-keeper and a member of the Cambridge Town Council. He became one of the most prominent of the Cambridge Youths.

In the next year, 1774, on November 10th, the society rang a peal of 5,130 Grandsire Caters. Day did not stand in this, and the bobs were called by William Young. Daniel Green, of Clare College, who apparently was not

a formal member of the society, rang the eighth, John Banyard, an ironmonger, rang the tenor, and John Bowtell, the bookseller, at the sixth, appears for the first time as a peal ringer. He had joined the society on October 21st, 1773.

Bowtell was something more than a prosperous tradesman and a skilful ringer. He had literary tastes which had led him to collect manuscripts, and he afterwards left them to the library of Downing College. They include Dr. Mason's papers, and thus some valuable information about early compositions has been preserved to us. There is also the only extant copy of the broadsheet on which John Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples were first published. John Bowtell was a benefactor to the town of Cambridge and built one of the wings of Addenbrooke's Hospital. A portrait of him hangs in the hospital board room. He was at one time Mayor.

In the May of 1774, John Sanders and John Hazzard paid a visit to Oxford and took part with the local men in a peal of Grandsire Caters at Magdalen College. In the following month the same two, with John Incarsole and William Young, went to Saffron Walden and assisted the local men to ring a peal of Bob Major. The local band had rung Grandsire Triples on the previous day. Sanders in 1778 stood in a peal of Bob Major rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, in that city.

The next peal at Great St. Mary's was 5,404 changes of Bob Major on March 14th, 1779. Sanders called this from the tenor.

The best performance by the Cambridge Youths was on January 21st, 1788, when they rang what they termed an 'exquisite' peal of Bob Maximus consisting of 6,600 changes, in 5 hours and 5 minutes. Charles Day conducted from the 9th, William Young rang the 10th, Hazzard the 11th, and Bowtell the tenor. The fifth man was Thomas Steers, who is described as 'an ingenious mathematician.' John Sanders did not ring, and in August, 1790, he died. He was about forty years old. His last peal was one of Bob Major in 1781, when the Cambridge Youths went to Ely to open a new ring of eight which Arnold of St.

Neot's had cast for St. Mary's Church.

The peal of Maximus at Great St. Mary's still stands as the longest length in the method, and is likely to stand for many years. The performance, which supplanted the 6,336 rung by the 'old' Society of London Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1758, was the third peal of Maximus achieved outside London. The Norwich

(Continued on next page.)

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES.

REMOVED TO A PLACE OF SAFETY.

A good deal of interest is being taken by the public in the bells of St. Clement Danes, and several newspapers have commented on the proposal to remove them to a place of safety for the duration of the war. A cutting from one paper has been sent us showing a photograph of two or three of them actually lowered to the base of the steeple.

'The Times' prints the following:—

It is generally known that the Church of St. Clement Danes in the Strand has twice received direct damage from German bombs. On three other occasions it has received the blast of bombs falling near, and on another night a fire bomb fell on the roof, but was put out.

But the famous old bells that figure in the nursery rhyme—'Oranges and lemons, say the bells of St. Clement's'—are undamaged. It has now been decided to safeguard the bells by lowering them and burying them in sand.

To protect them in this way and later restore them £200 will be needed; and as there are no funds for the purpose an appeal is made by the Rector (the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford) and the churchwardens. Contributions will be gratefully received by them; or may be paid into Lloyds Bank, 222, Strand, W.C.2.

St. Clement Danes, designed by Wren, was built in 1681 on the site of a much earlier church, traditionally believed to be the burial place of Harold Harefoot and other Danes. The tower which houses the old peal of bells was added in 1719 by James Gibbs, the architect of the other island church not many yards away—St. Mary-le-Strand.

When the bells were restored in 1919 the tune of the nursery rhyme was added to the carillon. From that time till the war began a children's service was held at the church at the end of March each year, and Danish children living in London observed a pretty custom of distributing oranges and lemons among the young congregation as they left. During the war the bells are perforce silent, as are all the other church bells in the country.

'The Church Times' says very much the same things.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS—continued from previous page.

Scholars had rung 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 1778, and the Birmingham men 5,280 changes of Plain Bob in 1779.

The Cambridge peal was claimed to have been excellently well struck and 'without a false change.' A reference to it in the peal book of the Union Society of Newport, Isle of Wight (now in the British Museum), says that 'the compass of the last 1,000 changes was equal to the first, there being no variation of time, which is the grand scope of ringing.'

Another man, Peter Spenceley, now came forward and took the lead. He was an engineer by trade and had joined the society in March, 1783. With him as conductor, three peals were rung—6,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 1790, 7,002 changes of Grandsire Caters in 1791, and 5,039 changes of the same method in 1793. Day rang the sixth and Bowtell the tenor to both the long peals; Hazzard rang in all three.

The last peal by the society in the eighteenth century was on June 2nd, 1797, when James Bartlett, of Kensington, called Holt's Original on the back eight. Spenceley rang the seventh, and John Hazzard the tenor. After that the art declined in Cambridge, though, of course, the large amount of paid ringing was sufficient to keep together a band of some sort. Incarsole died in 1777, Young in 1761, Laughton in 1804, Charles Day in 1806, Spenceley in 1807, Hazzard in 1807, and Bowtell in 1813. The last had resigned from the company in 1810. They left no successors of the same class as themselves, and when, in 1821, Samuel Lee was writing to Samuel Lawrence to invite him to visit Cambridge, he says, '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.' It is significant that Lee speaks of the bells as being ten in number. Evidently in his time the full twelve were seldom or never rung, nor have they often been since.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED BY FIRE GUARDS.

At tremendous cost the lesson is being learnt that our churches with their steeples and bells can largely be protected from incendiary bombs if they have organised fire watchers. That alone saved St. Paul's Cathedral on that fateful Sunday night last December.

A representative of 'The Daily Telegraph,' in the course of a description of a recent visit to Coventry, writes of the Cathedral as follows:—

The tower and spire, among the loveliest in Europe, still soar 294ft. skyward, and even the blackened walls have such grace of line that it was with a little pang I learned they will have to be levelled to the ground.

The sad thing is that, given a few more fire-fighters and a little more luck, the Cathedral might have been saved. The Provost, the Very Rev. R. T. Howard, and three volunteers risked death from high explosives. They climbed dizzy heights to put out incendiaries, and for an hour they held their own.

Then bombs crashed through the leaden roof on to the dry oak roof beneath. It took more skill and strength than the elderly and exhausted men possessed to back away the lead and get at them, and when four bombs fell together they knew that they were beaten.

The fine Perpendicular parish church of Holy Trinity still stands, saved by the Vicar's fire squads.

UNCOMMON RINGERS' NAMES.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Looking through recent copies of 'The Ringing World' I noticed the names of the ringers who took part in peals during the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of them are very uncommon.

I have consulted the London Telephone Directory, as the B.B.C. did in a recent parlour game, and failed to find the following: Atber, Bartell, Garthon, Ibbot, Inville, Melchoir, Merryarts, Mot, Sonnevile and Trenell.

Is it too much to ask your correspondents to trace the descendants of the above, if there happen to be any?

In those bygone days, when few people could read or write, perhaps most men had nicknames, and if they had sons they may have had nicknames also, thus losing connection with the 'family tree.'

Probably those who were slightly educated spelt the name phonetically, which would be pronounced differently in various parts of the country. For instance, Garthon was spelt Catharan in Lincolnshire when a peal of Triples was rung.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

SILENT APPARATUS.

WANTED, AN EXPERIMENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have no doubt that most of your readers when they read the letter from Mr. C. Chambers, of South Africa, about putting an electric mechanism in each tower, to act as a silent apparatus, thought as I did at first, that it was not practicable under present conditions. Of course, it could be done, but the apparatus would have to be elaborate and costly and there is no chance of getting it made.

But I have been wondering whether it would not be worth while for some of our young and clever members to try and experiment to see if they could not do something. Nothing really good could be done, but something like an electric bell in the ringing room with an apparatus by which the bell above could push the switch might be possible.

If our young friend wants to experiment he must first get hold of an ordinary electric bell, as good as he can get, but any one will do for an experiment. Then he must take away the gong and fix in its place a handbell. It would require special fixing and be capable of adjustment, but that would not be difficult. Wires would connect the electric bell in the ringing chamber to the bell above, and the switch would have to be operated by some stud on the wheel. That is where the inventor's ingenuity would come in. The switch could not be of the ordinary press stud type, but would have to be made by a rubbing contact. Also the stud on the wheel would not itself form the electric contact, but must act so as to bring together two pieces of spring brass or bronze. In theory that should not be difficult, but the switch must operate only when the wheel passes one way and there must be two switches, one for handstroke and the other for backstroke. Perhaps something like the gadget used in the Hastings stay might serve the purpose.

Once the switch is invented, the problem of placing it so that the bell strikes at the proper time would be a simple one.

All the preliminary and really difficult experiments could be made at home. If the apparatus were successful it might not be a very good substitute for the actual sound of the bell, but the problem is an interesting one and both in cost and difficulty should be well within the capacity of any clever young man who knows a little about electricity and knows how to use his brains and his fingers.

M. CLARKE.

ARE RINGERS APATHETIC?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—After serving several months in the Forces, I am home on leave and have just looked through a few copies of 'The Ringing World.'

I must confess I am disappointed to note the apathy which exists in the Exercise, and I can only foresee our art sinking into the deepest of depths by the time the war has ended.

What amazes me is the fact that the ban has really very little to do with the activities of ringers, and it only prohibits the sound of the bells. Actually, at this time, there is a glorious opportunity for the building up of our art, and I am at a total loss to know why the Exercise has failed to take the opportunity.

Now why cannot all the tower captains and secretaries either remove the clappers or tie them up securely and carry on as if there were no ban at all. How this can best be done is for each steeplekeeper to find out, but it can be done if there is the will behind it.

The ringers would return to the towers and to the meetings in order to enjoy this novel method of ringing.

Here, as I see them, are opportunities that can be taken advantage of if the clappers are tied or removed: To train beginners; to learn to ring two bells; to encourage and improve rope-sight; to practise the higher methods; to gain experience of bell control on all numbers and weights; to prevent stagnation, by continual practice; to keep the hands and body muscles in trim; to keep the bearings and other fittings in proper working order.

Those who desire to ring 'silent' peals should be encouraged to do so and the records of such peals should count as before.

I feel sure things would soon liven up if the ringers were able to get behind the ropes once again.

I have duly read the letters on bearings and am disappointed to note that interest faded before the question in the original letter was properly answered. Perhaps this is another case of apathy, and in years to come we shall be ringing on bells that are pulling us, and not as hitherto, with us pulling the bells.

I, for one, do not derive pleasure in the speed the bells are rung. Most of us can ring slow, moderate or fast as the occasion or fancy demands. But, like thousands of others, I get great pleasure from ringing a bell, great or small, which responds to that extra ounce when required and will rise or fall always at will, rather than a bell which wants to swing at one regulated speed, and which, if it turns over the dead centre a fraction of an inch, wants to run away like mad and pull you through the ceiling.

Ball bearings are all right for perpetual motion and sometimes serve the purpose on a few bells, but for general use give us plain bearings.

'NUMSKULL'**TREBLE BOB.****MR. C. W. WOOLLEY REPLIES TO CRITICISM.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent who signs himself 'A Country Ringer' would do well to read letters from others more carefully before he ventures on criticism. He thinks that what I said about Treble Bob should be contradicted. If he will look again he will see that I mentioned Treble Bob twice only. The first time was to remark that many ringers could not have heard contiguous places (meaning, of course, those made by a pair of working bells during the ordinary work of the method) made in any other method.

Since such places do not occur in any *standard* method except Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, this statement cannot be denied. The second time was to say that Treble Bob possessed one redeeming feature. If he denies even this he is welcome, to his opinion, but I still think that the lengthening lead is a point in favour of any method, giving as it does various obvious advantages which I need not go into.

If what he really means is that Treble Bob possesses other redeeming features, apart from those it enjoys by reason of being a method on the lengthening lead plan, I shall be interested to have his considered opinion as to what exactly they are.

Further, if he will read my letter with more care he will discover that nowhere in it did I say anything which might be taken as an expression of opinion on the merits of Cambridge Surprise, so he has absolutely no grounds for saying that I seem to think so much of it.

Finally, I would point out that he makes all his assertions as though they were statements of fact, whereas they are really no more than expressions of his own opinion. Such expressions might be of some value if he were to sign his name. There are many 'Country Ringers'—I am one myself.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

HUGHENDEN.—On Saturday, February 15th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3-4, W. Lee 5-6. The first 720 'in hand' by all the band. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. W. Fletcher, of 11, Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield.

**J. A.
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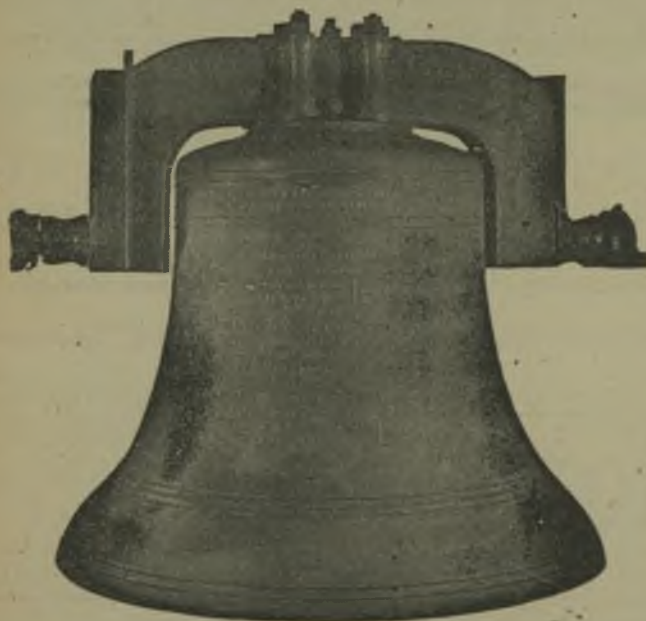
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith wishes us to convey his thanks to the many friends who have expressed their sympathy with him in his present illness.

The latest report is that his condition is quite satisfactory. He is being prepared for the major operation which will be performed in a few days' time.

AN APPRECIATION.

FROM THE ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY, IPSWICH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At handbell practice this morning the members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society were greatly concerned and sorry to learn that the Editor, Mr. John S. Goldsmith, was unwell and had undergone a slight operation, with a major one to follow. They instructed me, as secretary, to write this letter of sympathy with him and trust that in due time he may be restored to good health.

Mr. Goldsmith honoured St. Mary-le-Tower Church steeple with a personal visit when a new peal board, containing the first peals of Surprise Maximus in five different methods, was unveiled.

We all agree that great credit is due to Mr. Goldsmith and his contributors for the excellent manner 'The Ringing World' has been kept so very interesting, and we extend our heartiest congratulations

G. T. SYMONDS, Hon. Sec.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to hear that Mr. W. E. White, of Cotgrave, who for so many years held office in the Midland Counties Association, has been confined to his bedroom for the past six or seven weeks with heart trouble. We wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. White tells us that he is resigning the treasurership of the association at Easter.

In spite of the difficulties of travel, black-out and the calling up of members to the Forces, the 'stalwarts' of the Hughenden and Beaconsfield bands hold joint practices at Beaconsfield on Fridays at 7.30 and at Hughenden on Saturdays at 4 p.m. All ringers are welcomed to these practices. The band had a setback when Rolly Biggs was called up, but they are glad that their loss is Reading's gain, and would like to congratulate that band on their recent performances.

The Cathedral Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, so well known and so famous in the history of change ringing, was injured in a recent air raid. Happily the damage was not great.

Grandsire Major is nowadays considered to be an 'irregular' method, and its practice has been formally discouraged by the Central Council, but it has had from time to time a fascination for some good bands. On February 25th, 1889, John Carter called 10,272 changes at Rowley Regis. It remains the record peal in the method, and superseded one of 10,176 changes on handbells called by John Carter in 1883.

The Cumberland Youths rang 6,129 changes of Stedman Caters at Shoreditch on February 26th, 1905. It stood as the record in the method for nearly forty years.

A peal of Bob Royal was rung at Abingdon on handbells on February 26th, 1777. If it was on bells 'retained in hand' it would rank as the first handbell peal in any method, but the account is doubtful.

John Briant, bell founder and clock maker, of Hertford, died on February 27th, 1829.

Several interesting anniversaries fall on to-day's date. Henry Johnson was born on February 28th, 1809, and Edwin Horrex in 1838. In 1801 John Noonan called at Spitalfields the second peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal ever rung. In 1881 the Birmingham men rang 9,238 changes of Stedman Cinques, the then longest in the method.

The late Thomas T. Gofton, of Whitley Bay, who a few years ago was one of the leading ringers in the North of England, rang his first peal as conductor (one of Bob Major) at St. John's, Newcastle, 50 years ago to-day. He was then a lad of 18 years.

On March 1st, 1889, the band at Warnham rang 13,440 changes of Canterbury Pleasure Major. In those days peals could be rung at Warnham at any hour and every hour of day or night.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Royal 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, Minor in five methods 1.

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of a peal of Stedman Cinques rung by the College Youths at St. Giles', Cripplegate. It was conducted by James Pettit and was the first in the method by Mr. Henry R. Newton and the late William T. Cockerill, who rang the eleventh.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL MEETING AT LEEDS.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saturday, January 25th, when upwards of fifty members were present.

Canon C. C. Marshall, president of the association, was in the chair and was supported by the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, the treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer and the peal secretary, Mr. W. Barton. Apologies for absence were read from Messrs. G. Lewis, F. W. Dale, R. B. Smith, J. H. Blakiston and W. Ambler.

After a long discussion on the place and date of the next meeting, in which the uncertainties and difficulties of the times were thoroughly debated, Mr. P. J. Johnson moved that no further general meeting be arranged until the next annual general meeting in 1942. This was seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood and carried.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. S. F. Palmer, then presented the balance sheet. He pointed out that on balance the position was very satisfactory, having regard to the times. Although a loss for the year of £10 17s. was shown, it was largely due to expenditure that was not likely to recur, namely, £13 19s. 6d. the cost of the president's badge and case, and £7 3s. 11d. for officers' attache cases. He had estimated the cost of the reports at £35, whereas he was agreeably surprised to find that the actual cost was little more than £25. Taking these items into account, the loss of £10 17s. was arrived at, but exclusive of them a gain of £20 6s. 5d. would have resulted. Mr. W. O. Talbot, representing the auditors, proposed the adoption of the balance sheet, remarking that it had been a pleasure to audit the accounts. This was seconded by Mr. T. W. Strangeway and carried. A hearty vote of thanks to the auditors for their services was carried unanimously.

In presenting the annual report, the President pointed out that it was very necessarily a war-time report; many institutions and activities having suffered owing to restrictions placed upon them, but none probably more so than the art and exercise of bellringing. At several of its meetings the committee had considered the ban on the ringing of church bells, and, as representing the ringers of Yorkshire, urged upon the authorities the careful consideration of whether it would not be possible partially to lift the ban, so that service ringing for at any rate Sunday morning services should be allowed. Such a concession would be welcomed not only by ringers, but by the people of our land, and would in addition prevent the frames, bearings, etc., from falling into disrepair from continued disuse.

Other things had to be taken into consideration, especially the danger which would arise from the use of a part of our churches for military purposes, and the committee would do all in its power to bring about some modification of the ban consonant with the safety of the Realm.

THE LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION MAINTAINED.

With regard to membership, it was gratifying to find that it had not suffered as severely as might have been anticipated, seeing that only seven new members had been elected during the year, and that both the 'deceased' list and 'lapsed' list are unusually large. 37 having passed away and 49 lapsed. The membership now stood at 1,206, compared with 1,285 last year.

During the year it had been possible to hold only one general meeting, namely, the annual general meeting at Hunslet Parish Church in January, when very cold weather and the difficulty of travelling prevented a large attendance.

Reports from the districts showed that it had been possible to hold a certain number of meetings throughout the county, and it was gratifying to note that the life of the association was being maintained in these difficult times. The district secretaries are to be congratulated upon the manful way they have set themselves to overcome the difficulties.

The peal secretary's report showed that 13 peals were rung during the year, eight on tower bells and five on handbells. There were six instances of a first peal in a particular method, including instances where members had rung peals previously in the same method, but not on the same number of bells. Three members rang their first peal on handbells. It was disappointing to note the small number of handbell peals, especially as the ban had now put a stop to tower-bell peals, and the committee hoped to see an increase in the number during the next year.

(Continued in next column.)



CANON C. C. MARSHALL.

BALL BEARINGS AND PLAIN BEARINGS.

A COMPARISON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been looking for an answer to Mr. Warrington's query, in your issue of January 17th, re preference of ringers for plain bearings, and, as no one better has volunteered, I will endeavour to do so.

My contention is that in plain bearings the seat of friction is smaller and concentrated, thereby giving you a definite point of balance. Ball bearings are alive or fluid, and the ringer has to hold the bell farther back, especially in ringing of a slow speed, to make sure of control. My experience is that ringing bells, either light or heavy, with ball bearings is infinitely more tiring than with plain bearings. It is not so bad if ringing is fast (and regular), but in slow ringing (especially if with a long draught) plain bearings are to be preferred every time, all other things being equal.

Of course, plain bearings require conscientious care and attention, whilst ball bearings only require attention at long intervals, hence some steeplekeepers advocate the latter when rebanding is contemplated.

'INTERESTED.'

A BELL RINGING CHALLENGE.

NORWICH VERSUS EYE.

Mr. C. E. Borrett sends us another most interesting quotation from the early 'Norwich Gazette.' The date is September 27th, 1729. Readers of our recent articles on the Norwich Scholars and the first peals of Stedman Triples will remember the names of most of the ringers mentioned.

'Whereas the Ringers of Eye deny that they ever challeng'd us to ring, yet they have introduced a fresh challenge to prick from five to twelve, which we have never mentioned in our advertisement; this is therefore to let them know, that we shall not trouble ourselves to contend about the Art of Pricking, but we will Ring with them for Ten Guineas the following Number of different Peals, viz., 6 Peals on 5 Bells, 6 on 6 Bells, 6 on 7, and 6 on 8 Bells; they that ring best, and with fewer Mistakes, to win the Money; they to chuse 3 Peals on each Number, and we to chuse 3, and each Company to ring all the 6 Peals: And in order thereto we will meet them at Mr. Browne's, at the White Lion in Beccles, on Monday the 6th of October, to article and put down the money; where we expect then to see them.—John Briggs, Thomas Gardiner, William Callow, Thomas Melchior, John Harvey, Edward Crane, Robert Crane, Richard Barnham, Thomas Barrett, John Forster, John Webster, etc., etc., etc., etc.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

(Continued from previous column.)

Actually 14 peals had been rung, but unfortunately the composition of one of them turned out to be false. Canon Marshall had rung his first handbell peal, and thus gained the distinction of being the first president of the association to ring a pair of handbells through a five thousand.

The peal rung at St. Matthew's, Northwram, and published in last year's report as 'Airedale Surprise Major,' was in the same method as had previously been rung by the Guildford Diocesan Guild as 'Chiltern Surprise Major.' Therefore, 'Chiltern' should be substituted for 'Airedale' in all instances where this peal is mentioned.

In these days of curtailed ringing, the committee wished to pay tribute to the value of 'The Ringing World' and to the service it continues to give to the whole Exercise under increasingly difficult conditions, and strongly urged the members to give the Editor their practical backing by becoming subscribers, and taking a copy weekly, which would be found both interesting and instructive.

Mr. J. W. T. Holgate moved the adoption of the report, Mr. A. Gill seconded, and it was unanimously adopted. All the officers were cordially thanked for their work.

The President stated that the committee recommended the re-election of the retiring secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris, and thanked him for his services during the past three years.

In reply, Mr. Morris said he wished to thank the members for their appreciation and confidence, and, like their worthy treasurer, he would be willing to carry on as long as he was able.

Mr. F. G. Sherwood moved and Mr. J. F. Harvey seconded the re-election of Mr. W. Barton as peal secretary, paying tribute to his skill and energy in this important work. This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Barton, thanking the members, said he would be pleased to undertake the work for another year.

Mr. George Homer, of Rothwell, was elected a member of the association. A hearty vote of thanks to the president was moved by Mr. P. J. Johnson, who referred to the wonderful concession the president had been able to obtain regarding the cost of the reports. It was seconded by Mr. W. Barton and carried unanimously.

This concluded the business and the members then partook of an excellent meat tea, followed by a social evening until 8.30 p.m. Among the local talent that contributed were the president, Miss L. Askham, Mr. Kershaw Thomas and Mr. Sutcliffe. Handbell ringing was interspersed and contributed to a very successful and enjoyable meeting.

THE STANDARD METHODS AND THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There is an old tale of a woman who, when a visitor called, told her little daughter to take the lady into the best room. 'Why, mother,' said the child, 'we've only got one!' 'Well,' said mother, 'that is the best, isn't it?' This would seem to apply, more or less, to those Standard methods we call 'Surprise.'

Take Cambridge, for example. The first peal (a false one) was rung in 1780, when no other Surprise method was known. Superlative appeared for the first time in the 'Clavis' in 1788. The first peal of London was not rung till 1855, although it seems to have been known earlier. Bristol did not appear till 1897 with its first peal in 1901.

Cambridge, therefore, appears to have become a standard method very largely for Mother's reason, and with all due regard to Mother, that hardly seems a good one. It is undoubtedly attractive, and I confess that I enjoy ringing it, but nothing can make it a good method. Its music is poor, and if it were the merest shade more false, there wouldn't be a single peal left to us without dividing the tenors. To make the best of a bad job, it would probably be a good thing if the original version were discarded altogether and Heywood's variation adopted as the orthodox form.

The method, it is true, extends perfectly, but how many bands are capable of taking advantage of that? This quality is of about as much use to the Exercise as a whole as a tall hat to a man who only wore it at his own wedding and died before his wife. It is virtually certain that there are better methods amongst the hundreds which will appear in the new book.

EXPERIENCE AND TRADITION.

Your article says 'there is only one safe test, and that is the general experience and tradition of the Exercise through the centuries.' I agree that experience will sift the wheat from the chaff, but it is often a very long process, and it is surely wise to get to work on the most promising material first, without wasting time on what is only second rate in quality. The sifting process assumes that the wheat is there. Given little wheat, we may sift as we like and the result is still poor. That was the position 50 years ago. Ringers rang what there was to ring, they had little or no choice. The mills of experience had so little grist that they could turn out very little good meal. Now, however, the harvest is so abundant that, as in the case of world commerce, we are in grave danger, unless we are careful, of being smothered under a plethora of good things.

Ringers are perhaps, on the whole, too conservative. This is under certain circumstances a useful quality. At other times, as in so many other walks in life, it may become a danger. We live in a rapidly changing world, in which we have to deal with situations quite without precedent. The fact that those responsible for the new book have examined many hundreds of new methods is only one of the many indications that the mental development of the race has taken a big step forward in the last half century. I am far from despising the value of experience and tradition. I sometimes look back with longing to those old quiet days, when we lads could safely play cricket or hockey on the public roads; but we must not allow a past generation, who had not our opportunities or our problems to deal with, to fetter our activities or vitiate our conclusions. Just as in the major field of the nation, and the still larger field of the world, we must carefully examine our traditional ideas if we would deal effectively with modern problems, so in relation to our particular art tradition alone may fail us and conclusions based upon it be untrue. To rely upon these alone would be like the case of the farmer (even more conservative perhaps than ringers) who refused to sow a new and improved strain of wheat because it was not the standard grain sown by his predecessors during the centuries. He would probably suffer bankruptcy. Although, if we follow his example, we may escape such a catastrophe, we shall not be immune from loss.

ARE WE APATHETIC?

I don't pretend to explain why it is, but I fear too many of us are not as enthusiastic as we might be. It may be due to inertia, which affects us all more or less, but I wonder how many good ringers have been lost because their home company refused to progress. What should we think of the musician who, year after year, played nothing but the same old tunes? But too often we are content to go on ringing the same old methods interminably, all unconscious of the fact that, no matter what the art or subject may be, it can only be a living thing so long as it commands our interest, and this interest and the satisfaction it brings with it is in direct ratio to the effect put forth.

It is undoubtedly true that we, in common with the world at large, cannot stand still; either we progress or we fall back. The three

(Continued in next column.)

WEIGHTS OF BELLS IN A RING. IS THERE A DEFINITE SCALE?

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to your article on fictitious weights of tenors, I have no doubt most bell lovers have heard these tales. They, however, are not confined to sextons, sometimes they get into print.

I believe the Bath and Wells report of 30 years ago gave Wedmore tenor as 39 cwt.—about 9 cwt. too much.

More interesting, I think, is the actual weight of the next bell in the scale, the other 'tenor.' This is to me sometimes amazing.

I have before me the article 'Bell' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' (12th edition), and read as follows: 'It has been calculated that for a peal of bells to give the pure chord of the ground tone or key-note, third, fifth and octave, the diameters are required to be as 30, 25, 20 and 15; and the weights as 80, 41, 24 and 10.' The above scale gives the sixth in a ring of eight as forty-one eightieths of the weight of the tenor, and I have read elsewhere that the seventh should be two-thirds the weight of the tenors.

I know a fairly heavy peal, where the back three bells were cast in different centuries, and they run pretty true to this, but, looking over the weights I have jotted down from time to time, it would appear that founders have any amount of liberty. Mancroft tenor 37½ cwt., 11th 29 cwt., 10th 22 cwt., eleventh more than three-quarters the weight of tenor; Wrington, tenor 37 cwt., ninth 20 cwt. 3 qr, 10 lb. 9-16ths weight of tenor; St. Woolos', Newport, eleventh three-quarters the weight of tenor, and I am told that the eleventh at St. Mary Redcliffe is only 25 cwt. or half the weight of the tenor.

Some time ago I picked up either an engineering or metallurgical periodical in our local library, and saw there a formula by which bell-founders apportion the weight of a clapper to that of the bell, the writer mentioning his indebtedness to a well-known firm of bell-founders for this.

Could one of the bell firms (or each of them) be induced to contribute an article on bell-founding, tuning, modulation and hanging to 'The Ringing World'? Something really authoritative would be appreciated by readers. The founders need not divulge any special features of their own.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale.

BELL FRAMES. WHICH IS THE BEST DESIGN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read Mr. G. P. Elphick's article with much interest, but I had looked forward to reading how to construct a bell frame with wood on a progressive plan.

In my opinion, a bell frame should be constructed of wood cill, top rail and corner posts with cast-iron struts or braces. Struts made of wood are a failure because the splayed shoulders shrink. The wood can be oak or teak or other suitable wood. Each strut should have four 5-8th bolts at each end. No diagonal bolts are needed, neither are vertical ones except at the four corners. Such a frame will keep rigid and does not require a spanner in the summer.

One of the most interesting bell frames I have ever seen was at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. It was built diagonally in the tower and constructed of good English oak. A very fine frame indeed. It is a great pity it is no more.

JAMES HUNT.

Taunton.

(Continued from previous column.)

stages in life are growth, zenith and decay, and although the individual may not hope to escape the operation of this law, we, fortunately, as a national organisation, may avoid the slippery slope of decadence for many years to come, provided we are prepared to make that effort. It is because I want us to do this, and to do it as far as possible as a whole, that I should like us to add to the number of Surprise methods we call standard.

I fully appreciate the great labour involved in the task of selection, and I'm sure we are all deeply grateful to the men who have so freely given their valuable and expert services to the accomplishment of the task so far as it has gone. There must be some good reason why one method is better than another. Trial and error is all very well in its way, and is no doubt necessary at times, but these are generally in the early days of a science, and if hundreds of methods are placed before the Exercise without comment, not one in a hundred will stand a chance of a real try out.

Therefore, I say, let them be examined with regard to the principles well known to the experts, and some of them, at least, will have a chance of being judged. From them the final choice will, no doubt, be made by experience, and in course of time a new tradition will be created.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baldon, Yorks.

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THE STANDARD METHODS. EARLY ATTEMPTS AT RULE MAKING.

In our comparison of ringing to a journey we notice that often in our walks abroad we are quite ready to sacrifice a good deal of variety and rapidity of movement for the sake of comfort, and so we are in peal ringing. There may not be much variety in the work of Grandsire or Treble Bob, but there is a real charm about ringing when the method makes few claims on the close attention of the ringer, and he can go along comfortably, putting his bell just where it should be put, and lulled into a pleasant frame of mind by the steady and familiar rhythm of the music.

But why, we may ask, should not Treble Bob prove monotonous when Forward, which is so very similar in its work, is intolerably monotonous? The answer is that the constantly varying position of the treble in coursing order, and the slow work, which some have thought to be musically a defect, do really give just that amount of variety and relief from sameness which both the music and the work require. This is a point worth considering.

The more complex methods consist usually, in addition to ordinary hunting and dodging, of groups of work, each of which is treated as a whole. Such, for instance, are the Slow Work of Stedman, the Front Work of Bristol, the Cambridge Places, and so on. For reasons which are not easy to explain, some of these works appeal to ringers and some do not. A band we are acquainted with once rang a peal of Little Albion Major. In it successive handstroke places have to be made at 3rds, 4ths, 5ths and 6ths. There is nothing difficult about it, but the band were unanimous that it utterly spoilt the method. Also William Pye's band, previously mentioned, all agreed that the 5-6 places in New Gloucester were the most awkward thing (not by any means the most difficult thing) in their Spliced Surprise Major peals.

These things are of the greatest importance in deciding whether a method is a worthy candidate for the standard group, but how they can be judged except in actual practice, we do not know.

There is the equivalent of good companionship in peal ringing. When you are ringing a tenor you would much rather meet the seventh or the sixth in 1-2 and 7-8 than you would the second or the third; and when you do meet the seventh, you want him to be friendly and not strike you the wrong way. It is nice, too, when you are ringing any bell, to meet your course bell and your after bell at stated places, and to pass the time of day as you go on your journey.

There remains the last quality, that of difficulty. One of the greatest incentives to peal ringing is the urge to do something which both the ringer himself and other people recognise as very difficult, and which, as we say, 'will take a bit of doing.' It is one of the great universal motives which impel men to action. For no other reason do they try to climb Mount Everest or to reach the Poles.

The result is that some methods are highly rated just because they are difficult, and for no other reason. To get difficulty, ringers are quite content to forgo many other qualities they value and, indeed, it is a general law that difficulty can be obtained only by the sacrifice of some desirable things.

What constitutes difficulty we may perhaps see fairly clearly when we come to deal with individual methods.

This general survey of method ringing as it appears to the individual ringer shows us that the qualities which appeal to him are not only very varied but are often contradictory to each other, and we are warned at the outset that there is no one standard to decide the goodness of methods. All we can look for are varying compromises between different standards.

Ever since the art has been practised, we may be sure that ringers have been forming and expressing opinions about what are the best methods, and what qualities are necessary in a good method, and our views to-day are very largely made up of those opinions come down to us in the form of tradition.

But it was not until about fifty years ago that any attempt was made to draw up definite and precise rules on the matter. There was at that time a little group of very clever men who set themselves the task of reducing to order what they thought was the confused and unsatisfactory state in which the art and science of ringing had grown up. Rules were to be drawn up to settle every question which might arise, whether it was in connection with peal ringing, or what bobs and singles might be used, or what meaning should be given to technical terms, or any other similar thing; and naturally these men sought to decide what should be considered a good method.

The most prominent and influential of them were Arthur Heywood and Henry Earle Bulwer. C. D. P. Davies also was very active.

Heywood gave a good deal of attention to method construction, and as early as the year 1886 he published articles on the subject. In 1899 Bulwer brought the matter before the Central Council, and laid down two or three propositions which he said might be adopted as guides in estimating a method. It is safe to assume that he was expressing not only his own views but Heywood's as well.

These are his conditions. First, in methods for any number of bells it is essential that they should run true for the whole possible extent of the changes on numbers below eight, and above eight to such an extent as will render at least 5,000 true changes possible. Secondly, that methods should lend themselves to composition of extents without necessitating the use of other than legitimate calls, according to the decision of the Council. Thirdly, Triples, Caters and Cinques should be produced by continuous triple, quadruple and quintuple changes. Fourthly, as a corollary of the last proposition, no bell should strike more than two consecutive blows in one place. Fifthly, that a method should be at least decently musical in its ordinary working, a provision which is lamentably transgressed by the undue separation of the heavy bells.

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LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT LIVERSEDGE.

The February meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Liversedge last Saturday.

Handbells were rung before and after the business meeting, which was held in the Old Oak Inn, owing to the church rooms being otherwise engaged.

The president was in the chair and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Headingley (St. Michael's), Shipley and the local company. One new member, Mr. G. Bardon, of Liversedge, was elected. The vote of thanks to the local company was proposed by Mr. P. J. Johnson and seconded by Mr. T. B. Kendall.

Mr. Johnson said that Liversedge was well known for its ringing and striking and he hoped that the present company would stick together and not be discouraged because they were not able to ring their tower bells, but by seeing it through would be ready for the time when the ban on ringing is lifted.

The President, in putting the vote of thanks to the meeting, said he would like to remind those members who had not been to the meetings lately that pleasure and happy friends were still to be found at our ringers' meetings.

Mr. Fred Hodgson acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The next meeting, which will be the annual nomination meeting, will be held at Bramley on March 29th.

DEATH OF MR. H. C. MARTIN.

PARISH CLERK OF HIGHAM FERRERS.

The death is announced of Mr. H. C. Martin, of Higham Ferrers, who recently passed away at his home at the age of 76.

Mr. Martin was a founder member of the Raunds, Wellingborough and District Association, which was the forerunner, of the Central Northants Association and the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. For nearly 60 years he had been a keen ringer, and had taken part in over one hundred peals. For long he was a member of the committee of Wellingborough District of the Diocesan Guild.

In 1919 he was appointed parish clerk, and for 30 years he served as second officer in the local fire brigade. He had been an Oddfellow for 55 years. Although he has been ill for three years, he had only taken to his bed for a week.

The funeral was at Higham Ferrers on Wednesday, February 12th, when representatives of his many activities were present. The ringers present were Messrs. G. D. Deighton and Brown (Higham Ferrers), F. Barber (Wellingborough), W. Perkins and A. Bigley (Irthlingborough), B. Morris (Warkton) and Miss E. Steele (Bedford). Among the beautiful floral tributes were one from his fellow ringers at Higham Ferrers and one from the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD HICKTON.

A FOUNDATION MEMBER OF THE M.C.A.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Hickton, of Sawley, who passed away at the age of 79 years on Tuesday, February 11th, after only a few days' illness.

He had been a member of the Midland Counties Association since its inception in 1882 and had rung 19 peals for the society. He maintained his interest to the last, although of late years he had not been able to take any active part in the Exercise.

The funeral took place on Feb. 15th at the Church of All Saints, Sawley, where he used to ring and was at one time Ringing Master. The service was conducted by the Rector, and Mr. Charles Hutchinson (organist and ringer) officiated at the organ. At the end of the service in church a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Mr. A. Ward (Derby) and Messrs. J. Ward, Charles Chasty and R. Drage (Long Eaton). The coffin was borne to its last resting place near the west door by local ringers.

Mr. Hickton leaves two daughters and two sons, one of whom is Mr. R. Allen Hickton, a well-known ringer in Nottingham district.

In addition to the family mourners and the ringers mentioned above, the Midland Counties Association was represented by Mr. F. Salter (hon. secretary, Nottingham District) and Mrs. Salter, and Miss I. B. Thompson, who also represented Mr. W. E. White (hon. treasurer, Midland Counties Association).

So was laid to rest, near to the tower and bells he loved and cared for in life, yet another of those pioneers to whom this generation of ringers owe so much.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on Saturday week and proved a very successful affair, 23 members being present from Bagshot, Banstead, Beddington, Clandon, Croydon, Epsom, Guildford, Leatherhead and Lincoln.

In the absence of the Vicar, who is still indisposed, the service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Chapman, who, in a short address, said that if the ban on ringing had done harm, it had at least shown how great a part the bells played in our English life and customs.

After a good tea, provided at the Duke's Head, the usual business meeting followed, with Mr. Chapman in the chair, supported by Mr. J. Corbett (Guild treasurer), Mr. G. L. Grover (general secretary), Mr. A. Harman (Ringing Master) and officials and friends from the Surrey Association.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of two members whose deaths had occurred since the last meeting, Mr. John Beams, of Ewell, and Mrs. S. G. Walsh, a life member of Cobham.

The balance sheet showed that, although receipts had fallen, the expenditure had also been low, resulting in an increased balance of £9 10s. 8d.

The brief report commented on the fact that the ban had apparently killed what little interest did exist in some towers—half of the year's income had come from Cobham, and concluded with a reminder to members of the part that they would be expected to play when the ban was lifted, urging them to utilise handbells to keep them in trim so they could give of their best when the time came. Both report and balance sheet were adopted.

The retiring district officers were re-elected, the retiring general officers of the Guild were renominated, and it was left to the Ringing Master and secretary to arrange what meetings the circumstances warranted.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Chapman for his services at short notice, and to Mrs. Arnold, who officiated at the organ. In replying, Mr. Chapman said that it was a new experience for him and he had enjoyed it, and hoped that they would remember him if ever they needed a deputy again.

The handbells were then brought into action and were soon going to Plain Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques.

DEATH OF MR. C. H. READING.

RINGER AND CHURCHWARDEN AT MITCHAM.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles H. Reading, which took place on February 13th at the age of 73.

For many years he was assistant secretary of the Surrey Association, and his good work was apparent to all, especially to the members of the Christ Church, Mitcham, band, in whom he took a particular interest.

The annual ringing outings which he organised will long be remembered, and a permanent memorial to him is the splendid collection in the belfry of framed photographs of practically all the Surrey churches, taken on these outings.

He was churchwarden of Christ Church for many years, and he interested himself in any good work which he thought would benefit his fellow men.

Modest and unassuming, he was held in great respect by all with whom he came in contact, and his death will be regretted by all the ringers who had the good fortune to work with him and to know his splendid qualities.

The funeral took place at Mitcham Parish Church on Monday, February 17th, and was attended by many friends. By his death a much valued servant is lost to the cause to which he devoted himself for many years.

IN PRAISE OF RINGING.—'Among other diversions and recreations practised by and delightful to the inhabitants of this island none is more diverting, ingenious, harmless and healthful than the art of ringing. And although it be esteemed by the generality of people to be a mean and mechanical exercise, yet were it duly weighed and considered by a judicious and impartial person, it would be found to be very artful and not to be attained but by an ingenious and thoughtful undertaker.'—'Campanalogia,' 1702.

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NOTICES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 53rd annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 1st. Owing to prevailing conditions this will be a luncheon to commence at 1.30 p.m. prompt, Vice-President Councillor A. Paddon Smith in the chair.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting of this division will be held at Bocking on Saturday, March 1st. Six 'silent' bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells also available. It is necessary to elect two members for the general committee, so members please make an effort to be present. Please see that we have a better attendance than at the annual meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Bell Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 1st. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe, Promenade, Cheltenham. Will friends meet at above from 4 p.m.? Tea 4.30 sharp. We hope to have some good handbell practice, as some of our London friends are in the district.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, March 1st. Tower bells available with the 'Seage silent apparatus' from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and meeting.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1st. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 3 o'clock at 15, Farringdon Avenue, E.C.4.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Members and friends are invited to meet at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 1st, for the usual monthly meeting. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Albans Abbey, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells with a new kind of apparatus available from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea at McMeekans at 4.15. Business meeting in the tower at 6.15. Further ringing on handbells and tower bells 6.30 onwards. Come and try something new in 'silent' tower bells.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—

The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. No charge to those who send in names by Tuesday, March 4th, to Mr. F. W. Dixon, 1, Greenshaw Terrace, Guiseley. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. for all who notify me not later than March 7th. Six silent tower bells will also be available if required. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Welcome to Hethersett, March 15th. Six tower bells from 3 p.m. and handbells in church. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 at the King's Head, followed by business meeting and more handbells. Reports to hand. Subscriptions gladly received.—F. Nolan Golden, Sec., Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Little Clacton on Saturday, March 15th. Handbell ringing at the Vicarage (opposite church) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Blacksmith's Arms 5.15 p.m. Business meeting and more ringing at the Vicarage afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 11th, please. Neighbouring friends in Suffolk are cordially invited. There is a good bus service from Ipswich and Colchester passing the church, but visitors coming by car must get a permit before entering the coastal defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Further details will be announced later.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—For the duration of the war, Mr. Albert Walker's address is 86, Scribes Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. J. CHALK.

Mr. J. Chalk, the Master of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, had a narrow escape when some time back two high explosive bombs fell within a few yards of his home. The house was completely wrecked, but fortunately Mr. Chalk with his wife and daughter were in an Anderson shelter at the end of the garden. To lose a cherished home was a heavy blow, but Mr. Chalk is thankful he has come out sound in limb, and is looking forward to making another home.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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SILENT APPARATUSES.

One of the most curious things about change ringing is that the ringers, when they are most seriously intent on their art, betake themselves away from their fellow men, lock themselves in an almost inaccessible chamber, and pursue their art entirely oblivious of the outside world; while all the time the results of their efforts are broadcast far and wide over the surrounding country. This contrast between the isolation and detachment of the belfry, and the publicity of the ringing is surely unique. We cannot think of any other body of men who experience at one and the same time such complete privacy and such wide publicity.

Both the privacy and the publicity are, of course, necessary, but there are oftentimes serious drawbacks to the publicity. We really do wish to give delight to the outside listeners by the sound of the bells, though that may not be our only or our main object. And we certainly have no wish to be an annoyance to anyone, even to the most captious, though that, unfortunately, is sometimes unavoidable.

It is our misfortune that we cannot ring without the whole parish knowing it. We should like to be able to retire somewhere away from listeners when we are teaching beginners, or when we are ourselves practising something new and difficult. Brass bands do not practise in the market square; theatre companies do not rehearse in the open street; church choirs can learn their anthems when there is no one to listen. But we must practise in the full hearing of everyone, and we are usually judged, not by the perfected performance which is taken for granted and not much noticed, but by the imperfect attempts by which we hope to attain perfection, and which are often bitterly criticised and resented.

It is small wonder then that from time to time men have thought how to contrive some means by which the bells can be rung properly without attracting the attention of outsiders. Before the war the silencers which Mr. James Davis first introduced to St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were coming into increasing use, and at the last Central Council a new apparatus was shown to the members for which much was claimed, but which, so far, has had little opportunity of showing its utility.

These things, and similar things, will no doubt be increasingly used as they become known and improved, but they are of no use now when the ban imposes an absolute silence. Can we devise some means by which ringing shall be carried on and no sound reach the outside? If we can, there is no doubt whatever that it

(Continued on page H10.)

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would be an immense advantage, not merely in these abnormal times, which will pass, but in the future.

In many towers the clappers have been removed and the bells 'rung' silently. That is better than nothing, and every effort to keep going and to maintain the life of the Exercise is worthy of all praise. But silent bells are no adequate substitute for sounding bells, and in normal times 'silent' ringing should be discouraged. It would open the door to numerous ills, of which bad striking, slovenliness, and false ringing are obvious to everyone. Anything like the 'silent' peals advocated by a correspondent last week should be sternly discouraged. At present they are forbidden by a Central Council resolution.

What we need is a good appliance which will reproduce inside the belfry everything that we get from the open ringing. There is an apparatus which has been fixed in several towers, among them Great St. Mary's at Cambridge and Crawley in Sussex. It is called the Seage apparatus, but whether it is still manufactured or whether the patent has run out, we do not for the minute know. We should like to hear from anyone who has had a good experience of this or any similar apparatus.

However good a silent apparatus is, it should be used only for practice, not for peal ringing.

TREBLE BOB.

IS IT A GOOD METHOD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I suppose you will say that I only got what I asked for, but I don't think I deserved quite such a bad snubbing as Mr. Christopher Woolley gave me last week. I did read his letter. I went further and read between the lines, and I gathered (not without cause) that his opinion of Treble Bob is a mighty poor one.

I know it is the fashion to speak contemptuously of that method, but it was not so always.

But yesterday the word of Cæsar might
Have stood against the world; now lies he there,
And none so poor to do him reverence.

Treble Bob is an old and valued friend of mine, and so, having dropped a tear on fallen greatness, I feel I ought to say a word on its behalf. Wherefore I proclaim in a loud and defiant tone that Treble Bob is a first-class method, musical, and most interesting to ring.

When I get to heaven, if I find enough ringers there to make up a really good eight-bell band, I should like to ring a tenor of about 21 or 22 cwt. to a peal of Treble Bob. The bells to be by Abraham Rudhall or Thomas Mears at their best, and to be hung in plain bearings worn rather slack.

Mr. Woolley does not seem to like it because I did not sign my name but wrote anonymously. That was a bit of my artfulness. So long as he does not know who I am, he may think I am a person of some importance. I might be —, or even —. If he knew that really I am only —, he would simply shrug his shoulders and take no more notice.

'COUNTRY RINGER.'

TREBLE BOB AND SURPRISE METHODS.

A GOOD WORD FOR YORKSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read the letters on the merits and defects of Surprise methods from Mr. J. F. Harvey and Mr. C. W. Woolley with great interest, but was rather surprised not to see any specific reference to Yorkshire, which is, I suppose, runner-up to the Standard Four in the matter of popularity. In my humble estimation, this method, with its regular construction and high musical qualities, is worthy of a much wider popularity than that which it at present enjoys.

With reference to the letter from 'A Country Ringer,' I fail to see how any method can be 'Treble Bob spoiled'; to suggest that any method is this is, to my mind, suggesting the impossible. While Treble Bob has slow work it can never be other than a noise. The monotony of having the tenors pounding away on the front for a whole lead each in every course condemns the method as far as both ringing interest and musical qualities are concerned. This does not, of course, apply to the various forms of Spliced Treble Bob, in which the tenors are prevented from going into the slow, and which thus produce much better music.

R. D. St. J. SMITH.

Kersal, Manchester.

HANDBELL PEALS.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

At 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY	... 1-2	F. NOLAN GOLDEN	... 5-6
ALBERT ROUGHET	... 3-4	WALTER C. MEDLER	... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by F. N. GOLDEN.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, February 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	... 1-2	†JOHN A. FREEMAN	... 5-6
*SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C.	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.'

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, February 26, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 95, SINCIL BANK,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN	... 1-2	*JOHN A. FREEMAN	... 5-6
†SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C.	3-4	*KENNETH S. B. CROFT	... 7-8

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'in hand.'
The conductor's 50th peal.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Residence of A. CATTERWELL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of Double Bob, and two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, seven callings.

OLAVE BROYD	... 1-2	*MISS ELIZABETH BURCEAM	4
BERNARD W. PETTIT	... 3	ALBERT CATTERWELL	... 5-6

Conducted by OLAVE BROYD.

Witness—Mrs. Catterwell.

* First peal with inside bell. Rung in honour of Mr. Catterwell's birthday.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At Church House,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK VARTY	... 1-2	THOMAS R. BUTLER	... 5-6
ARNOLD BRUNTON	... 3-4	PERCIVAL W. CAVE	... 7-8
THOMAS HAMMOND	... 9-10		

Composed by SIR A. HEYWOOD. Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

Umpire—G. R. Newton.

A birthday compliment to Frank Varty.

DEATH OF MR. AMOS TRIPPIER.

AN OLD LANCASHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Amos Trippier, of Eccles, which took place on January 11th. He joined the Lancashire Association in 1897 and rang 65 peals in the county, besides others for the North Stafford and South Stafford Associations and in London. As a young man he went in for athletic sports and won many trophies. He took part in civic life and was an alderman. One of his sons is also an alderman and has been Mayor. The interment was in Eccles churchyard.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EXETER BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild was held on Saturday, February 22nd, at Deller's Cafe, and was attended by 35 members, among those present being Mr. E. J. Ryall, the chairman of the branch; Prebendary E. V. Cox, the president of the Guild; the Rev. M. V. Narracott, Vicar of St. Sidwell's; the general secretary, and Mr. T. Laver, late general secretary.

After tea, the hon. secretary (Mr. W. H. Howe) read the report of the branch for the past year. Two meetings had been held and satisfaction was expressed that the October meeting was so well attended. The finances are in a sound condition, with a balance in hand of nearly £18. Twelve members are serving with H.M. Forces and one of them has been wounded.

Mr. E. W. Biffin, in proposing the adoption of the report, referred to the death of Mr. A. H. Goad, of St. Thomas' band, as a heavy blow to himself and to the band with which Mr. Goad had been so long associated. Mr. Glass seconded and others voiced the appreciation of the branch for Mr. Howe's work. The report was adopted.

All the officers—Mr. E. J. Ryall (chairman), Mr. W. H. Howe (secretary and treasurer), Mr. W. Richardson (Ringing Master) and Messrs. E. W. Biffin, H. Pook and H. J. Rowe (representatives to the General Committee)—were re-elected.

Mrs. C. R. Lilley, who rings handbells very well, was elected as a member of the Guild.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on May 3rd at St. Thomas', Exeter.

Everybody was pleased to greet an old friend, Mr. A. W. Searle, and the branch, on the proposition of Mr. Howe, offered him congratulations on the occasion of his golden wedding. Mr. Searle has rung 55 peals for the Guild and conducted 18. His friends know him best for his tours and ringing outings. He has rung in all but a dozen or so of the Devon towers.

Mr. Searle, on behalf of his wife and himself, thanked the meeting, remarking that 50 years of happiness seemed a long time to look forward to, but short when reviewed. He had only emulated the example of Mr. Richardson and others of the branch.

Prebendary E. V. Cox referred to the illness of Mr. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' pointing out the importance of the great influence of that journal in ringing circles over land and sea. He proposed that an expression of sympathy of the Exeter Branch be sent to him, with the hope that soon he will be restored to health and strength. Mr. Laver seconded and others supported the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr. Biffin, it was agreed to hold handbell practices, Mr. C. R. Lilley to be invited to attend and give assistance. The first practice will occur on March 8th.

There was an expression of regret that the usual service was not held. Prayers read by the Rev. Prebendary Cox ended what may be termed an enjoyable and profitable gathering.

ORANGES AND LEMONS.

LONDON BELLS IN A NURSERY RHYME.

Mr. E. Stone, of Coventry, has sent us some particulars of the nursery rhyme which has come into notice recently through the taking down of the bells of St. Clement Danes. The words and music were published about the year 1874 by Frederick Warne and Co. The rhyme is, however, we fancy, much older, for unless our memory is at fault, there is a reference to it in Osborn's manuscript, which was written about 1840. We cannot check the reference because the manuscripts in the British Museum have been removed to a place of safety.

Here is the full rhyme:—

Gay go up and gay go down
To ring the bells of London Town.
Bull's eyes and targets, say the bells of St. Margaret's,
Brickbats and tiles, say the bells of St. Giles'.
Ha'pence and farthings, say the bells of St. Martin's.
Oranges and lemons, says the bells of St. Clement's.
Pancakes and fritters, say the bells of St. Peter's.
Two sticks and an apple, say the bells of Whitechapel.
Old Father Baldpate, say the slow bells of Aldgate.
Pokers and tongs, say the bells of St. John's.
Kettles and pans, say the bells of St. Ann's.
You owe me ten shillings, say the bells of St. Helen's.
When will you pay me? say the bells of Old Bailey.
When I grow rich, say the bells of Shoreditch.
Pray when will that be? say the bells of Stepney.
I do not know, says the great bell of Bow.
Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
And here comes a chopper to chop off your head.

Mr. Ernest Morris has also sent us a copy of the lines. He points out that they are given in his book, 'Legends of the Bells.'

BEACONSFIELD.—At St. Mary and All Saints' Church, on Monday, February 24th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, D. R. Fletcher 3-4, W. Lee 5-6. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, on the occasion of his wedding.

SIR HENRY TULSE.

LORD MAYOR AND MASTER OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Four men whose names appear in the list of members of the Society of College Youths were Lord Mayors of London, but three of them, Sir Watkins Lewis, Slingsby Bethel and Samuel Birch, had little active connection with the society at the time they held the office. The fourth, Sir Henry Tulse, was elected Master of the society in the year that he was Lord Mayor.

Like Sir Francis Withens, another and contemporary College Youth, Tulse obtained his position and importance through the political struggles of the reign of King Charles II. It was almost the last stage of the long conflict which was to decide whether England should be governed by an autocratic monarch or by Parliament, and the country was sharply divided into two parties, which shortly afterwards were called by the names of Whig and Tory.

London was a stronghold of the Whigs, and the citizens, safely entrenched as they supposed behind their charter and their age-long liberties, steadily supported those who resisted the aggrandisement of the royal power, while the Government, to counteract it, used all their power and influence to secure the election to the offices of Mayor and Sheriff of men who belonged to their own party, for, though the Whigs were in a decided majority, there was still a large minority of Tories among the freemen of the city, and one of their leaders was Alderman Tulse.

In 1673, Tulse and Robert Geoffrey were elected sheriffs, and the satisfaction of the Court party was expressed by Sir John Robinson, who wrote to Joseph Williamson, the Secretary of State, that 'the Sheriffs' names are Tulse and Jefferies, both good men'; and a little later, 'We have settled a Lord Mayor, Sir William Hooker, who I hope will prove a good one, with his two Sheriffs, Alderman Tulse and Deputy Jefferies, honest men.'

By 'good' and 'honest' of course were meant that they might be expected to do what the Government wanted, and probably Tulse gave satisfaction, for he received the honour of knighthood.

One of the moves in the political game was the promotion by the Whig party of petitions to the King praying for the calling of a Parliament, and one of these petitions was drawn up by the City of London. A number of leading citizens were selected to present it to Charles, and among them was Tulse, but he declined to serve, and when the deputation went to Windsor he stayed away, a fact that was noted with approval by the Court faction.

When the election for Lord Mayor was held in the next year, 1682, in accordance with custom the names of all the aldermen below the chair were put, one by one, to the meeting and voted upon by a show of hands. When, as almost invariably happened, a poll was demanded, four candidates were put forward, two of them Whigs and two Tories, of whom Tulse was one. The Whigs, confident in their numerical superiority, split their votes between their two men, but the Tories were wiser and gave 2,233 votes to Sir William Pritchard, while Tulse received only 236. Even so, the Whigs had the higher poll but, after a scrutiny, Pritchard was by fair means or foul declared duly elected.

The reaction against the Popish Plot was now in full swing. The feeling of the country had turned against the Whigs, and Charles and his Government, who had long bided their time, proceeded to crush their enemies, and among them the corporations of the big towns. The plan was to issue writs of *quo warranto*, calling upon the towns to show cause why their charters should not be annulled on account of alleged irregularities. By packing the bench they made sure of a legal judgment in their favour, and one by one the corporation had to surrender their charters.

London's turn came. On a writ of *quo warranto* judgment was given against the city, and the charter declared forfeited. On October 13th the King issued a new commission in which the terms were that 'no Lord Mayor, sheriff, recorder, common serjeant, town clerk, or coroner of the City or Steward of the Borough of Southwark, shall be capable of, or admitted to the exercise of their respective offices, before his Majesty shall have approved him under his seal manual.'

It meant that the age-long traditions of free election and free government were swept away at a blow, and for some years the control of the city was in the hands of the Government and their supporters. Sir William Pritchard, the Lord Mayor and 17 aldermen, including Tulse, were reappointed, but the rest were ejected. The Common Council ceased to exist.

When Pritchard's term of office was ended, the Court of Aldermen was informed of his Majesty's commission having been issued to Sir Henry Tulse to be Mayor for the ensuing year, and he was sworn with the usual accompaniment of civic procession and banquet, but without any formality of election. The dinner was held at the Grocers' Hall, for Tulse was a member of the Grocers' Company and Master in 1681-2.

The Whig opposition was crushed, but they made an attempt at revenge. An action was brought against Sir Henry Tulse and Sir Robert Geoffrey alleging that as sheriffs they had illegally sold the office of under-sheriff. The respondents did not contest the action in the Courts, but petitioned the King. The matter was referred to the Attorney General, who reported in their favour, and a warrant of *nulli prosequi* was issued to stay proceedings.

Tulse showed his political leaning still further when he appeared as the principal witness in an action brought by the Duke of York (afterwards King James II.) against a Mr. Pilkington, one of the aldermen, on account of words spoken in the Court of Aldermen. The defendant was found guilty and fined the enormous sum of £100,000.

It would, however, be utterly wrong to suppose that Tulse and the Tories who worked with him were merely servile tools of a despotic monarchy. They were the successors of the old Cavalier party, and their main motive was their intense loyalty to Church and King. Presently this very loyalty brought them into sharp opposition to the new King, James II.

James was a bigoted Roman Catholic, who put what he thought to be the interests of his Church before all things else. One of his objects was the repeal of the penal laws by which all power and influence were kept in the hands of the members of the Church of England. To further this end, all those members of town corporations who opposed the repeal were ejected and their places

supplied by men who approved, mostly Nonconformists and Papists. From these reformed corporations a number of addresses were sent up to the King approving his policy, but none came from the Court of Aldermen, which (with the Common Council in abeyance) was the governing body of the City of London.

Jefferys, the notorious Lord Chief Justice, waited on them and lectured them in his usual bullying style, but they refused to submit, and a large number of them were dismissed, among them Sir Henry Tulse.

Tulse was a great benefactor to the Church of St. Dionis, Backchurch, which once stood at the corner of Lime Street. He gave a marble font and marble steps leading up to it. They are now in the Church of St. Dionis, Parson's Green, Fulham.

Tulse's family vault was inside St. Dionis' Church, and when he died he was buried there. When the church was pulled down and his body removed, the stone which had covered the vault was placed in the court which marks the old churchyard, and there it is now. The inscription was recut in 1937 as part of the celebration of the tercentenary of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Sir Henry Tulse's daughter married the first Lord Onslow, but she came to a tragic end. She drowned herself in a pond in the grounds of the Archbishop's palace at Croydon. The family of the present Lord Onslow is descended from Tulse, and there is, I believe, a portrait of him at Onslow Park, near Guildford.

Sir Henry Tulse, during an active life, filled many offices in the City of London. He was Alderman in 1673 and Sheriff in the same year, Master Grocer in 1681, Lord Mayor in 1683, and President of Bethlehem and Bridewell Hospitals in 1689.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT HARTFIELD.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Hartfield on Saturday, February 22nd.

The church room had been commandeered overnight by the military for use as a cookhouse, but the Rector (the Rev. H. A. James) most kindly offered a room in the Rectory as a substitute, and the meeting was held in very comfortable quarters.

Mr. A. L. Ryman was in the chair, supported by the vice-chairman (Mr. C. J. Ladd), the treasurer (Mr. R. D. Divall), the hon. secretary (Mr. B. Saunders), the assistant hon. secretary (Mr. C. A. Bassett) and the auditor (Mr. E. J. Oliver).

The meeting expressed its regret at the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and hoped for his speedy recovery.

The committee's report was read by Mr. Bassett. It pointed out the difficulties of carrying on in these troublous times, but said that they were attempting to maintain the continuity of the Guild and wished the members in all sincerity the best of luck throughout the coming year.

The balance sheet, which showed a balance of £31 in the Post Office Savings Bank and £1 1s. in petty cash, was adopted. It was agreed that the financial position was very satisfactory.

Mr. Oliver proposed the re-election of all the officers en bloc, but Mr. B. Saunders asked to be relieved of the office of hon. secretary. He pointed out that the assistant secretary had been doing all the work and he was secretary only in name. He offered to continue to do the Guild's printing. Mr. Bassett was then appointed secretary, Mr. Saunders being placed on the committee, and the other officers re-elected.

In the prevailing conditions it was not possible to fix the next meeting, and the matter was left in the hands of the secretary and the committee.

It was regretted that members joining the Forces did not notify the secretary, and so it was not possible to keep in touch with them.

It had been advertised that no tea arrangements could be made, and it was a very pleasant surprise to find that the company were to be entertained by the Rev. and Mrs. H. A. James and Mr. J. W. Ritson, a vice-president. Mr. A. Batten thanked the Rector for the use of his room and the hosts for giving and serving the tea.

In his reply, the Rector said how pleased he was to have the Guild at Hartfield, the church room was always at the disposal of the Guild, and as for the tea he was glad to think they had been able to supply it. He congratulated the Guild on having so many enthusiasts to keep the movement alive.

Handbell ringing concluded a very successful meeting.

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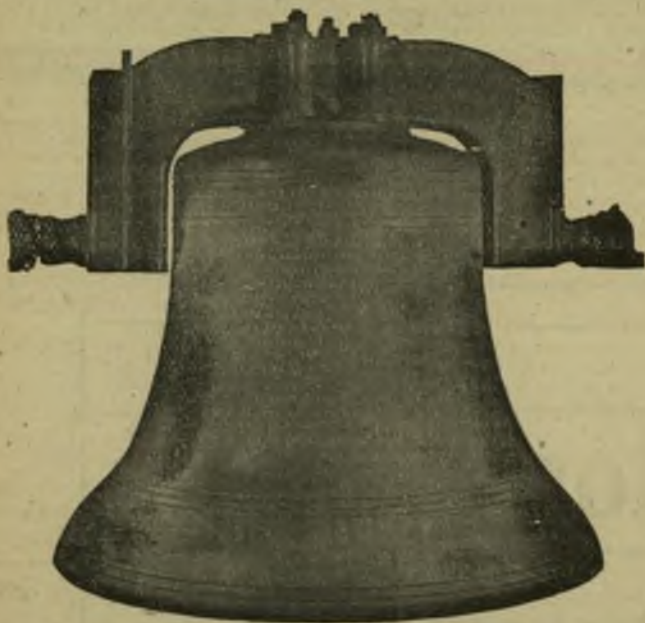
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THE EDITOR.

As we go to press we learn that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is not quite ready for the major operation, which will not be performed until about a week's time.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are informed that the twelve bells of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, have been removed to a place of safety for the duration of the war. St. Clement Danes' bells are now safely stored.

Mr. E. Stone, of 99, Keresley Road, Coventry, has returned to that address after the recent big air raid.

Mr. F. N. Golden would be glad to get into touch with Mr. A. J. Corrigan. His address is 21, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

A friend has sent us from the north of Scotland a cutting from a Cambridge newspaper headed '150 years ago' and giving an account of the death of George Gross. It was Mr. Borrett's extract from the 'Norwich Gazette,' and evidently had been copied from our columns.

The handbell peal at Liverpool was rung in an air raid shelter at the Church House. We have often heard the question asked what use can air raid shelters be put to after the war? Perhaps this supplies the answer.

The band was indebted to Mr. G. R. Newton and Mr. Fred Owen for making the necessary arrangements.

Since the destruction of St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, last December, the services have been held at the Church House, and the ringers regularly ring handbells for the 3.30 p.m. service on Sundays. Also, by invitation, they went to the training ship H.M.S. 'Eaglet' on two Sunday mornings recently and rang for the 11 o'clock service.

On March 5th, 1888, 12,041 changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Appleton. James W. Washbrook composed the peal and called it from the ninth. F. E. Robinson rang the seventh. It was the longest length in the method at the time, beating the 11,111 changes rung by the College Youths at Fulham in 1883. It stood as the record for only two months.

On March 6th, 1832, the Oldham men rang the then longest peal of Maximus, 7,392 changes of Kent Treble Bob.

March 8th is the anniversary of the long peal of Grandsire Caters, 12,600 changes, rung in 1737 on the old ten bells at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich. The band included several of the famous ringers whose names have been recently mentioned in our columns, Thomas Melchior, John Gardiner, Robert Crane, Edward Crane, William Porter and others.

On the same date in 1859 the Birmingham men rang 10,047 changes of Stedman Caters. It stood as the record peal until it was beaten by the College Youths' performance at Fulham, mentioned above.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Double Norwich Court Bob Major, the other two Kent Treble Bob Major.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

WEST DORSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting, postponed from December, was held at Beaminster on Saturday last, March 1st, when members of the branch were joined by visiting members from Dorchester.

Bridport is the time-honoured centre for the annual meeting, but on this occasion Beaminster was chosen, as the bells there are fitted with the 'Seage' apparatus, which some time since had been overhauled and was more or less in working order. A few hitches had to be overcome at the start, and while the 'technicians' were struggling some Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Bob Minor were rung on handbells. Most of those present had not touched a rope since the ban came into operation, so the use of the apparatus lent an additional attraction to the meeting and enabled some touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major to be rung on the ropes with the miniature bells sounding in the ringing chamber.

This apparatus has been in the tower for a great many years and it would be interesting to know what improvements have been made on the original invention up to date, as to the ringers it seemed a device with great possibilities, particularly if wire connections could be eliminated and foolproof electric contacts arranged.

Canon G. C. Hutchings, the Vicar, conducted a short service at 4.30 p.m., and after an excellent tea at a nearby cafe the Master of the Guild, the Rev. C. Carew Cox, who is also chairman of the branch, presided over the business meeting.

All the officers, some of whom were serving in the Forces, were re-elected. The hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Lathey, reported that a number of towers had made no returns and in consequence there was a drop in subscriptions. But his balance sheet, nevertheless, showed the satisfactory figure of over £8 in hand. It was reaffirmed that each tower should be responsible for the subscriptions of its members on active service.

It was decided, all being well, to arrange another meeting at Beaminster during the summer.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the incumbent for the use of the tower and for the service, also to Mr. Lathey and the Beaminster members for their arrangements, resulting in a very pleasant, if small, gathering.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION. ENJOYABLE LUNCHEON AT BIRMINGHAM.

The annual gathering, which takes place each year in Birmingham, to honour the memory of the most famous of all Birmingham ringers, Henry Johnson, was held for the fifty-third time last Saturday. In view of the difficulties of the times through which we are passing, there was necessarily some curtailment of the usual proceedings, but in the opinion of those who attended it was no less enjoyable than former gatherings.

An excellent luncheon was served in the Connaught Room at the Imperial Hotel, to which a company of 55 sat down. Councillor A. Paddon Smith presided, supported by the Rev. Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston), Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Ringing Master), Mr. A. Walker (vice-president) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. A. A. Hughes (hon. treasurer, Ancient Society of College Youths), Mr. H. Knight (hon. secretary, Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford) and Mr. F. W. Perrens. The visitors included Mr. R. Richardson (Master, Lincoln Diocesan Guild), Mrs. and Miss Richardson, Mr. F. Skidmore (Bristol United Ringing Guilds), Mr. William Saunders (Coalbrookdale), Mr. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon) and Mr. F. E. Collins (Croydon).

The Hon. Secretary said that letters of apology had been received from Mr. James George, Mr. J. W. Jones (Newport), Mr. J. F. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. F. B. Yates (King's Norton), and one from Mr. J. A. Trollope on behalf of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who had regularly attended this gathering for many years, and was in hospital at Woking where he had been prepared for an operation. The hon. secretary was asked to convey to Mr. Goldsmith the sympathy of all his old friends who had met that afternoon, together with their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

CHURCH AND STATE.

After the toast of the King had been enthusiastically honoured, Mr. F. E. Haynes proposed 'The Church and State.' He said that whatever might befall England and its democratic Church and constitution, bellringers would couple duty towards the Church with duty towards the State. Many members had been called upon to serve in His Majesty's Forces. If it were conceivable that we should not be victorious in this struggle we should have neither Church nor State, therefore our loyalty was now needed more than at any time in our history. With the toast the speaker coupled the name of the Rev. Canon S. Blofeld, who had always shown a helpful interest in the welfare of the Guild.

Canon Blofeld, who responded, said he thought it was a little hysterical to silence our church bells. All regretted it and felt it had never been justified. We had some basic belief that evil cannot win. We must try to strengthen in our minds something more than Britain's prosperity—something more than Britain's democracy—something based upon the eternal belief that goodness must endure.

The hon. secretary then read a telegram from the hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, conveying the best wishes of the society for a successful gathering.

The Chairman proposed the toast of 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson.' For the first time, he believed, the toast was to be given by someone who never knew Henry Johnson. He had heard probably 40 different men praising the famous Birmingham ringer, whose memory would never fade so long as ringing was practised.

The toast was drunk in silence, and afterwards a course of Stedman Cinques was rung on the handbells by D. T. Matkin 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, F. E. Pervin 5-6, A. Walker 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, F. E. Haynes 11-12.

THE GUILD OFFICERS.

The toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild' was proposed by the chairman. He had the honour that afternoon of presiding over the smallest gathering at a Henry Johnson Commemoration. The hon. secretary had overcome many difficulties in making the arrangements, and he was to be congratulated upon having succeeded in such extremely difficult times. The officers of the Guild were determined to keep the continuity of the commemoration unbroken, and it should never be said that Hitler (or anyone else) could prevent them from meeting. In the years to come it would be remembered that the 'old boys' had kept the Guild going through the most difficult period England had ever experienced. The speaker then said it was his sad duty to refer to the passing of their beloved Master, the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett, whose fame was worldwide so far as the ringing Exercise was concerned. He was a very distinguished man and a good ringer. His silvery voice would be for long remembered by visitors to the Birmingham dinner. They lamented the passing of one who was a distinguished adornment at many happy gatherings. The speaker referred also to the passing of Mr. Jonathan Preston, for many years an auditor for the Guild. Mr. Preston began his ringing career when a new peal of bells was installed at Erdington Parish Church, and from that day his interest had never faded. The Guild had lost another member by the tragic death of Mr. Stephen Wood, of Bristol, whose valuable work for the Exercise was well known to everyone in the room. No ringing society, said the speaker, could continue without a good secretary. It was a task that had recently become even more thankless than usual now that ringing was forbidden. Mr. Reeves was the finest secretary they could have, and he knew that he had the support of every member

(Continued in next column.)

DESIGN OF BELL FRAMES.

A REPLY TO MR. HUNT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I fear that Mr. Hunt has overlooked the fact that the article on bell-cages was written from the point of view of an archaeologist. The use of the word 'bell-cage' should have given the clue. As a 'greybeard,' I dare not be a prophet—but as a carpenter and ringer I certainly have strong opinions as to how a bell frame should be constructed.

The engineer has been unable to improve on the design of the modern timber frame. This is shown in the numerous examples of both iron and steel frames, with which we are blessed or cursed to-day—according to one's point of view. They still consist of the same triangulated truss; so I consider that the progressive plan has reached its end, and has progressed beyond the day of the corner or end posts. I will give my reasons for dumping the corner post on the junk-heap of the past after I have dealt with the braces.

I do not agree that 'struts made from wood are a failure because the splayed shoulders shrink.' That the shoulders occasionally shrink I do not deny, but it must be borne in mind that the shoulders remain straight so that they still provide a good seating for the head and cill when the vertical bolts have been tightened up. The argument about shrinkage can and has been overdone in the past. Once a frame (assuming, of course, that it is constructed of well-seasoned timber—not just dried) has adjusted its moisture content to that of the average for the tower, for all practical purposes it will perform its job well, when given its due attention.

Now in a frame with corner posts these will prevent the vertical bolts of the braces from doing their job. It is like trying to cramp two pieces of timber together, with a block between them—it just can't be done. The corner posts hardly transmit any thrust from the head to the cill, it is the braces that do this job; so like all superfluous members, corner posts have been discarded.

I am interested in Mr. Hunt's ideal bell frame and note that each truss requires 18 bolts against the two in the modern timber frame. As experience in the 15th and 19th centuries proved that many joints and fastenings were a source of weakness, I would suggest that such a large number of bolts are also a source of weakness; bearing in mind that the two bolts per truss of the modern frame are often neglected, still more would 18 bolts per truss be likely to be neglected.

The spanner always has been the helpmate of the bolt, and, as far as I can see, always will—fate has made them inseparable.

The 19th century bellhangers have experimented with composite frames of wood and iron or steel, and from the experience gathered they gave the composite frame up for good. The modern bellhanger realises that it is a case of all wood, or all iron and steel—like oil and water, they are bad mixers. It appears that they have yet to learn that cast-iron and rolled steel are also bad mixers.

G. P. ELPHICK.

Southover, Lewes.

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

of the Guild. The Guild was fortunate also in having Mr. F. E. Haynes as Ringing Master, although there was little for him to do at the moment.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

The speaker had much pleasure in coupling the name of Mr. T. H. Reeves with the toast 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' Mr. T. H. Reeves, in reply, thanked the chairman for the toast, and the ladies and gentlemen for so kindly receiving it.

Mr. A. Walker proposed the toast 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' It was true, said the speaker, that the numbers were less than on former occasions, but he felt that what they were lacking in quantity they made up for in quality. It was a friendly gesture on the part of the Ancient Society of College Youths to send their good wishes, and he was glad to know that they were still meeting. He was sure that their kind wishes were reciprocated by Birmingham ringers. He congratulated Mr. A. A. Hughes upon his efforts to preserve the records of the Ancient Society, and thanked him and also the other visitors for overcoming the inconvenience of present-day travel to attend the luncheon.

In response, Mr. A. A. Hughes said that he had been particularly charged by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths to convey hearty greetings from the City of London. They had been closely associated for many years—two cities badly scarred but far from scared.

Mr. F. Skidmore also replied, saying that it was gratifying to see that the centre of England was still maintaining a lively interest in ringing in spite of the ban. He congratulated them upon their menu, which appeared to have been chosen from non-rationed foods, thereby causing no hardship to anyone.

A short business meeting followed, though there was very little business to transact. Mr. F. Skidmore (Bristol) was elected a life member of the Guild. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at headquarters.

The early evening was occupied by handbell ringing. The company dispersed much earlier than is usual at Birmingham dinners, but it was agreed that the efforts of the officers of the Guild had been well worth while.

REVERSALS.

THE RIGHT USE OF THE TERM.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The discussion on this subject reminds me that I have somewhere an article about it, which I wrote 40 years ago, for the then 'Bell News,' but never typed out; had it been sent, the question might have been settled once for all.

What we have to decide is whether we ought to use the word 'reverse' in a strict or in a general sense. We are told that Nature abhors a vacuum. Whether this be so or not, it is quite certain that in writing out change ringing we can never leave one space blank. If one bell wants to move in one direction, it cannot do so until another is ready to take its place. Every movement has its opposite. This goes right through change ringing, so that there is nothing of which we cannot say that one way is the ordinary way, and another is the 'reverse.' We can even go so far as Mr. Bankes James and say that the hunt being one side of the treble is the ordinary way, and the other side is the reverse variation.

There is nothing wrong in so doing. The only thing to be said against it is that it makes the word 'reverse' useless, and it would be better and less misleading not to use it at all.

If, however, we are going to use the word in future (as all ringers want to do), it would surely be best to use it in the same sense as is used in other matters. The best known is with regard to coins. If you take a coin and place it so as to see what is called the 'heads,' in the best way, this view is called the 'obverse'—(from two Latin words, meaning 'turned towards you'). Now suppose a line drawn as a tangent to the right edge of the coin, to represent the position of a hinge; and on such a hinge turn the coin over. The view now seen is called the 'reverse'; another word from the Latin, and meaning 'turned back.' From this use of the word every other use may be made to radiate.

If, however, instead of turning over the coin, we keep the same face up, but screw it round, so that the line which was a tangent to the upper edge, becomes the tangent to the lower edge, we have not reversed the coin, but we have turned it upside down, or inverted it. What we see might be called the 'inverse,' and the process by which we attain it may be called 'inversion,' or 'inverting.'

Now all these things may be done with rows of changes. The most usual is with regard to methods. We speak of a reverse method when we mean one in which the work that is ordinarily done when the treble is leading is now done when the treble is behind. To this use of the word no one could possibly object.

The word is, however, often used in other senses. Thus a slow six in Stedman is often said to be the reverse of a quick one. In this case the six has merely been inverted; one begins at the other end, as it were. If one wants a technical term for it, it must be called an inverted six.

To turn anything upside down, or invert it, one must take the last first, and go on until the first is last. This can be done either with the ringing, or with the method, or with the calling. In the first case the rows are rung all the same as before, but by taking the last row first, the music is entirely different. The changes are the same, but their order is inverted.

In the second case, the diagram would be turned upside down. That part of the method with which you usually end would become the beginning. As methods nowadays are usually symmetrical, this means that most methods are not altered by being inverted.

In the third case, the last call would become the first, and so on. This would be the true inversion the touch or peal. Whether there can be any true reversal of a touch or peal I must leave to others to say. At any rate, before we can talk about the reverse of a peal, we must first decide what a reverse is, or should be. From the number of different so-called reverses which have been suggested no one seems to have considered this primary question yet.

Ufford Rectory.

H. DRAKE.

HANDBELL RINGING AND APATHY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read the account in your issue of the 28th February of the inaugural meeting of the Highcliffe Society. Amongst other things, I read that a system of teaching handbell ringing was employed which has many novel features. As one of many ringers who are, I hope, trying to teach beginners even in these difficult times, I would like to ask the members of the Highcliffe Society if they could explain their new methods, in order that other ringers may profit by their experience.

I should also like to remind 'Numskull' that the reason for the apathy which he complains of is not merely a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the ringers, but rather a lack of ringers. Now that so many men have been called up it is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get together a band capable of ringing even Grandsire or Plain Bob. As an example, I would tell him that I am now the only member of what was a very keen and flourishing band now remaining.

Nearly all ringers would agree that once a man is 'bitten' by ringing there is no fear that he will lose his keenness, and I believe that there are enough keen ringers to carry the Exercise through the severest tests, and to come out victorious. 'YOUNG RINGER.'

Beechcroft, Sundridge, Kent.

ERIN DOUBLES.

THE EXTENT NOT POSSIBLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One hundred and twenty changes cannot be obtained in Erin Doubles for the simple reason the work forbids. There are ten combinations of any three bells in front with any two remaining over and dodging behind. Each of these combinations contain six permutations or changes. Therefore, only 60 changes can be produced because of the particular work, and this with the aid of two normal Stedman singles. Any bobbing in front would ruin the method.

One hundred and twenty changes of Stedman Doubles can be produced because, in addition to the two singles, the work of slow and quick sixes is equivalent to bob work in Erin Doubles, which, if applied to the latter, would utterly ruin it. F. A. YORKE, Major, R.A.

Somewhere in England.

AN AMENDED SINGLE.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass on your space to offer an improved single for use in the extents of Erin Doubles which I forwarded. I trust it will be more acceptable, as it only affects the work of two bells.

As will be seen, the substitution of the improved single causes the order of sixes 10 to 20 of the extent published on the 14th ult. to be changed to 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20.

21435

12453

14235

41253

42135

24153

24513

42531

etc.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

A NEW MAJOR METHOD.

A SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT TO DUFFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is well known that, contrary to Sir Percival Heywood's hopes and expectations, 'Duffield' has never become popular amongst the ringing fraternity. It may be that one reason for this is that it is too simple, or, again, that the dodging at lead is considered to be less musical than if it were in 5.6.

I venture to enclose the course of a method which, in my opinion, is an improvement. It is still, of course, very simple, but the work in the front, which takes the place of that in 'Duffield' in the middle places, is rather more interesting than plain hunting, and the dodging is transferred from 1.2 to 5.6, thus improving the music, and making all dodging and bobs exactly like Stedman.

The coursing order is better, which matters little in a peal, but is important for short touches.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

12345678

21436587

24135678

42316587

43215678

34126587

43162857

34618275

36412857

63148275

61342857

16438275

61483725

16847352

18643725

81467352

84163725

48617352

84671532

48765123

47861532

74685123

76481532

67845123

76854213

67582431

65784213

56872431

58674213

85762431

58726341

85273614

82576341

28753614

27856341

72583614

27538164

72351846

73258164

37521846

35728164

53271846

35217486

53124768

51327486

15234768

12537486

21354768

12345678

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE SCIENCE OF RINGING.

Last week we gave Bulwer's suggested rules for methods. The interesting thing about these suggested rules is that all, except, perhaps, the last, were laid down from the standpoint of the composer of peals. No thought seems to have been given to the actual ringer in the belfry, and this attitude is common to almost all the opinions expressed by authorities at the time and later. Davies went much further. To him the one important thing was that the regular succession of the nature of the rows should never be broken. That was the fundamental law of method construction, and in comparison with it nothing else mattered very much. It seems to us now a totally untenable position, but it is very remarkable how many well informed men did share his views, if not to the full extent. Heywood laid down the axiom that every bell that can must move, and he also expressed the opinion that places made together are a defect. This opinion was adopted by a number of people, and is still held by some. There seems to have been an idea, more or less definitely held, that places are a necessary evil; there must be some of them, but the fewer there are and the more they are hidden up, the better.

Older men will remember the keen and long-drawn-out controversy which followed Bulwer's action. It lasted for years, and in the end the Exercise accepted three general principles for method construction. The first is that no bell may strike more than two consecutive blows in any one position, the second that the lead of a method must be symmetrical, and the third that the lead ends should be what are known as Bob Major lead ends. All three, and especially the two last, were strongly opposed, but nobody to-day is likely to challenge them.

In all these arguments and controversies men looked on a method solely as a means of producing changes, and that, of course, is one of its most important uses. But it is not the only one and, as we strongly urge, an equally and perhaps more important use, is to provide 'work' for the individual ringer.

The fundamental defect, of Heywood and the other authorities was that they attempted to lay down rules and to set up standards for the art and science of change ringing before they understood what the art and science essentially are. Few people even now understand. That is nothing to their discredit, but we shall very much better understand method construction if we know something about how change ringing actually came about, and what was the root idea which produced it and developed it.

Change ringing was not the invention of some mathematical genius who sat down with pencil and paper to work out an elaborate scheme of producing the permutations of figures according to scientific rules. It might conceivably have been so invented, but actually it was not. It appeared in the belfry among the practical ringers, and we may safely say that the real birth of change ringing was when, after having been used for years to good round ringing, men began to say to each other all over the country, 'Let's have some variety. Change places with me.' The idea of the movement of the individual bell among the others is the fundamental idea. We know from Duckworth's *Tintinnalogia* that this idea of movement was the original idea, and we know from our personal experience that it remains the

most important idea, however much we may forget it when we sit down with pencil and paper to compose peals or construct methods. Is it not remarkable and significant how a man identifies himself with the bell he is ringing? He says, 'I was in 5-6,' or 'I should have gone down to lead.' Not, 'I was striking my bell in 5-6.' Notice also how almost every technical term we use in the belfry implies movement and little else. Hunting, dodging, bob, course, lead—you can go through the lot; they are all alike in this respect.

We have compared the work in a peal to a walking tour across country, and we showed how we react to similar conditions in both cases. But the analogy must not be pushed too far. When we are on a walking tour we can go within limits, pretty much where we like, but when we are ringing, our movement is restricted by certain definite conditions which are inherent in the nature of the case. The movement in change ringing is not the movement of a physical object in space and time, but the movement of an abstract entity among other similar entities. This, no doubt, sounds very dreadful, but the idea is really a very simple one. Our object in mentioning it is to point out that given a definite number of bells in a row and the intention to alter their relative positions by moving them among each other, what we can do and what we cannot do, depend on an exact self-contained science, in just the same way that, given the idea of a point and a line, the whole of geometry follows as a logical science. Change ringing and geometry are, in fact, two kindred sciences.

We do not intend to develop this thought further or to try to explain the nature of the science of change ringing. It is an intensely interesting study for those who like that sort of thing, but obviously they are not many. What we want to point out is that the only justification of any general law of method construction is in the fact that it is implied by the nature of the science. That and that alone is the justification for the general rules of symmetry and Bob Major lead ends.

We will next consider some of the rules which people have tried from time to time to lay down. First there is the rule that no bell should strike more than two consecutive blows in any one position. Is that implied by the fundamental nature of the science? Not absolutely, though the principle on which it is based is so implied. For if a bell lies for any length of time in one position it may contravene the root idea of movement. But place making, as we shall see presently, is a part of movement, and movement may take the form of a succession of places in the same position. Thus the long fourths at the bob in Treble Bob, and the long thirds at the single in Grandsire, are each really three distinct places, and so can be justified. So, too, can the four blows behind in Bob Triples. Nevertheless, the Exercise has come to the conclusion that while there are sufficient reasons for allowing such a thing at calls, there is none for allowing it in the plain course of a method. The distinction is based on purely practical grounds.

DAMAGE TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

Steps are being taken by the Ministry of Works to secure the proper treatment of churches and other historic buildings damaged in air raids. Selected local architects with special knowledge of the historic buildings in their district have been chosen, in consultation with the Royal Institute of British Architects, to assist and advise local authorities before and during the work of demolition and removal of debris.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD ?

MUSIC AND PLACE MAKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to read Mr. Woolley's letter. The views of men of his standing were what many of us were hoping to see. I agree with him in most of the points he raises, although, perhaps, not in all.

In a previous letter I suggested that one of the points of a good method was that bells should not occupy a position for too prolonged a period. By that I meant that when dodging behind they should certainly do so long enough to bring out the music, but how long that should be is, perhaps, a matter of opinion. Two or three dodges, I should say, is good; four, probably, rather too long.

* For the purpose of comparison between various methods, it doesn't seem to matter very much whether one considers the tenors divided when two or more or when three or more bells come between. In the majority of cases the relative result would be much the same, although not necessarily always so.

Mr. Woolley confines his remarks regarding 'back-handers' (perhaps a crude, but still an expressive term) to those at the front of the change. I am not so much concerned with these. The idea that they may be more difficult to strike is of no importance; they are, of course, no more difficult than backstroke leads when bells are dodging. But when they come at the back, as they must in due course, they do interrupt the rhythm of the changes and so interfere with the music. Changes are rung in pairs, or should be. In a sense they are couplets, and in a verse of poetry we may begin a line with any word we please, but it is very important how we end it. When back-stroke places are made behind, the couplet is broken, the expected rhyme or sequence does not come, and the ear experiences a sense of something lacking. I can quite see, however, that there may be genuine disagreement on this point, just as there is on the question of the merits, or otherwise, of modern music. Being a lover of Mozart and Beethoven, perhaps I am a bit old-fashioned. If so, I am still unrepentant. However, I am at one with Mr. Woolley on the merits of Bristol, although even the sun has spots, and I generally endorse his criticism of the opinions of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies on Major, who, for some reason or other, failed utterly to appreciate its beauties.

That Bedford is a method on the 'lengthening-lead' plan is an obvious advantage. I must confess that I had overlooked this, having gone no further in my consideration of it than the plain course. When short touches are desired, this is an extremely useful quality, and the method certainly deserves a good many extra points for this. I thank Mr. Woolley for pointing it out.

As regards classification, I was not aware that it had been decided that the whole pulls where the treble leads and lies do not constitute 'cross-sections.' This was not the opinion of the author (or the reviser) of 'Standard Methods.' But in any case a mere question of classification has nothing to do with the merits of a method, and the deduction of 5 points on this account is a minor detail.

May I say how grateful we are for the very interesting series of articles with which you are favouring us on this question? We shall look forward with appreciation to as many more as you feel disposed to give us.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

Baildon, Yorks.

OLD RINGERS' RIVALRY.

NORWICH VERSUS AYLSHAM.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett continues to send us most interesting extracts from the old Norwich newspaper. Here is one which should be read in connection with the controversy over the first peals of Stedman, of which an account appeared some few months ago in our columns. Thomas Melchior published a retort, in which he said that the Norwich men did not believe that the Aylsham men had ever rung a peal of Grandsire Triples. The peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester, referred to was rung in February, 1730, 'in 3 hours 6 minutes and 27 seconds, to the great satisfaction of all the hearers.'

'Norwich Gazette,' November 6th, 1731.

'Norfolk, Aylesham. This is to inform all those who are lovers of the Art of Ringing, That we whose Names are here-under written, the Society of Ringers in the said Town of Aylesham, did on Monday, the 1st of November instant, ring the Peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5,040 changes, in the Space of 3 Hours and 11 Minutes, which was never known to be done in so short a Time but by the above-mentioned Company, once by the Leicester Scholars only excepted, and whereas it has been inserted in the Newspapers That the Company of Ringers belonging to the Parish of St. Peter's of Mancroft in the City of Norwich, did lately ring the Peal of Stedman's Triples: we the Company above-mentioned, and whose Names are here under-written, take Leave to tell them, that we do not believe they did or can prick or ring the said Peal to Truth, notwithstanding their several Pretensions, they having often contradicted themselves in pricking the same.

John Amys, jun. Treble, Ralph Spurrell 2nd, William Westly 3rd, Robert Lubbock 4th, Robert Scott 5th, Edward Barnes 6th, Thomas Spurrell 7th, Jonathan Ulph Tenor.'

DESTRUCTION OF CHURCHES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

A NATIONAL RECORD.

The tragic destruction and mutilation of churches and other historic buildings by enemy action, in ancient cities like London, Bristol and Coventry, as well as in the countryside, have had one immediate sequel. At the invitation of the Royal Institute of British Architects a conference was held on November 18th 'to initiate a scheme for the compilation of full graphic, photographic and other records of buildings of merit, whatever their date, which have been damaged or are in outstanding danger of damage by warfare.' As a result the National Buildings Record has been formed under a council.

The work of the National Buildings Record will be threefold: (1) The compilation of a central index of records for purposes of reference, and the avoidance of duplication. This index is already in being, thanks to the Architectural Graphic Records Committee, but contains as yet only a title of the material existing throughout the country; (2) the supplementing of these records by adequate surveys where records are non-existent or incomplete; (3) the record of damage to buildings and of evidence of history or construction which such damage often discloses.

The urgency of the task which has been undertaken has been recognised by the Government, and the Minister of Works and Buildings has promised the full co-operation of his department.

THE FIRST PEAL OF FORWARD MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I saw it was claimed in your columns a few weeks ago that Mr. John Carter had called the first peal of Forward Maximus in 1899. This was incorrect, as the following is an account of the first peal in the method on 12 bells and which was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, 5,040 changes, on Tuesday, January 13th, 1903, in 3 hours and 42 minutes: *Thomas Pigott 1, *John Jagger 2, Tom Miller 3, *Charles Dickens 4, William H. Barber 5, Thomas Reynolds 6, *A. J. Hughes 7, *Albert Walker 8, *A. Paddon Smith 9, *Joseph Pigott 10, *James E. Groves 11, Arthur E. Peglar tenor. Composed by John Carter and conducted by W. H. Barber. First peal rung in this method on 12 bells and was rung at the first attempt. * First peal of Maximus, eight of them and almost a record in that respect.

Mr. John Carter later provided a marbette tablet for this peal.

I don't think many of them have rung a peal in the method since owing to the monotony and similarity of the work throughout, though it is certainly musical.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ARE RINGERS APATHETIC?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There are one or two statements in the letter signed 'Numskull' which seem to call for a reply—that is if a numskull is worth replying to. He writes about the ban on ringing, and appears to forget that there are circumstances possible when orders will be given for the bells to be rung. What would happen if this contingency arose and it was found that the clappers of the bells had been removed or securely tied up? I suggest that the person or persons responsible would be in danger of being locked up as fifth columnists, with perhaps somewhat grim results. Much as I regret the imposition of the ban, I cannot help feeling that it would be wrong to do anything to put the bells out of action. Nobody would think of interfering with a weapon of war to make it fit to play with, and whilst the ban is on our bells are instruments of war. (Perhaps this is why so many churches are being destroyed, but that is another matter!)

I would also point out to Numskull that the winter months have hardly been suitable, especially in London and other big towns, for activities which must be confined to the evening time—he may find that during the summer months matters will, in this respect, improve.

C. T. COLES.

ODD STRUCK BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You ask us to write letters about side issues. Here is one that may interest some of your readers.

Which is the easier and more comfortable to ring; a bell slow at backstroke and quick at hand, or a bell slow at handstroke and quick at back?

I have heard at times the most opposite answers to this question. Some people say that a bell can be controlled much better at backstroke, and, therefore, provided the handstroke pull is made properly, there should be no difficulty in putting in its right place any bell slow at back, no matter how slow it is. Other people say that the open lead helps you when you are ringing a bell slow at handstroke and badly hampers you when you are ringing a bell slow at backstroke. Both sides claim famous tenor men as holding their views.

Is it possible to correct an odd struck bell without calling in a bell founder? It is usually said that, when a bell is hung by cannons on a wooden stock, what you must do is to slacken the hangings on one side and tighten them on the other. Which side must be tightened? And what do you do when the bell is bolted through the crown to an iron stock? Call in the bell founder, I suppose.

If a bell is rung with the clapper on the wrong side, what effect has that on the oddity of the striking? And would such a thing be likely to injure the bell?

E. C. S. TURNER.

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.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Albans Abbey, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells with a new kind of apparatus available from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tea at McMeekans at 4.15. Business meeting in the tower at 5.15. Further ringing on handbells and tower bells 6.30 onwards. Come and try something new in 'silent' tower bells.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair), on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting 4 p.m.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol, 3.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available in Parish Hall from 1.30. Ramble arranged to commence 3 o'clock. Tea at approximately 5 p.m. Business meeting at approximately 6 o'clock. Election of officers, etc. Annual reports now available.—F. Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Felkirk on Saturday, March 8th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Six silent tower bells will also be available if required. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Arthur Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, by Tuesday, March 11th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Welcome to Hethersett, March 15th. Six tower bells from 3 p.m. and handbells in church. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 at the King's Head, followed by business meeting and more handbells. Reports to hand. Subscriptions gladly received.—F. Nolan Golden, Sec., Brabazon Road, Norwich.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Quarterly meeting and handbells at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School (opposite Church) on Saturday, March 15th, 6 to 8 p.m.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate, at 5 p.m. on March 15th.—A. T. Shelton, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Little Clacton on Saturday, March 15th. Handbell ringing at the Vicarage (opposite church) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Blacksmith's Arms 5.15 p.m. Business meeting and more ringing at the Vicarage afterwards. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 11th, please. Neighbouring friends in Suffolk are cordially invited. There is a good bus service from Ipswich and Colchester passing the church, but visitors coming by car must get a permit before entering the coastal defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on March 15th. Service at 4.15, followed by unveiling of a peal board for the late secretary, Mr. H. Sheppard. Business meeting after. No arrangements can be made for tea.—John Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th. Members will meet at the 'Two Brewers,' Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice, Brierley Hill (p.v.), Saturday, March 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6, silent), also handbells, available, commencing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Will those requiring tea please write Mr. L. Bywaters, 12, New Town, Henlow, Beds? — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Further details will be announced later.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

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RECONSTRUCTION AND BELL TOWERS

One result of the grievous and widespread destruction of buildings is that persons in authority are taking steps to compile full graphic, photographic and other records of buildings of merit which have been damaged or are in outstanding danger of being damaged by warfare. Destruction, unfortunately, there has been and will be, but some attempt is being made to ensure that we and future generations shall not wholly lose the example and the inspiration of the work of men of past ages.

For the moment we are chiefly and strenuously concerned with the things of the present; shortly we shall be most urgently concerned with the things of the future; and it would almost seem that these are no times for us to concern ourselves about the things of the past. Yet the wise man knows without a peradventure that our future both as a nation and as a Church depends very largely on the extent to which we can preserve, in the changing conditions that are coming, the great things and the great ideas which have come down to us from the past.

To some the destruction of houses and churches appears as a most excellent opportunity of replacing them by buildings better and more worthy. And so it is. Much that has been destroyed was bad and we need not regret it. It is only the best whose loss we deplore and whose memory we wish to preserve.

As ringers we are particularly interested in the new ideas of building and architecture which may arise in the reconstruction period after the war. Our art depends on the existence of bells, and bells are useless unless there are suitable towers and steeples in which they can be hung. Throughout the long history of the Church from the earliest times the styles of architecture in which churches were built have varied enormously, but a steeple which could contain bells has always been considered as an essential feature of a complete church, though oft-times it was omitted for want of funds. Of late years there has been a distinct tendency towards a style of architecture which has no place for bell-carrying steeples. The nineteenth century architects built many churches with steeples too flimsy to hold ringing peals, but at least they pretended to be bell towers. Modern architects to a large extent have dropped even the pretence. There is a real fear that in the church building of the future no provision will be made for bells, and therefore anything which, like the new survey and record, tends to maintain continuity with the ideas of the past is to be welcomed.

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THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

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SILENT APPARATUS.

AS USED AT ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have followed with attention the correspondence in your columns on the above subject, but have not yet seen any suggestion which might give a lead to the would-be constructor.

The ideal apparatus is such that when the tower bells are rung with clappers fixed, a set of gongs corresponding to them sound in the ringing chamber and reproduce in miniature the blows the bells would have made if the clappers had been free. As far as I can ascertain, this has never yet been realised, but a fair compromise is possible.

The first requisite is the necessity for the signals given by the apparatus to synchronise with the blows of the bells (if open). It is fairly obvious that this cannot be attained by having contacts or triggers in fixed positions on the wheels or stocks, if one stops to consider the moment the clapper strikes the bell when at different heights.

Whether the arc the bell swings over is 90 degrees or 360 degrees, the clapper will strike it at the top of its swing. Consequently if the contacts are correct for a certain arc, they will not be so if the arc be greater or less, and, if less, they will 'miss' altogether. In change ringing the bells seldom fall lower than an arc of 240 degrees or 30 degrees above the frame either way, and it may be thought that if the contacts are placed so that they operate at this point, all will be well, but this is not so.

The signal given is too soon for bells rung to a set pull, the effect in change ringing being this. In rounds the bells 'shake down', more or less into a beat, as all are swinging regularly and get their signals equally early. But in changes it is not possible to make one's bell strike quicker by 'holding it down' or slower by 'pushing it higher.' A small bell may be 'driven' to strike in time, but with any weight at all it is really hard work pulling it about. This is the chief fault with the Seage and similar apparatus, it made 'work' for the heavy end.

The ideal could be realised if the clapper itself or some 'gadget' to reproduce the motion of the clapper could be made to operate the contacts or triggers. If done electrically either flexible connections or rubbing contacts would be required between the moving parts and the device operating the gong, which, by the way, must have more 'kick' than the ordinary single stroke bell movement, which does not give that firm blow required if the sound is not to be overpowered by the noise of the ropes moving in the slides. For this Solenoids specially wound would be required. At the present time electrical equipment is difficult to obtain, and the cost of the Solenoids alone would make it prohibitive to most towers. If done mechanically then again the precision work required would be costly, although quite possible. In addition, I am assured by practical people in bell circles that complicated apparatus would not be used, simply because it would not be kept in order. In fact, the simpler it is the greater the chance of adoption.

Although far from perfect, I will endeavour to describe the contrivance which had a fair measure of success at St. Lawrence Jewry:—

A set of eight handbells was clamped between battens fixed in the chiming rack, each bell having alongside it a hammer operated by a one-way trigger. From the bells in the tower waxed hemp cords were led through the pulleys and holes normally occupied by the chiming ropes and attached to the eight triggers respectively. The upper ends of the cords were anchored to the gudgeons (or bosses) of the bells by means of metal collars and swing loops. The object of the arrangement was to obtain a fall and rise of about 4in. for the cords operating the triggers, and where this was insufficient the diameter of the gudgeon was built up by a hardwood block to the required size. The upper ends of the cords terminated with spring hooks which could be quickly disengaged from the loops if necessary. The effect was that as the bell turned from hand or back or vice versa the cord was lowered and raised, operating the trigger, which missed on the down stroke and struck on the up stroke. Piano wire springs on the triggers held the cords in tension, and adjustments could be made as to length of cord by loops and thumbscrews, and as to timing by levers of variable length.

The whole arrangement was extremely simple and cheap, and its chief recommendation that all adjustments could be made in the ringing chamber. To some extent it had the faults mentioned earlier, but these could be modified by the adjustments possible. Finally there was nothing to get out of order.

E. MURRELL.

A BOURNEMOUTH APPARATUS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Many years ago Seage's apparatus was installed in the tower of St. Peter's, Bournemouth. I am given to understand by those who used it that it was anything but reliable and by reason of the strain placed upon the copper wire used, breakages were frequent. About 1920 the apparatus was dismantled, although the bells fixed in the ringing chamber remain.

I have successfully fixed up the tenor bell with an electrical device which will operate the gong in the chamber, using the slide as a 'make and break' contact. Further development in the idea to embrace the whole peal has not been proceeded with for several reasons. In the first place, I do not think enough ringers would climb our tower to ring 'dumb bells,' and to practise in this way would mean the tying of all the clappers 'or removing them.' How, then, could we say the bells are ready for use by the authorities should the necessity arise. One could nip aloft and release the clappers of one or two bells, but it would not be an easy task or a very safe one, with inexperienced would-be ringers knocking about.

I demonstrated my apparatus to three or four Bournemouth ringers, who voted it good, but doubted if it would attract a regular band for ringing. Could I be assured of this I would complete the job and risk the alarm bell business by using our sacring bell for the purpose. As it is, I propose leaving it until after the war, when in all probability we shall be glad of such an apparatus for practice purposes. I would send details of my apparatus to anyone interested.

Touching on one other subject, I do hope our officials have not lost sight of the vigilance necessary in post-war days to ensure that damaged rings of bells are replaced by hanging new bells and not by 'gramophone' bells. We must be ready to ward off a new offensive by the 'ersatz' bell advocates when peace comes.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS, Captain of Ringers, St. Peter's.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

DUFFIELD.**ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PEAL OF MAXIMUS.**

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first peal of Duffield Maximus, rung on March 17th, 1891, at St. Martin's, Birmingham.

The band was made up of members of the Society of St. Martin's Youths, with two from Burton-on-Trent, Mr. Joseph Griffin, who rang the seventh, and William Wakley, who rang the tenor. A. P. Heywood rang the sixth and conducted.

When the peal was published it was claimed that 'with the exception of the Double Norwich rung in 1817, it is the only peal of Maximus in any but the common methods.' It is, however, a little doubtful if the claim was a sound one. The Real Double Bob Maximus rung by the College Youths in 1784, and the Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus rung by the Cumberlands in 1795 can hardly be called 'common' methods, unless the last was really Kent Treble Bob.

In introducing Duffield, Heywood set himself to supply a want which, as he pointed out, was badly needed. There had lately been in his time a great advance in Major ringing, but on ten and twelve bells Treble Bob was the only method practised, and this lack of advancement was, he thought, due solely to the want of suitable Royal and Maximus methods.

He surveyed the whole situation, and as he said, 'followed a strictly consecutive line of argument, and showed how that which was sought was obtained, namely a more convenient and musical method than Treble Bob, applicable to all even numbers of bells from eight upwards; a result which, he trusted, may have, in time, the effect of stirring up progress in ten and twelve-bell ringing, for with this new method, whether as Major, Royal or Maximus, in simplicity, adaptability and musical properties, he unhesitatingly challenged comparison.' He was 'further bold enough to believe that, as in Stedman is found the perfection of odd-bell ringing, so in this new method will be found the most musical and adaptable even-bell system possible of attainment.'

The book Heywood published on Duffield is one of the best written of all the ringing text books; the arguments and explanations in it are excellent and clearly stated; Heywood seemed to have completely proved his case. And yet the method was a failure from the start. A few peals of Major have been rung at odd times away from the place of its birth and its name, fewer of Royal, and, we believe, no more than two of Maximus.

What is the reason? Partly it is conservatism, for Duffield stands outside the traditions which find expression in the standard methods; but chiefly it is because the method is monotonous—monotonous both to ring and to listen to. So far, however, as ten-bell ringing, and especially twelve-bell ringing, are concerned, it deserves a little more attention than it has received.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

A History of the Society

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FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.**4.—CHARLES PAYNE.**

Then I went to Norwich where the dons do dwell.

Some of the ringers I knew very well.

There was Hurry, he railed against Thurston and Payne,

And swore he would never ring with them again.

So runs the old Norfolk ballad written by 'The Rambling Ringer.' Charles Payne, who in after years was chief labourer to Samuel Thurston, was born at Blo' Norton in the year 1791. There were five bells at the parish church, and on them he learnt to ring. The Rambling Ringer says that—

Then I went to Blo' Norton and there rang on five,

With some good men as any alive,

They were lovers of ringing as well as good beer,

And to practise their art they went far and near.

At the neighbouring tower of Garboldisham there was a ring of six and for many years a very enthusiastic and skilful band. Here Payne learnt Minor, and here he rang his first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 1821. Three of his brothers were in the band. James Chinery, a native of Blo' Norton, told Samuel Slater that he remembered all these Paynes. John Payne was a jobbing gardener and Thomas was parish clerk. He and a man named John Andrews taught four men to ring, for as the saying goes, 'They Paynes were getting old and wanted to teach some young men before they died.' Tom Payne used to assist Andrews in his hay trussing, and one day when he was an old man, going to work, he fell down dead.

About the year 1821 Charles Payne left Blo' Norton and went and lived at Norwich, where he joined the Norwich Scholars. He became a close companion of Samuel Thurston, and rang in all his best peals, including Double Oxford Bob Major, Double Norwich, Superlative and London Surprise.

Thurston was employed as a stonemason at Norwich Cathedral, and Payne was in the band that rang the bells there for the last time.

On one occasion the Norwich Scholars went on a long ringing tour, but before it ended their finances went wrong and they had to sell or pawn their watches and part of their clothing to raise enough money to take them home, where they arrived in a state of destitution. Mr. Samuel Slater thought this was the occasion on which Thurston and Payne visited Lavenham for the annual anniversary ringing. The date would be about 1827.

On the last day of the year 1831 the Norwich Scholars started for a peal of Stedman Cinques at Mancroft with Payne at the tenth, but owing to an error by Thurston, who was calling, the bells came round when they had rung 4,884 changes. The ringing, Osborn says, was most excellent.

After Thurston's death in 1841, Payne moved to Great Yarmouth, where he joined the band at St. Nicholas' Parish Church. With them he rang three peals, Grandshire Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Treble Bob Major.

Several anecdotes are told of him. On one occasion there was a very disagreeable meeting and the members got to high words with each other. Payne sat quietly until both sides appealed to him. Then he said, 'You are all wrong, and fools for hitching up such a noise.'

Somebody asked him how many methods he knew, and his reply was, 'Ask me how many I do not know, and then perhaps I can tell you.'

Payne rang in 160 towers, most of them in Norfolk and Suffolk with five and six bell rings. Eight had three bells. He was a good double-handed ringer and able to ring two bells in several methods. On August 24th, 1826, he took part in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major with the Norwich men, and later, with three Yarmouth men, he rang a long touch of Double Norwich, the first recorded touch in the method on handbells. The details are given in a contemporary newspaper:—

'Yarmouth. Handbell ringing. On Tuesday, February 1st, 1848, a true and complete touch containing 1,680 changes was rung on handbells of Double Norwich Court by the following persons: Thomas Fox 1-2, Frederick Watering 3-4, James Burnan 5-6, Charles Payne 7-8. Conducted by Charles Payne.'

The last time Payne rang with the Yarmouth company his eyesight was so bad that he had to be led to his rope, but he was still an excellent striker.

He died at Yarmouth on December 4th, 1866, in his 75th year, and was buried in the churchyard. The St. Nicholas' company erected a stone over his grave, which records that 'he was of unimpeachable integrity and enjoyed the highest respect and esteem of all who knew him.' The Norwich Scholars rang a muffled peal for him at Mancroft.

These particulars, which have been sent us by Mr. Theodore E. Slater from the manuscripts of his father, the late Samuel Slater, form an interesting addition to the accounts recently forwarded by Mr. Charles E. Borrett.

LEICESTER.—On Friday, March 7th, at St. Margaret's Church (with clapperless bells), 720 Bob Minor, in 24 minutes, by Miss Margaret Morris 1. Ernest Morris (conductor) 2. Miss Betty Ravfield 3. George Stedman Morris 4. Josiah Morris 5. Ronald J. Rayfield, R.A. This band comprises one grandfather, two fathers, two sons, three brothers, one sister, one daughter, one granddaughter, one uncle, one niece—yet only six ringers.

THE PEAL BOARDS OF LONDON.

A GENERAL SURVEY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

During these last six months we have had more than one sharp reminder of the loss we may suffer, and indeed have already suffered, in our old ringing records, through enemy action.

This applies in varying degree to the whole country, but especially to London, for it is there that the largest quantity of the most valuable kind has been preserved. It consists of the very fine collection of manuscripts and printed books in the library of the British Museum, which, we may be fairly certain, are well looked after, the peal and name books belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths, the best of which are in a place of safety, though there was much regrettable loss when the Coffee Pot was burnt down; the records of the Cumberland Youths, which we understand have been cared for; and the ancient peal boards in various belfries.

Laughton's manuscript which was in the library of the Guildhall apparently is safe. Some time back I made a verbatim copy of this manuscript and it is now in the collection belonging to the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

In peal boards there has already been a serious loss and in the days to come there may still be more, but apart from the precautions which are now generally being taken to safeguard churches, it is difficult to see what can be done. It has been suggested that the most valuable should be taken down and stored in safe places. In some cases it might be done, but in others it would be, as things are, almost impossible. Some of the tablets at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, for instance, are very large; they are constructed of wood, plaster and canvas; and to take them down without damaging them would be a long, costly, and difficult operation.

Meanwhile, readers may be interested in a short account of what boards there are in London belfries, and what has been the fate of others in the past.

As we should expect from the part they played in the early development of the art, London belfries are rich in peal boards, but more remarkable than the number of those which still remain is the number of those which for one reason or another have disappeared.

In the eighteenth century there were within the City fifteen towers which had ringing peals of eight or more bells, and in each of them more than one notable performance was achieved. In addition to those of which some account has survived it is certain that there were other peals rung by bands which belonged to societies such as the London Scholars, whose records are lost, or to companies like the City Scholars, which existed for only a short time and are either entirely forgotten, or are remembered by a chance reference in some contemporary newspaper or manuscript. Not every peal was recorded on a board, but whenever it was possible, it was done.

Thirteen of the rings of bells were hung by the middle of the eighteenth century, and accounts of 47 peals rung on them till then have been preserved. Of these peals we know that seven were recorded in the belfries, but only one of the boards still remains, that recording the 5,000 of Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, in 1741.

The first peal known to have been accomplished in London was one of the 5,040 changes of Grandsire Caters by the London Scholars in 1717. For this a board was

put up, but it was taken down when the steeple was repaired in 1796 and was not replaced. The same society rang in 1729 6,240 changes of Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill. The board remained till about 1840 and was copied by Osborn, but it was then in pieces and not hung, and soon afterwards was broken up.

The second peal in London was the Hick Triples by the Union Scholars at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East in 1718. We do not know whether they put up a tablet to record it, but it is quite likely, for they did put up one to record the 5,120 of Treble Bob Major rung shortly afterwards in the same steeple.

What became of it is told in a letter written by Samuel Austin in 1863 to Ellacombe:—'That peal was recorded in the belfry, and in my younger days I saw it many times. The church was taken down (not the tower) and rebuilt in 1820; the bells were repaired, the belfry painted and whitewashed, and in taking down the board on which the peal was recorded it fell to pieces with old age and was not replaced.'

Sixty years ago there was at St. Andrew's, Holborn, a board for 6,160 Bob Major rung by a 'friendly society' in 1738. It was then much dilapidated and has since disappeared. The same tale may be told about the board for the peal of Treble Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in St. Sepulchre's in 1741, the first peal ever rung in the method.

The first peal rung by the College Youths was one of Grandsire Cinques in 1725 at St. Bride's. This was commemorated by a board which was the only one on which Benjamin Annable's name appeared. That was lost in the recent fire raid, and so was a board recording 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Giles'; Cripplegate, by the City Scholars in 1732, if it was the same as one which, through dirt and the discoloration of the varnish, had become illegible. I am rather inclined to think it had already disappeared.

For peals rung in the second half of the eighteenth century only three boards still remain. One at St. Magnus' records 5,148 Double Grandsire Caters by the College Youths in 1762, one at St. Botolph's, Aldgate, is for 5,040 Grandsire Triples by the Junior Cumberlands in 1785, and one at St. Sepulchre's for 5,111 Grandsire Caters by the same society in 1793. I have not seen the board at Aldgate, and so am not quite certain if it is still there.

Two boards lost at St. Bride's were for 5,104 Grandsire Cinques by the Union Scholars in 1751, and 5,232 Treble Bob Maximus by the College Youths in 1777. The illegible board destroyed at Cripplegate was probably for 5,200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the London Youths in 1777.

St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, had formerly three or four old boards recording among other peals the three rung on the day the bells were opened. These peals were rung by the three leading London societies of the time, the Society of College Youths, the Society of Cumberland Youths, and the ancient Society of College Youths.

The boards were taken down about sixty years ago when the belfry was cleaned, and after standing for some time against the wall, were broken up for firewood.

St. Dionis', Backchurch, had a board recording a peal rung by the ancient Society of College Youths in 1785, and another recording one rung by the Cumberlands in 1850. Both boards disappeared when the church was

pulled down, and the same fate befel a board recording a peal of Real Double Bob Major by the College Youths, in 1778, at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, when that church was rebuilt.

Two or three early nineteenth century boards were destroyed at All Hallows', Barking, in the recent fire.

It will be noticed that more than one famous belfry possesses no board as old as the eighteenth century. The oldest at Bow dates from 1803, the oldest at Cornhill from 1837. If any boards ever existed at St. Lawrence Jewry, or St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, they had disappeared long before the churches were destroyed. I am not quite sure, but I believe there was at one time an early nineteenth century board at St. Stephen's. There are no boards at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East.

Only four peals were rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, during the eighteenth century, and that perhaps accounts for the absence of boards, but we should have expected to find some at Bow, where more than one outstanding performance was achieved. We are rather forced to conclude that there has been some regrettable destruction in the belfry.

DESIGN OF BELL FRAMES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. G. P. Elphick, may I say that my bell frame with combined wood and cast-iron struts is a real thing; we have one here at St. James'.

I have seen a good number of different frames and this is the best of them all, steady as a rock. About eighty peals have been rung on the bells (tenor 20 cwt.), and I feel certain Mr. Elphick has never rung on a better going peal for their weight.

If Mr. Elphick will look at my letter again he will see there are four bolts at each end of the strut and they are required to be effective. I have a slight knowledge of woodwork and I have been working on it for 54 years.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

ERIN DOUBLES.

WHY IS AN EXTENT IMPOSSIBLE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your two correspondents who have replied to my query concerning Erin Doubles, namely, why is it impossible to obtain a 120, have answered differently. The Rev. E. S. Powell states the thing is impossible if you restrict your singles to the bells in 4-5, while Mr. Kenneth Lewis has obtained a 120 by making his singles at the parting of the sixes, and thus upsetting the regular slow work of the method.

Why should Mr. Powell object to the slow work being upset? As the whole of the method is contained in one six, then six changes of Erin Doubles is equivalent to a call being made at the end of the sixes, then to be consistent he ought to object to a call being made in Plain Bob, as that upsets the regular work of some of the bells as found in a plain course.

I understand that when Fabian Stedman produced his method, he did so for five bells, and his single was made, not by the dodging bells, but by three front bells lying still in the middle of a quick six. This version of a single may be found in the Central Council's Doubles and Minor collection, of which Mr. Powell is an editor. Does Mr. Powell approve of this way of ringing Stedman, and, if so, why not Erin?

Mr. Lewis' extent is ingenious, but why is it so irregular, with his five 'bobs' and three 'singles'? Can Mr. Lewis tell me how he came to produce it; was it by luck or was he working on some recognised plan? Has Mr. Lewis tried to produce an extent by making his 'bob' in the same place as the single in Stedman Doubles, i.e., in the middle of the six. If so this would lessen the extent to which the slow work is altered by his calls.

Mr. Powell does not like Mr. Lewis' 'single' because it alters the work of all five working bells. Unfortunately, a single in Grandsire Doubles alters the work of all the working bells. Some readers may not know an alternative single which may be used.

54132

51423

15432

14532

41523

45132

This single alters two of the bells only in their coursing order, which is exactly what a single ought to do.

I am grateful to Mr. Powell for laying the problem out in an orderly manner, but he has not satisfied my curiosity in telling me *why* the production of an extent is impossible. The method is regular enough and every bell occupies each place the same number of times in a plain course: Erin Triples can be rung, why not Doubles?

'PUZZLED.'

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

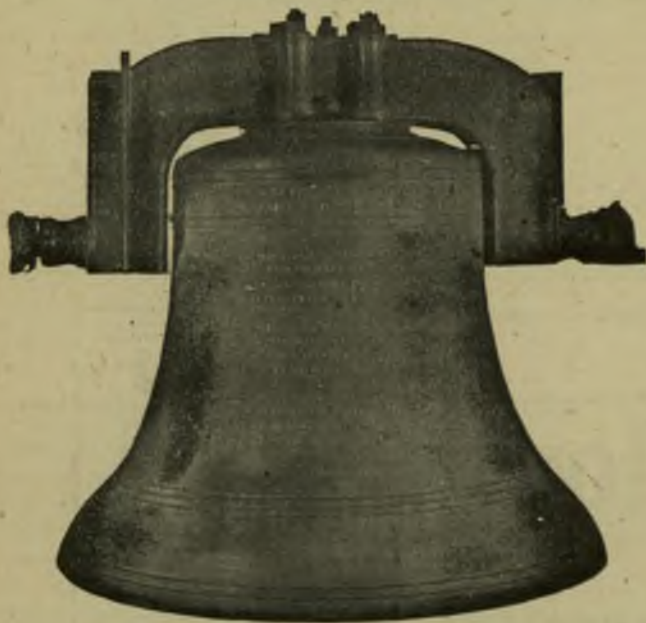
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's condition continues satisfactory. It is expected that the major operation will be performed at the beginning of next week.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

In a recent air raid, St. Mary's Church, Swansea, was damaged by enemy action, and the ring of bells destroyed.

Mr. James George reminds us that the death of Mr. Ben Gough leaves him the only survivor of the band which rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Coseley in Staffordshire on November 24th, 1893, and again on the same date 20 years later. John Carter called the peals.

Next Sunday Mr. F. E. Dawe will celebrate his 79th birthday. He was Master of the College Youths from 1888 to 1890 and in 1892 and 1893. For one year he was non. secretary of the Central Council.

Any visiting ringers in H.M. Forces (or otherwise) to Leicester will be welcomed at St. Margaret's Church. Practice with clapperless bells and handbells every Friday evening 6.30 to 8.30, or by arrangement with Mr. Ernest Morris.

'Peterborough,' who writes day by day in 'The Daily Telegraph,' remarked that a walk through the City the other day reminded him that there is a silver lining to every cloud. In this case the lining was the beauty of the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow. Unencumbered by its 19th and 20th century neighbours, it rises in all its original loveliness as Wren meant it to be seen.

The time-honoured tradition of the Appleton 'March 4th' festival was unavoidably broken this year, but certain members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild decided that this famous date should not pass entirely without notice. So 720 of Grandsire Doubles were rung, at about the time when the dinner should have been in full swing, by Florence E. Wigg 1, Frederick Sharpe (conductor) 2-3, C. Elliot Wigg 4-5. This was the treble ringer's first touch in any method, and rung at the first attempt. (Rung at Launton, Oxfordshire.)

A very famous peal was accomplished on March 10th, 1784, when the College Youths rang at St. Saviour's, Southwark, 7,008 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus.

On the same date in 1742 the Richmond Society rang a peal of 5,040 Richmond Triples. What was rung is not known.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells was rung by the St. James' Society on March 11th, 1854, and on March 11th, 1887, the College Youths rang Holt's Original silent in hand for the first time.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus was rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on March 12th, 1758, by the College Youths. George Meakins conducted.

The Bedfordshire Association was founded on March 13th, 1882.

The first peal on the twelve at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields (but not the first on the ten) was rung on March 14th, 1727, by the London Scholars.

On March 15th, 1894, Mr. C. E. Borrett called 6,720 changes of Bob Major on handbells at Norwich. It was an attempt for the record length, which was allowed to run home half-way owing to the coldness of the room.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 2, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, and Stedman Caters 1.

DEATH OF A KENT RINGER. THROUGH ENEMY ACTION.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Guy R. Ambrose, of Milton-next-Gravesend, at the age of 62, which took place on Wednesday March 5th, by the loss of the vessel with all hands, on which he was employed as engineer, presumed by enemy action.

Mr. Ambrose had worked on the River Thames practically all his life, and had been employed by a firm of tug owners for the past 25 years. Previous to this he worked in Tilbury Docks under the P.L.A. In spite of his hazardous war-time work, he carried on with his usual sangfroid, well known to his intimate friends, which is so characteristic of Englishmen in the fight for freedom.

He commenced his ringing career with the writer in 1909 at Milton-next-Gravesend and had been a member ever since. Never with any great ambition for peal ringing—he rang about 25 peals—Mr. Ambrose was first and foremost for Sunday service ringing, being most regular and punctual in this respect. During this long period he was also chorister and sidesman at the church he loved, and many good deeds can be traced to his untiring efforts.

In his earlier days he was a keen sportsman and was hon. secretary to the local Hospital Football Cup Competition, which in one season realised over £100. To commemorate this his fellow members, etc., presented him with a gold watch suitably inscribed.

In addition to his long membership of the Kent County Association, Mr. Ambrose was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Middlesex Association.

The Exercise has lost a valued member, the Church a faithful son and the writer a true pal of 35 years' standing.

F. T. M.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN DIVISION.

In spite of bad weather, there was a very satisfactory attendance at the annual meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association, held at Guiseley last Saturday. About 40 members were present from 16 towers, including Addingham, Armley, Birstall, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Holbeck, Idle, Keighley, Ossett, Pudsey, Rothwell, Silsden and Shipley. This is once again an indication that if suitable venues can be arranged the members will support the efforts of the officials.

Two of the oldest members of the association were present—Mr. Joshua Woodhead, now of Rawdon, aged 87, who joined in 1875, the year when the association was formed, and Mr. George Titterton, of Bradford, aged 85. It is the spirit of members such as these which has made the association as strong as it is to-day, and now that it is passing through a period which is perhaps the most difficult in its history, it remains for the general body of younger members to see that the progress of the association continues from strength to strength.

In the old tithe barn, which has been converted into the Parish Hall, a very enjoyable tea was provided free of charge by the local company to the 36 who sat down.

The Rector of Guiseley, Archdeacon Lowe, in a short address of welcome, spoke of the pleasure of receiving the association, and hoped that in spite of the weather everyone would enjoy themselves. He spoke of the comradeship which existed among ringers and was very proud of the fact that two of his own ringers had each more than 50 years' service at St. Oswald's. It was a remarkable record of church service and he very much appreciated the work that ringers had done and were doing. The ban on ringing had made things very difficult, but he hoped the time was not far distant when the bells would ring out their messages again, perhaps even before final victory was won. He impressed upon everyone the righteousness of our cause, and even though at times things looked very black, he was sure that good would always triumph over evil. He invited all to look over the beautiful church and the rectory gardens, though he would have liked them to see the place in summer when the flowers were more plentiful. The address was greatly appreciated.

The business meeting was presided over by the district vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, supported by the association's president, Canon Marshall.

The secretary, Mr. Frank Rayment, was unanimously re-elected, though he had not felt justified in offering himself for election. Owing to extreme pressure of work, he was unable to devote as much time as he thought necessary to the work. He felt that now more than ever it was essential to have a secretary who could attend more of the meetings of the district societies and so keep in touch with everyone.

Canon Marshall and the chairman assured him that they appreciated the difficulties, but they knew everyone was quite satisfied with the valuable work which was being done, and they had no intention of changing.

Messrs. John Ambler, J. F. Harvey and William Ambler were elected as committee men, the first on the General Committee.

A desire was expressed to hold the summer meeting in the Huddersfield area, and the matter was left in the hands of the chairman and secretary.

The chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Rector, wardens and local company, paid tribute to the very efficient manner in which they were always entertained at Guiseley.

Canon Marshall, seconding, also spoke of the welcome they always received. He himself was never tired of visiting the beautiful old church, and he felt sure that, in spite of the weather, all had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mr. A. C. Walsh, replying for the local company, said it was a privilege to receive the Yorkshire Association. They had a very close association with the society. Some of their oldest ringers had been members from the earliest days. They were proud of their old church and had already started a fund to provide new bells. They intended to have a first-class peal. He hoped they would soon be able to ring the bells and this time for victory.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund realised 17s. 3d., being a record.

Throughout the afternoon and evening many touches were rung on handbells in a few of the standard methods. Altogether it was a very enjoyable meeting, due entirely to the careful arrangements made by Mr. F. W. Dixon and the local company.

AIR RAID DAMAGE IN MANCHESTER.

The Bishop of Manchester has stated that over 40 churches in the diocese have been damaged by enemy action. Some are past repair, others can be restored after the war, and some can still be used.

The Cathedral had a direct hit and two chapels at the east end have been destroyed. The Cathedral itself was reopened on Ash Wednesday. Nearby the Chetham Hospital (Blue Coat School) was hit, but not badly. Ringers who attended the Central Council will remember it as the place of meeting.

Other churches with bells which have been damaged are St. John's, Oldham Road, Holy Trinity, Sacred Trinity, Salford, and St. Thomas's, Pendleton. The President's Church, St. Luke's, Miles Platting, was also hit.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

The president, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, happily recovered from his recent short illness, was in the chair at the annual luncheon of the Oxford University Society, held last Saturday at the City Restaurant, and there were present 18 members of the society, as well as Mr. V. Bennett and Mr. R. A. Post, the secretary and Master of the Oxford City Guild, Miss M. Cross, who has assisted the society so kindly and so efficiently, Mrs. Wigg and Dr. R. E. Havard.

The lunch was admirably catered for by Messrs. G. E. Weeks and Co. in spite of the rationing.

After everyone had settled down to a somnolent reminiscence over the coffee, the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice (New College), rose to his feet. He said that he had a particularly pleasant duty to perform; first in welcoming back the president from his illness, and, secondly, in congratulating him and Mrs. Wigg on their recent marriage. As a mark of respect the society had subscribed for a small wedding present in the form of an engraved pewter tankard. During its purchase, doubts were cast upon its usefulness, but after remembering the episode after the Cassington peal attempt, fears were allayed!

The President thanked the society for the gift, and said that it would serve two purposes, first as a useful implement, and, second, when taking its well-earned rest on the mantelpiece, as a reminder of the pleasant times he had had with the society. 'Speaking of the lunch, he said that it had provided an occasion well worth reviving.

The secretary, Mr. W. F. Gibbons (Keele), welcomed the guests. Dr. Havard replied, and said that he was very pleasantly surprised at the success of the society which, during his loss of contact with it, he believed was suffering heavily from the effects of the war.

Mr. Bennett, speaking also on behalf of the Master of the City Guild, said the City Guild always regarded the University Society with keen interest, and called to mind the efficiency of the society in the days before the Battle of France, when it had co-operated with the City in ringing the Oxford bells.

The Master then called upon Mr. H. Miles, vice-president, to say a few words, and his account of the early history of the society was indeed very interesting.

The afternoon would not have been complete without a few words from Miss Cross. She said how pleased she was to see the society so flourishing, and how she was always glad to give any help required.

The afternoon concluded with handbells, a plain course of Grandsire Triples by members of the society being especially good. Meanwhile members had the opportunity of inspecting the peal books of the City Guild, which Mr. Bennett kindly brought along from the strong room of Messrs. Elliston and Cavell.

At 3.30 p.m. the society adjourned to New College tower, where a joint meeting of silent tower-bell ringing was held.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CHELTENHAM BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held on Saturday at Cheltenham and was well attended.

After handbell practice at the Parish Room, tea was partaken of at the Gloucestershire Dairy Cafe, followed by the business meeting, with the Master (the Rev. Noel E. Hope) in the chair, supported by Mr. W. Dyer (captain of the Cheltenham band), ex-Sergt. J. Williams, Mr. J. Austin, Messrs. Wilfrid Williams, Frank Shorter and Roland Fenn, of London, and about 30 members. A hearty welcome was extended to all old friends, and particularly to those from London.

A number of new members were elected, and the retiring officers of the branch were all re-elected as follows: Chairman, the Archdeacon of Cheltenham; branch representative, Mr. W. Dyer; branch hon. secretary, Mr. W. Yeend.

Touches of Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples, Plain and Treble Bob, and courses of Stedman and Grandsire Caters were rung on handbells. Ex-Sergt. Williams and Mr. J. Austin gave their back-to-back exhibition of Grandsire Triples and some good tune ringing.

A telegram was received from the secretary of the Bristol City branch wishing the meeting success.

A handbell practice is held weekly at the Parish Room, St. James' Square, near the Great Western Railway Station, at 7.30 on Thursdays, to which all are welcome. It is hoped that during the coming months many gatherings will be arranged.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER.

The fourth annual dinner of the North Staffordshire and District Association was held at the George Hotel, Burslem, on Saturday, February 22nd. The Archdeacon of Stoke presided and the vice-chairman was the Rev. H. Benson, Vicar of Sneyd. Among those present were the Rev. S. F. Linsley (Vicar of Tunstall), the Rev. H. H. Treacher (Rector of Hanley), the Rev. T. R. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. G. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. N. Sargeant, Miss B. Beeston, Miss J. Durbar, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, Miss E. Spears, Mr. A. D. Steel, Mr. and Mrs. A. Thompson, Mr. L. Bourne, Mr. T. A. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Buckley, Aircraftman D. Perkins and Mr. E. Steele.

After the toasts, singing and handbell ringing occupied the rest of the evening. Mr. N. Sargeant was at the piano.

The party broke up about 9 p.m., many having some distance to travel home.

TREBLE BOB. ITS VALUE FOR GOOD STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry so much acid is being used by some of your correspondents about Treble Bob. It couldn't be worse if they were discussing the disease with the same initials!

The method is one of our oldest friends and the forefather of much that is lauded by the young gallants to-day. So show a bit of respect, gentlemen, for age.

For my part, I was weaned on it, thanks be, and why 'thanks be'? Because it gave me greater opportunities of grasping what good striking meant than any other method.

Anyone ringing Treble Bob in a strange tower should get into his proper stride and take the measure of any peculiarities of the other bells—if not before then certainly by the time he has done his first slow work. No other method gives so fine a chance, and no ringer can be excused if afterwards he chips lumps off the other bells. We hear much of the virtues of good striking, and rightly, judging by the amount of the other kind with which we are afflicted. But if a ringer has been thoroughly grounded in Treble Bob he ought to be a good striker, and he will be equally good in any other method he may tackle. And some tell us a touch or peal of Treble Bob is not worth hearing. If the striking is bad I agree, but no method is worth hearing under those conditions. If the striking is good, I maintain their views are all moonshine.

How many of us get through the slow work in Treble Bob—especially Royal or Maximus—with perfect striking? Not nearly so many as there are who make an unholy mess of it. So why revile the slow work of Treble Bob, which takes some doing, and laud those methods with a lot of quick movement which enable 'chipping' to be less noticeable?

One of my earliest ringing recollections is of listening to a peal of Kent Maximus at Mancroft, rung by eight very distinguished ringers of that day, with the aid of four local men. After about two hours of it, another listener—I confess he was a grumpy chap, but a superlative striker—gave a snort and growled, 'There isn't one of them, bar our chaps, knows a d—d thing about striking when in the slow.' Mr. Woolley would be right about that peal—it hadn't a redeeming feature.

But, on the other hand, two years later I stood in the same place and heard a peal of Oxford Royal. It was perfectly struck from start to finish, and was majestic in effect. And four years after that I took part, with my old friend Trollope, in another peal of Oxford Royal on the same bells, and on the tenor box we had a magnificent ringer, George Smith. If the critics of Treble Bob would assert those two peals were not worth listening to—well, let them.

I know little about contiguous or adjacent places, or cross-sections or similar highbrow matters—the sounds coming through the belfry windows are of greater interest to me.

Yes; Treble Bob has redeeming features besides the lengthening lead, and I, for one, am glad to have been nurtured on it. If 'Country Ringer' is short of a man in the 'heavenly' band for his peal of Treble Bob Major, I wish he would offer me a rope. I should jump at the chance, if my place of residence allowed it!

Sheringham, Norfolk.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

P.S.—My old friend Charles Routledge, who writes on the subject this week, may be interested to know that in 1890 eight 'firsts' took part in a peal of Treble Bob Maximus at Norwich. The names were well-known ones, viz., Revs. F. E. Robinson and G. F. Coleridge, John W. Taylor, J. W. Washbrook, Charles Hounslow, Frederick and Ernest Pitsow and John Fiddament.

WHY HAVE SO MANY PEALS BEEN RUNG?

To our Country Ringer.

Dear Brother,—I am very pleased to see you stick up for Treble Bob, and when we do meet in heaven I shall be very pleased to ring the 7th for you. I am with you. It is a very nice and simple method, and I have enjoyed ringing many peals of it with two Bobs at Home at every course end. What is better than 7-8 dodging together? Each ringer knows where he is when he hears 7-8 behind. If the method is no good, why have there been so many peals rung in past years? When we look back twenty or thirty years many handbell peals were rung of it in Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Those peals were rung well, the slow work was a pleasure to listen to, each bell taking the lead clear. I will say this: if it was not for this simple method a good number of our brother ringers would not have rung their higher methods. That slow work teaches a ringer to strike his bell on the lead and to dodge clear with the treble. Ring one method well before going on to a higher one.

'ANOTHER COUNTRY RINGER.'

STANDARD METHODS AND THE NEW SURPRISE BOOK

LET GENERAL OPINION DECIDE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. F. Harvey, in his interesting letter, asks how many good ringers have been lost because their company refused to progress? I think the question could be easily reversed. How many good companies have had their equilibrium upset by some members trying to force the pace?

The majority of the Surprise peal bands have been composed of members from several towers, and the number of towers with a complete Surprise band of their own are few. This means that even if some methods are recommended by the experts, they will only come into general use through the same channels as the other methods have done. Judging by the faults which can be found on paper with Cambridge, Superlative and London, the selectors need to be as expert in assessing human nature as they do at ringing.

An example of this can be seen in connection with Spliced Surprise. When splicing was first practised, a certain ringing organisation put a ban on spliced peals. It had within its borders at least two bands who would have been capable of ringing spliced peals, but they took no interest in the new idea. Spliced ringing has slowly built itself up in the usual way from small beginnings, and in recent years one of the bands I mentioned visited one of the Spliced Surprise 'strongholds' and tried their hand at the 'new idea,' which they, through their guild, had banned years before.

The B.B.C. experts took several months to decide on a new interval signal. It has since received almost universal condemnation. It will probably be replaced by something suggested by the many letters the B.B.C. has received on the subject, that is by general opinion.

I would suggest that the same be done with the Surprise Major book. Let us have it as a book of reference with a good selection of methods and leave general opinion to decide which methods are to become the favourites.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN DIVISION MEETING AT BOCKING.

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association, held at Bocking on Saturday, was attended by 15 members from Braintree, Springfield, Chelmsford, Earls Colne, Halstead, Dunmow, Rushmere and the local band. Ringing on six 'silent' bells and on handbells was followed by a short service conducted by the Dean, the Rev. E. Rogers, and by tea in Messrs. Courtauld's dining hall, kindly lent by the manager. The tea was provided by the local guild of ringers, and ably prepared by their lady helpers.

At the business meeting the District Master, Mr. H. W. Smith, was in the chair. Two members were elected for the general committee, Mr. F. Ridgwell and Mr. F. Claydon. It was proposed that the secretary should try to arrange a meeting at Kelvedon some time in June, failing which it was left to her to fix up to the best of her ability.

The District Master proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for his address, and to the local Guild for providing the tea; he remarked how pleased he was to welcome the visitors, who included Mr. L. J. Clark (general secretary), Mr. Runter, and Mr. Jennings, of Rushmere. Pleasure was expressed at the presence of Mr. L. W. Wiffen, who recently sustained a fractured ankle, and everyone wished him a speedy recovery.

Several touches were brought round on the handbells, the methods including Bob Major, Bob Royal, Double Norwich and Grandsire.

VARIATIONS OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have a variation of Thurstans' Four-Part peal which was given to me years ago by the late Sam Reeves, of West Bromwich. It has the treble as observation. I called it at St. Margaret's, Ipswich, with my Ipswich friends. I have rung and called many peals, but this was the elite of all. Nothing said from beginning to the 'That's all.' I am reluctant to say it was nearly 30 years ago. Whether it was by the late Henry Johnson I am not in a position to say.

W. C. HUNT.

GOOD STRIKING.—'When every bell keeps due order and time what a sweet and harmonious sound they make, all who hear them are charmed by that common music; but when once they jar and clash with each other, either jangling or striking irregularly, how displeasing is that music.'—Bp. Joseph Hall, Norwich, mid 17th century.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

EARLY ATTEMPTS AT RULE MAKING.

One rule which has had many supporters in the past, and which still finds favour with some people, is that the regular succession of the nature of the rows should not be broken in the plain course. Every seven bell method should consist of uninterrupted triple changes; every nine bell method of uninterrupted cater or quadruple changes; and every eleven bell method of uninterrupted quintuple changes. Eight bell methods should consist of an unbroken succession of alternate quadruple and triple changes; ten bell methods of an unbroken succession of alternate quintuple and quadruple changes; and twelve bell methods of an unbroken succession of sextuple and quintuple changes.

Some people, among them notably C. D. P. Davies, have held that this is the fundamental law of the science. Many more have recognised it as a fundamental law, but were prepared to allow occasional and exceptional infringements of it. Heywood took this view, and it is expressed in the Method Report, which still stands as the official Central Council pronouncement on the matter.

A very widely held opinion is that the law must be scrupulously observed in the case of odd bell methods, but need not be in the case of even bell methods.

Is the law a fundamental one? The answer given by history and experience emphatically is that it is not. It did not appear until long after change ringing was fully developed, and its enforcement would mean the sacrifice of very many of the methods which have proved themselves to be the most useful in practice.

Nevertheless, it marks a definite and important stage in the development of the art. The first of all 'peals' were produced by single changes in which only one pair of bells changed places at a time. When Cross Peals were introduced the aim was to change as many pairs as possible, and Grandsire on five bells, which was produced by continuous double changes (except for the two necessary singles) was rightly held to be a great achievement. Later on, when seven bell ringing became common and Grandsire Triples was the standard method, the same idea held, and the composers' ambition was to produce an extent entirely of triple changes.

It was a worthy ambition, but we must note that the standard was set up for the composer and not for the benefit of the practical ringer. For many years the great problem which faced composers was, Can a peal of Grandsire Triples be had with common bobs only? Until fifty or sixty years ago they thought it could, if only some one would arise clever enough to solve the problem.

Leading men were so obsessed with this idea of getting a peal of Grandsire Triples by bobs only, that they unconsciously extended the idea to all seven bell ringing. They condemned Bob Triples not because the four blows behind are 'stagnation,' but because (as we saw in Bulwer's suggested rules) it does not consist of unbroken triple changes.

Earlier composers, notably Benjamin Annable, were free from such prejudices, and they introduced and rang more than one excellent 7-bell method with a treble and six working bells. New Bob Triples is the best of them.

These methods have qualities which are not to be had in 'pure' Triples methods and provide work of the same sort as is to be had in the more difficult Surprise Major

methods, but they have been killed by this prejudice. There has been very little development in seven bell ringing, and it is entirely due to the mistaken idea of insisting on a rule which is a good one in its proper and limited sphere, but a bad one when it is made universal.

We need say nothing about the rule as applied to even bell methods. There never was a time when it was recognised by practical ringers, and to-day only a fanatic or a lunatic would think of trying to enforce it. There is no justification for the opinion held by some people that methods which keep the rule are necessarily superior in construction to those that break it.

The men who in the past attempted to lay down codes of rules for method construction have almost always included a rule that all legitimate five, six, and seven-bell methods should be capable of producing the full extent of the changes; and all legitimate methods on eight bells and over should be capable of producing at least five-thousand changes without parting the tenors. This, as we saw, was the first rule in Bulwer's code and at first sight it seems an obviously necessary one.

No band is at all likely to practise a new method unless there is a reasonable chance of ringing a peal of it, but it by no means follows that a method for which no extent or no true five-thousand exists may not have its uses. The Alliance Minor methods would have been ruled out if the Council had adopted Bulwer's suggestion, but they have proved of some value; and in the same way a Surprise Major method might be very useful in spliced ringing though no true five-thousand of it had been composed. Mr. Pitman's clever peal in eighteen spliced Surprise methods includes Watford. When the composition was published it was promptly stated that the false course ends of that method are such that no true peal of it is possible. The fact remained, however, that for the purpose Mr. Pitman intended it the method is a most excellent one. Actually and contrary to expectation Mr. Harold Cashmere composed a true peal.

But for a standard method at any rate it is necessary that there should be at least one good peal. Should we go further and say that it is necessary that there should be a considerable choice of peals?

That certainly is an important point, but perhaps not of such supreme importance as we are sometimes tempted to think. Cambridge has but one peal with the tenors together, and though people continually profess to lament the fact, it has not affected the popularity of the method. If it were so great a hardship as some suppose we should imagine that the Exercise would have adopted the device used by Benjamin Thackrah, and advocated by Sir Arthur Heywood in which the places in 1-2 in the first section are moved to the second cross section. For the practical ringer the difference is hardly noticeable, while the range of compositions is very largely extended, and yet bands seldom ring New Cambridge except as an occasional novelty.

(Continued on next page.)

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THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES. AN APPEAL FOR HELP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You were good enough to publish my letter re the late loss of famous bells by enemy action.

I am very glad to be able to inform you that it has led to steps being taken in the above case, and that these bells are in comparative safety, the Rector, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, having arranged for their lowering to ground level and being sandbagged. He will, I am sure, be congratulated by the Exercise and by many others who know of these widely sung 'Oranges and lemons' bells.

Of the eight bells cast by the Wightmans in 1673, seven yet remain. There is, too, the sanctus bell, cast at the Whitechapel Foundry by Mot over 360 years ago. It is of interest to note that the same foundry, now Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, are carrying out this 'safety first' work to-day.

The City of Westminster is known for its rich churches. We all readily think of St. George's, Hanover Square; St. Peter's, Eaton Square; St. Margaret's by the Abbey, and the Royal St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, as being at the top of the list; but very few, even Londoners, know that St. Clement Danes (once so wealthy) is now nearly at the bottom of Westminster's long list of churches. To-day, also, it stands bombed and closed!

The Rector is endeavouring to raise £50 to cover the above preliminary work, and I feel sure that many of your readers would like to help (for he has set a fine example) by sending him a subscription to The Anchorage, Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG,

Member of Church Council, St. Clement Danes.

ODD-STRUCK BELLS. THE CLAPPER HANGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is not altogether the odd-struck bell man who is at fault; the rest of the band should ring with him and listen.

Just a word with regard to bells getting false struck. A clapper gets loose and very often wears the washer through before it is tightened up. The clapper is screwed up without the washer, does not hang level and very soon gets slack again, wearing the bush. If one should want to put a washer on, let it be one of good hard leather and soaked well before putting on. See that the clapper is in centre, then tighten up. Do not ring the bell until the washer has got set.

Trowell, Notts.

E. C. GOBEY.

RAISING AND CEASING.—'Raising and ceasing in peal when properly executed is undoubtedly very pleasant and melodious, but the adepts of the art in this City of London very seldom choosing to put themselves to the pains of it is now chiefly practised by the country gentlemen.'—The Clavis.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Again, we should remember that in more than one method where there is a very wide choice of peals, ringers do not avail themselves of it. For many years Holt's Ten-part was almost the only peal of Grandsire Triples rung, and nowadays Parker's Twelve-part and Holt's Original practically monopolise the method. In the same way, although there are scores of good peals of Stedman Triples, it is seldom that any other than Thurstans' Four-part and its variations are rung. Even in Bob Major, which has such a great variety of compositions, a very large proportion of the conductors are content with Pritchard's peal.

These things seem to lead us to the conclusion that, provided a method has a sufficient number of other good qualities and one good peal, the absence of other peals would not necessarily bar it from becoming a standard method, though in judging the value of any method the number of its peal compositions is an important factor.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM D. GRIFFITHS.

RINGER AND CHURCHWORKER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William D. Griffiths, of Talgarth, Brecon, who passed away on February 13th, at the age of 62. Four years ago he fractured his leg and had not been really well since. He was always jolly and care-free and made any ringers he met welcome. He was keen to help beginners. By trade he was a carpenter and carver, and some very beautiful fittings in Talgarth Church and elsewhere, such as lecterns, reredos and altar tables, stand as memorials to his fine work.

Mr. Griffiths was a member of the choir for over 50 years and a bellringer for over 40 years. He was a prime mover in getting the Talgarth bells restored in 1907, and collected over £100 himself. In 1935 he was presented with a gold watch and chain for his services in the church.

He was one of the original members of the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild and was a member of the committee from its formation. He rang about 35 peals.

At the funeral on Monday, February 17th, the Vicar, the Rev. W. Gumos Davies, a vice-president of the Swansea and Brecon Guild, officiated, and the bearers were the local ringers, all of them pupils of Mr. Griffiths. Among the many flowers were wreaths from his fellow ringers, the choir, and the Parochial Church Council. Much sympathy is extended to the widow in her sad loss.

A LETTER FROM AMERICA.

NEWS AND GREETINGS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In these regrettable days, with no ringing of peals or touches in the towers to be recorded, you may find space for a brief report from the United States, where the Exercise is still carried on in a few places, though in a very elementary form.

At Groton School every Sunday Grandsire Doubles and occasional Triples are rung on the fine eight from the Whitechapel Foundry; and at Kent School in Connecticut there is also regular ringing, though the boys are handicapped by having no older instructor in the art.

Here in Boston, where I now live since retiring from Groton five years ago, we have only four Englishmen available for ringing; but, with my two sons and about twenty graduates of Groton and Kent, it is possible to get a band together who, with regular practice, could make real progress. Such practice is not possible unfortunately, but at least we ring often enough to enjoy the meetings and to remember what happens when a Bob or Single is called. Our English ringers are Richard Newton, James F. Laker, William Bashford and Joseph Goodhead, who join with me in sending greetings to our brother ringers and all who are fighting so nobly for freedom from tyranny and aggression.

S. WARREN STURGIS.

86, Marlborough Street, Boston, U.S.A.

RINGING AND 'SHOOTING' MATCHES IN THE OLDEN TIME

LONG STRATTON.—Whereas the Peal of Bells at Long Stratton in Norfolk have been lately put in Tune by the famous Mr. Collett, of Diss, and are thought (by those that are very good Judges of Ringing) to be the most musical Peal of Five Bells anywhere near them; notwithstanding they were very much out of Tune before; Therefore this is to give Notice to all such Gentlemen and others as are Lovers and followers of the Society of Ringing, that for their Encouragement there will be Six Pairs of Gloves given Gratis by William Sturman at the Chequer in Stratton aforesaid, to be rung for by Three Companies, the best of Three Peals, on Monday the 25th of this Instant February, to enter their Names by Eleven a Clock in the Forenoon at the Chequer aforesaid. And on Shrove Tuesday the 26th there will be a Pair of Buckskin Breeches of a Guinea Value, to be shot for by Twenty Men, each putting in a Shilling Entrance; to enter by One a clock in the afternoon, to shoot with fair Fowling Pieces, Rifled Pieces to be excluded; the first Best to have the Breeches, the second Best to have a Pair of Gloves of Two Shillings and Sixpence Value, the third Best to have a Pair of Eighteen Pence Value, and the fourth Best to have a Pair of One Shilling Value, to enter at the Chequer at Stratton aforesaid, where all such Gentlemen and Others, as will be so kind as to Favour me with their Company, shall meet with a Glass of good Liquor, Civil Usage, and a hearty Welcome, from their very humble Servant,

William Sturman.

From the 'Norwich Gazette,' February 29th, 1745.

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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.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at Parish Church in afternoon if required. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, etc., available afterwards.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Welcome to Hethersett, March 15th. Six tower bells from 3 p.m. and handbells in church. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 at the King's Head, followed by business meeting and more handbells. Reports to hand. Subscriptions gladly received.—F. Nolan Golden, Sec., Brabazon Road, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate, at 5 p.m. on March 15th.—A. T. Shelton, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Little Clacton on Saturday, March 15th. Handbell ringing at the Vicarage (opposite church) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Blacksmith's Arms 5.15 p.m. Business meeting and more ringing at the Vicarage after. Neighbouring friends in Suffolk are cordially invited. There is a good bus service from Ipswich and Colchester passing the church, but visitors coming by car must get a permit before entering the coastal defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice, Brierley Hill (D.V.), Saturday, March 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Social evening to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The March meeting will be held at 1st Floor, Vernon House, Friar Lane, Nottingham, on Saturday, March 15th, from 3 p.m. Handbells available for single and double-handed practice. All are welcome.—F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6, silent), also handbells, available, commencing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Will those requiring tea please write Mr. L. Bywaters, 12, New Town, Henlow, Beds? — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Walgrave, Saturday, March 22nd. Usual arrangements. Bus leaves Derngate 2.40. Names for tea to Rev. Segger. — J. Dean, Hon. Sec., 4, Court Road, Northampton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—A meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 22nd, at 3 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage. Please make a special effort to attend and do NOT forget to advise for tea.—H. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., Diamond Jubilee House, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh, Chipping Sodbury.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 22nd. Service, St. James', at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Handbells will be provided. Names for tea, please, by March 17th.—W. C. West, Branch Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Further details will be announced later.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

DEATH.

On February 8th, at Church View, Willoughby, near Rugby, James Major Hancock, aged 70 years.

DEATH OF A LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. Frederick Holdstock, of the R.A.F., which occurred recently on active service. He had been a ringer at Bigby, Lincs, until he left the village some time ago. He took part in 17 peals, all of which were Minor. Three were handbell peals, including a seven-method peal. His tower-bell peals ranged from Bob Minor to Minor in 14 methods. He was 26 years old.

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.

The North Staffordshire Association are doing their best to keep things going, and on Saturday last they held a meeting at St. John's Church, Hanley, at which tower bells without clappers were rung to Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Minor. Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Minor and Major were rung on handbells. A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed.

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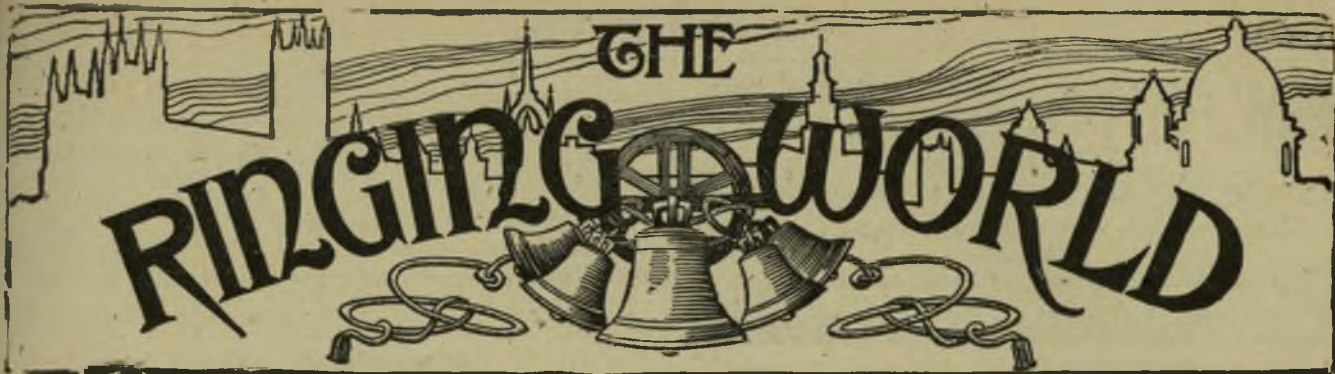
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FRIDAY, MARCH 21st, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE CADRES OF THE EXERCISE.

It is the fashion in some quarters to talk about the apathy of ringers and to make doleful prophecies of what is going to happen to our art in the future. Few meetings, we are told, are being held, and those badly attended; while handbell ringing and 'silent' tower bell-ringing, which might do much good, are almost entirely neglected.

We do not believe that there is much apathy in the Exercise. At all times there is a certain proportion of ringers whose interest in the art is not very great, and who are a cause of disappointment and trouble to the more energetic. That we must expect. It is not about them that we need to bother at the present. The danger comes from the fact that the stress of the times and the national necessities have taken away so many of our enthusiastic members and have curtailed our activities to such a great extent. As the lady who signed herself 'Young Ringer' pointed out recently, it is not lack of enthusiasm, but lack of ringers which prevents more handbell practice; and as Mr. C. T. Coles says, meetings during the winter months in London and some other large towns have been neither possible nor advisable. After all, there is a war on, and these things cannot be helped.

But what of those who are still left?—the fewer and mostly older men who have not been called to the colours, and who still have some spare time which they could devote to ringing had they the opportunity? These, as they look round, often find themselves left too few in numbers to do much, either with handbells or with 'silent' ringing. To them there must sometimes come the temptation to put ringing on one side for the duration of the war, and to turn for the time being to other interests, fully intending to resume their activity in the belfry when happier days come. It is difficult to blame them, yet there is one thought which may be worth their consideration. It is easier to put aside an interest than it is to resume it, and if they are now too short of men to do any active things, yet they can take example from what happens in military matters.

In peace time when there is no fighting to be done the vast majority of soldiers are sent to their homes to forget all about warfare and to employ themselves in other matters. But the army is not broken up. At the depots are retained a comparatively small number of key men, and around these cadres, as they are called, the whole army can quickly be reconstituted when need arises.

We want something of the sort in the Exercise. In every association, in every belfry, if possible, we need

(Continued on page 134.)

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men who will look upon themselves as the cadres on which the reconstructed Exercise can be based. They are denied the normal activities of the belfry, and there is not often much that they can do; but they can look upon themselves as still in being and keep their interest alive. If the captain of the band does no more than meet the secretary or one or two other members now and then and talk about old times over a glass of beer, he may be ensuring the future of change ringing in his own tower.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	HAROLD HOWSON 7-8

Arranged by I J ATTWATER.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal on eight bells.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

* MAURICE HODGSON 1-2	† HAROLD S. HODDEN 5-6
SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-4	† WILLIAM H. VIGGERS 7-8

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal 'in hand.' ‡ First peal in the method 'in hand.'

HANDBELL RINGING AND THE NOISES ORDER.

A LINCOLNSHIRE RULING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, the members of one of our towers came to me and said they wished to start handbell practices and proposed holding them in the local saddler's shop. The local police constable, however, had told them that if any sound could be heard outside he would have to take proceedings against them. They had made further enquiries from the Superintendent of Police, and he also said they would be liable.

Thinking this was a very serious matter, both for the Guild and for ringing in general, I immediately wrote to the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire and asked him for a ruling on the matter. He, very kindly, asked me if I would arrange a demonstration and he would send an inspector to report.

I made the necessary arrangements and gave the demonstration at Glyn Garth, going thoroughly into the subject with both closed and open windows.

The inspector appeared quite satisfied that the handbells could not be confused with either 'church bells' or any 'authorised signal.'

As a result of the inspector's report I have received a further letter from the Chief Constable (a copy of which I enclose), which no doubt will be of interest to the Exercise at large.

R. RICHARDSON,
Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

Surfleet.

Copy of a letter from the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire:—
County Constabulary Headquarters,
Lincoln.
13th March, 1941.

Ringing of handbells.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to your letter, dated the 24th February, 1941. I write to inform you that, in view of the report on the demonstration which you kindly undertook, there is no objection to the holding of handbell practices by members of your Guild. It is hoped, however, that similar precautions, which will make it impossible for the bells to be mistaken for any of the prescribed signals, will be taken by each team of bellringers wherever practices are arranged.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. FOOKS, Chief Constable.

R. Richardson, Esq.,

Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

SILENT APPARATUS.

THE ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY APPLIANCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Taking simplicity and efficiency together, I imagine the silent apparatus installed at St. Lawrence Jewry, and described in your columns last week by Mr. E. Murrell, is about the best up to date, and if the designer will give permission, it would be a good thing if other towers were to adopt it for use in the times to come when bells may again be used.

Obviously the success of the apparatus depends mainly on the correct adjustments, and, as Mr. Murrell himself says, it probably would be here that any improvements could be made.

There is one point, however, where I do not quite follow Mr. Murrell. He says that whatever the arc is through which the bell swings, the clapper will strike at the top of the swing, and he goes on to say that the contacts should be operated by the clapper. Is this correct? I should imagine that any attempt to use the clapper as a contact or trigger whether the apparatus is electrical or mechanical is foredoomed to failure.

The relation of the movements of the bell and the clapper seems to be very complicated, depending on the weight and diameter of the bell, the length of the clapper, and the different axis on which the bell and clapper swing. But really the point at which the clapper strikes is fairly constant and regular. It certainly is not at the top of the swing, and whether the arc is large or small, the bell speaks for all practical purposes at the same point in its swing. We regulate the ringing, not by allowing the bell to swing a greater or less distance, but by pulling it quicker or slower. The experienced ringer knows when he pulls his bell when it will strike. If he lets his bell run up or cuts it down, that affects the next pull. This should get rid of the chief difficulty that Mr. Murrell mentions. But it should not be forgotten that I am writing largely from theory, while Mr. Murrell has had practical experience.

M. CLARKE.

AN IMPORTANT QUERY.

Dear Sir,—When bells are raised in peal they speak all the way up, on one side to begin with, later on both sides. I would be glad to know at what point in the bell's swing the Seage apparatus comes into action, and also from what part of the bell the movement is taken to operate the mechanism. Perhaps some ringer in a tower where such an apparatus is in use would be good enough to supply this information.

Of course, Seage's apparatus was in use long before electric lighting came into general use and the action is purely mechanical. To-day with electric lighting installed in so many churches it ought to be a simple matter to work the apparatus electrically. I have been turning the matter over in my mind and hope to evolve a simple mechanism.

D. G. TAYLOR.

Somerset.

A GREAT SUCCESS AT CRAWLEY.

Dear Sir,—My experience of the Seage apparatus is that it is an excellent arrangement for practising new methods and teaching beginners, doing away with the many objections you hear about. There are very few people who object to bells when there is good striking.

Mr. James Parker, of Edmonton, and myself are the only two left of the old Crawley band who owe their success in the early days of Surprise ringing to the Seage apparatus. The church is situated close to the shops and great tact was required for peal attempts.

I well remember, after a few practices on the apparatus, Mr. 'Jim' Parker called bobs at random for his own practice, thinking we should soon break down, but after ringing about an hour he called 'Stand,' saying he was run out of bobs. It was decided to start for the peal the next week, and it was rung at the first attempt. On December 21st, 1893, a little difference in the falseness of a bell occurred, but probably this could have been adjusted.

F. DENCH.

Saffron Walden.

A CONVERTED SEAGE APPARATUS.

Dear Sir,—We have had the Seage's apparatus at Sedbergh for many years, and used it a good deal. As it took so much time fixing for practice, I 'electrified' it and now leave the rockers on always. It is only necessary to switch on after raising the bells and switch off before lowering them.

The apparatus consists of a large iron U-shaped bar, which is pivoted at the lower end. There are two stops to prevent it going too far. A pin on the bell stock hits first the left-hand top of one arm at, say, backstroke and the right-hand top at handstroke.

All I did was to attach an arm carrying a stud connected to 'earth.' This stud moves over a plate made of insulating material with a flush contact in the middle. This contact goes to the bell slottery. It works quite well.

With regard to methods, we rang Duffield for a little, but found the short courses monotonous, and, of course, it gives the conductor such a lot to do. Cornwall seems to be a very musical method. I've rung about 140 Surprise methods on my machine and was very much pleased with the sound of Cornwall. It keeps the heavy bells well together.

G. P. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

SOME RULES FOR TEACHING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—When, in writing the account of the inaugural meeting of the Highcliffe Society, we mentioned that 'a system of teaching was employed having many novel features,' we expected that someone would write and ask us to explain these methods that others might profit by them, and 'Young Ringer' has not disappointed us. While we do not blame 'Young Ringer' for, apparently, jumping to the conclusion that we have discovered something revolutionary in handbell ringing, we would like to point out to him that 'there is nothing new under the sun,' not even in bellringing, and the methods we employ are ordinary commonsense methods—explanations which the beginner really needs, but which many teachers so often forget all about.

In the first place, everything depends on the age of your pupils, and whether they have had any previous experience of change ringing in the tower or not. Most of our pupils are young, some not in their teens, and one only seven, and none has had any previous experience of ringing. It is absolutely no use in such cases giving them a book on ringing and telling them to study it: you would sicken them right at the start and defeat your own ends.

What they want is a practical demonstration and explanation of what changes mean, and how 'original' on all numbers can be produced on paper. After that they can learn what 'plain hunting' involves, not by ringing their bell up and down among the others, but by identifying themselves with their bell, and moving, after each change, among the other ringers. Let, for example, half a dozen learners with a bell each sit or stand against a table, in a straight line. Explain that the bells are always rung in order from right to left, and wherever they happen to be standing they always ring after the person on their right. Then after ringing each change, they move one place either to the right or to the left, according to the direction they are going. When they get to the end seat, they always stop for two rings in that seat.

When they can ring 'original' you can then explain Plain Bob, by getting the person in No. 2 seat to stop there for two rings when a certain person, the ringer of the treble, is in No. 1 seat. After that can come Oxford Bob, by getting the person in No. 4 seat to stop there while the treble ringer moves from seats 3 to 2, or 2 to 3.

You will find that your beginners have not been playing this game long before one or more discovers that he always turns the same person out of the end seats: he has thus learnt for himself what 'coursing-order' and 'course-bell' mean. Also such a method of ringing demands that a wary look out should be kept for the treble man in order to know when to make a place. Thus the beginner is preparing the way for the more difficult methods where the only satisfactory way of ringing them is by watching the treble and knowing when and where the places are made.

When ringing in such a manner do not trouble about 'hand-stroke' or 'back-stroke'; it is quite sufficient for the learner to make his bell ring by holding it straight out in front of him.

As this game is only a means to an end, do not make too much of it, but get on as soon as possible to the normal method of handbell ringing. And here, with regard to position, holding and ringing the bell, the number of bells to start on, and such matters, we are permitted to refer the reader to an article written by one of our members under the pseudonym of 'Marylebone' in 'The Ringing World' for October 18th, 1940.

In that article the various positions into which two bells can fall for Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples were explained, and we will not repeat any of that matter further. However, on the advice of the late Mr. Stephen Wood, we have decided to change our nomenclature a little. Instead of speaking of the 1-2, or 2-3, or 3-4 positions, we now speak of 'coursing,' or 'one-between' or 'two-between' respectively. This means that, for example, in Bob Major, when ringing in the 'coursing' position, no bell is coursing between, and the two bells will dodge in step, and behind together; in the 'one-between' one bell is coursing between the two, and this bell is the one which leads or lies behind while the pair are crossing over in 2-3 or 6-7; in the 'two-between' two bells course between the pair, and these two lead or lie while the pair cross over in 3-4 or 5-6.

And now an important word with regard to progress. Young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off, and the teacher should be on the look out for this. Give your pupils enough ringing, but not too much of it: keep them always in the state of being anxious for more; and never keep them pegging away at one method or touch until they get heartily sick of it. In our own case, before we could ring touches of Bob Minor properly, we started to learn Kent. Before we could ring that properly we went on to Grandsire Triples and Bob Major; and before we could ring the latter properly we were practising Double Norwich. Because the beginner is always kept moving, his interest is kept alive, and every practice means something fresh to accomplish. We can safely say that since we have started eight-bell ringing six months ago we have not let a practice go by without ringing something (be it only one lead of a new method) which we had not done previously.

We hope that these hints will be of some use to 'Young Ringer,' but if he has any other specific problems, we are sure, Mr. Editor, that you would be willing to re-address any letters he may care to send to us.

THE SECRETARY.

Highcliffe Society, Swindon.

THE PEAL BOARDS OF LONDON.

WESTMINSTER AND SOUTHWARK

(Continued from page 125.)

When we turn to the belfries of Westminster, Southwark, and the inner ring of London suburbs there is evidence of much loss. At **St. Martin's-in-the-Fields** the two oldest and most valuable boards were for long hung on the stairs leading to the gallery of the church, but they are now in the crypt. They are in good condition. One board in the belfry is illegible, but probably records either the 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus by the ancient Society of College Youths in 1785, or the 5,088 Stedman Cinques by the Society of College Youths in 1792. Both peals were at one time recorded, but one board has disappeared. The board which records the 7,325 Grandsire Cinques by the St. James' Society is in good condition, but needs cleaning.

The oldest board at St. Margaret's is the one which commemorates the first performance of John Holt's Original in 1751. It was restored half a century ago and now hangs in the church porch. The only other eighteenth century board in the steeple records 5,165 Grandsire Caters by the College Youths in 1779. The woodwork is sound, but the writing is almost illegible. There are two or three early nineteenth century boards in the belfry.

St. Clement Danes' has no tablets older than the nineteenth century. Of the many interesting boards at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the earliest records the 5,040 Bob Royal by the Union Scholars in 1738, when Philemon Mainwaring turned the 52 cwt. tenor in to a peal single handed for the first time. Other eighteenth century boards are for three peals of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus—5,136 by the Cumberlands in 1766, and 5,040 in 1758, and 7,008 in 1784 by the College Youths.

The board for the last performance was restored and rewritten in 1874 and the wording altered. A tablet which recorded the then longest peal of Maximus, 6,336 changes, rung in 1758 by the 'old' Society of London Youths, disappeared more than one hundred years ago.

Any old boards there may have been at St. Olave's perished in the fire which destroyed the church and there are none at St. George's or Christ Church. St. John's, Horsleydown, had at one time two of more than ordinary interest. One of them recorded the first peal of Stedman Caters ever rung, the other 10,421 changes of Grandsire Caters in the closing hours of the eighteenth century. When some time ago I visited the belfry the walls were bare. Now the church has been gutted and the bells so far as can be seen completely destroyed.

St. Giles'-in-the-Fields possesses two valuable late eighteenth century boards, one for the peal of Grandsire Triples by the College Youths in 1791, when James Bartlett called the Original and was thought at the time and long after to have been the first man to do so and also to take part in the ringing; the other for Noonan's peal of Stedman Triples rung by the Junior Cumberlands in 1799. Both have been restored and are in excellent condition, but four other old boards have disappeared. They were for London Union Triples in 1782, Cambridge Surprise in 1783, Bob Major in 1785, and Oxford Treble Bob Major in the same year.

The oldest board at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, commemorates 5,040 New Doubles Triples by the Cumber-

lands in 1750, but the two most important are in the vestibule of the church. One, on a copper plate in gilt writing on a black ground within a gilt carved frame, commemorates the 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal by the Cumberlands in 1784; the other in gilt writing on a black ground within a carved wood frame commemorates the two long peals in the same method by the College Youths in 1777. Photographs of these with descriptions are given in the Survey of London issued by the London County Council.

Two other boards formerly at Shoreditch are now in the belfry of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

When St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, was burnt in 1859 four boards were destroyed recording Grandsire Major, 8,448 Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob, and Superlative Surprise. I have no definite information as to the present fate of the bells and belfry, but the church was gutted.

When Christ Church, Spitalfields, was burnt in 1836 an unknown number of boards perished.

The first peals on Hackney bells were rung in the old tower which still stands. One board recording a peal of Reverse Grandsire Triples by the Cumberlands in 1782 has been removed to the new steeple.

St. George's-in-the-East and St. Dunstan's, Stepney, have no boards older than the nineteenth century, and the belfry walls at Clerkenwell are bare, though there were several tablets there at one time.

One eighteenth century board was at Islington, but what has happened to it is at present uncertain. Chelsea Old Church has a peal tablet, though the ring of bells was broken up a century ago. A photograph of the tablet is given in the County Council Survey of London.

St. Paul's, Hammersmith, and St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, are pleasing exceptions to the long tale of destruction. Both churches were rebuilt in the nineteenth century, but in both cases the peal boards were preserved and re-erected in the new belfries. The Kensington boards include one which commemorates the ringing of the first peal of Stedman Triples we definitely know to have been true.

All Saints', Fulham, has four eighteenth century boards, the oldest recording 10,080 changes of Bob Major rung by the Fulham Youths in 1735. The other performances commemorated are, 10,098 Grandsire Caters in 1762, 5,040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal in 1776, and 5,220 Plain Bob Caters in 1783. There is also a very elaborate board recording the long peal of Grandsire Caters by the St. James' Society in 1837.

At Lambeth there are two boards dating from 1777 and 1778, and at Battersea two dating from 1782 and 1790.

In the outer ring of London suburbs there are early boards and tablets at Hillingdon (1730), Greenwich (1732), Richmond (1742), and Twickenham (1749). Later eighteenth century boards are at Ealing (1798), Edmonton (1788, 1794, 1795, and 1797), Isleworth (1770), Twickenham (1785), Mortlake (1761 and 1776), Harrow (1780), and Richmond (1767).

Many of the belfries I have mentioned as well as churches like St. John's, Waterloo Road, Holy Trinity, Newington, and All Saints', Poplar, have nineteenth century boards, some of them of great interest.

A good deal of the destruction of ancient boards which occurred before the recent air raids was caused by fire

and the pulling down of steeples. That was unavoidable, but much was caused by neglect. So long as boards remained on the walls of the belfry they were safe enough, but when alterations were made or the belfry walls cleaned, there was usually no one to see that the boards were replaced. The result was inevitable. For a while they would stand on the floor, then they would get broken, then they would be carted away as rubbish. I have a strong suspicion that at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields a later set of stoney ringers painted out one or two records to replace them with their own 'peals.'

A little time ago the Central Council undertook to collect particulars of peal boards throughout the country. Much work has been done by Mr. Wilfrid Wilson and his committee, and what I have written above shows how necessary such a survey is. In several towers it has already led to a greater interest being taken in peal boards and in giving them attention and cleaning.

I have not been able to pay a personal visit to all the belfries and am not able to guarantee that every one of the boards mentioned still survives.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM STEGGALL.

WELL-KNOWN EASTERN COUNTIES RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. William Steggall, of Scole, near Diss, Norfolk, which took place on February 24th at the age of 66.

He was an old member of the Norwich Diocesan Association with which he had rung 76 peals, and a life member of the Suffolk Guild, with which he had rung 38 peals. He was a good striker and had been an active member of St. Mary-the-Virgin Society, Diss, for many years. After the death of the late John Souter, he was mostly seen on the tenor box. He rang the 7th to the 'William' peal at North Lopham on May 7th, 1938. For some time he had been in failing health and had taken no active part in ringing for about 18 months.

The funeral was on February 27th at All Saints' Church, Dickleburgh, where he had been Ringing Master for many years, and he was laid to rest near to the tower and the bells he had so often rung.

ERIN DOUBLES.

A CLEVER SIX-SCORE.

The possibility of producing an extent of Erin Doubles still excites interest among composers. Mr. T. B. Worsley sends us two ingenious six-scores obtained by the use of two Singles in a Six. The device is, of course, quite legitimate, but is excluded by those people who say that no extent is possible. Here is one of Mr. Worsley's six-scores:—

120		
12345		
21435	S	54321
12435		45312
14253		43521
41235		34521
42153	S	35412
24153		53412
42513		35421
24531		53421
25413	S	54312
52413		45321
54231	S	43512
45231		34512

Repeat four times.

AN 'EXTENT NOT POSSIBLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago, I tried to find a six-score of Erin Doubles. As there are two ways of moving from six to six, and as each six can be rung in six different ways, the task does not seem insuperable. If, however, my memory does not fail me, I found, to my own satisfaction, that if 18 sixes *could* be put together, there were two sixes which would not fit anywhere. I discussed the matter with the late Mr. W. A. Cave, who gave me the following touch of 72, which is probably not the maximum length:—

12345

45213 S at 2, five times repeated.

Chilcompton.

J. T. DYKE.

Dear Sir,—'Puzzled' wants to know why an extent of Erin Triples can be composed, but not an extent of Erin Doubles. The answer is that the conditions are not the same in both cases. Oxford Treble Bob will give an extent of Minor, but not of Major. No six-score of Double Grandsire Doubles is possible.

X.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

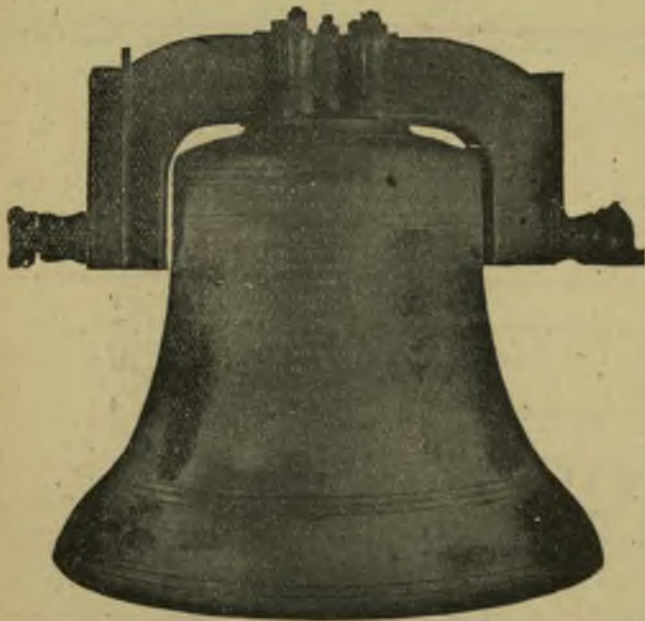
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THE EDITOR.

The Editor wishes once more to express his sincere thanks to the large number of friends, not all of them even personally known to him, who have sent their sympathy and good wishes to him in his illness. It is not at present possible for him to acknowledge their messages individually.

The further operation which was necessary was to be performed on Wednesday.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Next Monday is 'The Ringing World's' thirtieth birthday. It first appeared on March 24th, 1911.

Bristol has suffered severe damage to her churches during numerous air raids, and last Monday night seven more churches and chapels were either burnt out or severely injured. A church in which many people were sheltering received a direct hit, but only one person was killed, though several were severely injured. Details of damage to the buildings and the bells are not yet available.

The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, speaking of the London which will arise after the war, said of the city churches: The London skyline would be dull without them. They should not be removed to the suburbs. London must retain Wren's steeples.

On March 16th, 1778, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,240 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Mancroft. It was the longest length in the method and for a time gave the record to the Society of Cumberland Youths, who were then in the middle of their historical long length contest with the College Youths.

Challis F. Winney was born at Nayland in Suffolk on March 17th, 1858.

On March 17th, 1844, the Cumberlands rang 7,025 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Poplar. The peal was composed and conducted by Henry Haley and contained sixty full tittum courses between singles. In the next year John Cox composed a 6,701 without singles, which had the sixty in-course course ends, but in which one course necessarily was incomplete.

The culmination of the long and keenly fought long-length contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands was reached on March 22nd, 1802, when the latter society rang 7,104 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, single handed, at St. Saviour's, Southwark. They had already secured the ten-bell record by their 12,000 at Shoreditch in 1784.

Mr. George Williams called the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on March 22nd, 1901, at St. Peter's, Brighton.

A peal of Grandsire Cinques, 9,020 changes, at St. Martin's, on March 23rd, 1887, gave the Birmingham men the record for the method, which since 1735 had been held by the College Youths.

On the same date in 1837 at Liverpool Elijah Roberts tapped on handbells, 19,440 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus; and in 1898 Bernard Witchell called on handbells for the Birmingham men 8,888 changes of Stedman Caters.

The College Youths rang 5,020 Plain Bob Caters at Fulham on March 23rd, 1783. They claimed it as the first peal in the method, but two, both 6,480, had already been rung at Leeds in Kent.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

THE LONDON CHURCHES.

A PRECIOUS HERITAGE.

In an article on the churches of London, 'The Sunday Times' protests against the suggestion to rebuild them in the newer suburbs where they may be thought to be of more use.

The churches of London, as and where they stand, provide the great corpus of English classical architecture from which all who pass through the imperial capital may learn the precepts and observe the growth of the national style. That style originated with Wren, working on the academic foundations laid by Inigo Jones.

The Fire of London gave Wren his opportunity and the inspiration of his cathedral and his nucleus of churches held good for a century and a half, through Gibbs, Hawksmoor, Dance, and their like, down to the architects of the Greek revival. Thus England was endowed with a tradition of good building, eloquent, gay and just, which has no equal outside Italy. Every church erected between the Fire and the Gothic Revival is intrinsically precious. But still more precious are they in conjunction with one another, on the sites where they were built, circumscribed by lanes of Saxon origin and enlivened by what Dr. Johnson called the full tide of human existence. For it is these circumstances that explain their form and scale. Transport such a church to the middle of a suburban merry-go-round and the virtue goes out of it.

When people speak of dispersing the London churches, they speak not only to the detriment of London as a city, but with glib and treacherous indifference to the preservation of the English architectural tradition.

CHURCH BELLS AS WARNINGS.

FOR LOCAL AND RESTRICTED USE ONLY.

The widespread uncertainty about the part church bells will play as warnings in the event of an enemy invasion is set at rest by a leaflet which will be distributed to the general public during the next few days.

The people are given full and detailed instructions of what they are to do; and they are told that there will be no attempt to rouse the nation by ringing bells in the way that the country was called to arms by fire beacons when the Armada came in 1588. Such a thing is, of course, out of date, though many people seem to have expected it. If church bells are rung at all, it will be as a warning to the local troops that the enemy have been seen landing by air near the church. It will not concern anybody else, and if members of the general public hear any bells, their duty is to take no notice. They will have other things to attend to.

The following is an extract from the leaflet:—

What does it mean when the church bells are rung?

It is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question.

Church bells will *not* be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has taken place. The ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

RECORD MEETING AT HETHERSETT.

What the Rector of Hethersett, the Rev. J. M. La F. McAnally, described as the most successful meeting of ringers he had known in his parish at any time was held on Saturday, March 15th. Referring to the ban on the ringing of church bells, he said this was particularly sad for the people of Hethersett, because only a few months before they had completely restored their bells. As a non-ringer he could not understand why the ringing of the bells with their clappers lashed would be of interest, and he had been at some pains during the day to assure his parishioners that the bells would thus be rung that afternoon.

Supporting the Rector, who took the chair at the business meeting, were the Revs. A. St. J. Heard and A. G. G. Thurlow, Messrs. J. G. W. Harwood and H. Tooke (branch secretaries), Mr. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), and members from Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Fornsett, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Miles) and St. Peter Mancroft, Wymondham and the local tower. Two new members, Mrs. M. A. L. Ames and Mr. B. Jermey, of Bergh Apton, were elected, bringing the total strength of this six-bell tower to 20 members, a tribute to the combined efforts of the Rev. A. St. J. Heard and Mr. H. C. Boggis.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Norwich on Saturday, April 19th, to take the place of the usual Easter Monday meeting. It is hoped there will be silent practice on St. Giles' bells, handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry, a service in the latter church and tea in the Parish Hall.

The Rector of Hethersett was heartily thanked for his kindness in allowing the use of his bells and for conducting the service, the organist for her helpful part and Mr. Albert Bracey for securing the clappers of the bells. Mr. George Bell, his wife and daughters were not forgotten for their heroic efforts at the King's Head in coping with the additional numbers for tea.

The success of this meeting is a further indication of the healthy state of the association in war time, as was the decision to print a report for 1940 and the steady influx of subscriptions. There are defaulters, of course, but the great majority of the members of the Norwich Association are genuine supporters.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LITTLE CLACTON.

A meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Little Clacton on Saturday and was attended by fifteen ringers from Mistley, Dedham, Great Clacton, Tendring, Kirby-le-Soken, Rushmere, Thorington, Halstead and Little Clacton.

During the afternoon and evening eleven methods were rung on handbells, including Double Graudsire, Graudsire, Double Court and Oxford Bob Triples, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob Minor, Bob Major, Single Court, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor (single handed) and Stedman Doubles.

Service was held in church at 4.30 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Max Sewell Wontner, who gave an address and a warm welcome to the ringers. At his request handbells were rung before the service by Miss H. G. Snowden 1-2, Alan R. Andrews 3-4, G. A. Andrews 5-6, H. J. Millett 7-8.

Owing to a misunderstanding, the arrangements for tea had come to grief, but the secretary had advised those intending to be present to bring food, and tea was supplied by Mrs. Wright.

A letter was received from Mr. W. J. Nevard's son saying that his father had hurt his leg and was unable to be present. The meeting sent condolences to Mr. Nevard and hoped he would soon be all right again.

Ramsey was chosen for the next meeting, to be held in June. Mr. C. A. Andrews moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for having the meeting at the Vicarage and for the beautiful service, which was much enjoyed; to the organist and blower, and the members of the choir for their services.

SIR HENRY TULSE.

ROYALIST AND CHURCHMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one holding the memory of Sir Henry Tulse in much regard, I had great pleasure in reading Mr. Trollope's article on Tulse and his Times, which you published; perhaps I may be allowed to add a few comments.

Sir Henry was born about 1620. He was a country gentleman living in the New Forest and was returned to Parliament in 1640 as a member for the nearby Christchurch. In successive Parliaments he is described as of Hinton Admiral (not of London), and he left a large sum for the poor of that parish (Sopley), which charity still exists. Thus with a London home with its interests also, he had a full life and apparently threw himself wholeheartedly into parochial, civic and national affairs. And then there was his recreation of bellringing, so strong indeed that, despite the claims of his mayoralty, he determined not to forgo the concurrent Mastership of the College Youths.

The above was aptly dealt with by the Rev. Canon Tatlow, as Rector of the parish, in giving his address after the unveiling of the Tulse Memorial in St. Dionis Backchurch Courtyard. He said that such devotion to affairs was indeed typical of British character in all periods and especially so when the 'times are out of joint,' and, continuing, said, 'Public service entered largely into his life, and turning to the social and political environment of those who, like Tulse, lived in the last half of the 17th century, we know that it was conditioned by the great readjustments which followed the Renaissance' and the Reformation, of which indeed the then recent Civil War was but a part. England was recrystallising and was to emerge from the final revolution of 1688 as we know it to-day.

Throughout these stirring times Sir Henry was both spectator and actor and he played his part well. He had to react to the intrigue and subtle cross play of Charles II. and then to the impatient bigotry of his successor James. It is more than interesting to observe that he was 'King's friend' when nominated as a Royalist Mayor to a disturbed city, just dispossessed of its ancient Charter, and, again, that Tulse was to pose as Church's friend when James II. removed him from the Aldermanic Court (with others) for obstruction. But the final act was when, in 1688, William and Mary restored with honour Tulse and all those Alderman, of whatever party, who had been ejected.

It was 10 years before his Mayoralty in 1683-4 that Tulse was knighted when, having just been elected Alderman and Sheriff, the King bestowed that honour upon him publicly at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. (There is a contemporary reference to 'jollity and splendour.') The King probably knew his Tulse and his City of London too, for we must remember that for years after Cromwell's death it was a stronghold of Republicanism. So fiercely did the currents of political and religious strife run that even Pepys (though a friend of the King) was committed to the Tower, and was for months in danger of his life on a perjured charge. His great preferment afterwards was partly a royal requital. Mr. Trollope gives an admirable summary of all this, but I should like to add that 'packed juries' on one side were as obvious as 'packed benches' on the other. There were over 100 towns involved in this 'quo warranta' business, and London submitted sullenly, but it was not so with many and some towns even offered to spontaneously remit their Charters, as a Royalist gesture.

I will only add that Tulse's portrait hangs at Clandon, Lord Onslow's home near Guildford. (He has kindly promised that I shall see it at some time.) He is, by the way, not a descendant of Sir Henry's son-in-law, but a co-lateral relative. And in regard to the alleged tragic end of Tulse's daughter at Croydon, this is mentioned in 'Beaven's Aldermen' under the year 1673. She was not married until 1676 or so, and there is no other reference to the tragedy so far as I know, so, as the old lady said, 'let's hope it isn't true.'

E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

Italian Villa, Bromley, Kent.

BIG BEN.

AN INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPH.

The B.B.C. Handbook for 1941 contains a most interesting and unusual photograph of Big Ben, the bell that so many millions have heard and so very few have ever seen.

As all ringers know, the bell is cracked, but the photograph shows it to be worse cracked than most of us imagined, and right in the centre of the sound bow a big square hole has been cut to stop the crack from going further. No wonder the tone is far from pure, but should we really wish our old friend to be recast? The main reason it has never been done is, we understand, that to get a new bell into the tower would mean the costly and inconvenient job of dismantling and refurnishing several rooms which occupy the space in the tower below the bells. It would be easy to get the old bell down, for it could be broken up first.

The design of the massive iron work on which the five bells hang will be of interest to those who have studied bell frames. It is like nothing to be found elsewhere.

We are indebted for the copy of the handbook to the courtesy of Miss Beatrice Hart, the Editor of the B.B.C. Supplementary Publications, who is a ringer at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, and secretary of the local guild.

ISAAC JOHN BENJAMIN LATES. CONTEMPORARY'S SKETCH OF AN OLD BIRMINGHAM CELEBRITY.

One of the best known of the early Birmingham ringers and one of the men whose names will always be associated with the composition of Stedman Triples is I. J. B. Lates, one of whose peals is still frequently rung. John Day, another Birmingham celebrity, wrote many years ago his recollections of the ringers he had known in his young days, and the following is his sketch of Lates.

Mr. Lates (I. J. B.) was a native of Walsall, his father being a professor of music, and organist of the Parish Church of St. Matthew. Both father and mother were victims of the terrible cholera plague of 1832, and were, I believe, both buried on the same day.

He was an upholsterer by trade, having, as I always understood, learned that business at Oxford, in which city his earlier peals were rung. He was of rather spare habit, about 5 ft. 8 ins. high, a bit of a dandy in dress, and very gentlemanly in manner.

He had an impediment in his speech, which I cannot very well describe. It was not a stammer, but as if the tongue was too long, and got into the way of the words he wished to utter.

As a ringer he was not very remarkable, and his manner of handling a bell was peculiar and somewhat awkward. When ringing he stood very erect with his legs close together, seeming to pull entirely from his elbows, with little or no movement of the body, consequently the bell he rang had to go fairly well.

He rang and conducted several peals of Grandsire and Treble Bob on eight and ten bells, but I am not aware he rang peals of Stedman.

There can be no doubt that he had great ability as a composer. He was the first to produce a peal of Stedman Triples with only two extremes, that is, Doubles, and from 1842 to 1846 it was rung many times. Many excellent peals of Stedman Caters by him were rung, and the earliest peal I can find with the 5th or 6th behind the 9th and the treble in 2nd's place at the course-ends throughout was composed by him and rung in September, 1844. In Treble Bob Major his 5,024 stands unsurpassed, and in short, there are good peals of his in each of the standard methods, since he always aimed at excellence.

Lates was especially clever as a listener to ringing, and while so engaged he would make imaginary figures on the palm of the left hand with the forefinger of the right. He would make the Bobs as they were called, and say what the next course-end should be so that he would very soon have the whole plan of a peal before him by simply listening. His memory, too, was wonderfully perfect in these matters, as he would go home and commit to paper anything that particularly struck him. This gift of his was very well understood by the best men of the Exercise, from since time to time he gave numerous proofs of it.

One of his peculiarities used to be somewhat of a puzzle to us at that time, and still remains a puzzle to me at the present time. Every now and again he used to surprise us by bringing an account of a peal, either Trebles or Major, rung at the village of Christleton, in Cheshire. In the band there were several brothers named Mayers, and a Mr. J. Porter who conducted, and Lates used to describe them as 'devilish clever fellows who could ring anything.'

Several of his peals of Stedman Triples were said to be rung there, and that, too, when they were not so easy to conduct as they are now. When my uncle was practising for his Treble Bob Triples, Lates, by listening and chatting about it, soon found out how it was worked, composed a peal of it, and got it rung at Christleton. Afterwards a peal of Double Norwich of his was supposed to be rung there. This sort of thing caused Lates to be disliked. My uncle was very annoyed about the Treble Bob Triples, and after speaking pretty freely to Lates about it, let it fall through.

From what I really know and from what I have heard from time to time I have small doubt that he was guilty of sharp practice on more than one occasion and very likely he was not alone in such practice.

At one Michaelmas fair, several of the Christleton ringers came to Birmingham, when we considered them no better than ourselves, in fact hardly so good. In after years, when the late W. Snowden wrote to that place for information respecting some of the peals rung there, he could get none. He was particularly anxious about the Double Norwich reported to have been rung there in 1846, and wrote several letters on the subject. To one he got the reply that they knew nothing about it, and to his last letters no reply at all.

When stricken down in his last illness in 1857, Lates sent for Chattell and gave him his MS. books and papers. Later on, when Chattell was going to the home in Harbourne, he gave them to Mr. J. Perks, who in turn gave them to Mr. H. Bastable. They were in my possession for some time, and while perusing them I discovered the peal of Double Norwich before-mentioned, marked as having been rung at Christleton in 1846. On making this discovery I took the papers to Mr. H. Johnson so that he might be able to examine the peal and he did so, but could not make it out to his satisfaction. There are four Singles, two made in the ordinary way and two in four-five; this was afterwards explained by Mr. A. P. Heywood.

These MS. and papers were in Mr. Johnson's possession for some time, and when I received them from him I addressed him somewhat as follows: 'Well, Harry, you have now seen what he has left behind him.' I often think of him as he put his hand on my shoulder and looking me full in the face, replied 'John, he was a clever fellow.'

Lates was always courteous and gentlemanly in manner. He died on March 22nd, 1858, in his 60th year, and was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard.

ST. SAVIOUR'S. SOUTHWARK. NARROW ESCAPE IN AIR RAID.

Twice recently Southwark Cathedral has had a narrow escape from destruction by enemy action. On the first occasion a bomb fell within a few inches of the Lady Chapel, penetrated the ground and burst beneath. Ominous cracks have appeared in the wall of the retro-choir, but the extent of the damage cannot yet be known.

More recently a very heavy bomb fell in the roadway between the Cathedral and the Borough Market, where so many ringers have stood to listen to the famous bells. The blast was terrific; six people in the vicinity were killed, all the painted windows on the south side of the church were broken, and the stone work battered and chipped.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

THE STANDARD METHODS.

PLACES.

When we are studying a method, the first thing we usually do is to examine its place-making. As we explained in our article of December 15th, 1939, a knowledge of the places will enable us to prick the full lead of any method, and when we know what places it has we know a very great deal about the method itself.

It is only natural, therefore, that composers and method builders should have come to look on the places as the essential things in a method, and should have tried, from time to time, to lay down rules to regulate their use in method construction.

Sir Arthur Heywood's views were expressed in the dictum that 'it is of the first importance that each bell should at backstroke occupy, when possible, a different position to that in which it struck at handstroke, thus carrying out the first law of change ringing that every bell that can must change its place each stroke, or, in other words, that there should be as little place making as possible, in which term whole pulls in front and behind are included.'

In Major ringing he advocated an unbroken sequence of alternate quadruple and triple changes. 'Less place making than this is not possible; more is not necessary.' He further stated that 'the places made at any one change should not, if it can be avoided, adjoin one another.'

Heywood based his opinions on what he held were musical requirements, for he always professed to treat the production of music as the one essential condition in a method. With that side of the question we are not for the moment concerned, but his opinion influenced many other men, who accepted his conclusions as valid for method construction apart from music. There are still those who think that adjoining places are bad, and who look on places made wrong (*i.e.*, at back and hand) as evils, necessary evils, perhaps, in some cases, but still evils.

There was at one time a group of men who held that places are the only things that really matter in a method. 'Get the places right and everything else follows automatically. Places are the method.' Henry Law James was one of the leading men of this group, and the controversial opinions which, as older readers will remember, he so persistently and so ably expressed about the extension of Superlative and other methods, were based on these views.

Places are important things in method construction, but they are important only as convenient means by which we can understand what a method is. In themselves they are of no greater importance than any other work. It is right to say that we can deduce the whole of the work from the place making. It is wrong to say that the other work depends on, or is caused by, the place making. It is often said, for instance, that in Bob Major the making of second's place when the treble leads 'causes' the bells in 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 to dodge. As ordinarily used, the expression is harmless enough, but it is not really true. The place making no more 'causes' the dodging than the dodging 'causes' the place making. Each is necessary to the other, and both are parts of one operation, for place making, equally with hunting, is movement, place making is in fact a part of hunting.

We can best illustrate the work places do if we compare a method to the elaborate company drill which was an important part of army training in the old days. Company drill consisted of a number of complex movements by which soldiers in one formation were moved into another, and during the evolutions some of the men had to mark time for so many steps. Unless they did so properly, the others could not fall into their right positions. As we used to sing with great conviction on the march in France—

If the odd numbers don't mark time two paces,
How the hell can the rest form platoon?

Places are the equivalent of marking time, and just as, if you restrict the times when the soldiers may mark time, you will make the more complicated evolutions impossible, so, if you say you will have only so many places in a method and only those of a certain sort, you are saying in other words that you will not allow whole classes of complex methods.

The movement which is change ringing can be divided into two kinds—forward hunting and backward hunting. Forward hunting is when the odd bells go up and the even bells go down, and when the leading and lying are at hand and back. In the first lead of Plain Bob Major all the bells are forward hunting.

Backward hunting is when the odd bells go down and the even bells go up, and the leading and lying are at back and hand.

Forward.	Backward.
123456	123456
214365	132546
241635	315264
426153	351624
462513	536142
645231	563412
654321	654321
563412	645231
536142	462513
351624	426153
315264	241635
132546	214365
123456	123456

These two are essentially the same thing except for direction. Each is a round block, in each every bell has a cyclical path, and the whole pulls at the front and behind are a part of that path.

All the movement in every method, even in the most complex, is made up of a number of similar blocks or combinations of them. Sometimes all the bells are involved, but more often only some of them. As a simple example, write out the hand and back rows of a course of Bob Major when the treble is leading and you will see that the seven working bells go through a backward hunting block among themselves. Or write out the four back bells in the first two sections of Bristol, and you will see that they take among themselves three steps of forward hunting and then three steps of backward hunting.

In the majority of methods the movements are not so obvious, but they are always there.

The Q sets into which the bobs of a peal composition are grouped form one class of this cyclical movement, and we can say that the plain course of every method is constructed by a number of more or less complicated Q sets. We know a great deal about a method

(Continued on next page.)

TREBLE BOB.

IT IS A MUSICAL METHOD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When 'Country Ringer' gets to heaven (as he seems to anticipate) and rings that 22 cwt. tenor to Treble Bob, perhaps he could squeeze me in when the gatekeeper isn't looking, for I would like to ring one of the other bells.

Treble Bob (especially the Royal) is far better to listen to, to my mind, than some of the 'higher' methods. True, the Wrongs, Homes and Middles produce repetitions of back-bell music with the back bells in coursing order, creating monotony, but that is what most of your recent correspondents seem to prefer in the discussion on 'What is a good method.' They don't seem to like more than one bell between the tenors, so Treble Bob should fill that requirement in part.

The real music of Treble Bob is in those very leads that are complained of, namely, when the four-back bells are going through the slow, in Royal, and the two back bells in Major. If the 'beat' of the bells is perfectly maintained throughout these leads, with properly open leads, this is music equal to the best, for those who can appreciate something more than humdrum course-end stuff.

I like to hear a good tenor nobly leading, lying second's and leading again, with the 7th (or 9th) working away from her, and then working down again, to change places and reverse the music. Unluckily, striking sometimes goes to pieces in these leads, for ringers generally don't like the music, and lose the rhythm and the musical effect by lack of attention.

There is a place in Cambridge Major where the tenors are momentarily reversed in 5-6 with two smaller bells above them. Should these smaller bells be weak or rung too close over the tenors, the effect is the same as a course-end of Minor with reversed tenors. Treble Bob never produced anything as ugly as that.

I hope 'Country Ringer' will forgive me if I don't go quite so far as he does when he says that Treble Bob is a first-class method. Say rather that it is a grand fundamental method on which a lot of glittering frills have been tacked, namely, the Surprise group, but don't forget that they all, Treble Bob included, have got to round up their music to fit the familiar standard lead ends.

Mr. R. D. St. J. Smith refers to tenors 'pounding away on the front for a whole lead each.' Those bells strike no louder there than elsewhere. Has he ever considered the five-pull dodge in Superlative? That has been considered one of the best methods in its time. Some composers seem to shudder at the thought of having the 2nd in 6th's place, but if it is a good bell, capable of holding its own among the back bells, I can't see why it shouldn't dodge with the tenor for one or two courses in a peal, the musical interval is wide, but gives variety, and one gets the sense of homecoming as the 6th comes in front of the tenor once more.

May I drop a brick at the end of this letter? I make the statement that the most beautiful part of a course of Stedman Caters or Cinques is in the middle of the course when the small bells are working under the tenor. But it should be heard on handbells to really get the best of it. Best wishes.

PETER LAFLIN.

25, Hallam Street, Stockport.

THE TERM BOB.—'The word "extream," we must confess, is the most proper, but there now is, and for some time has been, a word called "bob" instead of extream. Upon what account the word was changed we know not; yet, nevertheless, for fashion's sake we advise everyone to use it.'—'Campanologia,' 1702.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

if we know its place making, but we know far more if we know its Q sets.

Now if the leading and lying whole pulls are a part of hunting, as they assuredly are, then the places which are involved in any one of these other movements are a part of hunting also. For instance, in the example from Bristol given above the sixth takes three steps forward and then three steps backward. So does the fifth. In one case it results in the two places which form the whole turn; in the other the single blow behind. Both are part of the same operation, and we cannot have one without the other.

All this shows us that we must not treat places as if they were things which stand by themselves, and such rules as those Heywood tried to lay down are bound to prove mischievous. We will not judge a method simply because it has few or many places, nor whether they are made at hand or back, nor whether they are together or not. We will take the method as a whole and judge it by what it gives us.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been much interested by the letters that have been published on the subject of Surprise methods. Some years ago I took much pleasure in them, working to try and find the best that I could, and the best that I managed to find was Silchester, which was published in the Bristol District's book. It keeps the tenors well together and runs in three lead courses, which enables us to get many short touches and a great variety of peals.

Let me say in passing that Bristol Surprise is an older method than it is generally supposed to be. I discovered it when I was up at Cambridge in 1891. I first found Peterborough, and from it deduced Bristol.

E. BANKES JAMES.

Endsleigh, Tavistock, Devon.

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46712835
64178253
46718523
64175832

61478523
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16482735
Bob
18674235

A RINGING MATCH.

IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

'Norwich Gazette,' January 27th, 1733.
'January 27th, 1733. This is to give notice, That the Company of Five Bell Ringers, who go by the Name of Garboldisham Ringers in Norfolk, do challenge both Suffolk and Norfolk to ring the Best of Ten several Peals with them, for the Value of Five or Ten Guineas, to the Time and Truth of Ringing; the Ringers Names are as follow, and the Wager to be accepted by publick Notice within Three Months from the Date hereof.—William Clarke, Crispin Taylor, Robert Hull, Robert Collings, John Dove.'

'Norwich Gazette,' March 17th, 1733.
'Saturday, March 17th. Whereas the Ringers at Garboldisham have in a late Advertisement challenged any Five Ringers in Norfolk or Suffolk to ring the Best of Ten several Peals on Five Bells to Time and Truth, for a Wager of Five or Ten Guineas; This therefore is to let them know, that we Five Norwich Ringers, whose Names are under-written, do accept their challenge; And pursuant thereto we desire them to meet us at the Red Lion in Bunnill in Norfolk on Monday the 2nd April next ensuing, at 10 a clock in the Fore-noon, and bring their Ten Peals pricked at Length with them; there to Article and put down the Money, and ring for it the same Day.—Robert Crane, John Harvey, William Callow, Edward Crane, John Webster.'

'Norwich Gazette,' April 7th, 1733.
'Saturday, April 7th. I am credibly informed, That the challenge lately given by the Garboldisham Ringers, to ring 10 Peals on 5 Bells for a Wager, and accepted by the Ringers of this City, has been decided in favour of the latter; They rung for 5 Guineas, and both Sides performed to Admiration; the Garboldisham Ringers erring only in the 9th Peal; and what redounds too to their Credit, was the treating each other with the utmost Civility.'

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.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held in Reading (D.V.) on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Central Girls' Club, 29, Chain Street (opposite St. Mary's Church House), at 3.15 p.m. It is hoped that all branches will be represented.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6, silent), also handbells, available, commencing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Walgrave, Saturday, March 22nd. Usual arrangements. Bus leaves Derngate 2.40. — J. Dean, Hon. Sec., 4, Court Road, Northampton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch. — A meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 22nd, at 3 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage. —H. C. Gifford, Branch Sec., Diamond Jubilee House, Short Hill Road, Westerleigh, Chipping Sodbury.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Southbroom, Devizes, on Saturday, March 22nd. Service, St. James', at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Handbells will be provided.—W. C. West, Branch Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farrington Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual nomination meeting. — The next meeting will be held at Bramley on Saturday, March 29th. Handbells in Schools 3 p.m. Plain tea will be arranged for all who notify Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warrels Avenue, Bramley, by Wednesday, March 26th. Business meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District. —The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. in the Church Room. Service in St. Augustine's Church at 4 p.m. Tea about 4.30, notice for which must

be given to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2. (telephone Hampstead 4510). Please bring all unpaid subscriptions.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at the Railway Hotel, Hinckley, on Saturday, March 29th, at 6 p.m. Plenty of handbell ringing. All welcome and the hotel is just outside the station entrance. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Subject to national exigencies, the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing. Tea (bring your own sugar) at 4 p.m. at a charge of about 1s. per head. It is essential that notice for tea should be sent to the undersigned not later than March 29th. The annual business meeting will follow the tea. Annual committee meeting in the hall at 3.30 p.m. prompt. The undersigned's light peal of eight handbells will be available. An urgent appeal is made for the payment of subscriptions, especially by unattached members. It is hoped that the meeting will be well supported.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Tel. Perivale 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

DEATH OF MR. H. J. HUNT.

The death is announced at the age of 75 of Mr. H. J. Hunt, of Camberley, which took place on January 19th.

A good tenor ringer and a lover of good striking, he started his ringing career at Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, and at Chippenham, under the tuition of Mr. Sidney Hillier, the Ringing Master of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild. He then went to Reading and Caversham and afterwards to Hungerford, where he found the tenor without a clapper, but, being a machine and engine smith, he got permission and forged and fitted a new one to the bell.

Next he went to Chirton, Wilts, where he taught a young band of ringers and was a member of the choir. Then in 1916 he joined the band of ringers at St. Michael's, Yorktown. He rang several peals on the tenor to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and at 70 years of age rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on the treble at first attempt.

ST. MARY'S, SWANSEA.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many ringers will hear with regret that the bells of St. Mary's Parish Church, Swansea, have been melted by the heat of the fire when the church was burning. Only one bell seems to have been left at the base of the tower. As towers with rings of bells suitable for ringing are few and far between in Wales, this loss will be felt more than usual, especially as Swansea not so many years ago was the centre of ringing west of Cardiff. There is another ring of eight in the town, but these are not popular with ringers in general.

Swansea.

L. A. HOARE.

J. A.
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- 'TREBLE BOB,' 1s. 10d.; second edition; with appendix; 100 pages.
- 'SURPRISE METHODS,' 2s. 10d. A book by the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies, M.A., F.R.A.S. Contains a tabulated list of peals, 10 diagrams, 128 pages.

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No. 1,566. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28th, 1941.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Next Monday is the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Central Council, and had the times been normal we should be looking forward to giving it on Whitsun Tuesday a fitting recognition.

This is not the first time that war has robbed us of the pleasure of celebrating a notable anniversary. Twenty-six years ago in May was the bicentenary of the first true peal ever rung, but it had to go by almost unnoticed. In the present case we need not be altogether deprived of our festival, for, though it is fifty years since the earliest councillors met at the Inns of Court Hotel in Holborn, the exigencies of war have in three years prevented any meeting from being held, and so up to the present there have been but forty-seven meetings in addition to the preliminary convention in 1890, which settled the constitution of the Council. The fiftieth meeting has yet to be held.

The celebrations of anniversaries are pleasant functions, and they have their uses too, for they give us a good opportunity of taking stock and seeing if, and how far, we are making progress. So far as the Central Council is concerned, we may fairly say, as we look back over the years, that it has proved its worth and justified its existence. To the younger members that may seem to go as a matter of course, but older ringers will remember that the Council did not come into being without a lot of active (and a still greater amount of passive) opposition. The question was repeatedly asked, What good will it do? And as the years went on the question changed to, What good has it done? Perhaps there are still some who are inclined to ask the question, and perhaps it would be difficult to give an answer satisfactory to them. Yet we know that the Council has been of enormous benefit to the Exercise, and we venture the opinion that the greatest good has resulted, not from anything that has actually been done, but from the mere existence of the Council. It has provided the Exercise with a visible head; it has drawn ringers closer together and shown them that they have common interests and a common brotherhood; it has done its share in killing the old cut-throat competition, which worked in the belief that one society could prosper only at the expense of another. How far the great advance in method ringing is directly due to the Council is not easy to say, but at any rate the expansion in six-bell ringing, which began it, could not have taken place without the Council's books.

We are very pleased to be able to publish this week an account by Canon Coleridge, who was one of the original members and has never missed a meeting. It will be

(Continued on page 146.)

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read with the greatest interest. We also print the first
of a few articles which will attempt to describe the
foundation of the Council and some of the earliest mem-
bers. There were men of outstanding character and
ability among them, and the work they did was sound as
a whole and stands.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, March 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;Being one extent of Oxford Bob, two each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford
Treble Bob and Bob Minor.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS 3-4

HAROLD HOWSON 5-6

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First peal in four methods by all.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWARD F. COWPERTHWAIT 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS 5-6

*CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... 3-4 | E. ROGER MARTIN 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal in the method. † First peal on handbells. First peal
of Major 'in hand' by all except the conductor. First handbell peal
of Major in the district.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE, MAJOR.

A CRITICISM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Silchester is one of the methods selected for the new
Surprise Major book, but we are not quite sure that it really deserves
a place.

The method has an attractive diagram, a good plain course, and a
good name. It brings the bells up in 1-2 and 7-8 in their natural
coursing order.

There are eight false course ends, A 32546, C 53624, D 46253, E 65432,
P 34562, Q 62345, R 54263, and S 46325. These will allow only a
fraction of the most musical courses to be used.

To produce a five-thousand, sixth's-place bobs must be used to cut
away four leads of the work of the tenors, in every course. Sixth's-
place bobs in a second's-place method are, of course, allowable, but
they certainly are objectionable, and we should not care to recommend
their use.

Whatever good qualities a method has, it seems to us to be largely
condemned if no peal is possible in which the tenors do more than
three leads of their full work.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE,
ERNEST C. S. TURNER,
The Methods Committee.

Ealing.

WHAT IS A GOOD METHOD?

CAMBRIDGE AND BEDFORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Woolley has brought out the great point of a method,
the lengthening lead. While making a method more difficult, it
produces the 60 course-ends in a little over 6,000 changes.

He also speaks highly of the contiguous places and to those who
object they are covered up with beautiful double dodging, especially
on the higher numbers.

Mr. Harvey has given the matter a thorough examination and goes
on to say that Cambridge has Bedford soundly beaten in extension.
I will give Mr. Harvey the mutations while the treble is in 3-4 as
being part of the construction of Cambridge, but I cannot agree to
bells laying still with the treble in 5-6 and 7-8 for Royal and Maximus,
whereas Bedford, as Mr. Melville says, is pure changes.

Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE BACKGROUND.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The first meeting of the Central Council, which was held on Easter Tuesday fifty years ago, was an event of the greatest importance in the history of change ringing. It was the culminating stage in the organisation of the Exercise, in itself a notable part of the reform movement which saved our art at a time when it seemed certain to pass away as a thing that had outlived its usefulness.

Change ringing had been practised for many years, and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was mainly a secular sport recognised as such by ordinary people who saw nothing amiss in it.

Soon after the first quarter of the nineteenth century a great decline set in all over the country, due to changing social conditions and to the fact that the class of men who had formed the backbone of the Exercise was no longer attracted to the belfry. This decline was almost universal, and was not contradicted by the existence here and there, in Birmingham, Sheffield and some other towns, of skilful bands whose performances are still recorded on peal boards. The decline reached bottom level about the decade following the year 1850, and at that time the general status of ringers was very low indeed. They had gained, and to some extent earned, a very bad name, and never was their reputation among the general people so bad.

At the same time there had been a very great alteration in the ideals and opinions of churchpeople, so that the gap between the ringers and the Church authorities, which had always existed more or less, considerably widened, and a state of affairs formerly tolerated or winked at became a scandal.

The opinion of most of the clergy was that their ringers were a nuisance. The case seemed to them too bad for reformation, and it was only the long tradition and the real vitality of the art which kept ringing alive at all. In the villages when the bells got unringable they were often left silent, and to the clergy it was rather a matter for satisfaction than not.

The general standard of ringing itself was declining, and to any acute observer, who knew the conditions throughout the country it must have seemed certain that change ringing was doomed.

But the sentiment and love of church bells, which in a most remarkable way had been for long ages a part of the very nature of the ordinary Englishman, was not altogether dead, and there still remained a minority among the ringers which gave hopes for better things to come. Especially there was a small group of men, some of them clergymen and some of them laymen, who set themselves to the work of reform. They faced the facts squarely, they recognised the magnitude of the task, they were content to proceed step by step, and to-day we reap the benefit of their labours.

The chief difficulty, and no doubt the ultimate cause of all the trouble, was the entirely secular nature of ringing, and the complete divorce between the Exercise and the Church. The clergy were nominally in control of and responsible for the bells, but in practice the ringers were quite independent and had their own ideals and their own supposed rights, rights which had existed for many a long year, and to which they clung tenaciously.

The reformers recognised, perhaps more or less instinctively, that the thing most necessary was to bridge this

gap between churchpeople and the ringers, and that led to the formation of the diocesan and county associations which in the long run did have the desired effect.

Many a reforming parson in his own parish would have liked to make the belfry a part of the church organisation in the same way that the choir was, and many did try to do so. They drew up model sets of rules which they expected their ringers to observe, and we very often come across copies of these rules still hanging on belfry walls. This thing may have done some good, but probably not very much. The reform that was so badly needed had to come from within the Exercise, not from without, and the art could only live, not by changing the secular nature of ringing, but by maintaining it and using it for the service of the Church.

That is where the great territorial associations did so much good. They brought ringers in close touch with each other, widened their outlook and gave them higher ideals, brought them into better relationship with the clergy, attracted a better class of men to the belfry, and at the same time fully maintained the traditions of change ringing as a secular art worthy of being pursued for its own sake. When we say that the associations did these things, what we mean is that they made it possible for ringers to do them for themselves.

One result of the conditions under which the Exercise grew up during centuries was that ringers have never been a part of the parochial organisations in the way that choirmen, for instance, have been. Of course, when there is but one ring of bells in a place, the band has been compelled to confine its practices largely to one tower, but whenever they have had the opportunity, ringers have gone from belfry to belfry as fancy and convenience dictated. Especially has it been so in the large towns.

This and the secular nature of the art have made it possible and, indeed, necessary for the Exercise to be organised in an entirely different way from any other body of men connected with the Church. The Exercise is a collection of persons who have common interests and common aims not shared by outsiders, and it is in a real sense a whole.

It was natural and, indeed, inevitable, therefore, that as soon as the territorial associations had time to show their usefulness, men should think about some supreme organisation which should co-ordinate their activities and be the outward sign of the unity of the Exercise, able to represent it in the face of the Church and the general public, and capable of looking after the interests of ringers and promoting the art of change ringing.

The first public suggestion was made in 1883. In order to promote the interests of ringing and to further belfry reform, a meeting was arranged in connection with the Church Congress, which was held at Reading in that year.

The scheme had its origin among the members of the Oxford University Guild, with the Rev. Dolben Paul as its moving spirit. In order to widen the appeal, the assistance of some other and better-known men was sought, and the committee nominally consisted of five parsons—C. D. P. Davies, G. H. Harris, A. du Boulay Hill, F. E. Robinson and Wolmer Wigram—and three laymen—Jasper Snowdon, C. A. W. Troyte and Captain Acland-Troyte. Whether they were all equally interested and enthusiastic about the project may be doubted.

The meeting was a general one, open to the public, and about 125 were present, a large proportion of them

naturally being ringers. They included several of the ringing parsons of the time, of whom F. E. Robinson is best remembered to-day, and laymen like Captain Acland-Troyte, Gervase Holmes, Leonard Proctor, Captain Moore, J. Martin Routh, and John W. Taylor. More representative of the rank and file were John Nelms and William Baron, the Cumberlands, William Wakley, of Burton-on-Trent, Samuel Reeves, of West Bromwich, Edgar Bennett, of Beddington, and William Newell, of Reading. Lord Nelson presided.

The proceedings followed the custom at the official Church Congress meetings. First a paper was read by the Rev. A. du Boulay Hill on 'Bellringing Associations, their object and organisation.' C. D. P. Davies followed with a paper on 'Change Ringing—what is it?' and then a general discussion was invited. In the course of it Gervase Holmes moved a resolution 'that a committee of five be appointed to draw up a scheme for the formation of a National Association of ringers for England.' The suggestion evidently was not his own and came from the promoters of the meeting, but he said that a grand national association which should combine the whole of the ringers of the country had been his hobby for the last ten years. Holmes was a Norfolk country gentleman and a Justice of the Peace. He, in conjunction with Captain Moore and an engineer named Mackenzie, had started a bell foundry at Harleston. They cast a few rings of bells, including the octave at Thorp next Norwich, and introduced several improvements into bell hanging, among them steel frames and spring clappers.

F. E. Robinson supported the proposal and said that if they had a national association they as ringers would be enabled to have a very pleasant time together, which was one of the first things to be considered.

The committee appointed consisted of Captain Acland-Troyte, the Rev. F. E. Robinson, the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, C. C. Child, James Pettit, John Nelms and Henry Johnson. The Rev. Dolben Paul was the secretary.

It is likely that the committee thought that all they had to do was to draw up a good scheme and publish it; the associations and the Exercise would then gladly welcome and adopt it, and all would live happy ever after. If they did think so, they were greatly mistaken.

In due course the proposed scheme was published. It suggested the formation of a body to be called the National Association of Bellringers. It was to have an unlimited membership and was designed to include every ringer in the land. Individuals could join on payment of an entrance fee of five shillings after having been proposed and seconded. Existing associations were expected to join as bodies, and each would bring its own members in en bloc. They were to hand over to the central body 10 per cent. of their subscriptions annually. Each association would have a representative on the governing body, which would consist of a president, master, secretary and council.

Once a year a meeting would be held, and it would consist of a service in church, a lecture, a dinner, and ringing, one steeple being set apart for the use of a previously selected band. On the days before and after the meeting, arrangements would be made for peal ringing. The choice of the place where the meeting would be held was left to the council, and a local committee would be formed to arrange details. All these arrangements were

modelled on those of the Church Congress, which at the time was a popular and influential institution.

The general objects of the National Association, apart from holding the meeting, were to collect and publish information of interest to the Exercise and to offer advice on all matters connected with belfries and belfry reform. What machinery would be set up to carry out these objects was not specified.

The scheme never had a chance of success. It was dead, in fact, before it came to the birth, and what killed it was the apathy and indifference of the mass of ringers in the provinces and the active hostility of the London societies. These difficulties might have been expected, and, no doubt, it was to meet them that Pettit, Nelms and Johnson had been added to the committee. But their presence on it could never have been anything but a farce. They were totally out of sympathy with the other members and their opinions and ideals; and if they had not been, they could hardly have exerted any influence. It seems that none of them actually served, and in any case they did not sign the report.

As things were, any scheme which depended for its success on the assent and co-operation of the general mass of the ringers was foredoomed to failure, and this particular scheme was not one which was likely to appeal to the active minority who could have forced it on their fellows. What good to ringers of the North or the Midlands would be a meeting be, held at Brighton or Cambridge? In those days twenty miles was a long way for a countryman or a working man of the towns to travel. F. E. Robinson and people like him would, no doubt, every year get their 'very pleasant time together,' but why should all the ringers of England have to pay for it? The average country ringer, if he thought at all about the matter, which is unlikely, probably considered it an attempt by a few parsons of whom he knew nothing much to gain control of the Exercise for their own ends. And that, of course, was true, though the ends were high and worthy ones.

The London societies would have nothing to do with the scheme. They considered it an infringement of their prerogatives and rights. They were quite satisfied with things as they were and wanted no change. The following letter was written by George Muskett, at the time the secretary of the Society of College Youths. He was replying to an anonymous correspondent (actually Benjamin Keeble), who had advocated the National Association scheme in 'The Bell News.'

'I can inform Nil Desperandum that the society of College Youths have been in existence for a quarter of a thousand years, and it is in as good a position now for strength both mentally and financially as it was two hundred years ago. We can boast of some of the best ringers in the land, we transact our business in a consistent and proper manner, we do our duty without being found fault with, we ask nothing of anyone, all our records and peals are intact from 1627, and we stick up for our character and rights; and in St. Paul's Cathedral tower on a Sunday morning stands a body of respectable ringers who are the freehold, the backbone, and the brain power of the College Youths Society, who are willing and ready to oblige a country friend or coach a youngster; and, pray, what more does Nil Desperandum want? I will tell him at once that we don't want a National Association and, what is more, we won't have one.'

This letter is a very valuable piece of historical evidence. Its defects of tone and temper are glaring and on the surface, but it was straightforward and honest. It said quite plainly what its author thought, and not only he, but other College Youths and the rest of the London ringers. They definitely stood for things which the promoters of the new scheme knew and cared very little about. For we must remember that behind all the activities of the Exercise there was going on, and had for many years being going on, silently and almost unnoticed, that struggle between the old ideas and the new. We know now that the old ideas were largely bankrupt, and that the salvation of the Exercise lay in its being able to adopt the new, but there would have been a grievous loss if a clear cut had been made with all the old traditions and ideals; and for them the College Youths and the Cumberlands stood.

Things, however, within those societies, and especially the College Youths, were by no means as rosy as the picture painted by Muskett. The College Youths of two hundred years before would have been very considerably surprised and amused at being compared with their successors, but history was not Muskett's strong point. The real objection to his point of view was that the state of London ringing in 1885 was bad, even by the standards of the time. There was a strong and growing feeling among the younger members of the society that it was desperately in need of reform; but the older members saw no cause for complaint, and they put down the revolt with a high hand and expelled the rebels by the application of rule 10. How much the society suffered from their action is difficult to say. The College Youths still

(Continued in next column.)

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT DUDLEY.

The annual meeting of the Dudley Guild was held at Dudley on March 13th, when a good muster was present.

The service in church was conducted by the president, the Rev. Dr. A. P. Shepherd, Archdeacon of Dudley, who gave a very inspiring address. After the service the Archdeacon unveiled a peal board in the belfry recording a peal of Grandsire Caters rung half-muffled to the memory of Mr. H. Sheppard, hon. secretary of the Guild for 27 years.

At the business meeting, held in the School Hall, the President said how pleased he was to see so many present under the circumstances and without the use of the bells.

The vice-presidents were re-elected en bloc. On the proposition of Mr. B. C. Ashford, Mr. C. H. Woodberry was elected Ringing Master, Mr. J. Goodman was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. H. Shuck hon. treasurer, Mr. F. Colclough Central Council representative, and Mr. G. Guest and Mr. T. Justice auditors.

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held jointly with the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association at Hagley.

The best thanks of the meeting were accorded to the president for his address and for presiding at the meeting, to the organist for the musical part of the service, and to all the officers for their work during the past year.

It was decided to send a message of sympathy to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith in his severe illness, with hopes for a speedy recovery.

Bellringing, though a recreation chiefly of the lower classes, is not in itself incurious or unworthy of notice.—Thomas Faulkner, the antiquary, A.D. 1813.

(Continued from previous column.)

continued to enjoy their prestige as the first society of the land, but the real leadership of the Exercise passed definitely away from London to the provinces.

Thus the first attempt to give the Exercise a controlling body and a head proved a dismal failure, but it had made clear, at any rate, that a feeling did exist in a small but influential minority of ringers that such a thing was necessary, and it showed what the difficulties were and what mistakes had to be avoided.

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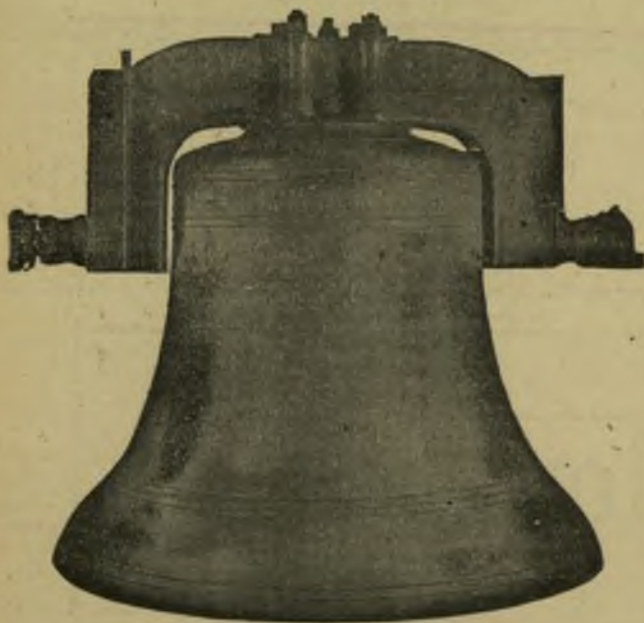
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was successfully operated on last Wednesday, and is progressing quite favourably. It will be a few weeks before he has quite recovered.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are sorry to hear that Major J. H. B. Hesse has had an accident and broken his ankle. His many friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

The Ministry of Information has announced that, up to the end of February, 282 churches in England and five in Wales, belonging to the Church of England, have been destroyed or seriously injured by enemy action. The numbers of those less seriously damaged are 1,070 in England and 30 in Wales. Coventry and St. Paul's Cathedrals have been badly damaged, and Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey more or less slightly damaged.

The zeal and energy of the Lincolnshire police are beyond praise. We have been asked what would happen if a visitor went into the Mermaid at Surfleet on a Sunday and asked for a drink. The answer is that the special constable would be mobilised and the offender thrown into the river.

On March 24th, 1784, the Society of College Youths rang 5,160 changes of Real Double Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Two days later at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the rival 'ancient' Society of College Youths rang 6,048 changes of the same method.

The Cumberland Youths rang their famous record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 12,000 changes, at Shoreditch on March 27th, 1784, and on the same date in 1826 the first peal of Superlative Surprise Royal was rung at Wakefield.

To-day is the one hundred and ninety-first anniversary of a peal of New Bob Triples rung by the Cumberlands at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The method is worthy of the attention of a good modern hand. It is given in the Central Council Collection.

The first authenticated single-handed peal of Grandsire Caters of over ten thousand changes was rung at Fulham on March 27th, 1762, by the College Youths. There is no record of the performance in the society's peal book.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Oxford Treble Bob Major, was rung. Fifty years ago on Sunday (it was Easter Monday), 24 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 7, Caters 3, Union Triples 1, Bob Minor 2, Major 2, Royal 1, Stedman Triples 4, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Maximus 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

Fifty years ago the Cumberlands spent a week-end at Quex Park. On Easter Sunday they rang a peal of Stedman Cinques and on the Monday a peal of Grandsire Caters and another of Treble Bob Maximus. George Newson called all three peals and the band included Henry Dains and Mr. George Williams.

The Rev. M. Melville, of County Road, Swindon, would like to get into touch with Mr. W. A. Stote and Mr. Wilfred Williams.

Among the peals rung on Easter Monday, 1891, fifty years ago on Sunday, was one of Grandsire Triples at Romford. William Pye rang the seventh and his brother, George R. Pye, rang the third. It was Bob's first five thousand. He has rung hundreds since, many of them records and of outstanding merit, but a first peal has a value and an interest all its own.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Gabriel Lindoff is not well and was unable to be present at the annual meeting of the Irish Association, which was held at Kilkenny on St. Patrick's Day. We wish him a speedy recovery.

To-day, Mr. George Henry Coombes, of 25, Swanmore Road, Ryde, the veteran ringer of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, celebrates his 98th birthday. He is still hale and hearty and is hoping that 'peace peals' will be recorded in 'The Ringing World' long before he reaches the double nines (99).

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

HANDBELLS AT RODBOURNE CHENEY.

A pleasant and profitable evening was spent on Saturday, March 15th, at Rodbourne Cheney by a small number of members of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Representatives of three towers were present, and they were pleased to meet members of the newly-formed Highcliffe Society.

Practically all the time available was spent with the handbells and some good ringing was heard, while several made a little progress along the 'double-handed' path. One member of nearly three score years and ten scored his first course of Stedman Triples on 7-8, and others rang two working bells to Stedman for the first time.

The methods rung were Plain Bob Minor, Major and Royal, Stedman Triples and Caters, Kent Major and Grandsire Caters and Cinques.

The party dispersed about 8.30 p.m., and the fixing of another meeting was left in the hands of the secretary.

Visitors to Swindon may like to know that there is handbell ringing in Christ Church vestry on Tuesday evenings at half-past seven o'clock.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

A MESSAGE FROM CANON COLERIDGE.

With a reminder that the Central Council of Church Bellringers keeps the 50th anniversary of its first meeting on March 31st, it has been suggested that a few lines from the oldest member of the Council would be welcome, if addressed to the officers of the Council in particular and to all ringers in general; making use of 'The Ringing World' for easy conveyance.

I can certainly claim to be an old member (in more than one sense), seeing that the Oxford Diocesan Guild did me the honour of electing me as one of its representatives 50 years ago, an honour which has been continued every third year up to the present, enabling me to attend every meeting of the Council, north and south, east and west, as well as Midland centres; as well as serving for many years on the Standing Committee and as president for nine. My knowledge of the mass of work done by the Council during these 50 years enables me to justify myself to write as an 'old member,' but the lapse of years causes blanks in what should be indelible memories, just when a clear brain is most needed.

Though it would not be right to say that nothing remains in the memory of the first meeting of the Council, there must be omissions, as at the present time I cannot look up records owing to the war and all that a war entails on a parson: still, I am as clear as the day over preliminary meetings for launching the Council—especially do I recall one at Birmingham—possibly because on that occasion I first met Henry Johnson, and had the privilege of ringing with him at Aston Parish Church. That is a memory not likely to fade, but as regards the first meeting of the Central Council much has faded away. It was held at the Inns of Court Hotel in the afternoon, an arrangement which lasted for several years till the Central Council had got into its stride, and members become more prone to speak.

Of course, this meeting was largely occupied in electing officers. There was no doubt about the president, Mr. A. Percival Heywood, the originator of the Central Council. He held the presidency till over-strenuous work in the Great War caused his untimely death. It was not easy to select a secretary. Mr. Attree, of Brighton, and Mr. Thornton having declined nomination, a vote was taken between Mr. F. E. Dawe and Mr. A. Strange. Mr. Dawe was elected, and was succeeded the following year by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, who for many years proved a tower of strength to the Council.

It was at this first meeting that a committee was formed for drawing up a report on the preservation and the proper equipment of towers, and, incidentally, the shirts of ringers—flannel and not cotton or linen, 'to preserve them from chills when seated in church after ringing. That committee, which still exists, has proved its value over and over again. The only discussion which I can call to mind was on the ringing of Triples—should it be reckoned a true peal if rung on seven bells only? Logically 'Yes,' but proper music demanded a covering bell. As far as I can recollect, such a peal should be counted as true, but a suggestion added, 'Don't do it again.' So much for the first meeting of the Central Council, closing with a general stampede of members anxious to get a pull on a rope or pint pot—probably both.

During the 50 years of its existence, the work and publications of the Council have proved of inestimable value to ringers. With such a president and secretary as we have now we may with a good heart face the grievous setbacks from which we are suffering, and go forward with increased energy as soon as the opportunity permits. It only needs the whole-hearted support and co-operation of the various associations, guilds and societies in brotherly collaboration not only to restore that which is broken down, but to lift the Council to a still higher stage of usefulness and estimation in the Exercise.

May I conclude these discursive remarks by offering my best wishes not only to the president, secretary, officers and members of the Central Council, but also to the great body of ringers who give support to it.

Finally, I would wish to convey my deep sympathy to all ringers who may be 'suffering in mind, body or estate' as a result of this terrible war, not least to those in South Wales, who have borne many heavy raids with marvellous heroism—bombs falling on them with heavy explosions, so different to the quiet and peaceful entry of the members of the Central Council who had hoped to accept the invitation to visit Cardiff for last year's meeting at Whitsuntide.

G. F. COLERIDGE.

The Vicarage, Crowthorne, Berks.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BIGGLESWADE DISTRICT.

A very successful meeting, held by the Biggleswade District of the Bedfordshire Association at Henlow on March 22nd, was attended by 16 members from Blunham, Tempsford, Northill, Clifton, Maulden, Moppershall, Sandy, Hitchin and the local band. Mr. A. A. Joppy, of the R.A.F., and two enthusiastic members serving in H.M. Forces and now home on leave, were also present.

The tower bells, although silent, were in great demand and were kept going from 5 o'clock until 7.30 in various methods from Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise Minor. All agreed that the meeting was a success, and it was proposed to hold another at Henlow in the near future.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 15th, and was attended by about 45 members and friends, representing most of the district towers, and Chertsey, West Grinstead, Guildford, London and Lincoln. The Army was also well represented.

Handbells were rung in the tower before a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge.

Tea was served at the Duke's Head. As the Vicar had to leave early he was thanked for conducting the service and for welcoming the association to his parish.

The business meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master. The members stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect to two old members, Mr. A. H. Bundle, of Carshalton, and Mr. C. H. Reading, of Mitcham, who had died since the last meeting.

The meeting heard with regret that Mr. F. G. Woodiss, who has been in ill-health for some time past, is now confined to bed, and the secretary was instructed to write to him and express the meeting's sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

Two new members were elected—Dr. C. St. L. Finney, of Kingston-on-Thames, as an honorary member, and Miss J. Cole, of St. John's, Croydon, as a ringing member.

The committee's report for 1940 was read and adopted. The year had begun very promisingly, ringers had almost entirely recovered from the difficulties caused by the outbreak of war, and with a few exceptions ringing had been carried on almost normally at the district towers, at least for Sunday services, while at several towers practices had been maintained throughout the winter months. The prohibition of church bell ringing was a devastating blow at progress, but within a very short time the keener members began handbell practices which in many cases proved highly successful. It was extremely fortunate that hardly any of the churches represented by members had received more than minor damage. The number of members known to be serving in His Majesty's Forces is sixteen.

During the year two members were lost by death: Mr. E. Acock, of St. John's, Croydon, and Mr. John Beams, of Ewell. Only this year Mr. Beams celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his joining the association, and throughout that long period he had been a very keen member. He rang many peals for the association, and conducted two during the year. He had also served on the District Committee at various times, and during many years he wrote the association's peal books.

Five meetings were held during the year—at Beddington, Epsom and Ewell, Banstead, Leatherhead, and Kingston-on-Thames. Attendances at the first three (with tower-bell ringing) averaged 45. The Leatherhead meeting, held jointly with that district of the Guildford Guild, consisted of a hike from Box Hill to Leatherhead, followed by handbell ringing, and was a great success. It is hoped to have a repetition if circumstances permit.

Four peals were rung in the district: two of Grandsire at Ewell, and one each of Cambridge Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters at Beddington. Two members rang their first peal, and five others their first in the method.

The membership at the beginning of 1940 was 195. Twelve new members had been elected and one transferred from the compounding list. Two deaths had been reported, eleven members had been transferred to the compounding list, twelve had allowed their subscriptions to lapse, leaving a membership as at December 31st of 193, a net decrease of twelve from previous figures. There are now seven honorary members, 151 members representing 17 towers, and 25 unattached members.

Although the full effects of the ban on bellringing and the calling up of members will have to be faced during 1941, it is hoped with the continued support of members to keep the association going until the war is over.

The statement of accounts for 1940, showing a balance of £13 14s. 11d. (an increase of 18s. 3d.) was adopted.

The arrangement of meetings during the year was left to the committee's judgment, but it was agreed to hold the customary ringers' gathering at Leatherhead at the beginning of August.

The following officers for the district were elected: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. H. N. Pitotow; representatives on committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Mr. C. Potheary and Mr. F. G. Woodiss.

The general officers of the association were renominated as follows: Vice-presidents, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Croydon and Mr. Arthur Dean; Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

Mr. F. E. Collins conveyed to the meeting the good wishes expressed to this association, among others, by Mr. Albert Walker at the Henry Johnson Commemoration Luncheon at Birmingham.

Votes of thanks were passed to those who had arranged the meeting and to the organist.

Various courses of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, etc., on varying numbers of bells were rung, including courses by the representatives of the Army, the old 'uns, and the local band. Those present then adjourned to the less roomy but more attractive bar downstairs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940.**

In these difficult times the problem which is just now facing most of the leading associations is whether it is advisable or even possible to issue the usual printed annual report, or whether it must be forgone until happier days. More fortunate than some others, the Norwich Diocesan Association has been able to print and issue its report for 1940, which is now in the hands of its members.

It is not, of course, the book which has been so familiar in past years. The detailed lists of members are omitted and the peal records have shrunk to meagre dimensions, but the essential features are there.

'We adopt,' say the officers of the association, 'no defeatist attitude; we have discovered that meetings are possible, although church bells cannot be rung. We look forward with confidence to the future of bellringing when peace comes again, if those who can will rally round now and help us to keep alive in these dark days the vital spark of our ancient art. If we lose contact with one another, if we lose interest, if we neglect our belfries, peace will come with our bells silent and forlorn and the return to normal times will be difficult and slow.'

During 1940 eight general meetings were held, three being in Norwich, and all were comparatively well attended. The two in Norwich after the imposition of the ban were especially well supported. In addition, several branch meetings were held.

The total membership of the association is given as 914, but of them 292 are non-resident life members and 187 Suffolk non-resident life members, leaving 387 ringing members and 42 honorary members.

Twelve peals were rung in 1940, six of them on handbells. The tower-bell peals were Superlative Surprise Major on the recast light ring at Hethersett, Kent Treble Bob Major at Wymondham, Minor at Somerleyton, Bergh Apton and Stratton Strawless, and Doubles at Haddiscoe. The six handbell peals were all rung by the same band and were one of Bob Major and five of Minor.

The officers are to be congratulated on the general standing and activities of the association.

CLOCKS WHICH PLAY TUNES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Since the scarcity of ringing news, we have had numerous items of interest relating to bells. What about clocks which play tunes on the bells. As far as I can recollect, we have three in Shropshire, or rather two in actual use. At Norton-in-Hales there is a clock with carillon by Thwaites and Reed, of London, which plays a tune every three hours. Sunday, 'Sicilian Mariners'; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 'Home Sweet Home'; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 'Nae luck about the-boose.'

Ludlow has a clock which plays a different tune for each day of the week.

At Newport there used to be a carillon machine in the middle of the ringing chamber, worked by the clock, the rope-sight being by no means ideal. A few years ago, as it had got out of repair, it was disconnected and moved against the wall out of the way.

I once heard a clock at Tiverton in Devonshire which struck 'Queens,' 'Tittums' and 'Rounds' for the quarters instead of the usual Cambridge chimes, and very nice it sounded on those beautiful bells.

At Leominster, Herefordshire, there is a carillon machine attached to the clock. Some years ago, when I was calling a peal of Grandsire Triples on the fine back eight, we had just passed the half-way single when the clock started off with much whirring and clinking, two of the band not knowing what it was, thought something had gone wrong with the striking mechanism and the weight was running down. They started to laugh, and the more the old clock rattled the more they laughed, so we did not score a peal that day.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees Green, Prees, Salop.

LONDON CHURCHES.**RESTORATION AND REBUILDING.**

The future of the damaged churches of London continues to engage the attention of architects. In a letter to 'The Sunday Times,' Mr. Morley Horder makes the following points:—

Most of these churches were rebuilt after the Fire of London and stand on mediæval foundations, and are therefore doubly sacred. To remove any more of them to make room for office buildings is therefore an architectural sacrilege.

He says that looking through a collection of a hundred or more etchings and engravings made in 1820 by John Coney and others, after a tour of the City to note the damage, he was glad to note that all the really fine towers are undamaged. The reconstruction of the building of this period is not difficult: the loss of so much beautiful craftsmanlike woodwork is the main difficulty.

In the new world we are planning these towers may yet be seen from the green belt that Evelyn loved and knew. Already St. Paul's is being seen more as Wren saw it, and Ludgate Hill may become a street worthy of such a vista. These towers were built as inspiring Christian landmarks, and may yet be needed even in the City for prayer and praise.

SPLICED RINGING IN SUFFOLK.**NOT BANNED BY THE GUILD.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—The Guild to which Mr. J. E. Bailey refers is evidently the Suffolk Guild. As spliced ringing is older than the Guild, that Guild obviously cannot have put a ban on it, 'when splicing was first practised.'

I have been present at all the committee and other meetings of the Suffolk Guild, and I can safely say that so far from the Guild putting a ban on it, it has never been mentioned once. If a spliced peal were rung by the Guild we should, like any other Guild, be glad to record it. I know of no member who has spoken against spliced ringing, though few members trouble to practise it.

For myself, theoretically, I object to it, 'because it infringes the canon which forbids more than two kinds of call. Practically, I must admit, from our experience here, it imparts a certain liveliness to the ringing. You have to keep your wits about you; one cannot go to sleep while the ringing is spliced.'

Ufford Rectory.

H. DRAKE.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.**A BAD PLAN.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There were some of us who rather fancied that the Highcliffe people were pulling our legs, but apparently they are quite serious.

Every attempt to teach beginners should be praised, but it is hard to see what good can be done by trying to make children 'not in their teens,' and without previous experience of ringing, try to ring Double Norwich double handed after a few practices. If these 'young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off' they will never make handbell ringers and it is a waste of time trying.

If it is true that these people do not let a practice go by without ringing some method which they had not done previously, it is pretty certain that they have attempted a lot and done nothing well.

This seems a perhaps harsh judgment, but the plan was put forward as one for other people to copy.

L. W. BUNCE.

HOLT'S TEN-PART PEAL.**AND REEVES' VARIATION.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At Gravesend several years ago after an unsuccessful peal attempt, the conversation turned to 'out of the ordinary' methods, and a well-known member of the Central Council suggested Double Grandsire Triples as worthy of attention. This appealed to my father and a date was fixed there and then for an attempt. Something was said that care would have to be taken in the selection of a composition, and Holt's Ten-Part was suggested as one that would probably do.

Knowing that a peal of Double Grandsire had been rung a century or more before, I turned up 'Shipway' to see what he said about it and found that the peal given there by Holt was not his Ten-Part. This I sent on to the gentleman who was to call the peal, expressing doubt as to the Ten-Part running true. In his reply, he said that it would not, but that Reeves' Variation would, and he added, 'and this raises an interesting point, does the variation really belong to Reeves or did Holt make the alteration in order to adapt his Ten-Part to the double method?'

There is this to be said, that Shipway's remarks do not lend themselves to this theory, but whether the variation is by Reeves or Holt, it is, as our friend said, 'an interesting point.'

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

ERIN DOUBLES.**HOW A SIX-SCORE WAS COMPOSED.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your correspondent's request, I furnish the following details as to the procedure I adopted to obtain an extent of Erin Doubles:—

I typed out the 30 sixes in pairs (positive and negative) and tried to form plain courses from them. This proved impossible.

After experimenting I came to the conclusion that calls would have to be made at the six-ends if an extent was to be obtained.

The question of calls was the next question to be answered. I took the usual Stedman single and placed it at the end of the six, and by this means built up the block of sixes which forms the first half of the extent and two smaller blocks of four sixes each leaving over the two last sixes of the plain course. The plan I adopted was to exhaust the combinations of any one bell in 4-5, and if the 10 six block lies examined it will be noted that this contains all the combinations with the 3rd in 4-5.

The problem now resolved itself into joining these blocks together, and I employed Stedman's original single, but placed at the six-end to achieve this.

It should be pointed out that none of the blocks mentioned is in itself a round block, but the whole can be fused into one round block.

The improved 'single' published in your issue of March 7th overcomes the fault of the original one in that it only affects the work of two bells.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

THE STANDARD METHODS. MUSIC.

It is quite easy to write a lot about music in connection with bellringing; it is not at all easy to write anything which will be of any use in a discussion like the present.

Music in bellringing, like music in general, is very largely a matter of taste and preference. Some people like one thing, some like another, and when two men differ strongly on the subject it by no means follows that one of them must be wrong.

Most of us know quite well what we consider good music, and usually our taste is sound; but what we say about it is not always either sound or sensible, and, indeed, quite a lot of nonsense has been talked on the matter.

This is especially so when men judge the musical qualities of a method of a peal composition from the figures. A good example is the familiar and much abused claim that 'the second and third are never in sixth's place at a course end.' To some people that is everything necessary to distinguish a musical peal from an unmusical one. They assume that what is good for one method is equally good for another, without ever stopping to examine the changes the peal actually produces. Composers of Superlative, for instance, are always anxious to keep the second and third away from sixth place at the course ends, and yet the fourth's place bell, which they ignore, strikes exactly the same number of blows over the tenor in 7-8 as the sixth's place bell does. The musical value of a 6-2 course end in Bob Major is totally different from the same in Double Norwich. We could give many other examples, but perhaps the most glaring is the claim, at one time quite common, that in peals of Royal and Maximus the second and third are never in sixth's place. As if it mattered a jot whether they are or not.

It is quite a frequent thing to find people expressing opinions on the musical qualities of methods for similarly absurd reasons based on paper qualities which have no real relation to the actual music produced in the belfry.

When we express opinions as to the musical qualities of methods our statements are usually general and vague, and that is inevitable because we are intentionally dealing with a general and vague subject, but a statement, which may be perfectly true in a general and vague way, can be very false and misleading when it is used in a precise and particular way.

For instance, some people lately have been saying that Treble Bob is a musical method, while others have said it is nothing of the sort. We know what these people mean, and we have no objection to their use of the expression. But, strictly speaking, Treble Bob as a method is neither musical nor unmusical; it is quite indifferent to either. All we can say, strictly, is that under certain circumstances Treble Bob can (or cannot) produce good music. But any method which can produce good music can equally well produce bad.

Most people studying a new method will judge its musical qualities from its plain course. That is quite fair and reasonable up to a point, but it does not go far enough. There are some methods which have excellent plain courses and perhaps one or two others beside, but are quite unable to produce a musical five thousand. If the plain course of Cambridge were as musical as the plain course of Double Norwich, which it decidedly is not, the two methods could not rank as equals, since Double Norwich has so many more good courses available than the other.

The plain course of Superlative contains what is probably the most varied selection of good music in a short space that we possess in common use. There are two other courses of about equal value, but little can be said for the musical qualities of the rest of the method.

When we are judging, from a musical point of view, a method's claims to rank as a standard method, we must consider not only its plain course, but all the other courses it has available for peals.

An important point which should not be lost sight of is that musical values are not the same to the listeners outside as they are to the ringers in the belfry. When we are ourselves ringing, we take note of many more delicate harmonies and rhythms than are noticed by the outsider. They do not listen with the intentness that the actual ringer does; usually they do not consciously listen at all, and it is only the bolder and more pronounced harmonies and rhythms which strike their ears. But it is on these bold rhythms that the effect of ringing depends so far as the general public is concerned, and it would be foolish to neglect their value.

Let us see, if we can, what really does constitute music in change ringing, and which methods are most likely to produce it. But first we will hazard a guess at what are the three or four short lengths of ringing which by common consent best give what is generally considered good music. They are, the plain course of Superlative Surprise Major, the plain course of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, three leads of Treble Bob Royal and the two or three Sixes before and after a Tittum course end with the sixth behind the ninth in Stedman Caters.

There are many people who would agree with this selection and yet would strongly dissent from the opinion that either Superlative or Treble Bob as a whole should be included among the most musical methods.

MR. W. J. NEVARD. SERIOUS ILLNESS.

The many friends of Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, will learn with regret that he is at present seriously ill. On Saturday morning, March 8th, during a visit to Colchester on his usual business, he had a bad turn, but managed to complete his business and get back to his train. After leaving Great Bentley Station he had a fall and was found lying helpless in the roadway. He says he is very sadly and would like all his friends to know what has happened to him, as he is unable to write. He cannot read 'The Ringing World,' but his daughter reads it to him and it gives him such joy to hear the news. Everyone will join with us in extending sympathy and best wishes to him.

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SILENT APPARATUS. THE PROBLEM OF CORRECT STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The queries raised by Mr. Clarke are not easily answered in the space of a letter, as I found when trying to explain the St. Lawrence Jewry appliance. As I may not have expressed clearly what I intended to convey, I will try to clarify the points he raises. As regards the apparatus itself I do not claim 'perfection,' but only a fair compromise, due to the fact that it depends for its action not on the clapper, but the movement of the bell—two very different things.

For the sake of this explanation a bell may be taken as a combination of two pendulums, the outer one, i.e., the bell itself, being pivoted on the gudgeons and the inner one (the clapper) on the crown staple, the pivotal point being *outside* the gudgeon line. The difference between the pivotal points is the 'throw.'

On being raised from the down position the first sound is made by the bell being pulled against the (stationary) clapper, the 'throw' not operating until the movement becomes great enough to overcome the initial inertia of the clapper, which then will strike on both sides of the bell, the actual moment of striking being when the bell having stopped (at the greatest amplitude of swing) the clapper runs on to make contact. The 'double blow' will be sooner with smaller bells, later with larger ones. The striking will now be regular, but the higher the bell the slower it becomes. This difference may be plainly heard on 'raising.'

From the foregoing two deductions may be made. A contact apparatus which does not operate until the bell is 'frame high' would be useless for 'raising' in peal, and also would not reproduce the appreciable difference in time of striking between 'frame high' and 'set pull.' An exceedingly small error in time is required to make the difference between what is termed good striking and bad. Take a peal of eight bells as example and a rate of striking of 25-27 changes per minute, or 4.8 seconds for a whole pull approximately. This means an interval of .3 second between bells or near enough so for practical purposes. If the interval be diminished between any two bells there follows a corresponding gap, and an error of only .05 second will make good striking into bad. There is this difference between positions of 'frame high' and 'set pull,' if not more as we found in actual practice, and on a contact apparatus the endeavours of the ringer to 'strike well' cause the 'work' I mentioned in my previous letter. When Mr. Clarke says he regulates the ringing by pulling his bell quicker or slower, he is voicing the same thing as myself when I said 'held it down' or 'pushed it up.'

May I say in conclusion that there are no 'patent rights' to the apparatus.

E. MURRELL.

USE OF SILENT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Having seen reports in 'The Ringing World' that various churches are carrying on 'ringing' silent, we approached the Rector with a view to keeping the band together by the same means at our church. We met with a blank refusal.

Could you inform us as to whether any instructions have been issued officially—by the Government or by the Church—that bells must on no account be *touched*—silent or otherwise.

If such is the case it seems strange that quite a number of towers are having silent practice which is denied to others. Has the official ruling—that bells shall not be *sounded*—been altered to—shall not be *touched*?

A. BALLARD.

Burbage, Leicestershire.

The official order is perfectly clear. Church and chapel bells may not be rung except by the direction of the appointed authority. There is no restriction on any silent use of them, but certainly it would be most improper to instal any silent apparatus which would hinder their use as warnings. It has been explained that one bell is sufficient for the purpose. In our opinion, all the bells in the tower should never be silenced at the same time even temporarily.—Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. MEETING AT FELKIRK.

Owing to the bad weather the attendance at the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Felkirk on March 8th, was rather small, members being present from Eastwood, Wath and the local company.

The six tower bells were rung without clappers during the afternoon in a variety of Minor methods, and although striking could not be criticised, everyone taking part enjoyed having a pull.

At the tea in the Schoolroom the Vicar, the Rt. Rev. J. H. Dickinson, offered a hearty welcome to all. Mr. S. Briggs presided at the business meeting which followed. Apologies for absence were received from the president, Mr. E. Brookes, and Mr. A. Panther, vice-president. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Darfield on April 5th.

Ringling on handbells followed in the following methods: Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Bob Major, Plain Double and Little Bob Major Spliced and Plain and Gainsborough Spliced. The methods rung on tower bells were Plain Bob, Double Bob, St. Clement's and Oxford Treble Bob Minor.

ERIN DOUBLES. WHICH CALLS ARE ALLOWABLE?

To the Editor.

Sir,—There is no real difference between Mr. Lewis and myself as to the possibility of obtaining a six-score of Erin Doubles. Where we differ lies in the question whether the 120 rows produced by him in his first variation are or are not Erin, and whether the combination of calls in his later variation is permissible.

To answer this question we must learn what are the functions of calls in all methods, and what particular form these calls may take in the method concerned. Long ago it was laid down in effect that a bob is a variation in the regular working of the method resulting in *three* of the bells changing in their mutual coursing order, while the single alters the C.O. of *two* bells only. In most methods this result is obvious, but in some (of which Grandsire is an outstanding example) the rule applies, though its working is concealed. (Holt's single is a special case and, moreover, its use is strictly circumscribed.) To prove the fact with regard to Grandsire, write out two leads of Doubles (or, better, Triples) to obtain the lead ends 253746 and 275634. Now write out one lead with a bob at the end for 752634. Is it not obvious that the C.O. of 2, 7, 5 has been changed, while that of 6, 3, 4 has been unaltered?

Further, the common Grandsire Single is not a single operation. It consists of a bob made on the handsroke lead of the treble and a single at the backstroke.

Bob	Single	Thus the single, strictly speaking, only affects
5172634	5172634	7 and 5. For convenience only one audible call
1576243	1576243	is given, though really the common Grandsire
1752634	1572634	single is a form of bob-single.

Again it has long been universally agreed that a method shall employ only two kinds of call, one of which is to be a bob and the other a single. While different forms of these calls may be used, one form alone of each may be employed in any particular extent. Anyone can see that all three calls used by Mr. Lewis are singles of different kinds, and he has to use two varieties for a 120. This in itself condemns both his variations. It may be argued that what is written above is inconsistent with the employment of bobs, singles and extremes in 120's of Grandsire Doubles; but it is to be remembered that the introduction of the extreme was an artifice introduced to enable 42 different six-scores to be got for a peal. It is hardly believable that this would have been recognised as allowable if no six-scores could be had with bobs and singles only. Thus in a sense the extreme is on a par with Pitman's and Morris' 240's.

Once more let it be remembered that an extent consists of a number of rows of which half are positive and half negative. When the plain course consists of all double or cater changes all touches produced by bobs contain positive changes alone. If half the extent can be got by this means the whole can easily be obtained by the use of two singles. If the half is not obtainable in this way (and this applies to Erin Doubles) it is impossible to obtain an extent by the use of one kind of single, at any rate without breaking up the whole construction of the method, and thus in effect destroying the method as such. An analogous case with Erin is Double Grandsire.

In my opinion, Stedman's Single is quite legitimate, though inferior to the modern Single in that it breaks up the slow work. But both forms of single must not be used in the same six-score.

Staverton Vicarage.

E. S. POWELL.

ODD STRUCK BELLS. OLD HANGING AND NEW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One would have expected more replies to Mr. Turner's queries of March 7th about odd struck bells.

In my humble opinion, it is easier to ring a bell when it is slightly quick at back-stroke and correspondingly slow at hand, and probably you will find a majority in favour of this. The reason is not far to seek. The open hand-stroke lead gives more time, and consequently the little bit of extra time can be put to good use if the bell is slow at hand. Occasionally you meet someone who prefers it the opposite way, why, it is hard to understand. Generally speaking, this question affects the back end, especially the tenor in even bell ringing, and becomes more important as the weight of metal increases.

I am afraid it is a difficult matter to correct a false striking bell. My opinion is that the suggestion to adjust the bell on the stock would not mend matters. Occasionally I have inspected a false striking bell, and I have found what I expected, namely, that it was caused by the crown staple, whence the clapper swings down, not being dead central in the bell.

This can be tested by measuring from the ball of the clapper to the very place where it strikes the bell, making sure that the bell is level, in the direction in which it swings.

The old bell founders cast the crown staple in the bell, and once it was there nothing could alter it. The founders of to-day are more careful in drilling the necessary holes for the clapper fitting, consequently you seldom find newly-hung bells as false as some of the old ones.

I cannot remember ever having noticed what effect it has on a bell when it has been rung with the clapper on the wrong side, but would hardly expect it to be injurious to the bell.

LEWIS W. WIFFEN.

Melrose, Clock House Way, Braintree.

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.

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. —

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Saturday, March 29th, at Guides Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, at 3.45. Handbells. Social chat. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. A welcome to all interested in ringing, whether handbell ringers or not. Call in and see. Bus service close handy. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Kilburn on Saturday, March 29th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. in the Church Room. Service in St. Augustine's Church at 4 p.m. Tea about 4.30. Please bring all unpaid subscriptions.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at the Railway Hotel, Hinckley, on Saturday, March 29th, at 6 p.m. Plenty of handbell ringing. All welcome and the hotel is just outside the station entrance. — W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Subject to national exigencies, the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing. Tea (bring your own sugar) at 4 p.m. at a charge of about 1s. per head. It is essential that notice for tea should be sent to the undersigned not later than March 29th. The annual business meeting will follow the tea. Annual committee meeting in the hall at 3.30 p.m. prompt. The undersigned's light peal of eight handbells will be available. An urgent appeal is made for the payment of subscriptions, especially by unattached members. It is hoped that the meeting will be well supported.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Tel. Perivale 5320.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held in the Chapter House at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 5th, at 3.30. All committee members are requested to attend, if possible.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Durfield on Saturday, April 5th. Handbells in the reading room 3 p.m. Tea at Cross Keys Hotel 5.15, followed by business meeting and handbells. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Belgrave Church (8 bells) on April 5th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Tea at Hotel Belgrave at 5 p.m. for those who notify me by April 2nd. A meeting will follow. Will all members make a special effort to attend? Visitors heartily welcomed. Handbell ringing during evening.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Brown Edge on Saturday, April 5th. Handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Ringers are requested to make their own tea arrangements in future at our meetings. All ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LLANFAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 14th, at St. James' Church Schoolroom opposite Cardiff Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, at 4 o'clock.—John W. Jones Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryon Road, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street. Those who want tea must advise me not later than the 17th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield; Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

MARRIAGE.

PARFITT—SMALLWOOD.—On March 20th, at All Saints' Church, Weston, Bath, by the Rev. L. W. Fussell, Pilot Officer Leslie W. Parfitt, R.A.F.V.R., to Miss Margery Smallwood.

The first peal of Major by the Winchester Guild, a single-handed handbell peal of Plain Bob, was rung 50 years ago yesterday.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 4th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS

Most of our readers have been following, we do not doubt with sympathetic interest, the career of a number of handbell enthusiasts, of whose doings accounts have lately appeared in our columns. Starting from scratch (for a year ago no more than two had done any ringing either in the tower or on handbells), they have made such progress that they have already reached Spliced Surprise Major, and recently during one afternoon they rang courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus, including Bristol and Double Norwich, and half a course of Grandsire Sextuples (*i.e.* Grandsire on thirteen bells). We feel sure we are right in saying that never before in the whole history of the Exercise has one band at one time rung such a wide and varied selection of methods.

Reports of such phenomenal progress were bound to be greeted in some quarters with a certain amount of scepticism, and we should have been rather surprised if we had not received some letters hinting at leg-pulling and the desirability of pinches of salt. It is all quite good-natured, and when half a dozen or so young people form themselves into a 'society,' hold an inaugural 'dinner' with toasts and speeches, and give 'at homes,' they do rather create the impression that they are living on an ideal and fairyland plane where common values do not hold. It may be—we do not know—but it may be that the difference between the Highcliffe Society and (shall we say?) the Society of College Youths, is some measure of the difference between double-handed Spliced Surprise, as it is rung at Swindon and double-handed Spliced Surprise as it is rung at Bushey. Be that as it may, all ringers will wish these people success and good luck.

Even more striking than what has been achieved is the means by which the result has been obtained. Hitherto the small and very select number of men who have rung the more complex methods on handbells have accomplished their ends by constant practice, close application, and a thorough knowledge of ringing in general and the special methods in particular. All this, we are given to understand, has largely been made unnecessary by a new system of teaching.

We all know that what particularly distinguishes change ringing is that it calls for such a long probationary period, and that the beginner has to go through such a lengthy training before he can reckon himself even a novice among ringers. The result is notorious. Of those who are induced to enter the belfry only a small proportion remain to join the Exercise. Many are called

(Continued on page 158.)

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but few are chosen. This is a great cause of disappointment, and sometimes of despair, to those who try to train new bands and fresh recruits to old bands. Surely they will welcome anything which will eliminate or shorten the interval between the time when the beginner first joins and the time when he is fully qualified to take his place among the band.

Yet when we take the longer view, do we really desire that the barriers which hedge our art should be thrown down and entry to the more skilled bands made easy? At present no one can reach the top until he has passed the most searching tests. Perhaps it is better so. The best ringers may be 'few,' but they certainly are 'fit.' And when all is said and done there is no value in any of the so-called higher methods apart from the fact that they are difficult and do call for the exercise of the best the ringer has to give. Natural aptitude and knowledge and skill and patience and perseverance. Eliminate the need for these and you destroy the value of the methods.

Suppose it were possible by some new method of teaching to make it as easy for a band to ring Spliced Surprise as it now is to ring Bob Major or Grandsire Triples, would anything be gained? Most certainly not. Rather, there would be a grievous loss, for in everything except that which takes place in the ringer's brain, Bob Major and Grandsire Triples are far superior to Spliced Surprise.

The glory of our art lies in the fact that however skilled a ringer or a band may be, and however much they have done, there is still such a lot to be done and such vast tracts still to be explored. Progress is essential and rapid advance is good, but only when they follow the hard and beaten track. It is the overcoming of difficulties that matters, not the evading of them.

But perhaps we need not worry. After all there does not seem any real fear that double-handed Spliced Surprise will become cheap, or be rung (as it should be rung) by any but those who are prepared to undertake the necessary trouble, and to pay the necessary price.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 24, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At 88, GRAINGER STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 11 in G.

WILLIAM H. BARBER ... 1-2 | DRIVER C. HETHERINGTON 5-6

ERNEST WALLACE ... 3-4 | *ALFRED GREENWOOD... 7-8

Composed by F. CLAYTON.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal 'in hand.' Arranged for Driver Hetherington, home on a short leave.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At MR. WALTER C. MEDLER'S HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in B.

ALBERT ROUGHT... 1-2 | F. NOLAN GOLDEN ... 5-6

*JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 3-4 | WALTER C. MEDLER ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

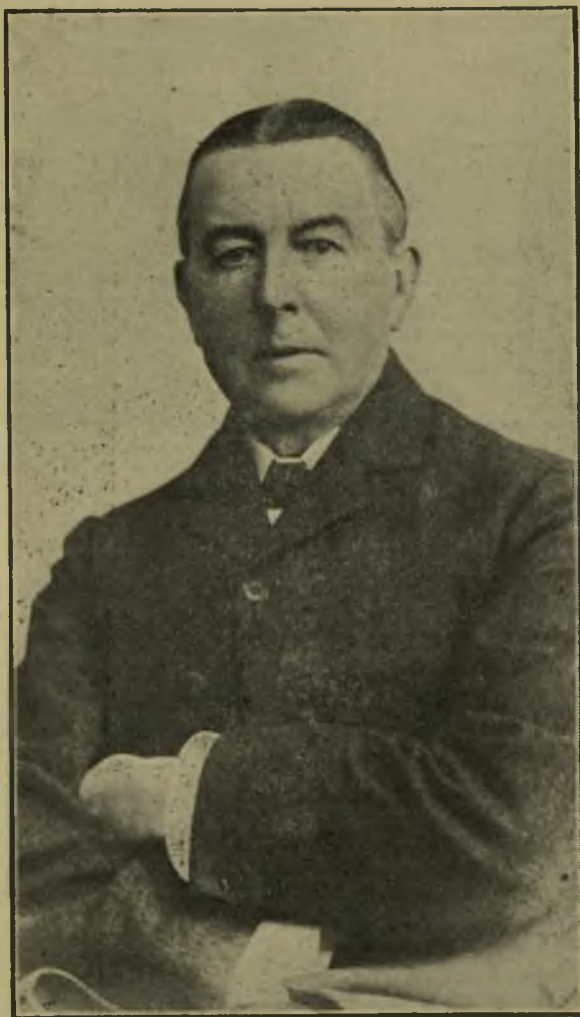
* First attempt for Major away from 1-2.

HORNSEY.—At the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes), being 10½ different six-scores in 34 minutes: J. G. Nash (first quarter-peal as conductor 'in hand') 1-2, Mrs. R. Franklin (first quarter-peal) 3, K. Robinson (first quarter-peal of Doubles) 4, G. W. Blee (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 5-6.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

II. THE FOUNDER.

After fifty years' existence the Central Council seems to fill such a natural and useful place in the organisation of the Exercise that we are tempted to suppose it was always so. But the fact was otherwise. At the beginning the Council was neither particularly desired nor welcomed by the great majority of ringers, and it made good its position only after the lapse of some years.



SIR ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

The account of the first attempt to form a National Association showed how it was killed by the apathy of the provincial ringers and the active hostility of the old societies. The suggested scheme was a faulty one and did not deserve to succeed, but that was not the real cause of its failure. Had Dolben Paul's committee proposed the scheme which was ultimately adopted they would have had no better success, for they lacked the necessary influence and authority. A central body could be formed only if some one man were found strong enough to ignore the opinions of the mass of the ringers. If he could create such a body out of the small and active minority which did desire it, the Exercise might accept it, though probably with indifference, and in time might

welcome and respect it. That is what actually did happen.

The one essential need was a leader who possessed the necessary qualifications; and, fortunately, he appeared in due time in the person of Arthur Percival Heywood.

Heywood occupies an altogether unique position in the history of the Exercise. To some degree he was the last of the gentlemen patrons of the art, and in the line of Henry Smythe, Henry Brett, Theodore Eccleston and John Powell Powell. But he was much more than they were. There was no one quite like him in earlier times, and it is pretty certain that there will be no one quite like him in times to come. No other man could have founded the Central Council. It was his creation, it bore his impress, and we shall not understand its rise and early history unless we know something of the man and his character.

It would be a mistake to suppose that Heywood was ever a popular or trusted leader of the Exercise in the way that Jasper Snowdon was. He never evoked the personal affection that the other did, nor when he died was there any such feeling of loss as when Snowdon died. Snowdon wielded an influence on individual ringers far greater than Heywood ever did, but Snowdon, had he made the attempt, could not have carried through to a successful issue the plan for forming a Central Council.

Arthur Percival Heywood, the eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas Percival Heywood, third baronet, was born on December 25th, 1849, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, taking the B.A. degree in 1871, and the M.A. degree in 1874. He first learned to ring when he was twelve years old, but for long he did nothing beyond call changes. In 1872 he married and settled at Duffield in Derbyshire, where there was a ring of six. In February, 1884, it was increased to eight, and Heywood then took a greater interest in change ringing. The local band were taught Bob Triples, and Heywood called the first peal by them all in the following July. The band then went on to Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Double Oxford, and Double Norwich. Meanwhile Heywood had taken advantage of the nearness of the famous and skilful company at Burton-on-Trent, and with them he rang peals not only of Double Norwich, but also of Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise. He also took part in peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, and of Duffield Major, and Royal, a method which he had himself produced. Many of these performances he conducted, and for two or three years his was one of the most frequent names in the peal records of 'The Bell News.' About 1885 he began to study composition, and in the next year he published the first of many articles dealing with the science of change ringing, the most important being those very excellent and elaborate 'investigations' into the composition of Stedman Triples which were afterwards reprinted as an appendix to C. D. P. Davies' 'Stedman.' He had thus before the year 1890 made good his position as an outstanding authority on both the practical and the theoretic sides of change ringing. As he was at the same time a man of wealth and social position, he seemed eminently fitted to take the lead in the Exercise. These things, however, would not of themselves have been sufficient to have enabled him to form a Central Council. It needed a man with certain marked qualities of character, and those he possessed in an eminent degree.

(To be continued.)

SILENT APPARATUS.

THE ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY APPLIANCE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I still consider that Mr. Murrell's apparatus is, all things considered, the best for ordinary use, and I rather think he has overestimated its defects so far as correct striking is concerned.

An electrical apparatus worked by the clapper would be the best if certain very great difficulties could be overcome, and if cost were no object, but Mr. Murrell's is not only cheap, but easy to instal and without anything complicated to get out of order.

It is said it was a great success at St. Lawrence's, but Mr. Murrell tells us he was not satisfied with the striking. Was not that due very largely to the peculiar circumstances? The bells of St. Lawrence's were a heavy lot, nearly 30 cwt. I believe. The tenor most certainly was tucked up (I seem to remember a photograph of it on Mowbray's Church Calendar with a big horseshoe built-up steel stock), and that would affect the relation of the swing of bell and clapper. Suppose Mr. Murrell installs his appliance on an ordinary set of bells with a tenor of about 12 cwt., would he have the difficulties he complains of, or if he had, would they be insuperable?

Two points. The first, that we need not bother about the apparatus not working properly when bells are raised in peal. Second, the clapper does not strike the bell when it stops at the greatest amplitude of swing, but considerably earlier, and the slowness of ringing and the height to which the bell is swung have little to do with the actual point in the swing at which the clapper strikes. This point is in bells of average weight fairly constant when bells are rung to changes.

Mr. Murrell's apparatus is a better one than he tries to make out, but to have a fair chance it should be tried on a light ring of bells and one where the draught of rope is not long, so there may not be any trouble from the cords stretching or being altered in length by the changes of weather.

An apparatus which depends on copper wire and cranks on the style of the old-fashioned door bells needs a very expert workman to instal it or most of the power exerted by the bell will be wasted in slack wires.

MAURICE CLARKE.

LIMITATIONS FOR TEACHING.

Dear Sir,—In the year 1889 I was learning change ringing at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, on Seage's dumb apparatus. It is, I believe, still in use, and from a mechanical point of view I have no fault to find with it.

If, then, we only want, as seems from what has been written, something that will roughly produce in the belfry everything that we get from open ringing, why here we have it. Moreover, it is lasting and not very expensive. I should think any of the firms of bell-hangers would be glad to instal it, for a few pounds a bell, even in war time.

Why then is it not more used? It consists of a 'trigger' which is pulled by the bell every time it swings either way. By a succession of wires and bell cranks, this pull rings a handbell, fixed over the ringer's head, roughly at the time when the bell would sound if it were not silenced. (The pull is like that of an ordinary door bell: the latter, however, is hung on springs, so that it sounds more than once.) The snag lies in this qualification which I have inserted—roughly.

Wires (necessarily of differing lengths and of differing numbers of cranks and joins) vary, not only at different temperatures, but for other reasons not under the ringer's control. Thus while the ringer is learning how to control his bell, he is not at the same time learning how to synchronise the sound, for that is beyond his control. That is to say that he is not learning to strike as he should, at the same time as he learns how to manage his bell. The result has been that I do not strike correctly as I should, without thinking of it. I have to do so consciously, which is not quite the same thing. I think that most of us who have learnt on this apparatus have concluded that it would really have been better if the bells had been merely silenced and no apparatus had been used. Another conclusion is not to use silenced bells too much. They have their use, but it must not be overdone.

It will be understood that I was anxious to find a way by which the more instantaneous action of the electric bell could be substituted for the uncertain strokes made through wires and bell cranks. I even hung one or two house bells, in both ways, in order to learn more thoroughly the practical difficulties of the problem. I came to the conclusion that the uncertainty of delays could not be overcome, especially with wiping contacts, such as all seem agreed would be necessary. The actual structural difficulties could, I think, be overcome—by those who are cleverer than I was—but not that of accurate timing.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

THE ORIGINAL MAKERS.

Dear Sir,—I well remember this apparatus being put in St. Paul's, Burton, about 1880, when there was serious illness near the church. It was fixed to the frame with a small roller on the headstock, and every time the bell was rung at hand or back it would ring a handbell fixed in the belfry. If Mr. Davis goes to the Richmond Hotel at Bournemouth some Saturday night (this is where I used to go for my 'nightcap') and asks for Mr. Sutton, he would, I am sure, be very glad to explain anything about it. He was the man who made them at Seage's Foundry at Exeter.

JOHN JAGGAR.

(Continued in next column.)

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Under the above heading in your issue of Friday last, March 28th, appears a letter of criticism signed by two well-known members of the Methods Committee of the Central Council.

After describing its merits and demerits of numbers of false course ends, etc., the last paragraph reads: 'Whatever good qualities a method has it seems to us to be largely condemned if no peal is possible in which the tenors do more than three leads of their full work.'

This rather startled me, and I at once wondered how 'they squared this' with the ringing of 'spliced peals.' As I understand English, this paragraph applies 'equally' to both. Personally, I cannot take it too seriously, but as put out as a feeler for further correspondence.

I have no fear of Mr. James being able to defend his method, and would recommend young enthusiasts to another of his Surprise methods, 'Berkeley,' much more difficult to score a peal than spliced ringing, which, to my mind, is not at all difficult, merely a busy job for the conductor.

I hope these few remarks will bring out all the 'pros and cons' connected with this 'three lead system.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.

ARE THEY GOOD TERMS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice some of your correspondents, and notably Mr. E. S. Powell, use the words 'positive' and 'negative' to describe the nature of rows. I do not say such use is wrong, but there is nothing in the nature of rows analogous to what is meant when the terms are used in connection with mathematics, electricity or in general literature. The best terms to use to distinguish the nature of rows are 'odd' and 'even,' which are simpler, and do exactly explain the difference between the two kinds of rows.

When we are speaking of ringing or of a block of rows, the proper and historical terms are 'in-course' and 'out-of-course.' But no rigid conformity to rule should be expected in the use of terms. It is, for instance, convenient to speak of the two sets of courses in Stedman Triples as 'direct' and 'reverse.'

X.Y.Z.

ODD STRUCK BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With much respect I differ from Mr. Lewis Wiffen. It is easier and nicer to ring a bell when it is rather slow at backstroke. The idea expressed by some ringers that the open lead helps you to ring a bell slow at hand is all fudge. That is all allowed for when we say a bell is even struck.

It is natural to ring a bell quicker at back than at hand. Pull up one and ring it singly and see how you do it. A big bell slow at back can be controlled easier than a bell slow at hand, provided one condition is observed. As soon as the ringer has pulled the bell off at hand, he must be able without thinking about the matter to slip his hands along the tail end to the exact spot, so that when the bell runs up at back the rope, the man's arms and his whole body (resting on the balls of his feet) are stretched in one taut line at the exact and infinitesimal fraction of time when the backstroke pull should begin. Then he can do what he likes with the bell, and, of course, there is a much longer and stronger pull at back than at hand. The secret of ringing a tenor at back is to know how to pull her at hand and how to shorten or lengthen the hold on the rope.

'COUNTRY RINGER.'

SILENT APPARATUS.

(Continued from previous column.)

A YORKSHIRE EXPERIMENT.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I experimented in this silent apparatus business. The bells were a new ring with iron headstocks. Under the spindle the casting was square for an inch and a half or more, and to this I firmly bolted a piece of angle iron of a section small enough to pass easily between the headstock and frame, firstly cutting out of the protruding flange, in the centre, about an inch and an eighth.

I made a lever, pinioned it at one end, and underneath I placed an ordinary electric push button so that when I pressed the lever at the end it rang an electric bell. I then made a bracket, bolting it firmly to the frame with the bolt that held the bearing in place, and on this I fixed the lever arrangement, placing the point of the lever over the centre of the spindle in such a position that the angle iron would, when the bell was pulled up, depress the lever and cause the electric bell to ring at the same time as the tongue of the tower bell struck. This took place at the point of the angle iron where I had cut out the piece. The bell continuing its motion allowed the lever to rise through the hole to its original position.

On the bell being pulled off for the other stroke, the lever rode on the outside of the flange of the angle iron to the end and was then pulled back into its original position by a spring ready to be depressed and repeat the signal on the other side.

I have another device which can be made of much less material. I have not tried it out, but its action is as obvious as the one just described.

G. W. S.

SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was surprised to read the Rev. H. Drake's emphatic denial that spliced ringing had ever been mentioned at a Suffolk Guild meeting.

Although I cannot remember for certain the year the meeting was held, I think it was 1929. As I was only 15 years old then, and it was my first 'annual,' there will be excuse if my account is not strictly accurate.

The meeting was at Ipswich. As far as I can recall, Mr. Drake himself moved a resolution to the effect that spliced peals would not be recognised by the Guild.

I distinctly remember one speaker in support said he thought ringing spliced was like stopping in the middle of a soccer match to switch over and play rugger.

Mr. C. W. Pipe was the only opponent to the motion, and I believe his was the only vote recorded against it.

I believe it was at this meeting that Mr. J. C. J. Haggart first undertook the duties of technical consultant to the Guild.

In the years previous to this meeting I believe peals had been rung which were not 'spliced' in the sense that we think of it now. It may have been that the meeting had these peals in mind when the resolution was passed.

I know that the merits of spliced ringing have long since been realised by Suffolk ringers, and no doubt when happier times are with us they will prove themselves worthy exponents of it.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent.

J. E. BAILEY.

WANTED—A SET OF HANDBELLS.

A REQUEST FROM NORTHAMPTON.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I make an appeal through the medium of 'The Ringing World' for the gift (or loan for the duration) of a set of handbells, of any number, from any person or church who has a set not in use, for service in the church to which I belong.

We have here an enthusiastic company of the Boys' Brigade whom I am anxious to train in the art ready for when happier times come.

The taking over of our Parish Hall by Government authorities unfortunately debars us from raising the purchase money by the ordinary means of socials and the like, and we are not a rich parish.

I have no doubt that there may be many a set laying idle, particularly in the areas where churches have suffered damage by air raids. Such a set (if only loaned) would be doing a greater service than at present. Any offer I should greatly appreciate.

P. AMOS (Bell Sec., St. Andrew's Church).

2a, Beverley Crescent, Northampton.

A SUSSEX VILLAGE BAND.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

In the year 1884, Thomas Geering, shoemaker and 'oldest inhabitant' of the little town of Hailsham in Sussex, who was born in 1813, wrote down his recollections of the parish as it was in his boyhood days. He chatted agreeably about the men and the things he used to know, and he gives an interesting account of the ringers. There were only five bells in the steeple, but the band was thoroughly typical of the village bands of the time and the old gentleman evidently thought things were far better when he was a boy than they were in 1884. 'Looking back,' he says, 'we may note a few features and changes. To begin with our church ringers. Then the master tradesman thought it no degradation, but rather an honourable distinction to be one to minister to the rites of the belfry. To be a ringer was a privilege. I remember but one new hand and he carried his election by force of prescriptive right and family interest. His father had been one of the fraternity and his brother stood then the foremost man as leader.

Each bell had its regular hand. There was the hatter, glover, tailor, shoemaker and blacksmith in succession, and a few others—odd men to take a turn as occasion required—and one who was always needed to fetch the beer from the tavern. They were all professionally earnest, devoted men, and, to do them justice, as a rule—and what rule is not more or less broken?—they were sober men. But the potent god bred of malt and hops at times got possession of the brain, and then was the time to take note of the work of the features and lips as the ropes flew up and down.

No wedding was allowed to go unringed or uncared for. On practice nights and rare occasions they would treat the outside world with a set of changes. Four bells allowed but little variation, yet with the steady and even pull of the tenor by the tall blacksmith, George Huggett, and the clear unerring lead of the hatter, Samuel Jenner, the old-fashioned peal was considered to be eclipsed by the change of four-and-twenty.

The great treat of the year was, when I was a boy, to be awakened on Christmas morning by the early chatter of the bells, and to lay awake watching until midnight on New Year's Eve to hear the Old Year rung out and the New Year rung in; and during the whole of my life I have never once upon these occasions been beyond the reach of these gladdening sounds.

I have hoped to live to hear a fuller peal. I have importuned those in authority upon the subject, but with no success, to add a sixth.

Our old ringers would yearly make a house-to-house call and accept any gratuity as an acknowledgment for their services. What master tradesman now among us would do the like?

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

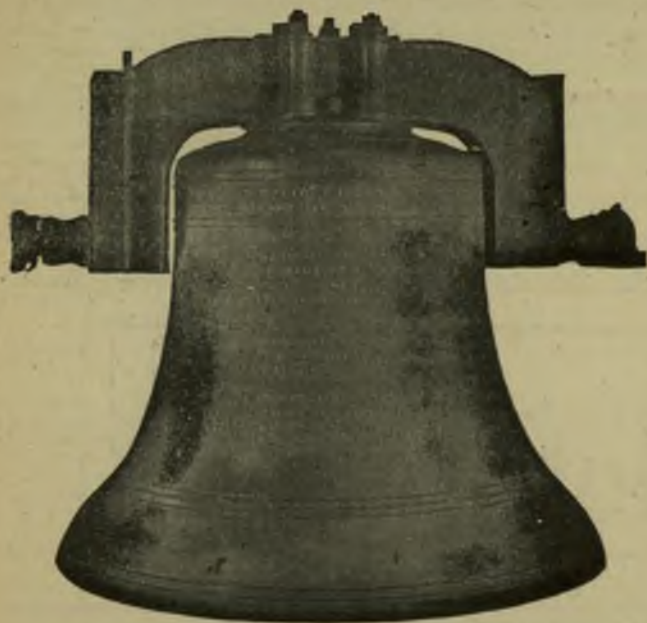
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to say that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's operation has been completely successful, and his condition continues to be very satisfactory.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

That 'apathy' is not the main cause of the present inactivity among ringers is shown by the following extract from a letter we have just received: 'Ringing is at a very low ebb here, as we are all working in Crewe seven days a week and 12 hours a day, so you will see we haven't time for anything in the ringing line.'

The famous old London bell foundry which so narrowly escaped last December has again received attention from 'Jerry' planes. One incendiary fell in the foundry and one inside the house roof. Both were put out, but it was no joke crawling over the roof in the dark with 'Jerries' overhead. The stirrup pump tubing, we are told, *would* keep getting in the way.

On April 1st, 1927, eight members of the Society of Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, the 'quarter-peal of Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in, or the Union Bob consisting of 10,080 changes.' It was the first ten thousand ever accomplished.

William Pye called the then longest peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 15,092 changes, at Erith in Kent on April 3rd, 1899. It was beaten by Washbrook's 17,024 at Kidlington in the following month. The truth of the latter peal is, however, disputed. In 1904 Mr. William Willson called 17,104 changes at South Wigston, and the band as a practice peal rang 11,008 changes on April 4th in the same year.

Henry Dains died on April 6th, 1916, aged 78 years.

George Newson, another prominent Cumberland Youth, died on April 7th, 1896.

On April 7th and 8th, 1761, James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent the full extent on eight bells, 40,320 changes.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 3, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

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.

DEATH OF P.C. ALLAN TREVOR.

KILLED ON DUTY.

We regret to learn that, during the early hours of Thursday, the 13th ultimo, Police Constable Allan Trevor, of the Liverpool City Police Force, a member of the National Guild of Police Ringers, was, together with a comrade, killed in consequence of enemy action whilst they were both carrying out their duty.

P.C. Trevor was a native of Prees, Shropshire, where he learned to ring, and he joined the Liverpool City Police Force in April, 1926. He was 37 years of age and extremely well liked and respected by all his comrades and by all who knew him. He leaves a widow and child, with whom deepest sympathy is felt.

TWO FAMOUS LONDON RINGS.

SOUTHWARK AND CRIPPLEGATE.

All ringers will hear with relief that the famous bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, have been taken down from the steeple by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and are now stored in a place of safety.

We have also news of another famous ring of twelve, that of St. Giles', Cripplegate. As has previously been announced, the church was completely destroyed in the great fire raid last December and the steeple was burnt out. Fortunately, however, the bells were hung in an iron frame, and this has, we hope, saved them. The tenor, which had an iron stock, still hangs. The rest had wood stocks and they fell to the ringing room, but they were saved from crashing to the ground by the massive stone vaulting which surmounts the western porch. They are now being removed from the tower and we trust will be found to be undamaged and uncracked.

Recently a very prominent church in South-East London was gutted, but the tower, ten bells and clock remain intact.

The news from Plymouth is bad. St. Andrew's has been burnt out. The tower stands and perhaps the fine ring of ten is safe. We hope so, but we fear the other ring of ten in the town, that at Charles Church, has perished.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT KILKENNY.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association, held in the Diocesan Rooms, Kilkenny, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, was attended by 88 members from Arklow, Bray, Dublin (Christ Church Cathedral, SS. Augustine and John, St. George's and St. Patrick's Cathedral), Kilkenny and Waterford. Among the guests were the Dean of Christ Church, the Dean of Ossory, the Dean of Waterford and Mrs. Stevenson.

The chair was taken by the president, Mr. J. S. Gibb, and the secretarial duties were carried out by the assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Dukes, in the absence through illness of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

Apologies for absence were read from the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Limerick, the Bishop of Ossory, the Very Rev. Father White, the Rev. Canon Campbell, the Rev. J. R. Crooks and Mr. W. Chamney. A letter was read from Mr. Lindoff saying that it was a great disappointment to him to miss the meeting, but the doctor had said the risk would be too great. He wished the meeting every success and happiness.

The report for the year 1940 was adopted, and the following are the main points:—

The attendance shield was won by St. George's Society, Dublin, with 99.88 per cent. With regard to this competition, a general slackness is noticed. Only one sheet was returned within the specified time, and that, with a second returned later, was the sum total. It can only be presumed that the remainder were so bad that they were useless for competing. Every sheet should be returned, good, bad or indifferent, as they become a means of judging the health of the association.

Owing to the troublesome times, any renovations that had been contemplated have been postponed.

One peal of 5,040 changes was rung, Grandsire Doubles by the St. George's Society.

The number of members on the books is 267. The balance sheet shows a balance in hand of £6 14s. 1d., and the Belfry Repairs Fund shows a balance in hand of £67 2s. 3d.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, the Very Rev. L. G. Stevenson, Dean of Waterford; hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson; hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. E. Dukes; Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy. One honorary and 24 ringing members were elected.

Arklow and Waterford Societies invited the association to hold its next meeting at their respective places, and, on a vote being taken, Waterford was selected.

The time for ringing before Sunday services was discussed in connection with the Shield Competition. The rules state that the bells shall be rung for a minimum of 15 minutes. The committee is of the opinion that with most companies, instead of 15 minutes being the minimum, it is becoming the maximum, and recommended that the time should be increased to 20 minutes. During the discussion the following proposals were made: 'That the rule remain unaltered.' 'That the 15 minutes shall not include the last few minutes for tolling, as is the practice of some societies.' 'That the rule read: A full team shall ring for at least 15 minutes before service.' 'That the matter be referred back to the committee for redrafting of the rules.' The last proposal was eventually adopted.

As the Attendance Shield has been in use for nearly 30 years and all the discs were full, it was decided to have the shield enlarged and more discs added.

Mr. Dukes said that Mr. Lindoff was now well on the road to recovery and should make his appearance again in a few weeks' time. He was instructed to write to Mr. Lindoff regretting his absence for the first time in 43 years and to convey the sincere wishes of the members for a speedy recovery. He was also instructed to write a letter of good wishes to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the Editor of 'The Ringing World,' for his complete and speedy recovery.

GOOD STRIKING COMPETITION.

Five teams took part in a very keen contest on the bells of St. Canice's Cathedral for the Murphy Cup for Striking. The judges, Messrs. R. S. F. Murphy and D. Kennedy, reported a marked improvement on previous years in the standard of striking. The winner's striking was well timed and excellent. The cup was awarded to Waterford Society, who scored 85 per cent. St. George's, Dublin, came second with 75 per cent. Arklow, Kilkenny and Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, also competed. The winners rang call-changes, as did Kilkenny and Christ Church, Dublin. St. George's and Arklow rang Grandsire.

Tea was kindly provided by the St. Canice's Society, at which the Murphy Cup and the Attendance Shield were presented to Waterford and St. George's, Dublin, respectively.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Dean of Ossory, the St. Canice's Society and ladies for so kindly making the association welcome; to the judges of the striking competition, and to the outgoing president for so ably managing the meeting. The Dean of Ossory and the president replied and welcomed the members to the historic city and Cathedral of Kilkenny with a hope that they would soon return.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

About thirty members attended the annual meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, which was held on March 22nd at the Vicarage, Mangotsfield.

The chairman and secretary of the branch, Mr. C. Harding and Mr. C. Gifford, were re-elected for another year and the former was elected representative on the Management Committee. Mr. Harding thanked the members for the confidence placed in him, and remarked that although the past year had been one of little activity in bell-ringing, quite a lot of work had been done behind the scenes trying to keep the bands together. He thanked the secretary for the way he had carried on.

The meeting stood in silence as a token of respect to Douglas Lewton, a member of the Coalpit Heath band, who had been killed by enemy action, and to Mr. George White, of Olverton.

The Chairman expressed pleasure at the presence of Mr. R. Harding, a member of the local band, who was home on leave.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings at Almondsbury in June, Henbury in September, and the next annual meeting at St. Ambrose in December.

Tea in the Parish Room was very kindly served by Mrs. Wise and other lady helpers. Some members enjoyed handbells and others told stories of bellringing days. All hoped we should soon again be standing at the rope's end. Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the room, and to Mrs. Wise and the ladies for serving the tea, brought a very successful meeting to a close.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DEVIZES BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Southbroom, Devizes, last Saturday. Service in church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. W. Douglas), and tea was arranged in the Parish Room by Mrs. T. Weeks, an honorary member of the Guild. Owing to the war conditions the attendance was small.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. E. F. White, who asked those present to stand as a mark of respect to the memory of three departed members, Mr. W. S. Burbidge, of Melksham, who had done much hard work for the branch; Mr. T. Weeks, who was a ringer at Southbroom for over 30 years and captain of the tower for 10 years, and Mr. Wheeler, of North Bradley, another very keen member.

The accounts and report were passed and the officers all re-elected for the ensuing year. Thanks were given to the Vicar for the use of the Church Room, to Miss Trumper, the organist, and to Mrs. Weeks for the tea. They suitably replied, saying it was a great pleasure to meet ringing friends again.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

NOMINATION MEETING.

The annual nomination meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Bramley on Saturday, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Shipley, Bramhope and the local company. Handbells were in use at the Church Schools soon after 3 o'clock until tea, which was at a neighbouring cafe.

The president, Mr. J. F. Harvey, took the chair at the business meeting. After discussion it was proposed and seconded that the officers should be asked to carry on for another year. A vote of thanks to the priest-in-charge and the local company was proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. George Titterton.

The next meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on April 26th, notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

'AT HOME' WITH HANDBELLS.

The first 'at home' of the newly-formed Highcliffe Society was held at Swindon on Saturday, March 21st, the guest of honour being the Master of the Oxford University Society (Mr. John E. Spice). Other visitors were welcomed from Oxford and Swindon.

During the morning early arrivals rang a 720 of Bob Minor. In the afternoon courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus were rung, including Bristol and Double Norwich, while an interesting experiment was the ringing of half a course of Grandsire Sextuples. This, together with Stedman Cinques, Treble Twelve and Bob Maximus, were the first attempts in hand by all those present.

One of the visitors, who has watched with keen interest the growth of the infant society, considered that the progress of the young ringers fully justified the methods of teaching employed.

During tea the gramophone record of Spiced Surprise Major made by the Bushey handbell ringers was heard: afterwards one of the audience remarked that the ancient gramophone produced a 'woolley' effect.

RUSTICUS ET URBANUS.

WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS YOUNG.

MORE REMINISCENCES.

'When all the world was young, lad,
And all the trees were green.'

If, fifty years ago, one had enquired into the occupations of London ringers, I wonder how many tailors we should have found. At a later date, Miss Dorothy Sayers seems to have found them fairly numerous, there or elsewhere. Anyway, two of the best ringers I knew as a boy were London tailors who had migrated to the quiet old town of Hertford.

One of them, named Crawley, was an expert with the handbells. If my memory isn't cheating me, he could ring two in each hand in Stedman. He was the merger at old All Saints', and taught an older brother of mine to ring. On the rare occasions when the family exchequer would stand it, he made my clothes; generally my mother made them out of the cast-offs of a well-to-do uncle. Unfortunately old Crawley died when I was a child, but even then there were few things I loved better than climbing the old wooden stairs to the ringing chamber and having a swing on the tenor rope. The old stairs were a homely, short flight like going upstairs to bed, and also led to the west gallery, so that from the comfortable ringing chamber one looked right down the church.

Alas, that homeliness and comfort contributed to the catastrophe which happened in 1890, when the old church was completely burnt out, and the lovely peal of ten destroyed.

I used to pass through the churchyard every day on my way to school, too young as yet fully to appreciate the extent of the disaster, but I well remember how old Canon Wigram, our Rector, mourned their loss. 'Oh, that lovely tenor bell,' he lamented. The gaunt, fire-blackened walls of the old church, with its empty tower, will always be a sad memory of my boyhood. The new building of Runcorn stone which replaced it can never have the same appeal.

TWO RINGING TAILORS.

So if old Crawley occasionally made my clothes, he never taught me to ring. For this I shall always be indebted to the other tailor. He came from Edmonton, a little wiry man, who, I fear, at times, went on the beer, but a first-class ringer, and very patient with me. When I had progressed far enough to attend the weekly practice at St. Andrew's, it was always old Matt. Ellesmore who rang the fifth, a bad bell, both cracked and false, and which I threw over, I remember, on more than one occasion. He often used to speak of the peals of Superlative he had joined in in London. All Double-Dutch to me!

From that time onwards nothing could keep me away from bells and belfries. My people used to chaff me, and say I was mad on ringing. The sound of a bell had an irresistible attraction; it drew me like a magnet, and Troyte's book formed a constituent part of every meal. The marvels of Grandsire and Stedman were fascinating and the struggle to master them a delight.

Canon Wigram was a fine old fellow, albeit a bit of a martinet. I suffered under the lash of his tongue on more than one occasion, but he was very kind to me. He was a keen ringer, but owing to the fact that he hadn't the slightest ear for music, a shocking striker.

Once when he happened to be in the tower when I, later on, was teaching some youngsters and stressing the fact that they must listen to their bells, he said, 'Well, you know, Jim, I've never heard mine.' What a horrible deprivation! That being so, it was amazing how keen he was. Somehow or other his book on the subject never caught on. I well remember one particular evening sitting with him in his study, chatting about the inevitable subject. 'Ah, my boy,' he said, and I can hear to-day the almost reverential tones of his voice, 'you should study Double Norwich and Superlative, two princely methods.' That was something of a flattener for a lad in his early 'teens, and struggling with Grandsire Triples. But he lent me Snowden's diagrams and I did my best.

CANON WOOLMORE WIGRAM.

At that time the band was not very strong and a bit of Stedman was the best they could do, but there is an old Eastern saying, 'When the pupil is ready, the Master appears,' and certainly in my case the ancient sage was justified. Within a few months, old Squire Proctor having died, the Benington band broke up. Two of them named Warner came to live in the town, and Superlative became just a possibility if the youngster was roped in. 'Well, lad, what about it?' I was asked. What about it? By golly, not half!

And so I have to thank old Canon Wigram for one of the red-letter days of my life. Right out in the heart of Hertfordshire is the little village of Eastwick, with the church well away from the main street. Here was the ideal spot for a band to hammer out the new method and master the odd place first or last. And hammer it out we did, hour after hour, with an interval for tea, all afternoon and evening. And then followed the long drive home through the beauty of the summer evening, with dear old Steve Knight handling the reins, and a lad up beside him with aching arms and blistered hands, but a heart aglow. But much wants more! On the way home we passed our own church. 'Why not go up, and have another pull?' someone suggested. No sooner made than agreed to. What mattered those sore hands and tired arms. He scorned them both!

On that great day Superlative had its bonny back broken, and within a very few weeks the Warners were being chaffed, 'How's that for Benington?'

PAID RINGING AND STAGNATION.

I've often wondered if, on the whole, payment for Sunday ringing is a good thing. No doubt it makes for punctuality and regular attendance, but I fear it also makes for stagnation. On the hill above Hertford is the village of Bengoe, where there was a light ring of six, since, I believe, augmented to eight, and in the quiet evening their music was very sweet floating across the valley. As a lad I was always very shy, and, normally, the least discouragement from any source was enough to frighten me off. But wherever bells were ringing, there I had to be, and in spite of, at first, a very cool reception, I frequently turned up on practice nights, as well as on Sundays when there was none to be had at my own church. I have always put that lack of courtesy down to the fact that the ringers were paid, and that they looked on any possible addition to their numbers with disfavour. That, with no reserves, the company was always in danger of being broken up, seemed to trouble them less than the possibility of losing a few coppers at the month end. So long as the bells were kept going they seemed to be satisfied. I hope others have had a different experience.

Perhaps these checks to one's enthusiasm are salutary, but certain it is that the belfry gives us, especially when young and keen, many disappointments to balance the happy hours we spend there.

But there was another six-bell tower right out in the country at Little Munden, where my friend, Will Lawrence, was training a young band, and there I was always welcome. Cycling over on a summer evening was a delight, in spite of the return journey in the dark through rough and narrow country lanes. Cycling in those days had its drawbacks. I remember one dark night colliding with an unusually hefty stone and being pitched head-first into a holly bush. But the exuberance of youth makes light of such trifles; we take life's little ironies in our stride.

About this time (1897), the fine peal at St. Paul's, Bedford, had been increased to ten, and Will and I used to ride the thirty miles each way to practise Stedman Caters. One day the conductor, Charles Clarke I think, invited us to try for our first peal in that method. I still have a clear picture of my old friend on his bike, turning out of the side road at Watton, where we were to meet, dead on time like the hero he was. We rode over thirty miles, and we got our peal, but there remained that other thirty still to do. Fortunately it was a warm moonlight night, for at Woburn Sands we felt we needed a rest. So on the heath by those lovely pine woods we called a halt, and for a couple of hours slept the sleep of the just. It was well into the small hours when, weary and worn, but far from sad, we got home to bed.

ROWING VERSUS RINGING.

The only recollection I have of our friend Mr. Fussell, of Slough, is of being in a boat with him out from Folkestone over forty years ago. How we got there I've no idea. I suppose we didn't walk, but that except we were both in camp at Shorncliffe, I can't at all say how we met. No doubt he had an intuition that some time he might want to take a longer voyage, and that a little preliminary practice would be useful. Of course, he really has me to thank for the confidence with which he embarked on that long journey to the other side of the world. He has, no doubt, remained quite unaware of this all these years, but that simply goes to show how forgotten experiences may have far-reaching effects.

However, the important thing to us that day was that, suddenly, we heard bells being raised. Now rowing was pleasant enough, but it was just nowhere beside ringing. Back to the harbour we raced, jumped ashore, and hurried up the steep hill to the parish church. I'll be bound he couldn't go at that pace now, not if the picture I saw in 'The Ringing World' is anything to go by. I can see him now, tall and (comparatively) thin, ringing the tenor. And I've never seen him since. Nor have I the friend, of my own age, who was with him, whose name I can't remember, but whom I'd love to see again. Who was he, and where is he, Mr. Fussell? I remember your saying what a fine heavy bell ringer he would make.

Those were the days! Ah, well, perhaps it was too much to hope for many such. It is said of a great Eastern potentate who, when asked if he had had a good life, replied that throughout those many years he could only remember five days when he had been supremely happy. I am grateful for those I have had. Leonardo da Vinci once said that pleasure and pain are twins, and stand back to back like the two sides of a coin. Dark days, especially dark days like these, certainly provide the contrast which he maintained was necessary to a full appreciation of life; but surely that contrast need not be so severe. We now look forward, across the valley of the shadow, to, we hope, the better days to come. May they come soon! In the meantime such memories help us to endure. H.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM

THE STANDARD METHODS. MUSIC AND CHANGE RINGING.

Before we attempt to decide how far a method is capable of producing good music we ought to try to understand what good music in change ringing really is.

When ordinary average people (and they include the mass of ringers) think or speak about music they usually mean vocal and instrumental music, such as songs and hymn tunes, and dance music, and the orchestral music we hear on the wireless and sometimes listen to. Now all that music consists of two things, melody and harmony. Melody is produced by a succession of notes following each other, harmony is produced by two or more notes sounded simultaneously. Some music is all melody and no harmony; some is all harmony and no melody; but a great deal has both melody and harmony. People who are not musicians and know nothing about the theory of music, but who (as they say), know what they like in music, do actually judge it as melody and harmony, and it is only natural that similar tests should be applied to the music of bellringing.

Well, then, how does change ringing, looked at broadly, stand such a test? The only possible answer is that it stands it very badly indeed. Harmony does not exist in change ringing, because we never intentionally strike two bells at the same time except when we use firing at weddings, and whatever effect firing may give, it certainly is not harmony or music.

Melody does to some extent enter into change ringing, but the restrictions imposed by the very nature of the art make anything more than a very meagre sort of melody impossible.

All this is, of course, obvious and most of us have come across people or writings which have attempted to contrast the 'real' music of the carillons of Belgium and elsewhere with the 'crude stuff' served out by the steeples of England. Judged by their standards, change ringing is far inferior to carillon playing.

But do we accept that as a sound judgment? Do we really think carillon music is superior to an English ringing peal? We ringers certainly do not. Many of us who have good musical ears and taste, and who can appreciate the 'Eroica' or the 'Unfinished' Symphony think carillon music is detestable, while well-struck changes are glorious. We are prejudiced, it may be said. Perhaps we are, but people in general have found, and still find, music in our bellringing, and it is significant that change ringing became one of the most popular forms of music in England just at the time when England really was a musical country. The man who in the seventeenth century wrote that—

There's no music played or sung

Like unto bells when they are well rung—

was no doubt carried away by his enthusiasm; but old Bishop Hall, of Norwich, was addressing the general public, not ringers in particular, when he wrote that 'when every bell keeps due order and time what a sweet and harmonious sound they make; all are charmed by that common music.' He would not have written thus if he had not known that his readers fully agreed with him.

No, we hold that not only is change ringing music, but it is, within its own sphere, a very high sort of music, and our justification for making this bold claim is that it has the power at times of influencing the emotions and touching the feelings of the listener. We must not pur-

sue the thought further. Our point is that if change ringing really is fine music, and if it is not harmony and but poor melody, it must have some other vital quality. And so it has. The basis of the music of ringing is neither harmony nor melody, but rhythm.

Rhythm is one of the great principles which lie at the root of all good things in human life and activities. It is one of those things which are far easier to understand than to explain. It is essential to vocal and instrumental music, but it is a quality which exists quite apart from what the ordinary man looks on as music, and we want our readers to judge the music of bellringing as something entirely different from ordinary vocal and instrumental music.

We shall best understand the nature of the music of change ringing and the effect it produces, not by comparing it to vocal and instrumental music, but by comparing it to the metrical lines in poetry. There is music in the use of words as real, as varied, and as complex as any produced by strings or pipes, and it is almost exactly this sort of music that we find in change ringing when it is performed as it should be. Listen to this line—

'How art thou fallen from heaven! O Lucifer, son of the morning.'

Does not that reproduce exactly the charm of a well-struck change of Maximus with 12-10 behind?

Almost anyone who has any feeling for the musical value of words will recognise what a splendid line it is, quite apart from any meaning it may convey. Indeed, to most of us it probably has no meaning at all. Its effect is purely music and rhythm.

We picked it as a rather extreme example, for, of course, the rhythm of the line is a very delicate and complex one, not to be properly appreciated until it is studied and the ear trained. The same thing happens in change ringing. The good qualities of twelve-bell ringing necessitate not only first-class striking but also first-class hearing.

But the rhythms of poetry are usually very much simpler than that of the line we have quoted, and equally so the rhythms of six and eight-bell ringing are far simpler than those of twelve-bell ringing, and can be much more easily appreciated by the ordinary ringer. We will leave the more complex rhythms of both poetry and change ringing and consider only the simpler and more obvious.

In English verse the necessary effect is produced broadly speaking, by two means, one of which is called blank verse, the other rhyme.

In blank verse, the words are so arranged that the stress falls at regular intervals; in rhyme two following lines have nearly the same sound, but not quite. Almost the identical effects are produced in change ringing. The tittum music of Grandsire Caters will stand for the equivalent of blank verse, and the dodging of Double Norwich Major for the equivalent of rhyme.

It is on these two things that the music of poetry and change ringing depends, but it is qualified in each case by two things. One is the quality of the individual words or the individual bell; the other is the harmony between the sounds of two words or two bells which follow each other. Also, though the main structure of the rhythm both of the line and of the change is maintained, each is capable of a great amount of variety.

In order to obtain these two effects in a method there must be, broadly speaking, two things. One is that the

(Continued on next page.)

HANDBELL RINGING AND NOISES ORDER.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Perhaps it may be useful to give to ringers, who have any difficulty with the authorities in the matter of handbells, a hint of how we got over the difficulty in the Oxford University Society, of which I was secretary for several years till lately. If we wanted leave for practice in a man's rooms in college, we would explain that the bells were muffled. Most people who know nothing of ringing think, when they hear of handbells, of the loud clanging made by the town crier.

W. C. B.

'MORE DIEHARDS'**FROM 'THE WILTS AND GLOUCESTER STANDARD.'**

If there is one class which more than another is suffering from the restrictions imposed by the war it must be the campanologists.

I have known several of these people in my time and have been amazed by their enthusiasm and their dauntless spirit. They go anywhere at any time to try out another peal of bells, while their annual outing is a real 'busman's holiday,' the trip usually comprising visits to at least four other bellfries to enjoy 'touches' on the local ring. These men must be suffering untold torments through being withheld from contact with the bells they so dearly love.

But enthusiasm such as theirs is not easily daunted. I remember that some years ago, when the bells of Cirencester Parish Church were undergoing repairs, the ringers refused to be denied their time-honoured custom of ringing a peal in the early hours of 29th May in honour of the restoration of the Monarchy. They mounted a scaffold outside the tower and from that airy perch rang the customary peal on handbells. What will they do about it this year, I wonder? There is a legacy connected with that peal.

What prompted this recollection was a similar incident in Water-moor Church on a recent Sunday.

Mr. H. C. Bond, for long the leader of the Cirencester band of ringers, visited the church to attend the christening of a grandchild, and, the bells of the church being out of the question, the occasion was marked by a peal on the handbells being rung in the church by Mr. Bond, a son from Brighton, and Mr. F. J. Lewis and his brother.

Bond and Lewis are names which have been long connected with bellringing in Cirencester. Mr. Bond's brother, as great an enthusiast as himself, died a year or two ago. Mr. Bond's own family were scattered by the last war, and Mr. Bond no longer has his home in Cirencester. But the name of Lewis remains, and while it remains the art of campanology in Cirencester is likely to survive.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

In conjunction with the meeting of the Dudley and District Guild at Dudley, reported in our last issue, a meeting was held of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. Members attended from Brierley Hill, Cradley, Clent, Selly Oak, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley.

THE STANDARD METHODS.*(Continued from previous page.)*

natural coursing order of the bells should be kept as much as possible throughout the course; the other that there should be a sufficient amount of dodging.

It is not possible to lay down definite and precise rules concerning these things. Like all the good things we find in a method, they can only be had by compromises between contraries. When we introduce dodging we necessarily break to some extent the natural coursing order, for Bob Major is the only method which retains it throughout the lead unaltered. Moreover, alterations from the natural coursing order are necessary, not only to give us that variety of 'work' which we saw in an earlier article is so desirable, but also to give us variety of rhythm. It is the same thing in blank verse. The schoolboy is taught to scan the lines in jog-trot five-foot manner, but that is not how Shakespeare's or Milton's verse really reads.

What we have written will no doubt strike some readers as novel and somewhat 'high-brow,' but we hope it is a reasonable explanation of what ringers have for long been groping after, rather blindly, perhaps. Some there are who try to judge the musical quality of a method by counting the number of bells which separate the blows of the tenors. That is a purely fallacious test. What matters is the number of changes in which the natural coursing order of the bells is maintained. Others there are who talk about 'clockwork' striking, but there is no rhythm in a clock.

ERIN DOUBLES.**MR. WORSLEY'S SIX-SCORES.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Worsley is to be highly congratulated. Some purists might object that his six-score lacks something on grounds of orthodoxy, but surely it is generally agreed that in five-bell methods the end justifies the means, or (more politely) the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

This discovery appears to provide a valuable addition to the repertoire of five-bell ringers, especially as the number of different 120's available is a large one—indeed, very large if singles be made at backstroke as well as at hand. For example, here is an alternative for the last two sixes of the composition given by Mr. Worsley.

54321
45312
43512 S
34521
35412
53412 S

This alternative can be used in one or more of the five parts.

Note.—The conductor will need to announce his calls always at exactly the same point in the stroke, or they will be made on the wrong stroke, and the touch will be false.

35421 B
53421 S
54312
45321
43521 S
34512

The most serious snag that I can see lies in the difficulty of ensuring that 120's called are true. A conductor who does not understand thoroughly the difference between positive and negative rows may easily shift the place of a single and introduce one or two false changes without altering the composition as a whole.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

A LONG PEAL ATTEMPT.**FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

On Easter Monday, March 30th, 1891, eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association met at Debenham in Suffolk and attempted Thomas Day's peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 16,608 changes, which at the time was the longest length composed in the method.

They started at 6.35 in the morning and rang 9,024 changes in 5 hours and 35 minutes, when a shift put an end to the peal. The band consisted of James Motts (conductor) 1, William Motts 2, William Crickmer 3, William Garrett 4, Robert H. Brundle 5, David Collins 6, Edgar Collins 7, Frederick Tillet, tenor, 20 cwt. About half the band happily are still alive. In a district where good striking was traditional, these men were noted for the excellence of their striking. The peal ultimately was accomplished on Whit Monday in the following year.

SIX BELL RINGING.**A REQUEST AND A COMPLAINT.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Might I, as a lover of six bell ringing, appeal for something further to be published on Minor ringing, so that our knowledge of this modest branch of the art might be enhanced?

After all, we have become a little battle stained of late, at the merciless hands of those enthusiasts who love to dance with consummate glee on the corpse of a six-bell ring, when it has to undergo the agonising metamorphosis to an eight or ten, without the shedding of even a tear.

When the Collection of Doubles and Minor Methods was in the press we were much revived by thoughts of the production of a classical volume, as judged from sketches in 'The Ringing World.' But this was to be but short lived, since we were presented with only a mutilated and disembowelled shell, a simulacrum of what might have been. How anserine were our hopes: we were wrecked in the Scylla of finance.

Yet was this immolation not enough since now we often weary of reading of the birth pangs of a Major method or the vacillations of the experts on some peal of Stedman.

We know that we are 'like a tale that is told,' doomed to vanish into nothingness as our towers get less and less. Yet even at the eleventh hour we crave for a little sop so that at our final passing we can cry out, 'We happy few, we band of brothers.'

VERNON TAYLOR.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S**'COLLEGE YOUTHS'**
A History of the Society

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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.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Subject to national exigencies, the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing. Tea (bring your own sugar) at 4 p.m. at a charge of about 1s. per head. The annual business meeting will follow tea. Annual committee meeting in the hall at 3.30 p.m. prompt. The undersigned's light peal of eight handbells will be available. An urgent appeal is made for the payment of subscriptions, especially by unattached members. It is hoped that the meeting will be well supported.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13. Tel. Perivale 5320.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held in the Chapter House at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 5th, at 3.30. All committee members are requested to attend, if possible.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Belgrave Church (8 bells) on April 5th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Will all members make a special effort to attend? Visitors heartily welcomed. Handbell ringing during evening.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church) on Saturday, April 12th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow. All welcome for a social afternoon.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 14th, at St. James' Church Schoolroom opposite Cardiff Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, at 4 o'clock.—John W. Jones Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryon Road, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street. Those who want tea must advise me not later than the 17th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, April 19th. Tower Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tower bells and handbells available afterwards. Social evening to follow. Please send numbers for tea by previous Wednesday. All welcome. Combined meeting with Western Branch at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.) on Saturday, May 10th. Details later.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.—A meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, April 19th, at 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided at the Battle Axes Hotel at 4 o'clock. All are welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General annual meeting at Nottingham on Saturday, April 19th (12th not available). Handbells at St. Peter's from 2 o'clock. Committee meet 2.45 in St. Peter's vestry. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and general meeting. Notice for tea must be sent not later than 12th to F. Salter, 110, Noel Street, Nottingham. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 19th. Committee 3 p.m. General meeting 3.30.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 19th. Service in All Saints' Church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting St. PAUL's Parish Room 4.45. Handbell ringing in All Saints' tower, 3.15 and after tea. Notification for tea *not later* than April 15th. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 19th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; tea, St. Peter Mancroft Hall, 5; business meeting 5.30. Names for tea by April 9th, please.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec., 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary notice. Annual meeting to be held at Wellington on April 26th. Details will be published later.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec., 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose names are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

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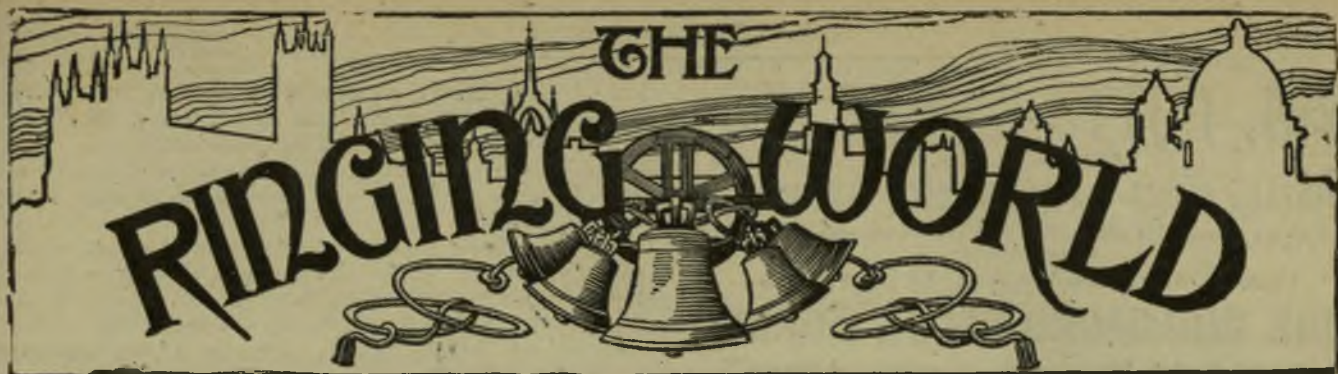
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No. 1,568. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th, 1941.

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SIX-BELL RINGERS.

Last week we printed a letter from Mr. Vernon Taylor, in which the writer in intentionally inflated language voiced the grievances and neglect of six-bell ringers. Eight-bell ringers, he said in so many words, get all the attention, and 'The Ringing World' never thinks that the poor Minor men deserve some articles about their branch of the art. We confess he is not without cause for complaint. There is a tendency, and always has been, for bands who enjoy the use of a full octave rather to look down on their less fortunate brothers who are restricted to six or even five bells. We ourselves, however, have never seen this feeling carried to such an extent as to make 'enthusiasts love to dance with consummate glee on the corpse of a six-bell ring, without the shedding of even a tear.' On reflection, perhaps, Mr. Taylor will realise that it would tax the abilities of even the conductor of a peal of Spliced Surprise Major to shed tears at the same time as he was dancing with consummate glee.

But, though in this respect Mr. Taylor may have got a little bit mixed, he is quite right in what we take to be his main contention. The six-bell ringers are, after all, as Sir Arthur Heywood was never tired of pointing out, the backbone of the Exercise, and they deserve neither neglect nor disparagement. There are possibilities in Minor ringing and a range of methods far beyond anything the average eight-bell ringer can ever hope to reach. The marvellous Spliced peals before the war showed that, and among six-bell ringers none was more distinguished than Mr. Vernon Taylor himself. Why, then, should not they receive equal treatment and have as many articles published for their benefit in 'The Ringing World' as the eight-bell men have?

Alas, the cases are not equal. The paucity of articles on Minor ringing is not because 'The Ringing World' willingly neglects the six-bell men, but because it has not been possible to write articles for them as for the others. After all, there are difficulties in composing good articles on ringing matters, and the wish and intention to write them do not remove the difficulties.

In a similar way, Mr. Vernon Taylor's complaint about the latest Collection of Doubles and Minor Methods concerns a matter which was, we believe, beyond anyone's control. We imagine that he had expected the question of Spliced ringing to be dealt with in such a way as to reflect the marvellous strides made by one or two bands (including his own) in that particular branch of the art, whereas the book confines itself to a more general and to some extent elementary treatment of the

(Continued on page 170.)

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matter. Two things were responsible for that. One was the limited space available in the book, the other that the average reader must be considered, and in his interests the very few experts must to some extent stand aside. It is by no means easy to strike the happy mean in these matters.

It is, we believe, generally known that the part of the Minor book which deals with Spliced ringing was entirely the work of Mr. Ernest Turner. Mr. Turner is not specially distinguished as a six-bell ringer, but he has shown that he is fully capable of taking a part with the most skilful six-bell bands, and can sympathise with and share the Minor ringers' outlook. We feel sure that he fully considered every available way of presenting the matter and selected the one which, in the circumstances, does best serve everybody's interests.

For the rest, Mr. Vernon Taylor should buck up. He need not be afraid that he and the other six-bell men 'are doomed to vanish into nothingness like a tale that is told.' Also there is not much sense in 'craving for a little sop.' What he wants is to go to the canteen and have a pint of beer, but whether it would be of any avail to go there at 'the eleventh hour' (a.m. or p.m.) we rather doubt.

HANDBELI PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 31, 1941, in 'One Hour and Forty-Eight Minutes,'

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4

EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

A birthday compliment to Mrs. Jennings and Miss E. H. Jennings. Fiftieth peal together by ringers of 1-2 and 3-4.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. George Williams is quite right on one point. The object of our letter was not to pick holes in Silchester Surprise, but to find out whether people do think it worth a place in the new book. The question is—should a method be recommended for general use if no peal of it is possible in which the tenors do more than three leads of their full work?

We do not suggest, of course, that the tenors should always do their full work in any peal that is rung. Short course peals of Double Norwich and Bob Major, In-and-Fifth peals of London, Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples, ordinary peals of Spliced Surprise, and peals in other methods, all give the lie to such an opinion. But those peals are optional, not compulsory. We are not tied to the three-lead course plan in Spliced, and efforts are being made to break away from it.

Neither do we suggest that Silchester is not worthy of being rung by any band which thinks fit so to do. What we are rather doubtful about is whether it should appear in the new book and so exclude another method, equal perhaps in all respects and free from what, however you look at it, is a grave defect. As we said, we have included it, but would be glad of other people's opinions.

We have had as much experience of Spliced Surprise ringing as perhaps any, and we are not inclined to accept Mr. Williams' opinion that it is not at all difficult. It is quite true that a first-class man who thoroughly knows the four standard methods, and has had practice in ringing them spliced, finds no particular difficulty; and the constant changes of method do actually serve the purpose of keeping his mind constantly on his work. It was a different tale, however, when Spliced Surprise ringing was a novelty, and it is still a different tale when the methods are unfamiliar.

We do not share Mr. Williams' opinion of Berkeley Surprise. Except that its five false course ends (A. B. C. D and E) allow peals in full natural courses with fourth's place bobs, it is inferior to Silchester, and is no more difficult to ring than scores of other methods.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE FOUNDER.

(Continued from page 159.)

Sir Arthur Heywood has often been described as a country gentleman. In the sense that he was a man of wealth and culture who lived in the country, he was a country gentleman, but he did not come of one of those families whose history and traditions are rooted in the soil. Maitland Kelly came of an old country family—and so did Earle Bulwer, but Heywood came from that remarkable new middle class which was produced by the industrial revolution of the late eighteenth century. Sprung from the ranks of the people, and often of puritan origin, they first amassed wealth, and then, after a long and fierce struggle, they broke the power of the old territorial noblemen and magnates, who for a long century had ruled England. From 1832 until the nineteenth century drew towards its end the new middle class supplied most of the rulers and magistrates of the country and no small part of the brains in every sphere of life. In one of his books Mr. Winston Churchill has described these men with his usual literary ability. 'Our country' (he says) 'draws its strength from many sources. In the last century and a half she has discovered fresh reserves of leadership in the men of the new middle classes, created by the expansion of enterprise and wealth which followed the Industrial Revolution. Without name or influence to help them, often with no money save what they won by their own efforts, these sons of merchants and manufacturers, of doctors, lawyers and clergymen, of authors, teachers and shopkeepers have made their way to the front rank in public life and to the headship of almost every great business by native worth alone. Their contribution to government has been rich and varied. It is impossible, looking back, to imagine what we should have been without them. Blot them from the pages, and how much is left of the political history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? Peel, Gladstone and Disraeli; Bright, Cobden and the Chamberlains; Asquith, Bonar Law and Baldwin are all swept from the scene.'

Sir Arthur Heywood's family was typical in almost every way of this class of men. There were Heywoods many centuries ago in Lancashire, and probably they got their name originally from the town of Heywood in that county. In the middle of the seventeenth century two brothers, Oliver and Nathaniel, were vicars of Coleby and Ormskirk, and both were ejected from the livings when the Church of England was restored after its temporary ruin during the Commonwealth.

Nathaniel's grandson Benjamin settled in Ireland at Drogheda and became a prosperous merchant. His two sons, Arthur and Benjamin, migrated to Liverpool, where Arthur was a banker. Benjamin afterwards moved to Manchester and founded the bank, which was the source of his descendants' wealth. His son Nathaniel married the daughter of Thomas Percival, a well-known medical man, a leader of the Lancashire dissenters, and an ardent social reformer. He is said to have been the earliest advocate of factory legislation.

The most famous member of the family was Benjamin, Nathaniel's son, and Thomas, Percival's grandson, who was known not only as a prominent and wealthy banker, but as a philanthropist who devoted himself to the improvement of the life and education of the working

classes. He was the leader of the Whig party in Lancashire, and was foremost in the struggle for parliamentary reform which culminated in the Act of 1832 and the triumph of the new middle class. For a time he was a Member of Parliament, and he received the honour of a baronetcy in 1838. When he died in 1865, his son Thomas Percival, the second baronet, carried on the family traditions, and among other activities was one of the founders of the Woodward Schools.

Arthur Percival Heywood was thus the inheritor of very marked and very noble family traits and traditions, and he was definitely the product of his race. His ideals and his standards were those of his family, but influenced and developed by the passage of the years. The same religious and public spirit which had made Dr. Percival a dissenter and Sir Benjamin a Whig, made Sir Arthur a staunch churchman and a Conservative. Those things the grandfather had fought for and won, the grandson cherished. The new middle class governed England for some sixty years, and when about the nineties of the last century they looked back on their record, they were very well satisfied with it. The country was rich, powerful and contented; and no signs of coming troubles as yet darkened the horizon.

'Englishmen felt sure,' writes Mr. Winston Churchill, 'that they had reached satisfactory solutions upon the material problems of life. Their political principles had stood every test. All that was required was to apply them fully. Statesmen, writers, philosophers, scientists, poets, all moved forward in hope and buoyancy, in sure confidence that much was well and that all would be better.' That admirably expresses Heywood's outlook and that of the men of his class. I have heard him say publicly that every true Englishman is a Conservative however he may occasionally vote at election time. His ideal was an ordered hierarchy in society, each man in his own class and contented with his lot. Providence had given him wealth and position, but wealth and position entailed duties and responsibilities, and he paid fully as much regard to his duties and responsibilities as he did to his privileges. In that he was the true son of his family. I do not doubt he looked on his work for the Exercise and the Central Council as part of his duty to his Church, a task which lay to his hand, and which he must not shirk. It was all quite natural, for there was nothing priggish about him.

It was this native sense of duty and the right to lead which enabled him to form the Council and gave him his position and authority. For as long as he lived he was President of the Council. Nominally he held the office by free selection from some dozens of eligible candidates; actually he held it as much by divine right as ever King Charles I. wore the crown of England.

Intellectually Heywood was an outstanding man, and all he did showed knowledge and ability; but he had large and well defined limitations. He was not a man of wide vision. He saw each problem as he came to it as a whole. He applied himself to its solution, usually successfully, but it did not expand as he worked, nor did it lead him on to further things. In his younger days he was interested in light railways, and he made successful experiments. He had, as older ringers will recollect, a model working light railway in his own grounds, but after a few years, when he had found out what exactly

(Continued on next page.)

SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD

(Continued from previous page.)

he sought, I believe he took no more interest in the matter.

As a boy he learned to ring, and he continued to be one of the church ringers of his own parish, but for many years he was content with stoney, and that at the time when the Exercise was being stirred throughout with new life. When the installation of the full octave at Duffield brought change ringing to his notice, he took up method ringing with enthusiasm, and rapidly went on with peal ringing from Bob Triples, to Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Surprise. At length he had conducted peals of London Surprise Major, Double Norwich Royal and Duffield Maximus. There was nothing else to do; he had done all there was; and though he was still in the prime of life, he dropped peal ringing.

He early took a great interest in composition and method construction. He again he saw a limited number of well defined problems. He set himself to solve them, and when he had settled what constituted a musical method, what was the best for ten and twelve bell ringing, and had laid bare the secrets of Stedman Triples and Caters, he had completed his task. There remained, he publicly stated, but one unsolved problem in the science of change ringing, the production of a seven-part peal of Stedman Triples, and that he lived to see done. All the later problems and the many controversies which centred round the work of the Methods Committee were to him merely futile. He expressed himself as 'patiently amused' at what he called our 'earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionably axiomatic rules.'

When I was preparing the notes for these articles it struck me as very significant that, though he definitely belonged to an older generation than I did, and had completed the whole of his investigations into composition before ever I was a ringer, yet his earliest article was published less than ten years before my first.

He took up the attitude, most strange for a man of his intelligence and ability, that it was possible to settle once and for all the problems of the Exercise. That was one of the main objects of the Central Council. He and his contemporaries had gone thoroughly into method construction, and the question was settled and closed. That men of my generation might have some further contribution to make never occurred to him. He did not realise that if the day ever comes when there are no more problems and no more difficulties for ringers to solve—if, in short, the Exercise ever reaches perfection—then the end will not be far off.

This narrowness of outlook did as much as the changing social conditions to put Heywood out of sympathy with the younger generations. The Exercise altered enormously in the thirty years between 1886 and 1916, and before he died his work for ringing had ended.

Was Heywood a good chairman? I have heard the

question debated more than once, and very divergent answers given. Some thought he was almost everything a chairman should be, others criticised him very strongly. It all depends on what is taken as the standard of good chairmanship. One thing everybody allowed: he was a strong chairman. He always had full control of the meeting and he saw that the recognised rules of debate were properly observed. He endeavoured to be thoroughly impartial, but whether he actually was so, is another matter. Perhaps the ideal chairman is the Speaker, of the House of Commons, who sits in dignity and authority above the members and sees that a very complicated and precise code of rules is strictly carried out. His business is to see that every member has an equal opportunity of stating his views, and so long as he keeps within the rules, what he says, whether it is true or false, wise or foolish, is no concern of the Speaker. Of that the House alone is the judge. Heywood did not take that attitude. He was more like a High Court judge presiding at a criminal trial. He equally has to see that strict rules are observed and that everyone who is entitled to speak does so. But more than that, he is concerned that the right decision is arrived at, and he may, and usually does, intervene to correct false or misleading statements. Heywood was like that. He frequently made a statement at the beginning of a debate, he frequently intervened, and he usually summed up and, like the judge, in effect gave his directions as to what the verdict should be. Occasionally he voted himself.

It was all due, of course, to his sincere wish that the Council should benefit the Exercise, and to his unbounded faith in his own judgment. On the whole it worked for good, for his judgment usually was sound. But there came a time when he had ceased to keep in touch with the spirit of the Exercise and was out of sympathy with the new ideas which were developing, and in one outstanding instance this rather autocratic attitude provoked as near to an unpleasant crisis as we are likely to experience in a meeting of the Council. It would be a bad day for the Council if its officers were ever debarred from expressing to the full their individual opinions, but Heywood backed up his with the authority of the chair, and rather expected they should be deferred to.

Heywood's style as a writer was quite characteristic of the man. It is clear, concise, and sufficient, without any particular literary distinction. On the whole he was the best writer of his time, without the excessive wordiness which mars Davies' books, and without the slovenly and untidy sentences which sometimes disfigure what Jasper Snowdon wrote. But he had one serious defect. He never seemed to be quite sure that he was getting his meaning home to his readers. It was the gap, caused by social, intellectual and educational differences, which separated him from the rest of the Exercise. Jasper Snowdon was his inferior as a writer, but he had the all-important gift of putting himself in sympathy with his readers.

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RECONSTRUCTION. THE NEED FOR FIRE PROTECTION. *To the Editor.*

Sir,—Your excellent articles on bell frames and reconstruction and bell towers visualise more than appears on the surface. Recent events and the great destruction of the entire contents of many of our church towers will have to be taken into serious consideration when times become normal, and must be entirely refitted in the very best way.

One thing is absolutely certain; the new installations must be as fireproof as possible. There is far too much inflammable material used at the present time, oftentimes two or three wooden floors, guide boxes for the ropes and wood fittings in the clock room and belfry.

In future all church towers should have fireproof concrete floors, the bell frames should be of iron, and all fittings, bell wheels, pulleys, boxes, etc., should be made of fireproof material. As soon as possible every tower should have the inflammable material cleared out.

When the rehanging of the Painswick bells was contemplated it was feared in several quarters that if they were hung in an iron frame it would affect the tone of the bells. The iron frame and headstocks prevailed. It was a great success, and when the bells were reopened there was great satisfaction among the large number of ringers present both as regards the 'go' and tone of the bells.

From many years' experience I am convinced that the iron frame is the most practical, and one would have to go a long way to find a better bell frame and fittings than at Painswick. That tower, like most towers, has a set back in the masonry where the under portion of the bell frame rests on strong steel girders cemented into the walls. On these girders a cast-iron H frame is securely bolted, and on top of the H frame stout angle iron is bolted on all ways and the ends cemented into the walls, making the frame as one solid block which ensures that the bearings are always level and cannot get out of alignment, which is the essential thing. The twelve bells are hung with plain bearings, and as a proof of their excellence several long peals have been rung single handed, amongst which was a 13,001 of Grandsire Cinques.

The main consideration with an iron frame is it should not be allowed to develop any corrosion, but be cleaned and painted with two or three coats of red and white lead. Cast-iron as used in the H frame is a great advantage, as it does not scale and is easily kept in perfect condition.

WILLIAM HALE.

The Leigh, near Gloucester.

FARNBOROUGH.—On March 26th, at 106, Lynchford Road, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: Harold S. Hobden 1-2, Sergt. John Freeman (conductor) 3-4, Maurice Hodgson 5-6, Will Viggers 7-8.

JOSEPH RILEY.

A FAMOUS OLD-TIME COMPOSER AND RINGER.

Many years ago, John Day wrote down his recollections of old Birmingham ringers, and here is his account of Joseph Riley based on tradition:—

Mr. Riley was, I believe, a native of Cheltenham, and by profession a lawyer. There can be little doubt that for some years he was the leading spirit of the St. Martin's Guild. He was always spoken of with much respect as being a gentleman, although somewhat austere in manner. He was a clever ringer, a good conductor, a composer of considerable ability and quite an enthusiast in the art.

Among his other exploits was that of calling Holt's One-Part peal of Grandsire Triples whilst ringing the fourth bell, being one of the first, if not the first, time of its achievement in the provinces. In 1823 a party of the Youths had a ringing tour under his guidance. At Shrewsbury they attempted a peal of Stedman Cinques, but failed and then went to Wrexham, where they rang his well-known peal of 5,000 Treble Bob Royal. This peal, like a good many other compositions, has had numerous authors. When the late W. Sottanstill visited Birmingham in 1865 he brought the peal with him and wanted it rung in Birmingham. He first showed it to Chattell, who looked it over and, turning to H. Johnson, who was in the company, said, 'Why this is Riley's peal.' Johnson confirmed this, and Sottanstill expressed surprise. The late John Thorpe also composed the same peal.

Riley was really the leading spirit of the society and took part in the memorable peals rung in 1820. The Treble Bob Maximus was, I believe, rung at the first attempt. After failing in the first attempt for the Stedman Cinques, Riley named an early date for another attempt, and as an inducement promised the band a bowl of punch per man if the attempt was successful. The peal was rung and I have heard it said that Cooper at once began to hint in a doubtful sort of way as to the truth of the composition. Riley, being annoyed at this, demanded an immediate investigation, and Cooper, Thurstans and himself retired to a private room to sift the matter out, when all was pronounced correct and the band and their friends were entertained to their heart's content. I believe the meeting house of the society at that time was The King's Head in Worcester Street, and in the room used by them hung one or more portraits of prominent ringers, notably one of Alexander Sanders. When the existing Market Hall was built the house was pulled down and the portraits vanished.

The last peal that can be traced to Mr. Riley is the Treble Bob Cinques, rung in 1832, the only peal yet rung, and he died the following year, about 70 years of age.

He left his peal book to John Hopkins and Hopkins left it to Mr. H. Johnson.

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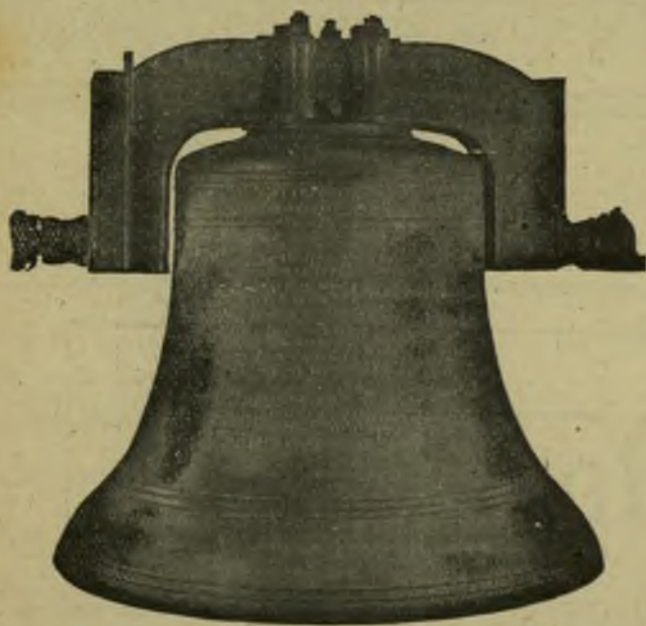
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THE EDITOR.

The condition and progress of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith continue to be quite satisfactory.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker's many friends will extend them their fullest sympathy in the early death of their only granddaughter, who, as announced in another column, passed away on April 4th.

The Witley bellringers are resuming practice—on handbells. They are the recipients of a bequest under which the bells have to be rung on four particular occasions in the course of the year. Prevented by war-time regulations from ringing the big bells, with the Vicar's consent they have agreed to ring the handbells in church before the 11 a.m. service at Easter, Whitsun and Christmas, and at some other time on May 29th.

Any ringers stationed in the district may like to know that regular weekly handbell practices are still being held at 106, Lynchford Road, South Farnborough, and at 37, Highfield Gardens, Aldershot.

We mentioned last week that on April 7th and 8th, 1761, James Barham and his band rang the full extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes, at Leeds in Kent. This is what the 'Clavis' says about it: 'To be sure it is recorded in a frame at Leeds, in Kent, as being performed by thirteen men in twenty-seven hours and some minutes, but those of the performers who have been spoke with on the subject give such unsatisfactory accounts, that it is very little thought on, and it is generally believed, that if they did keep the bells going the length of time, the truth or regularity of the changes was very little attended to.'

On April 7th, 1801, the Cumberland Youths rang 5,220 changes of Court Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and boasted that they were the first society to ring a peal in that intricate method, but the Norwich Scholars had already in 1769 accomplished a peal of it.

Samuel Wood, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who called many notable long peals on eight, ten and twelve bells, was born on April 7th, 1857.

On April 8th, 1912, Mr. George Price called 12,160 Bristol Surprise Major with a band of the Hertford County Association. At the time it was the record length in the method.

The first peal in Australia was rung at Sydney on April 9th, 1890.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques in Yorkshire was rung at Sheffield on April 10th, 1882.

Many long lengths have been accomplished on the ten bells at Appleton, in Berkshire, and one of them was the then record peal of Grandsire Caters, 13,265 changes, rung on April 11th, 1888. It was composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook.

A very famous peal was rung on April 12th, 1909. It was the 18,027 changes of Stedman Caters at the Parish Church, Loughborough. The time was 12 hours and 18 minutes, the first occasion on which a band had stood the clock round. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. His brother Bob rang the treble.

Canon T. L. Papillon, a distinguished member of the Exercise in bygone years, was born on April 12th, 1841, and William T. Cockerill was born on April 13th, 1859.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1, Union Triples 1, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, and seven Minor methods 2.

DEATH OF MRS. A. C. JOHNSTON.

WIDOW OF WELL-KNOWN BELLFOUNDER.

The death is announced of Mrs. A. C. Johnston, which occurred on Wednesday, March 19th, at her home, Glebe Hyrst, Sanderstead, Surrey. She was 88 years old and was the widow of Mr. Arthur Anderson Johnston, of the firm of Gillett and Johnston, which was founded over 100 years ago.

Mrs. Johnston came to Croydon on her marriage over fifty years ago, and for many years she took an active and leading interest in all the affairs of the borough. During the time that Mr. Johnston was a member of the Croydon Council she took great interest in his work and organised with him the annual distribution of Christmas dinners for 500 families during a period of 25 years.

Her many activities included the founding of the first Girls' Social Club in Park Street, and the original Cripples' Home. She also took a leading part in the Primrose League and did much good work in many other charity organisations, one of the most notable being in aid of the 'Titanic' disaster fund, nearly a thousand pounds being raised locally.

For many years Mrs. Johnston was a well-known figure among ringers. She was present at many dedication services and never missed attending functions at the Croydon Foundry.

During the last few years of her life her activities were curtailed by bad health.

The funeral service took place at Sanderstead Parish Church on Saturday, March 22nd, and the interment at Queen's Road Cemetery, West Croydon. The mourners included Mr. Cyril Johnston and Miss Nora Johnston (son and daughter), Mrs. Cyril Johnston, Mrs. Arthur A. Lyon (niece), Miss F. Langford, Mrs. G. J. Allen, Mr. R. F. A. Housman (general manager of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), Mrs. Housman and a large number of the older members of the staff and employees of the foundry.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

AN EARLY PERFORMANCE OF THE ORIGINAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with interest Mr. Trollope's account of the Cambridge Youths and should like to state that Daniel Green, who rang the 8th in a peal of Grandsire Caters at Great St. Mary's on November 10th, 1774, was a farmer, and lived, died and was buried near the north wall of Clare Church tower. A grave stone marks the spot inscribed, 'In memory of Daniel Green, who died September 1st, 1785, aged 57 years.'

He used to ride horseback to and from Cambridge, 25 miles each way, to practise change ringing with the Cambridge Youths. This Daniel Green had a son of the same name, and the son rang the 4th and the father the 7th through a peal of Bob Major on Clare bells on February 27th, 1781. The father called the peal, probably Annable's. What became of the son we do not know.

Mr. Trollope says the last peal rung by the society during the 18th century was on June 2nd, 1797, when James Bartlett called Holt's Original. A tablet in the tower states: A.D. 1797. On Friday, June 2nd, was rang in this tower a true and Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5,040 Changes, in 3 hours and a half. Originally composed by Mr. Holt in 1 course and 2 doubles in the last 4 leads by the undermentioned Performers: J. Coe treble, W. Eve 2, W. Lawder 3, J. Bowman 4, W. Goodes 5, J. Bawtell (conductor) 6, P. Spenceley 7, J. Hazard tenor. By this it will be seen that J. Bawtell and not Bartlett called the peal.

I saw nearly all the notes that Samuel Slater made on the peals rung at Cambridge and other places in Cambridgeshire, and no mention is there made of Bartlett's visit to Cambridge and calling this peal. S. Slater searched the Cambridge newspapers for information so as to write up a true record of all peals rung at Cambridge.

After the time Mr. Trollope mentions the Cambridge Youths were led by R. Wilby and he rang several peals, Grandsire Triples and Caters. Probably the most notable was that rung at West Tofts, Norfolk.

The record states that on April 16th, 1868, was rung a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes, in 3 hours and 2 minutes, and composed and conducted by R. Wilby, and contained 190 bobs and 50 singles, the first whole peal on the bells: S. Peggaits treble, J. Rochett 2, J. Dunn 3, J. Halliday 4, E. Andrews 5, R. Wilby 6, Mr. Rochett 7, the Rev. A. Sutton, the Rector, tenor.

This is the first instance that I know of where a Rector rang a peal on the bells of his own parish church. West Tofts bells were made into six in 1849 and eight in 1856 through the efforts of the Rector, the Rev. Augustus Sutton.

No peals were rung at Great St. Mary's between 1852 and 1890, when the spell was broken by a band who had been touring East Anglia stopping there and ringing 5,021 Stedman Caters, composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook, on October 11th, 1890. The following December the Cumberlands visited Cambridge and rang 5,002 Stedman Cinquses, composed and conducted by the late George Newson, and in 1893 the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, visited Cambridge and rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus ever rung there. In 1897 the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung on the bells.

T. E. SLATER.

Glensford, Suffolk.

SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING.**'THEORETICALLY UNSOUND.'***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. J. E. Bailey, is correct in saying that the Suffolk Guild passed a resolution on spliced ringing in 1929.

At the annual meeting on the Easter Monday of that year the following was passed with one dissident: 'The splicing of methods is theoretically unsound. But if this departure from strict regularity is allowed, the splicing of extents in five or six bell ringing should be allowed also.'

No reasons were given for the definite statement that splicing of methods is theoretically unsound, and during some correspondence on the subject Mr. Drake stated that 'everyone seemed to have a different reason for not supporting splicing.' His own reason was that it introduced a third kind of call, which 'broke a principle.' (Has he ever heard of an 'extream' or 'Holt's single?')

Mr. Bailey need have no doubts as to what kind of spliced ringing this resolution referred to, as peals in four, five and six Surprise methods had already been rung.

It is satisfactory to note that despite this 'non-progressive' resolution, many Suffolk ringers now recognise the merits of spliced ringing, and that Mr. Drake has forgotten that the subject was ever mentioned at a meeting of his Guild.

C. T. COLES.

21, Vincent Road, E.4.

FAIRLY GOOD!

At an R.A.F. station 'somewhere in England' recently, a young airman was reading his 'Ringing World' when a second airman asked if he knew any ringers by the name of Pye. The answer, of course, being 'Yes. Do you?' 'No,' replied the second, 'but they were related to my mother.'

Our young airman went to some pains to explain what a gifted family they were, and all the impression it made was, 'Mother said they were fairly good at it.'

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KILBURN.

A small company of about 20 members visited Kilburn on March 29th to attend the annual meeting of the North and East District of the association. Seven towers were represented. The present condition of the bells and towers in relation to war damage seemed to be a prominent matter of discussion.

In place of the usual service the company was conducted around the Church of St. Augustine, which was built about 80 years ago with fields completely surrounding it. Items of much interest were made known by the leader of the party, the Rev. Father Moncrieff, including the beautiful coloured marble flooring pieced together to form intricate designs, the highly decorated vaulted ceiling of the Chapel of All Angels, the four circular windows at the west end depicting the seasons of the year, etc. More than one sad heart passed the door of the ringing chamber on the way up to the belfry, where the light peal of eight was inspected.

The business meeting was by no means the longest on record, being ably conducted by the chairman, Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the association, in the unavoidable absence of the district vice-president Mr. G. W. Fletcher. The provisional election of one member previous to ringing a handbell peal was ratified and one new member was duly enrolled. A list of members attached to the North and East District and known to be serving in H.M. Forces was read to the meeting. The statement of accounts, approved subject to audit and without comment, showed a decreased balance on the year's working, which was entirely due to unpaid subscriptions. All retiring officers were re-elected with one exception, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher being elected to fill a vacancy on the Central Committee, caused by the removal from the county of the Rev. A. S. Roberts. It was agreed that one or two district meetings should be held during the summer months, even to give members a chance for social reunion.

Mr. E. M. Atkins' proposal that a message be sent to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' expressing sympathy in his illness, together with a hope for a speedy recovery, was unanimously approved. The speaker also offered his congratulations in the manner the paper was carrying on, and said it was now, more than ever, the one factor maintaining the life of ringing. Tribute was then paid by Mr. C. T. Coles to the sub-editor, Mr. J. A. Trollope, who had excelled himself in a difficult task.

Handbells were available during the afternoon and evening, courses and touches brought home including Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Grandsire Cinquses.

DEATH OF MR. BARRZILLIA HAWKINS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Barrzillia Hawkins, which took place on Sunday, March 30th, at his home at Frogmore, Blackwater, Hants.

Taking up ringing some 50 years ago under the instruction of Mr. Frank Bennett at Hawley, Hants, Mr. Hawkins and his brother George, who is still active, made good progress, which they used for the benefit of change ringing in North Hants. He rang his first peal at Yateley, Hants, on October 8th, 1892, and since then had taken part in many more, among them the first at Yorktown and the first rung by Mr. A. H. Pulling, which was at Hawley.

A good striker and a ringer always to be relied upon, he accomplished a lot of good work for the old Winchester Guild, of which he was a member for many years.

THE LATE MR. G. R. AMBROSE.

FUNERAL AT MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND.

The body of the late Mr. Guy Ambrose, who as announced met his death by enemy action on March 5th, having been recovered, the funeral service took place on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Parish Church of Milton-next-Gravesend, where Mr. Ambrose worked and worshipped for so many years. The Rector, the Rev. H. J. Powell, officiated, and there was a large and representative gathering. Miss Muriel Mitchell, daughter of the hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, was at the organ, and while the cortege was leaving the church played 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' At the committal in Gravesend Cemetery the Milton ringers were represented by Messrs. H. Argent, R. Munn, F. A. Mitchell and F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary, Kent County Association).

Among the many beautiful wreaths was one from his colleagues at Milton.

Mr. Ambrose leaves a widow and three daughters to mourn their loss.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES HILLICK.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Hillick, of Mersham, which took place rather suddenly on March 27th at the age of 67. The funeral service was held at All Saints', South Mersham, and among the very beautiful floral tributes was one from his fellow ringers.

Charles Hillick had not rung many peals, but he was heart and soul in ringing; he did splendid work as a teacher, and whenever any ringing was to be done at practice, service or meeting he was there. His especial delight was in ringing 720's of Plain or Treble Bob Minor, and he usually rang the tenor and called the bobs.

SIXTH'S-PLACE BOBS.**AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The letter from the Methods Committee on Silchester Surprise Major suggests certain questions which might be of interest.

- (1) What are the grounds for the objections to using sixth's-place bobs in a second's-place method?
- (2) Do the same objections apply to the use of fourth's-place bobs in an eighth's-place method? (Apart from methods on the lengthening lead plan.)
- (3) Should a standard call be considered part of the method? If not, what objections can be raised to the use of a non-standard call, provided, of course, that it is used exclusively in any particular touch or peal?
- (4) Has any even-bell method been rung with a bob made when the treble was not either leading or lying?
- (5) Has a bob ever been made solely by the omission of any particular place in a method?
- (6) Have any definite rulings ever been made on any of the above questions, and, if so, when, and by whom?

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE BOBS.

Notwithstanding the custom of making . . . the bob . . . we don't conceive it obligates every company to abide by it, neither should they be tied to making a particular place at a bob in any method; by all means let every one follow his taste in this particular, as the art of pricking will still be the same; for whoever has skill as a composer can very easily surmount any alterations of that kind, therefore in this method (Double Norwich Court Bob Royal) we would recommend fourth's place at the bob as it certainly would make a great amendment to the music in a peal or even a touch, for by having the bobs in this manner you fall into the treble bob system as far as that of making Triple dodges while the great bells are behind, which is so much admired by all professors of the Exercise; it will likewise lengthen the courses in a similar manner, therefore it is necessary to pursue the same method in composing; upon the whole, we think this way would have much the preference.—'The Clavis.'

A HEAVY RING OF SIX.

There is lately Hung to Sally, and set going to John Bush, Bell-Hanger, of Chew-Stoke near Bristol, in the County of Somerset, a large Peal of Six Bells, in the Town of Yeovil in the said County; The Tenor consisting of near 50 cwt.; they are allowed to be the largest Peal of Six that is in the Country, and required before new Hung, 22 or 23 Men to ring the Six Bells; but since they are hung by the said Bush the same has been rung for several Hours by 7 Men only, and 50 3 or 4 different Peals of Changes: consisting of 120 Grandsire Changes in each Peal.

N.B.—The said Bush has work'd in the Business upwards of 30 Years, and is thought to be a very experienced Man, and will be ready to serve any Parish, if required.—'The Western Flying Post' of July 14th, 1760.

SOME NOVEL 'NEWS.'

It would be hard to cram many more misstatements into two or three lines than are contained in the following from 'The Daily Mirror':—

Bells salvaged intact from a blitz-damaged London Church have been installed in Guildford's (Surrey) new cathedral. They will not be rung until after the war—unless there is an invasion warning in the district.

All Hallows', Lombard Street, was not damaged in a blitz; it was pulled down before the war. The bells have not been 'salvaged,' they have not been installed in Guildford Cathedral, and they will never be rung for an invasion warning. The bells, which have been given to the Cathedral, were taken down when the steeple was dismantled, and are now in the Whitechapel Foundry.

SERVICE RINGING.—Ringing before service is peculiar to the northern counties. In other parts of England the more correct use obtains, that of chiming the bells. In places where the bells are rung before the service it is often too painfully found that, when the ting tang begins or the parson walks in, the ringers walk out, but such unseemly conduct rarely takes place where the bells are chimed for service.—H. T. Ellacombe, in 'Notes and Queries,' March, 1870.

FAMOUS NORWICH RINGERS.**SAMUEL THURSTON.**

Recently Mr. C. E. Borrett gave us an impression of Samuel Thurston, the famous Norwich Scholar and conductor of the first peal of London Surprise Major. Mr. T. E. Slater has sent the following account taken from the notes made by his father, the late Samuel Slater:—

Samuel Thurston was born at Norwich in the parish of St. Martin at Oak on February 19th, 1789, and baptised on the 27th of the same month.

It is not exactly known when he began to ring, his first appearance as a ringer being when he tapped on handbells at the New Theatre, Norwich, plain courses of Bob Major, Bob Triples, Reverse Bob Major, Double Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

On October 22nd, 1809, he rang his first peal, 5,040 of Bob Major, at St. Giles', Norwich. It was conducted by Jeffrey Kelf and was the first peal by all the band. Soon after this he took unto himself a wife, as the following record from the registers, St. Martin at Place, shows; Samuel Thurston, bachelor, to Marianne Coleman, spinster, both of this parish, married May 14th, 1810. One of the Norwich Scholars was named John Coleman, and Marianne is believed to have been of the family. John Coleman died in 1833.

In 1813 Thurston joined the College Youths. By that time he had become such an accomplished ringer that he challenged Mr. Chestnutt, the leader of the Norwich Scholars, to ring for £100. Several suggestions were made by both parties, but no satisfactory settlement was reached. Soon, however, Thurston became a Norwich Scholar, and on April 29th, 1814, he is described as being one of St. Peter's ringers.

About this time Thurston was pressed into the Army, much to his disgust, as he was a master stonemason, and he considered it a great degradation. One morning when he was having musketry drill he fired away his ramrod, and ever after his friends used to ask to tease him, 'Sam! who fired away his ramrod?'

He was very fond of talking about his adventures and what he had done and been through, and his friends used to chaff him about the Fakenham ghost. The explanation is that on one occasion he went to ring at Fakenham, and after the ringing was over the band stopped and had some refreshment. When they parted Thurston had to walk home alone in the night. It was very dark. As he went through a narrow lane a greyhound noiselessly came up and put its cold nose into his right hand. This startled him so much that he began to run, but had not gone far before he fell over a donkey that lay asleep in the lane.

His son-in-law, Mr. Finlay, said that he was a genius in many ways other than being a ringer, and was very fond of clocks. At the time of his death his house was full of clocks, for people in Norwich used to bring their clocks to him when they wanted repairing.

Mrs. Finlay said her father went to London to work and took her mother and family with him, but Mrs. Thurston disliked London, so after a time they all returned to Norwich.

Also that Thurston was a master mason and spent a great part of his time restoring Norwich Cathedral and that he was held in high esteem by the Bishops who held the See in his lifetime. When any work wanted doing Thurston was nearly always called in to give advice as to what was best to do. On one occasion he was sent to London to give advice about repairs to the famous Bow Bells in Cheapside.

As he was able to ring anywhere in the circle and conduct and was always pleasant and good tempered, his services and advice were eagerly sought after. He was nearly always teaching beginners and teaching others the advanced methods, and the Norwich newspapers of his time seemed to recognise his great ability as a ringing genius, for in 1835, referring to the Superlative Surprise, they say: 'Moreover, this celebrated peal was rung in a superior style at the first attempt. These circumstances add much to the credit of the company, having a tendency to show the highest degree of perfection they have attained in the Art.'

Concerning the London Surprise they say: 'We had the pleasure of hearing from our scientific ringers 5,280 changes of that intricate composition, London Surprise. This peal has been attempted by many of the most learned of the Science, but relinquished on account of its complexity, but in the hands of our Norwich ringers this obstacle soon vanished, and in 3 hours and 25 minutes a perfect peal was completed, thus showing what perseverance combined with industry and knowledge can attain.'

On the tablet recording this peal it is described as an unsurmountable task. That they had reason for saying so is not entirely without foundation, for the peal was rung on the back eight of a peal of ten that hung in three tiers always shaky and rickety, and the ropes hung from the ceiling thus: 10 5 4 6 9 1 3 2 7. Charles Payne, who rang the 9th or 7th as you may term it, stood very nearly in the middle of the tower.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

MORE ABOUT MUSIC.

In the year 1886, Sir Arthur Heywood published an article on 'Which is the most musical Major Method?' His object was 'to induce any who are in the habit of judging on the authority of their ears alone, to examine a method scientifically before committing themselves to any definite opinion, as thus he will detect every beauty or flaw with a certainty impossible of attainment by the most careful listener.'

This seems to be rather like saying that no one should express an opinion on the taste of plum pudding until he has subjected its ingredients to a thorough chemical test. After all, in music, as in all art, the thing which matters is not scientific accuracy, but what appeals to æsthetic taste and feeling. We need not bother about what in a method ought to be music, but about what actually does strike the ear of the average listener, inside and outside the belfry, as music. Beauties and flaws, impossible of being noticed by the most careful listener, are not for practical purposes either beauties or flaws.

But though the matter was badly put by Heywood, there is great truth in what he meant to say rather than in what he did say. So long as a ringer listens to the bells carelessly and superficially, he may get a general impression of what he likes and what he does not like, but he will hardly have any really good reasons to give for his preferences, and the opinions he expresses will not be of much value. On the other hand, if he studies a method and takes notice of how the bells come up he will be able to look for good positions and appreciate them when they do appear. It is, we believe, common experience that when a man is ringing either the 4th or the 7th in Stedman Triples he appreciates the beauties of 7-4 dodging behind far more than he does when he is ringing, say, the 2nd or the 3rd. In a similar way the man (perhaps the conductor) who knows that 7-4 are to dodge behind will look for the music in a way that others do not.

Heywood was therefore quite right when he urged that ringers should study on paper the musical qualities of methods, but the danger is (and it was not absent in his case) that people should invent beauties and defects which do not really exist.

One of these imaginary defects is in the making of places. Heywood persuaded himself that places, and especially places made together side by side, are bad music. Many people have followed him in this opinion, but what real justification is there for it? Do adjacent places actually offend even the most sensitive ear even when the listener knows quite well they are being made? We doubt it. On the whole, we imagine, the first section of Oxford Treble Bob is the most satisfactory start of any Major method; better than Kent, better than Norfolk, better than Superlative, and much better than Cambridge.

The first section of Oxford Treble Bob, however, gives an excellent example of the danger of judging the musical qualities of a method from isolated features. Let us grant that it is the best way in which a method can start, but see what it involves. Later on you will have two leads with the tenors badly parted, and in addition the false course ends produced are such that only a comparatively small part of the most musical natural courses are available for composition. Oxford does to some

music of Treble Bob by doing away with the Slow. We extent dodge this difficulty, but it cannot be evaded in the majority of the methods with the same starting.

To many ringers any detailed examination or appreciation of the music of ringing will seem unnecessary and superfluous. They are quite content if the music is good enough to form a pleasant background to the 'work,' for it is the intellectual demands made by the method which interest them not the æsthetic appeal to their senses. Speaking generally, ringers are not musical people.

Yet on all grounds a knowledge and understanding of bell music should be cultivated. It not only adds enormously to the enjoyment the ringer can get out of his art, but it keeps him in a most practical way. The man who appreciates music in ringing will not easily tolerate bad and slovenly striking. Unfortunately there are far too many ringers who think that to ring a method means to go through a course or a touch of it without a missed place or dodge. They do not realise that what really matters is how the dodging and places sound.

Lately there has been some discussion and disagreement about the musical qualities of Kent Treble Bob. It may be worth while to consider the matter a little.

For many years Kent was looked upon as the very best of methods for producing music. Then some fifty years ago, when other methods began to come into practice, there was in some quarters a very great change in opinion. We again quote Sir Arthur Heywood. 'I am aware,' he writes, 'that many leading ringers hold Treble Bob as excellent music, but with all deference to their opinion, I must take leave to observe that excellence is a comparative quality, and that no one with the slightest ear for harmony, who has rung Superlative or Double Norwich, would again take the same pleasure as before in Treble Eight. The regard for Treble Bob is simply due to the fact that those who admire it have never heard anything better.'

It is not quite fair to condemn Treble Bob because it is not Double Norwich. It should be judged on its own merits, and that is what we fancy so many modern critics do not do. Treble Bob is not a fashionable method. A band which considered itself good enough to ring Cambridge or Superlative would hardly start for a peal of Kent. Generally, when it is rung there is one or more novice in the band, and so Treble Bob is never struck as it could be struck by the best bands, and its best qualities are not revealed. Perhaps if a really good band put the same skill and attention into ringing a peal of Treble Bob as they do into, say, a peal of Spliced Surprise, there would be another tale to be told.

Treble Bob has the two main features we said were necessary for producing good music. It keeps the natural coursing order of the bells well, and it has continual dodging. These should produce good music, and they do. Perhaps for the outside listener Treble Bob supplies all that is needed.

What, then, are its defects? They lie almost entirely in the fact that there is not much variety in the rhythm. It is in this respect that Double Norwich and Superlative (so far as the plain course is concerned) are superior. This is a defect which affects the men who are ringing, not the outside listener.

But people will tell us that the great defect, musically, of Treble Bob is the Slow Work. They are wrong. It

(Continued on next page.)

METHOD ADAPTATION.**AN ALTERNATIVE EXTENSION OF STEDMAN.**

Sir,—Now that practical ringing has been curtailed, articles in 'The Ringing World' are indicating that attention is being turned to the construction of methods and their qualities, and there is no doubt that many paths are open for investigation. If we can get something which is apparently good, on paper, it could be tried out.

The articles on the Standard Methods gives much food for thought, and reminded me of a remark I heard at the Central Council meeting held at Chelmsford a few years ago. The speaker said there was only one Stedman's method, and that was Stedman Doubles. To ring it on a higher number was only an adaptation. The statement was not disputed.

If Stedman's method is accepted in the present form on the higher number of bells, another means of adaptation, which confines itself to the principle, could also be accepted. It conforms to the rules, i.e., quadruple changes in the nine bell method, and quintuple changes in the eleven bell method, and both uninterrupted throughout.

There is a good argument against it, too much dodging in one section, but the Caters has only one more dodge, and the Cinques two, the latter being a five pull dodge. We accept five pull dodges in Superlative, and these are made front and back, whereas in this it is only at the back end.

It could be named 'New Stedman.' This would distinguish it from what is now practised. Here is an avenue open for the peal composers.

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PETER CROOK.

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214357698	214365798x0
241536789	2416375890x
425163879	4261738509x
24156	2416378
21465	2143687
12645	1234867
16254	1328476
61524	3182746
65142	3817264
564128397	8371624
	8736142
651482937	786341205x9
615849	
16854	87361402x59
18645	8371604
81465	3817064
84156	3180746
48516	1308476
458619273	1034867
	0143687
	0416378
	4061738
	4607183x295

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

is entirely a mistake to suppose that you improve the have rung peals not only of Forward Major and Royal, but also of the eight and ten-bell variation of Kent which eliminate the Slow. They were mostly excellently struck peals, and in every case the opinion was freely expressed that the variations were musically failures. The reason is quite easy to see. The musical value of the Slow is that it gives relief from monotony and sameness, and very much enhances the music of the other leads. Nor, since the musical beat is well maintained, are the two leads, when the tenors are in the Slow, in themselves displeasing to a musical ear.

Treble Bob does not give the varied and pleasing rhythms that some other methods do, but it is a most excellent method for teaching good striking, and supplies almost everything that is needed for outside effect.

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.**

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 12th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 14th, at St. James' Church Schoolroom opposite Cardiff Infirmary, Newport Road, Cardiff, at 4 o'clock.—John W. Jones Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryon Road, Newport, Mon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street. Those who want tea must advise me not later than the 17th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, April 19th. Tower Bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tower bells and handbells available afterwards. Social evening to follow. Please send numbers for tea by previous Wednesday. All welcome. Combined meeting with Western Branch at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.) on Saturday, May 10th. Details later.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.—A meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, April 19th, at 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided at the Battle Axes Hotel at 4 o'clock. All are welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Orlingbury on Saturday, April 19th. Service 4.30. Tea after. No names—no tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, near Kettering.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woolton, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 19th. The tower bells and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. For tea kindly notify Mr. E. L. Humphriss, Abbots Lea Cottage, Woolton Hill, Liverpool, before Wednesday, April 16th.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool, 17.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 19th. Committee 3 p.m. General meeting 3.30.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 19th. Service in All Saints' Church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting St. PAUL's Parish Room 4.45. Handbell ringing in All Saints' tower, 3.15 and after tea. Notification for tea *not later* than April 15th. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 19th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; tea, St. Peter Mancroft Hall, 5; business meeting 5.30.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec., 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General annual meeting at Nottingham on Saturday, April 19th (12th not available). Handbells at St. Peter's from 2 o'clock. Committee meet 2.45 in St. Peter's vestry. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and general meeting. Notice for tea must be sent not later than 12th to F. Salter, 110, Noel Street, Nottingham. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, April 26th. St. Peter's belfry open from 2 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service, with address, in church at 4.45. No arrangements made for tea. A room has been procured at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, for social evening with handbells from 6.30.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Cookham on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells available. Guild service at 4 p.m. Tea at Royal Exchange at 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. per head. Names must be sent by April 21st.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The tower of St. John's will be open, with handbells available. A service will be held at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Please inform Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, if you require tea not later than April 22nd.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.

MEETING AT BUSHEY, Saturday, April 26th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, 3.45 p.m. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice in all methods and social gossip. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. Open to all interested in ringing. Good bus service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Herts Association.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Danbury. Service at 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Six 'silent' tower bells available from 3 p.m. Please send numbers for tea by Tuesday, April 22nd.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells will be available in the schoolroom from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. Do your duty.—Ivan Kay, Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. Ringers wishing to enter the restricted defence area are advised to send 2½d. stamp for a personal summons.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th. Resolutions for the agenda should reach me by Saturday, April 19th (Rule 10). Tea will be arranged, if possible, but **only** for those whose **names** are given to the branch or general secretaries at least ten days before the meeting. Will members please note, as the committee have decided to strictly enforce this?—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. F. W. Rogers, hon. secretary of Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, is 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

EDGAR GUISE.—All communications until further notice should be made to 7, Higham Street, Totterdown, Bristol 4.

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DEATH.

REYNOLDS.—Mary, aged seven, beloved daughter of Jack and Winnie and only granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker. Died April 4th, at Scribers Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham.

THANKS.

Mr. W. J. Nevard wishes to thank all kind friends for their letters of sympathy and goodwill. Will they please accept this as the only intimation, as he is still unable to answer by letter. He is progressing slowly.

CALNE, WILTS.—On February 2nd, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: J. Slade (conductor) 1-2-3-4, H. Hillier 5-6. Rung in honour of Mr. S. Hillier's 69th birthday. And on March 17th, 600 Grandsire Doubles in honour of J. Slade's 67th birthday: J. Slade 1-2-3-4, H. Hillier 5-6.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 18th, 1941.

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TECHNICAL TERMS.

On another page we print a letter from Mr. Peter Laflin, in which he discusses the term 'out-of-course,' a familiar and widely used expression among ringers. Mr. Laflin wonders where it came from, and points out that it is much older than change ringing, and is used in both the Prayer Book and the Authorised Versions of the Psalms.

Many other ringers, we feel sure, have noticed this similarity and have wondered what, if any, connection there is between the meanings of the two uses. It is all a tiny part of a most interesting subject, the origin, use and development of words, a subject to which much learning and many books have been devoted.

So far as the terms used in ringing are concerned, no one has yet to our knowledge made any real study of their origin, but perhaps one day some student will be found with the necessary ability, skill and patience to undertake the task. It is one where it is easy to reach conclusions with the certainty that most of them will be wrong.

In the case under discussion, however, it is not difficult to see the truth. 'Course' is a very old English word, and, like so many more old words, it has a number of meanings all related to each other, but all distinct. Six hundred years ago, early in the fourteenth century, before our present English language can be said to have existed, an old chronicler used the words 'out of course' as meaning 'out of order,' or 'chaotic.' That is the meaning of the expression in the psalm, and perhaps some such idea was in the minds of the ringers who first used it, but that is rather more than doubtful.

The root meaning of the word 'course' is 'the path' or 'direction in which something moves.' Now the essence of change ringing is the movement of the bells, so it was quite natural for men to talk about the 'course' of a bell, meaning its work, just as we still talk about a 'skeleton course.' It was a rather later development to call the combined work of all the bells the 'course' of the method.

So long as the ringing was all right the bells were 'in course,' but when two or more shifted they got 'out of course.' The expression was applied (as it still often is) to the ringing as a whole; it was a comparatively late development to apply it to individual rows, and to use the terms 'in' and 'out-of-course' as we now use the terms 'even' and 'odd.'

This is a good example of how technical terms originate and develop. They start as ordinary words used with ordinary meanings, but gradually, as necessity arises,

(Continued on page 182.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

they acquire special and restricted meanings which are not always quite the same as the original meanings. Sometimes a word starts with a general meaning and in time is used with one special meaning in some circumstances and quite another in other circumstances. The word 'bob' is a case in point, and is also an illustration of how this dual meaning can exist without any confusion whatever.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Thursday, April 10, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT STEDMAN, SKYFICHLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, being 720 each of St. Simon's, Morning Star, London, April Day, Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

*ALFRED JORDON 1-2 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 3-4

*WALTER J. CLOUGH 5-6

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

* First peal in more than three methods. First handbell peal of
Doubles in more than four methods for the association.

SIXTH'S PLACE BOBS.

AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We will do our best to answer the questions Mr.
Christopher Woolley asks in your last issue.

The following is a quotation from the new Surprise Major book:—
'Every Surprise Major Method has two alternative bobs, one with
Fourth's Place and the other with Sixth's.'

'Sixth's Place bobs are of little value in Second's Place Methods,
and Fourth's Place bobs are almost entirely used, but there are
Methods in which the latter will not give a true peal (e.g., Sil-
chester) and others where they cause a bell to lie still for four blows.
These four blows for very many years have been allowed by the
Exercise in the case of Kent Treble Bob, and are not nearly so objec-
tionable in practice as they seem to be in theory. On the whole,
Fourth's Place is much the better bob of the two, but the Sixth's Place
can be used if preferred.

'With Eighth's Place Methods the Sixth's Place is the normal, but
the alternative is usually just as good and sometimes better. Either
may in cases cause a bell to lie still for four blows, and in some
Methods one or the other will not give a true peal. In MS. Methods
the Lead End is the same as in Kent Treble Bob, and when the
incidence of the falseness does not fall in the first, second or seventh
Leads, there is an enormously greater scope for composition with the
Fourth's Place Bob than with the Sixth's Place. With GS, HS, JS,
KS and LS methods, the Fourth's Place opens a field for composition
which is not only very large, but is practically untouched, and it adds
very often to the interest of the Method in ringing, since five bells
are affected by the bob and it puts their work backwards or forwards
two, three or four leads.

'Although we have given what seems to us to be the better of the
two alternative bobs to each Method, there is no reason why the
other should not be used if it is preferred; and there is no reason
why any Method should always be rung with the same bob. A Method
like Double Norwich could quite well be rung with a Fourth's Place
Bob, which would give a very interesting variation from the ordinary
practice.'

It will be seen that we have taken a somewhat cautious attitude,
for we think that anything provocative or contentious is out of place
in a standard text book, but our personal opinion is considerably
more definite. It may not be logical to allow both fourth's and sixth's
place bobs in eighth's place methods, and to discourage sixth's place
bobs in second's place methods, but we are certain that experience
teaches that these latter are objectionable and at the best makeshifts.
Few would have anything to say against ringing Double Norwich
with a fourth's place bob, but all would cry out against the use of
sixth's place bobs in Bob Major. Sixth's place bobs in a second's
place method have only been used in three instances, and in every
case because the fourth's place bob would not work or was supposed
to create some defect.

A standard call is to some extent a part of the method, but there is
no reason why suitable variations should not be introduced into any
method.

The natural position of the bob in any method with one hunt is at
the change between the leads. In some instances this is necessary for
the truth of the composition. There is no rule to prevent a bob being
made anywhere that may be convenient.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 172.)

III. THE FOUNDATION.

When he had decided in his mind that the Exercise needed a Central Council, Arthur Heywood realised that the formation of such a body was a task which he himself would have to undertake practically unaided.

His success in what he set out to do was so rapid and so complete that we can very easily overlook the difficulties of his task. The Exercise had not changed during the five years which had followed the complete failure of the earlier attempt. The great mass of the ordinary ringers in town and village were indifferent to any such scheme. Their opinion is summed up in the question which was asked scores of times, then and later, though never to obtain information: What good would it do? The old societies had not abandoned their attitude of hostility and dislike of any new body. This opposition was most active and vocal in London, but it had the support of the majority of the old-established bands in the country, and was based on the age-long traditions and prejudices of the Exercise. It was only from the small minority of men who were influenced by new ideas that Heywood could look for support, and, fortunately, they practically controlled the great territorial associations, for, though he fully intended to carry the thing through by himself, he could not act unless he had at least the nominal assent and co-operation of the Exercise.

The way in which he first introduced his scheme was extraordinarily clever. On February 28th, 1889, Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, reached his eightieth birthday. Heywood had formed a deep and sincere liking and respect for the old gentleman, and to celebrate the event he gave a dinner at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, to which he invited the chief ringing officer of each county or diocesan association, or such delegate as he might appoint.

The dinner followed the usual course, but toward the close Heywood, in thanking the company for drinking his health, brought forward five resolutions which he asked them to adopt.

The first was: 'That this meeting, while failing to see the advantages of a National Ringers' Association, is of opinion that great benefit would accrue to the Exercise if a committee consisting of one or more selected members from each association could meet from time to time to consider and decide such ringing matters as are a cause of perplexity.'

The second resolution declared: 'That this meeting is of opinion that the advantages attending the establishment of a General Ringers' Benefit Society would not be great enough to outweigh the immense difficulty of collecting and administering the funds in a satisfactory manner.'

The third was: 'That in the opinion of this meeting the indefiniteness of many of the terms at present in use, more especially in the scientific treatment of campanology, imperatively demands the attention of the Exercise with a view to their revision and improvement.'

The fourth: 'That this meeting, approving the whole-some rivalry which has been established between the various ringing associations in the number of peals annually recorded by each, is of the opinion that the registration (in the tabular list of peals) of any performance in the name of more than one such association is destructive of fair comparison.'

The final one was: 'That this meeting considers it eminently desirable that there should be some authoritative definition as to the extent of departure from absolute correctness of ringing which may be permitted in a true peal.'

The first two resolutions were, of course, the really important ones. They approved the general idea of a Council, and got rid of two alternative plans, both of which had supporters in the Exercise and might have been rivals of the plan Heywood had in his mind. The two were a National Association with unlimited membership, and a Ringers' Benefit Society.

The other three resolutions were brought forward probably to show what sort of things the proposed Council would deal with. They were matters on which Heywood had already formed definite opinions, and, in fact, were among the earliest things brought before the Council.

The resolutions were, of course, carried unanimously. They probably would in any case have been passed by the particular body of men then present, but, after having enjoyed a man's hospitality and (it is to be supposed) reached the benevolent stage which comes at the end of a good dinner, the company could hardly have rejected the resolutions proposed by their host.

Heywood had now got the authority he needed to act, and his guests went back to their own associations practically pledged to secure for him their support.

Each association was asked to bring the first of the Birmingham resolutions before its annual meeting and to signify its approval. Many of them did so, and whenever it was proposed it was passed. There seems to have been very little enthusiasm, but that really did not matter. In those days, when communications were very scanty, it was usually only once a year that the associations in the rural districts, like the Norwich Diocesan, or the Devonshire, or the Oxford Diocesan held a general meeting. At such times the men from the villages and small towns sat tongue-tied and accepted anything that the few men, who really ran the society, proposed. They might not always agree, but they kept their opinions for the time when they went with their own fellows to have a drink at the public-house. If men like Earle Bulwer, Captain Moore and Gervase Holmes supported the new Council, nothing else much mattered so far as the Norwich Diocesan Association was concerned.

All the Exercise was not equally inarticulate. The Lancashire men appeared at first as if they intended to reject the scheme. On the other hand, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where conservative opinions might have been expected to be strong, the new Council was welcomed. Here we may, no doubt, see the result of the influence of the brothers Snowdon and of Charles Henry Hattersley, who, though he was an inheritor of old traditions and old prejudices, was genuinely open to new ideas.

Heywood's personal influence secured the support of the Midland Counties Association and of the Birmingham men. The latter, in the circumstances, was one of the most important.

There remained the hardest problem of all—London. In those years the Society of College Youths and, to a hardly less degree, the Society of Cumberland Youths, enjoyed reputations and a prestige based on their long histories, which were without parallel in the provinces. Both societies had bands which could ring Stedman Cinques excellently well, and to the country ringer, who

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

seldom had an opportunity of entering a twelve-bell tower, Stedman Cinques was on a lofty plane to which he hardly dare aspire. A Central Council which did not include the College Youths was hardly thinkable, and yet, as we have seen, the members as a whole were actively opposed to the whole thing. If the resolution had come before the society in the ordinary way it would (we cannot doubt) have been rejected.

Heywood evidently quite understood this, so he took advantage of the fact that he was a member and went up to London and himself moved the resolution. The personal intervention succeeded. The society was anything but enthusiastic, and Muskett and others, as might have been expected, were very critical. Heywood got his way, not because he convinced the members of the value of his scheme, but partly because of the prestige a man of his social position naturally enjoyed, and partly because, for all the many and great differences between him and them, there were important points where he and the best of them did come into very close contact. His natural conservatism could appreciate their reliance on tradition, and there was more than one of them for whom he had a real liking and respect. No one could be long in the company of Matthew Wood without recognising a man of outstanding personality and character. James Pettit was always a gentleman in the best sense of that very difficult word. Edwin Horrex was a lovable man. William Cooter might appear hard, but he had a great ringing career behind him. All the College Youths, of course, were not the equals of these men. Muskett was merely truculent, and Robert Haworth, who pulled more strings among the London ringing underworld, and controlled more paid ringing than anyone else, was rather sly and oily. 'Treacle,' the younger members called him. Heywood, however, made good his position in the society, and throughout his career he always acknowledged its outstanding position. It can hardly be said that he ever received any particular support from it in his work on the Council.

Heywood had now got a general approval from the associations, and the next step was to ask them to send one or two representatives to a meeting in London so that a definite scheme might be sanctioned. It met at the Inns of Court Hotel in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Easter Tuesday, April 8th, 1890. Forty-four men had been selected to represent twenty-nine societies, and forty turned up. Only three of them are still alive to-day, and, curiously, all three represented London societies—Mr. H. R. Newton for the St. James' Society, and Messrs. F. E. Dawe and R. T. Woodley for the College Youths. Of the others, the best remembered are C. H. Hattersley (Yorkshire), F. E. Robinson and J. W. Washbrook (Oxford Diocesan), A. P. Heywood and J. W. Taylor (Midland Counties), H. J. Elsee (Lancashire), G. F. Attree and C. D. P. Davies (Sussex County), H. Bastable (St. Martin's, Birmingham), Leonard Proctor (Herts), R. S. Story (Durham and Newcastle), F. G. Newman and T. L. Papillon (Essex), E. W. Carpenter (Kent), H. Earle Bulwer and Captain Moore (Norwich Diocesan), and G. B. Lucas (Middlesex).

Heywood was, of course, the chairman, but not before a rather significant episode took place. After Earle Bulwer had suggested his name, John Rogers, one of the

Cumberland Youths, proposed Leonard Proctor instead. Rogers was a rather disputatious person, something of the style of George Muskett, and his action was evidently meant to tell Heywood that he need not think he was going to be the boss and have everything his own way. Heywood took it as such, and disclaimed the least inclination to lead in any particular, but everyone, including himself, knew he was the only possible man for the job. Proctor, who was content to let others do the bob calling in his own belfry, was the last man to desire the office.

Until the meeting no details of any scheme had been made public. Heywood had sought and obtained approval for a general idea and did not want to jeopardise it by differences of opinion on how it should be carried out. But he had prepared a draft scheme in full detail and had already submitted it to some of his friends. This scheme was put before the meeting as a basis of discussion, and after some unimportant amendments was adopted. It settled the constitution of the Council and the rules under which it worked until the recent revision.

So the Council was formed, but it remained to be seen whether it would justify its existence. Heywood had successfully accomplished the first part of his task, but he had still to guide the Council through the difficulties and dangers of its youth.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE MINUTES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It might interest you to have a few notes from our committee minutes.

February 9th, 1889.—That a deputy from this association be sent to attend the Johnson Birthday Celebration at Birmingham on February 28th, 1889, in response to an invitation issued by A. Percival Heywood, Esq., to all associations and guilds in the country. That Mr. A. E. Holme, vice-president, be appointed to represent the association. Failing his inability to attend, Mr. R. Wreakes be sent. That all necessary expenses be paid.

At the quarterly meeting on April 27th, 1889, Mr. Holme gave a report of the proceedings. The proposed Central Ringing Council was discussed and was adopted, subject to approval of the annual meeting. The annual meeting was held on October 12th. It was resolved that the association join the Central Ringing Council and that the Rev. H. J. Elsee and Mr. G. Longden be appointed representatives on the provisional committee of the Central Council.

April 26th, 1890.—After hearing the report of the Rev. H. J. Elsee and Mr. G. Longden, it was resolved that the travelling expenses be paid.

You will see from the above the Lancashire Association was in it from the beginning. Canon Elsee attended all meetings (except about two when he was in South Africa on a mission) until the time of his death, although he was not at the Birmingham dinner. The scheme seemed from the beginning to be favourable to the association.

W. H. SHUKER.

106, Bank Street, Clayton, Manchester 11.

TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The advantages of the lengthening lead plan (on which I see both Mr. Dench and Mr. Harvey have agreed), together with the lesser point about contiguous places, were the only reasons for my mentioning Treble Bob in the discussion of Surprise methods. I think this fact was evidently not appreciated by some of the supporters of Treble Bob.

Good striking, which depends on the band, and bells at least good enough to be heard properly, are essentials; but these are only factors concerned with individual performances. To introduce them as arguments for or against any particular method is, to my mind, very unsound reasoning. The use of such arguments cannot carry very strong conviction in favour of the case they are intended to support.

C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey.

OXFORD.—On Tuesday, March 25th, at New College, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (10 different callings) by W. H. B. Leese 1-2, J. E. Spice (conductor) 3-4, *Miss W. Laws 5-6. *First quarter-peal. Rung in celebration of the ringer of 1-2 having passed his 'finals.'

MR. C. L. ROUTLEDGE. SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY RINGING.

On Monday, March 31st, Mr. C. L. Routledge, who is one of the foremost and best known ringers in the North of England, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, and in honour of the event an attempt for a peal of Bob Major on handbells was arranged by members of the Durham and Newcastle Association. Unfortunately one of the band was kept busy at 'the works' and after a long wait a 720 Bob Minor was rung by C. L. Routledge 1-2, W. H. Barber (conductor) 3-4, E. Wallace 5-6. As Mr. Wallace's 21st birthday had fallen on the previous Friday, there were mutual congratulations going round.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. MEETING AT DARFIELD.

The April meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Darfield on Saturday, April 5th, and members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Wath and the local company.

The reading room was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening, and the handbells were brought into action and made very good use of.

The Rector, the Rev. H. Drown, spent most of the afternoon with the ringers, and it being the first time he had witnessed any handbell ringing, he appreciated it very much. He expressed the opinion that it was nice to be able to keep the art going in this way. It kept the members together and the flag flying so that when the time came they would be able to go back to the towers ready for action.

An apology was received from the president, Mr. E. Brookes, for absence, as he was on duty as a fire spotter.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for all he had done and for the welcome he had given the society was passed, and, in reply, he said he was pleased to welcome the society once more to Darfield. He regretted that owing to conditions which all present knew quite well he could not provide the usual tea which added so much to the meetings. He felt that instead of entertaining the ringers he himself had been entertained by the handbell ringing, but he hoped it would not be long before bellringing would be resumed.

Tea was served at the Cross Keys Hotel at 5.15, after which the members returned to the reading room for further handbell ringing.

The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Plain, Double, Reverse and St. Clement's Bob Minor, Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Plain and Little Bob Major Spliced, Plain, Reserve and Double Bob Major Spliced, and Plain and Gainsborough Major Spliced.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, May 10th.

IN AND OUT OF COURSE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent X.Y.Z. refers to the terms 'in-course' and 'out-of-course' as being 'proper and historical.'

Ringers know what they stand for, but I have often wondered where they came from, because one of these terms, namely, 'out-of-course,' is much older than change ringing. In Psalm 82, second half of verse 5, are the words 'all the foundations of the earth are *out of course*.' It is the same both in the Authorised Version 1611 and in the Prayer Book Version of the Psalms (attributed to Coverdale about 1549). The point is that it could not have applied to rows and changes at first, but might have been borrowed to express something not understood. Perhaps one of our clerical ringers could explain this term for us.

P. LAFLIN.

25, Hallam Street, Stockport.

AN ENDOWMENT FOR BELL ROPES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Arthur Wright, continuing his articles on the 'Church Bells of Monmouth' in the last issue of the 'Archæologia Cambrensis,' the journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association, mentions some very interesting details of the six bells of St. Bridget's, Skenfrith, Mon.

The bells were cast by Thomas Rudhall in 1764, and the treble has the ob. of George II. halfpenny on waist. On the second bell is the couplet, 'When you us ring we'll sweetly sing.' I don't remember a similar instance of Rudhall using this.

A piece of land comprising about 4 acres near Blackbrook is called Ynys-y-Glock and Ynys-y-Eglwys (Bell and Church Meadow), the profits of which were for the repair of the church and maintaining ropes for the bells. In 1691 it was let by the churchwardens to Richard Morgan, wheelwright, for 99 years, at a rent of 20s., he agreeing to keep the bells in order. In 1783 Sir John Briggs purchased it for £263, and joined it with his lawn, pulling down a house on it and cutting down the timber. It was sold in 1825 with the estate to Edward Barker, who on demand gave £1 to buy bell ropes.

A commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Brougham, which was set up on a petition from the parishioners, recommended that action be taken to recover this land, but no action was ever taken by them. Does any reader know of any similar instance where land was given for the repair and upkeep of bell ropes?

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

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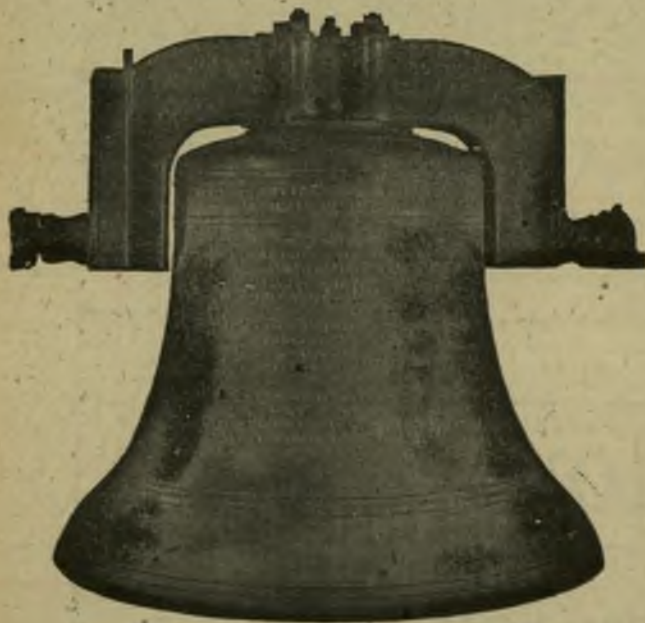
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that the Editor continues to make satisfactory, although slow, progress toward recovery. He is still in hospital.

Once again he desires to thank his many friends for their kind inquiries and good wishes.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

To-day is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Heywood, an account of whose life and work for the Exercise and the Central Council is appearing in our columns.

We have received a letter from Mr. William Keeble, who is still in hospital at Colchester. He tells us that he is keeping fairly well, but has suffered from a number of fits, the last attack a rather bad one. Fortunately he was in bed at the time. All ringers will extend to Mr. Keeble their sympathy and good wishes. In his time he has taken part in many splendid performances, including double-banded Surprise (London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative) and the record peal of London Surprise on tower bells.

The 'funny man' of 'The Suffolk Chronicle and Mercury' writes. 'One of the few advantages of this dreadfully noisy war is, it has, closed down the belfries and given us a bit of peace on practice nights! But when it's over perhaps I'll be more friendly to an hour or so's racket once a week. The bellringers may have funny ideas of pleasure, but the Government lug-plugs ought to be handy when the bellringers get really busy on their Grandsires, Triple Bob Majors, or whatever they call 'em.'

On April 13th, 1914, the record peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, 14,000 changes, was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne. Arthur E. Pegler rang the tenor and Samuel Wood conducted from the treble. The composition was John Reeves' peal, slightly varied by Henry Johnson.

Three years earlier on April 17th in the same tower and by much the same band the record peal of Kent Maximus was accomplished. Samuel Wood called this from the ninth, and the tenor was rung by James George.

We have just heard from Mr. George that, though at times he has not been at all well, he is at present as well as can be expected. He naturally feels the loss of his leg tremendously, and though he has been to the expense of an artificial limb, it is quite useless to him.

A gallant attempt to ring 22,096 changes of Double Norwich Major at Heptonstall on April 14th, 1928, failed after about 18,360 changes had been rung in 10 hours and 36 minutes.

The first peal of Bob Major in Ireland was conducted by James W. Washbrook at Arklow on April 14th, 1906.

In view of the correspondence now appearing in our columns, it is interesting to notice that on April 15th, 1813, 6,272 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major were rung at St. Giles', Norwich, with sixth's place bobs.

Yesterday was the anniversary of three famous peals in addition to that at Ashton-under-Lyne just mentioned. In 1820 the Birmingham men rang the then longest peal of Treble Twelve; in 1900 a peal of Superlative, 9,312 changes, was rung at Irthlingborough; and in 1769 the Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Norwich Royal.

To-day is the anniversary of some famous peals. In 1737 the Painswick men rang 12,006 Grandsire Caters; in 1874 the Cumberlands rang 13,440 Double Norwich Major at Romford; and in 1927 the Lancashire Association rang the record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 17,824 changes, at Heptonstall.

James R. Haworth was born on April 21st, 1821. He lived to a great age and died just before the last war.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1, Union Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2.

The Stedman Triples was rung by the College Youths at St. Andrew's, Wells. Street, on the bells and in the steeple which have since been moved to Kingsbury.

One of the peals of Double Norwich was conducted by Mr. George Williams and rung at Reigate on Dr. Arthur B. Carpenter's birthday.

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMOUS BELLS.

It is now confirmed that the worst has happened to the famous ring of twelve at St. Giles', Cripplegate. Mr. R. F. Deal informs us that eight of the bells which were in the steeple have now been taken down. Several of them, including the tenor, are badly damaged, in most cases being split across the crown. Very little is left of the other five.

MR. A. J. HARRIS.**LEICESTER RINGER DECORATED FOR BRAVERY.**

In the course of a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace, the King bestowed the medal of the Order of the British Empire on Mr. Alfred James Harris for bravery during an air raid at Leicester last November.

Mr. Harris was the leader of a voluntary A.R.P. rescue squad operating in the thick of the bombing.

The 'London Gazette' officially states that 'the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire' was awarded Mr. Harris 'for meritorious service.' 'He was the leader of a voluntary A.R.P. rescue party operating in the thick of the bombing. He and his party succeeded in rescuing over twenty casualties from dangerous buildings. Mr. Harris did splendid work. He worked continuously for ten hours until he was exhausted. It was undoubtedly due to his splendid leadership and disregard to his own personal safety that his squad was so successful in their efforts.'

Mr. Harris is a well-known member of the Midland Counties Association and the Leicester Cathedral Society. He is a member of the Central Council. He began his ringing career in 1902 and joined the Midland Counties Association in 1908. He was secretary of the Leicester Branch from 1909 to 1911 and president from 1924 to 1938. He was elected representative on the Central Council in 1936.

He is also a past president of the Leicester Branch of the National Federation of Master Painters and Decorators of England and Wales, and holds several offices in the Decorating Section of the Leicester College of Arts and Crafts.

From 1915 to 1919 he served in the Royal Field Artillery.

The Exercise will congratulate Mr. Harris on the honour His Majesty has conferred on him.



MR. A. J. HARRIS.

SILCHESTER SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank Messrs. Trollope and Turner, of the Methods Committee, for their reply to my letter of April 4th, but it does not alter the remark they made on the above method in their letter of March 28th.

The second paragraph contains remarks I have heard many times over, as to short courses, 'In and 5th, etc.' I agree they are not compulsory and am pleased to know that efforts are being made to break away in 'spliced ringing' from the 'three lead plan.'

I know they are experienced 'spliced peal ringers,' but personally I found no difficulty in the only two attempts I have ever made, without practice, beyond just a course or two at perhaps just the tail end of a district meeting.

As to Berkeley Surprising, I suppose it is the usual matter of opinion. Ask those who have rung a peal of it.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Care should be taken when instructing beginners with handbells, either double-handed or single-handed, to teach on the proper lines, otherwise the effort will be wasted when the time comes for those same persons to see what they can do in the tower. They will be all at sea. I know a case of a man tapping Surprise methods who could not ring them in the steeple.

New ideas are all right if the ringer is brought on to understand change ringing so that when the war is over he can take his place in the tower on one bell. Put a clapper stay across six or eight bells and practice on them. These stays are easily made. I will forward a sketch to anyone sending me a stamped envelope.

J. HUNT.

Taunton.

DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR DEAN.**WELL-KNOWN SURREY RINGER.**

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur Dean, of Leatherhead, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 6th, leaving a widow, three sons and six daughters to mourn their loss.

The funeral took place at Leatherhead, on Thursday, April 10th, and at the conclusion of the service in church, which was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge), a course of Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung by four of the local company.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Surrey Association, the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and the local ringers.

In addition to the family mourners and friends, there were present representatives of the Surrey Association (Mr. E. G. Talbot), the Guildford Diocesan Guild (Mr. A. H. Pulling), the Ashtead company (Mr. J. Hoyle), the Cobham company (Mr. W. James) and the local band.

Arthur Dean was born on September 16th, 1864, at the village of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, and at an early age learned to ring on the five bells in the village steeple. The local band rang Grandsire Doubles from memory, and he first became acquainted with real change ringing at Beenham, Berks, about 1890. In 1892 he went to London and joined the St. Margaret's company, the Waterloo Society and the Cumberland Youths. His first peal (Grandsire Caters) was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1893. In 1896 he came to Leatherhead and ever since was a member of the local band.

He was a good striker and had but a poor opinion of any ringer who was not. Being of splendid physique, he usually was at the back end, and rang several badly going tenors to peals, including St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, and Kingston-on-Thames, but he was equally at home on a light bell. His peals numbered about 250 in various methods, Grandsire Caters being his favourite, especially when in the handstroke position with the 6th behind the 8th.

In 1923, on the death of Mr. Marks, he was elected captain of the local band and held the office until his death. He was instrumental in getting the bells rehung in 1924. He was a vice-president of the Surrey Association and a foundation member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

HIS WORK FOR THE EXERCISE.

The death of Arthur Dean removes a ringer who over a long period has done yeoman service for the Surrey Association, which two or three years ago expressed its recognition by electing him as a vice-president.

As leader of Leatherhead tower, Mr. Dean had round him a loyal and competent band, who kept up their regular service ringing and rang many peals in the standard methods for the county organisation. Until the coming of the Guildford Diocesan Guild twelve years ago, Leatherhead had always been essentially a Surrey Association tower, although earlier, before the county association came into being, it had joined the Winchester Diocesan Guild. Arthur Dean succeeded to the mantle of Stephen Brooker as conductor and for years he ruled the belfry with a firm hand. He was a blunt man. He said what he had to say without mincing words, but the fact that he always kept a band round him was proof that his plain speaking did not offend.

It was a great blow to him when he became incapacitated by a disease which prevented his getting to the tower. In the days when ringing was permitted, he could hear the bells from his home, and nothing gave him greater delight than to hear them well rung, or to have an old ringing friend drop in for a chat.

When the Guildford Diocesan Guild was formed, Arthur Dean came with the rest of his band readily into the new organisation, and he came without sacrificing any of his loyalties to his old love. It has been a lasting tribute to the whole of the ringers in that part of Surrey that for twelve years the Surrey Association and the Guildford Guild have worked in the friendliest relationship—at the outbreak of the war they were even seeking a closer working agreement—and in all this Arthur Dean gave his co-operation. For the last three or four years his burly form has been missed from the belfry at Leatherhead, but his heart was there, and to the end he retained the liveliest interest in ringing.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL AT CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Notwithstanding the evidence Mr. T. E. Slater brings forward in your last issue, I think it is certain that the Holt's Original at Cambridge in 1797 was conducted by James Bartlett, the College Youth of Kensington, and not by John Bowtell, the Cambridge bookseller.

My authority is the peal book of the Cambridge Youths. That book, I believe, disappeared long since, but about 100 years ago Edward Osborn made a verbatim copy of it, and I used his copy when writing my recent account of Cambridge ringing. There is also independent and nearly contemporary corroboration in Parnell's MS.

Mr. Slater quotes the peal board as giving Bowtell as conductor. I do not know if that board still exists, or if it is readable, or has been rewritten. A copy was given many years ago in 'Church Bells' in much the same words as in Mr. Slater's letter. Jasper Snowdon used this copy and other people have followed him, but it seems that the man who made the copy misread the name which may have been almost illegible. Perhaps some of our Cambridge friends will tell us if the board is still there and if it can be read.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association was held at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, Ealing, on Saturday, April 5th, when about 30 members and friends were present from Brentford, Crayford, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Fulham, Hillingdon (St. John's), Harrow, Kenton, New-castle-on-Tyne, Ruimsip, Twickenham and Walthamstow.

The annual committee meeting preceded the tea. The proceedings were opened by a well-struck touch on the handbells and a few prayers by the Vicar of Twickenham. The annual general meeting followed, presided over by the president, Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, supported by the Rev. W. Paton (St. Lawrence's, Brentford), the Rev. T. Hyslop (curate-in-charge, St. Stephen's), Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president), Mr. C. T. Coles (general secretary), Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey (district secretary) and others.

The secretary presented his annual report, which stated that during the past year three meetings had been held, at Heston, Brentford and Ruimsip. Five new members had been elected and none lost by death. Four churches in union with the district had been damaged by enemy action, but fortunately none seriously. As far as had been ascertained six members were on military service.

'We were all very grieved,' said Mr. Cockey, 'to hear recently of the serious illness of the Editor of "The Ringing World," but it is pleasing to note that he is getting over his operation, and we all hope that he may be soon fully restored to health, to carry on the good work he is doing for ringing generally. The future is uncertain, but full of hope, and may it be that by the time our next annual meeting comes round, we shall be ringing the bells again, perhaps for final victory.'

The statement of accounts, presented by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, showed a balance of £4 handed over to the Central Fund.

All the present officers were asked to remain in office, viz.: Secretary, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Wilson; Ringing Master, Mr. G. M. Kilby; Deputy Ringing Master, Mr. F. G. Baldwin; auditors, Messrs. E. C. S. Turner and A. H. Fulwell; committee, Messrs. C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler and T. Collins. Two new members were elected, Mr. F. Humphreys and Miss P. Norman, of Heston.

The question was raised as to the place for future meetings, and it was left with the secretary to try and arrange a meeting, probably in July, following the annual general meeting and one proposed to be held by the North and East District in June. A cordial invitation was received from the Rev. W. Paton to hold the next annual meeting at Brentford, and this was accepted with the hope that by that time the bells might be ringing again.

The secretary was asked to write to the Vicar of St. Stephen's and to Mr. Goldsmith expressing sympathy in their illnesses, and to the assistant secretary, Mr. Wilson, on service, wishing him good luck. A welcome was extended by the vice-president to Preb. Cole Sheane, the Rev. W. Paton and the Rev. T. Hyslop, to which all suitably replied.

The president proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. and Miss Cockey and Miss Hastie, for arranging the tea, and to Mr. Good (verger) and his wife for arranging the hall, and complimented them all on the excellent arrangements made in face of difficulties. Mrs. Cockey suitably replied.

After the meeting handbell ringing was indulged in till about 7 p.m., when a very pleasant meeting came to an end.

ON FOREIGN SERVICE.

A LETTER FROM A REMOTE ISLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although my being stationed so far away bars me from taking any active part in the Exercise, I still follow with great interest the achievements of those who are in a more fortunate position than myself. I admire their determination in carrying on despite the ban on tower bells, the 'blitz' and other great drawbacks and difficulties which they must meet at a time like this.

It is with deep regret that I read of some of our most ancient and beautiful churches being destroyed and to realise that modern architecture will not be able to replace the beauty and history of those noble buildings.

I was very much interested in an article on the ringing of the death bell. Since I have started ringing I have never heard it mentioned at any of the towers I have rung at, but I distinctly remember when I was in school, at such times when there was a funeral we used to listen for the tenor tolling three slow strokes for a man and two for a woman.

I was also interested in your list of where the curfew was still rung until the ban was imposed. I did not see Shrewsbury in that list. The curfew was rung at St. Mary's every night after the clock had finished striking nine; the clock hammers were then lifted, the eighth was tolled for about two minutes and then set except on Saturday nights, when it was lowered ready for the clerk to use with the apparatus. After setting the eighth, the date of the month was struck on the tenor. The clock hammers were lifted because the church is close to the hospital.

It was with deep regret that I learned of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's serious illness. My latest 'Ringing World' is dated March 7th and contains the news that he expects to go under the major operation

(Continued in next column.)

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was not my intention to make any comment, either on the letter from Mr. Bunce, or your recent editorial, but in order to clear up any wrong impressions which may have arisen as a result of these two articles, or even scepticism and hints of leg-pulling about reports of our progress, I feel I must make some reply.

First with regard to Mr. Bunce's letter: where, may I ask him, have I stated that I have tried to make children, not in their 'teens, try to ring Double Norwich double-handed after a few practices? He is correct in saying that some of our ringers are not in their 'teens; he is also correct in saying that we have rung Double Norwich double-handed; but he is incorrect in combining these two statements, and most incorrect in stating that any of us have rung Double Norwich 'after a few practices.'

And now, sir, a few comments on your editorial. Your first paragraph, quoting from the account of one of our 'at homes,' stated quite correctly that on a recent afternoon we rang courses on all numbers in the standard methods from Minor to Maximus, and half a course of Sextuples. But we accomplished this only with the help of our visitors, and although we did not state it in our account, actually four members of our society and three visitors attended that afternoon; and so to state as you did that 'we feel sure we are right in saying that never before in the whole history of the Exercise has one band at one time rung such a wide and varied selections of methods' you are reading far more into our account than we ever stated. Not only was a lot of what we rang that afternoon 'first attempts' for members of our society, but for our visitors as well; and never have members of the society by themselves, as yet, rung anything more than Major. Such a misstatement in the editorial of a newspaper is bound to give very false impressions, and help to increase the scepticism and hints of leg-pulling with which our efforts are being greeted in some quarters.

Later on you hint that we are employing 'short cuts to success.' I quite agree that the more complex methods on handbells can only be accomplished 'by constant practice, close application, and a thorough knowledge of ringing in general and the special methods in particular.' But this is exactly what we are doing: we study conducting, composing, method construction, shunts, effects of place making, and many other of the branches of ringing theory. And as for 'constant practice,' many of us are getting four practices a week of about one and a half hours each, and when this is spread over six months we have had as much ringing as a lot of our handbell ringers get in as many years.

Nowhere have I hinted that practice and a thorough knowledge of ringing 'has largely been made unnecessary by a new system of teaching.' Recently, in answer to one of your correspondents, I stated quite clearly that the methods we employ are ordinary commonsense methods. A knowledge of the difficulties which are peculiar to handbell ringing, and the means of meeting them based on experience, coupled with constant and concentrated practice, is our formula for success, and not, as you appear to believe, a system which largely evades them.

Highcliffe Society, Swindon.

THE SECRETARY.

(Continued from previous column.)

in a week's time, which means as I sit here writing this that the operation was performed a week ago. I sincerely hope and trust that by the time this reaches you he will be well on his way to recovery and that he will soon be on the active list again.

A thought has just struck me. I was wondering if I were your only reader in this island. If there are other ringers stationed here I should certainly like to drop across them. I have not met any so far; there are none in my own company now. When we were in England there were three more in the same company as myself, but much to my disappointment they were regarded as unfit for foreign service. While we were in England we thought of trying to buy or appealing for a small set of handbells, but my going abroad spoilt our plans.

Being a member of the Shropshire Association and also of the Hereford Diocesan Guild, it is with regret that time after time I receive my 'Ringing World' only to find that there is nothing in about either. It makes one wonder whether our associations are doing all they might be towards keeping the spark alight even if only handbells are available. Personally, I would give quite a lot at the present moment for a touch on the handbells.

When we first landed in this country we were stationed in a large town for a few days, and the day before we left while on a route march I noticed a funeral in a cathedral burial ground. Later in the day as I was passing on my way into the town there were two bells being tolled. I am no musician, but to my mind they sounded like treble and tenor to a peal of eight. Tenor about 30 cwt. was my guess. I almost went up to investigate, but being a stranger in a strange land and not understanding the language deferred me, and I missed the opportunity. If I get back there at any time I shall certainly try to find out more about them.

Well, I could ramble on for pages yet, but I have to finish somewhere, so it might as well be here. So, looking forward to being home in time for a victory peal, I will set. Thanking you once again,

JACK F. BUTLER.

THE STANDARD METHODS.**A WORTHY CANDIDATE.**

Among the simpler methods in the Surprise Major group which are as yet generally unknown, Cornwall seems to be the one best fitted to become a standard method. It has been published three or four times, and the first peal was rung by the talented Helmingham band on October 19th, 1936, but its merits have not yet been recognised.

The method belongs to the Double Norwich family, and its good qualities are largely derived from its ancestry. Here is its pedigree.

A.	CORNWALL S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7
<hr/>	
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7
<hr/>	
X 2 4 3 6 1 5 7 8	2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 5 1 8 7	4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5
2 4 3 6 1 5 7 8	4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 5 1 8 7	6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5
<hr/>	
2 4 3 6 5 8 1 7	4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1	6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1
2 4 3 6 5 8 1 7	6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1	3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1
<hr/>	
Y 2 4 3 6 5 8 7 1	6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1
4 2 6 3 8 5 1 7	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
2 4 3 6 5 8 7 1	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
4 2 6 3 8 5 1 7	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
<hr/>	
2 4 3 6 8 1 5 7	3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 8 7 5	2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7
2 4 3 6 8 1 5 7	2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 8 7 5	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
<hr/>	
Z 2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5
2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 8 3 5 7
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	4 2 1 6 3 8 7 5
<hr/>	
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 8 3 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 3 8 7 5
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
<hr/>	
1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5	1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5

First of all we write down a lead of Double Norwich, adding Sevenths when the treble lies behind, and so producing Pershore Bob.

This we turn into a Treble Bob method by pricking every pair of rows twice, which will give us the lead above marked A.

A is a Surprise Major method, but it has no practical value since it is very false. It is, however, the foundation of a large number of very excellent methods.

It is necessary to get rid of the falseness, and to do that there are scores and, indeed, hundreds, of simple and obvious means.

In our present example Oxford places in 5-6 are made in the first two sections and, of course, in the corresponding two sections in the second half-lead. That disposes of all the repetitions above the treble.

We notice that in A below the treble the four bells in 1-2-3-4 dodge continuously from the time the treble leaves 3-4 until it returns there again; this dodging lasts for four sections or sixteen changes. But sixteen changes is the number needed for a Treble Bob hunting course on four bells, so that if the four bells hunt Treble Bob fashion among themselves, at the end of the four sections they will be in the same positions as they would be if they had continuously dodged. That will get rid of the repetitions below the treble and give us a first-class Surprise method.

But it is capable of still further improvement. In the lead A, sixth's place is made at the two cross sections marked X and Z, and seventh's place is made in the change marked Y. Notice that in all three instances 5-7-8 are together, and that each in turn makes a place. Whenever this happens in a method (and it very frequently does happen) eighth's may be substituted for sixth's at the two cross-sections, and fifth's for seventh's at the half-lead. This is one of the standard ways of varying a method, and makes no difference to its internal truth.

Those who are interested in the finer points of method construction may notice that this variation is a precisely similar one to the substituting a Treble Bob hunting course for continuous dodging in the other part of our example. At X, Y, and Z the three bells 5,7,8 go through a Six, the changes at Y (which are below the treble) being reversed. When we make the variation we substitute continuous dodging.

The value of making the variation in our method is that we get rid of the excessive dodging of A. Instead of 5-pull dodging we have 3-pull and single dodging.

Cornwall therefore is developed from the lead A by three very simple operations. It is quite easy to see many more which would give us methods. We could have, for instance, two Plain backward hunting courses on the four front bells instead of the one Treble Bob hunting course. We get them in Peterborough and in Leatherhead. And here is another rather more complex operation which may be compared with one in Bristol Surprise.

2436	2436	2436
4263	2346	4263
2436	3264	4623
4263	3624	6432
<hr/>		
2436	6342	4623
4263	6432	4263
2436	4623	2436
4263	4263	4236

Examination and experiment will soon reveal many more variations both below and above the treble, but Cornwall is much the best of the lot.

(To be continued.)

VARIATIONS OF HOLT'S SINGLE.

FROM CANON G. H. RIDOUT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A Holt's Single has five bells lying still, while one pair of bells makes a change. The changing pair could be at six different points: 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, or 6-7. These may be referred to as H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 and H6.

In H1 the treble changes with the hunt bell: this must, therefore, be made as the treble goes off the lead (back and hand). The first H would be called at the word 'go,' and at the first change 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 all lie still. The corresponding call (at half-way, or wherever used) brings the bells from 1235476 into the plain course. It is, therefore, the simplest, most familiar and safest way of getting over the Holt. It has been used by G. Lindoff and others.

H2 is the form used by Holt himself and by many others.

H1, H2, H4 and H6 all produce twofold shunts.

H3 and H5 produce fourfold shunts; therefore, they could only be used in a series of four.

It is regarded as permissible to use two kinds of Holt in one peal, one being a plain lead single and the other a Bob single (used by C. D. P. Davies and others).

If it were allowable to use H3 and H6 in the same composition, two perfect eight part peals could be produced.

No. 1.—Calls at 5, 5, 3, 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 5, 5.

No. 2.—Calls at 5, 5, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 1, 5, 5.

Each seven times repeated.

All calls are Bob, except the final call at the part end. The scale of part ends runs:—

H3 352476	H3 452367
H3 543267	H3 534276
H3 425376	H3 325467
H6 243576	H6 234567

In any two complementary parts the repeating bells, 6 and 7, will be six courses in the Hunt; six courses coursing each other, 6 after 7, or 7 after 6 as the case may be; and six courses apart. The composition has the irreducible number of 80 calls.

In H3 the bell which the treble turns makes 2nd's, and into the Hunt. The bell which was in the Hunt works as in Holt's Single. The two back bells also work as in Holt's Single.

The new work is that the bell which should dodge in 4-5 up has only one blow in fifth's place; and then makes second third's place and returns to lead. And the bell which makes first third's will take the place of the bell in 4-5 down; will have one blow in fifth's, and return to lead.

In H5 the two bells in front work as in a common single. The bell which would dodge in 4-5 up works as in Holt's Single. The bell which would dodge in 6-7 down also works as in Holt's Single (7th's place, one blow in sixth, 7th's place again, and again one blow in 6th; 7th's place a third time, and down). The new work here is that the bell coming out of the Hunt may be said to have a single dodge in 4-7 down; and the bell which would be called 'Home' at a Bob has a single dodge in 7-4 up.

W. H. Thompson once remarked that a regular eight-part peal is impossible with the ordinary calls. This is true because the linking up process involves long parts and short parts, making only a lop-sided four-part as the result.

St. Alban's, Johannesburg.

G. H. RIDOUT.

P.S.—Perhaps H3 should be called a 'Middle Single,' and H6 is really an 'Extreme,' or 'Single at the Back.'—G. H. R.

A SUFFOLK PEAL ATTEMPT.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Stowmarket, Friday.—On Tuesday last, the Stowmarket Junior Society of Ringers ascended the tower and pulled down for a peal of 5,264 changes of Bob Major, when after ringing about 4,000 out of that number, unfortunately the sixth rope broke: but still not dismayed, after a little rest and refreshment, they struck off a second time, when they rang and completed the peal in 3 hours and 10 minutes. The band were stationed as under, viz.: William Stevens, jun., treble; Thomas Stevenson, second; John Elmer (who composed and conducted the peal), third; John Garnham, fourth; Robert Cuthbert, fifth; James Warner, sixth; William Stevens, sen., seventh; and George Easlea, tenor.

From 'The Suffolk Chronicle,' March 13th, 1841.

MORE REMINISCENCES.

FIRST PEAL ATTEMPTS.

In the 'Bell News' for 1892, page 79, the following appears: 'Little Heath, Essex. On Wednesday, April 27th, at St. James' Church, four six-scores Bob Doubles, eight six-scores Grandsire, eight six-scores Antelope; F. Gillingham 1, W. Pye 2, E. Pye 3, W. Watson 4, G. Pye (conductor) 5.'

I wonder when this appeared who could foresee that the names of three of this band would live as long as ringing lasts.

I first met them 42 years ago when they were frequent visitors to Erith. I used to go over whenever they were coming, on the off chance of finding them one short, as I badly wanted to ring a peal of Double Norwich. This never happened.

I have never been a 'safe' ringer and my father for this reason had little patience with me. Whenever I broached the subject of a peal he would reply, 'You shall have one when you ring without making so many trips.' From what I remember I did not improve, so one day I plucked up courage and asked Bill for one. Bill smelt a rat and said, 'What about your father? He ought to call it.' I explained matters and he said, 'All right, come over on Sunday week; you shall have one.' We rang it and I can picture him now telling me I rang very well.

I wondered going home how the news would be received, as I had said nothing about it. However, when I broke it father was as pleased as I was and said, 'It shows what you can do when you try.' I think he admired my determination to ring a peal of Double Norwich if possible.

In after years I asked Bill for my first peals of Surprise. These opportunities were given as promptly as the Double Norwich, but were not as successful. A rope broke in the Superlative, we met short for Cambridge and rang Stedman Triples (this, incidentally, was Bob's 400th peal), and I forget what happened to the London.

It was also to him that I made the request for my first peal of Treble Twelve. He rang few of these, and I waited a year or so for it to mature, but it came along one day at Waltham Abbey. There must have been several like myself in this peal for there were five 'firsts' in it.

I told him one day I would like to ring a peal of Cambridge Maximus, but lacked the confidence to start without practice. He said at once, 'I'll get Tom to put a quarter-peal on one Sunday at Cripplegate.' This came along in less than a month and the peal a fortnight later at Canterbury.

My last request was less than ten years ago for my son's first peal of Spliced Surprise, and this was given him as promptly as those given to myself.

I have written the above to try and show how willing he was to help the ordinary ringer. Much has been written about his great performances, but very little about this side.

It needs someone far more able than me to try and do justice to Ernest Pye. Has there been so great a ringer in the history of the Exercise? I have on more than one occasion lost myself in ringing through watching him on a heavy bad going bell. And what a lovable man he was. Those who never knew him cannot begin to appreciate what they have lost.

'Bob,' we are thankful to say, is still with us, and we trust will be for many years. His name is honoured no less than 'Bill and Ernie.'

E. B.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

An enjoyable meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held last Saturday, when a good number of members turned up, including the following members of H.M. Forces: Lieut. G. E. Debenham, Lance-Corpl. F. Shorter, Lance-Corpl. J. Waugh and Aircraftman I. Nelson Elliott.

After the business meeting Stedman Triples and Caters and Bob Major were rung until 5 p.m., when all adjourned for light refreshment. Others present besides the officers were G. N. Price, J. M. Cripps, R. J. Cousins, E. F. Pike, E. A. Young, E. Murrell, R. F. Deal, H. Langdon, W. H. Pasmore, H. G. Miles and J. A. Pryor.

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NOTICES.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General annual meeting at Nottingham on Saturday, April 19th (12th not available). Handbells at St. Peter's from 2 o'clock. Committee meet 2.45 in St. Peter's vestry. Short service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and general meeting. Special business to be transacted, so it is hoped all members possible will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, April 19th. Service in Cathedral 4 p.m., with address by the Dean. Ringing at the Abbey and St. Peter's Church from 2.30 p.m. The belfry of the Abbey has been fitted with electric bells. A good tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting at the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woolton, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 19th. The tower bells and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary-le-Tower belfry, Ipswich, on Saturday, April 19th. Committee 3 p.m. General meeting 3.30.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 19th. Service in All Saints' Church 4 p.m. Tea and meeting St. PAUL'S Parish Room 4.45. Handbell ringing in All Saints' tower, 3.15 and after tea.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 19th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter's belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30; tea, St. Peter Mancroft Hall, 5; business meeting 5.30.—F. Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec., 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MEETING AT BUSHEY. Saturday, April 26th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, 3.45 p.m. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice in all methods and social gossip. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. Open to all interested in ringing. Good bus service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Herts Association.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Worcester, on April 26th. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Staverton on Saturday, April 26th. Tower and handbell ringing. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 22nd. Kindly bring your own sugar.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Cookham on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells available. Guild service at 4 p.m. Tea at Royal Exchange at 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. per head. Names must be sent by April 21st.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The tower of St. John's will be open, with handbells available. A service will be held at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Please inform Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrison's Rise, Croydon, if you require tea not later than April 22nd.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A meeting will be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, April 26th. St. Peter's belfry open from 2 p.m. for handbell ringing. Service, with address, in church at 4.45. No arrangements made for tea. A room has been procured at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, for social evening with handbells from 6.30.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Danbury. Service at 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Six 'silent' tower bells available from 3 p.m. Please send numbers for tea by Tuesday, April 22nd.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells will be available in the schoolroom from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. Do your duty.—Ivan Kay, Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 26th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. Ringers wishing to enter the restricted defence area are advised to send 2d. stamp for a personal summons.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

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A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

Whatever may be the outcome of the storm and stress of these eventful days, this at least is certain, that everything will be changed. Already across the seas they are boasting of the new Europe, fashioned according to National Socialist ideas, which is to last for a thousand years. Here, at home, men with a vision, narrower in time but wider in humanity, are talking of the new and better world which will be born by the travail of the old.

We all hope for better things; the world we knew was not so good that there was no room for improvement, and we have faith that the sacrifices and the labour the country is called upon to make will not be in vain. But good intentions will not make a better world. What is new is not necessarily good, and what is old is not necessarily bad or outworn. On the contrary, the danger when the war is over is that, in the eagerness to remove old abuses and anomalies, we lose touch with the great things which have come down from the past. Here in England, far more than in any other country in the world, we are what we are because of what our forefathers have done. The English sense of liberty and justice, pride of race and love of country, are due to a multitude of little things, traditions and memories kept alive by customs and associations which may appear of no importance, but really are of vital importance. Common sense might tell us that justice would be administered just as truly and just as efficiently by a judge dressed in plus fours as by one vested in wig and scarlet robe, but we know that these trappings do add to the majesty of the law.

It is the same with the church bells. There may be people who think that bellringing is a small and trivial thing, the thought of which might well be laid aside until a more suitable time. If such people there be, they are wrong. The church bell may be a small thing, but it is not trivial. Rather it is a sign and a symbol of the great things of life, the things that really matter. For more than a thousand years the church bell has been a voice which has borne witness to the claims of religion and morality, and it has been a voice which has never gone entirely unheard. Surely the small things are sometimes the greatest. Is there anything nobler in the whole of the great City of London than the cross of gold which still shines above St. Paul's?

If this be true, then it is true that upon us ringers is laid a great trust and a great responsibility. We value the art of change ringing, and for its sake we must struggle to keep our bands and our associations alive and ready for happier days. That in itself is worth doing, but beyond and behind our art is a far greater thing—the

(Continued on page 194.)

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long and noble tradition of church bells and all they stand for. It is in times like these that traditions can be so easily broken and lost. An England without its bells may seem to us unthinkable, yet the danger is not unreal, though it would not happen all at once. It is our part to see that it does not happen at all.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

A SUCCESSFUL WAR-TIME MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, postponed from January, was held at Wokingham on Saturday, April 19th.

A good number of ringers assembled for handbell ringing in All Saints' tower before the service, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. Kenworthy. The Litany was said with special war-time petitions and reference to members serving in the Forces. A collection for the Branch Restoration Fund was taken and a fine course of Stedman Triples was rung in the nave of the church by three soldiers and one civilian.

About 34 sat down to tea, which had been ably prepared by Mr. Houlton and others in St. Paul's Parish Room. The party included Canon Coleridge (the Master of the Guild and chairman of the branch), the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master) and Mrs. Wigg, Mr. R. T. Hibbert (Guild secretary), the Rectors of All Saints' and St. Paul's and the Rev. A. P. Carr. The visitors included Mr. H. S. Hobden (Eastbourne), Mr. C. A. Levett (Hastings), Mr. J. Freeman (Lincoln), Mr. L. J. Fox (Stepney), Mr. F. Nye (Bagshot) and others from Reading and other parts of the Guild.

After the tea, the chairman, on behalf of those present, thanked Mr. Houlton and his helpers for the tea; and the secretary (Mr. W. J. Paice) thanked the Rector of All Saints' for the service, the Rev. Miller for his address, the organist and the Rector of St. Paul's for the use of the Parish Room.

The latter, in replying, said he was pleased to welcome the branch to his parish, and although the service had not been held there, he was glad they were able to use his parish room.

The business meeting was presided over by Canon Coleridge. He spoke of the death of Canon Norris, who was not only a ringer, but also chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and whenever anything came up before that body relating to towers or bells he was able to give practical and valuable help and always had the interests of the Guild in mind.

The secretary referred to the passing of Barzillia Hawkins, of Hawley, Hants, a life member of the Oxford Guild and an old friend of many of those present.

The treasurer presented the accounts, which showed a balance in hand of £7 2s. 11d. and the Restoration Fund £15 14s. 3d.; £15 had been invested in 3 per cent. Defence Bonds. The balance sheet was adopted on the proposition of Mr. Rance, seconded by Mr. Houlton.

The secretary read a short report of the branch activities in 1940 and said that up to the time of the ban things had been going well and practices and meetings were well attended. A programme had been arranged for the whole of the year, and half of it had been carried out when ringing ceased. He referred to the death of the Rev. F. D. Browne, a great friend of ringers, and concluded his report by thanking all who had helped to keep things going. The report was adopted.

The various officers were all re-elected, viz.: Chairman, Canon Coleridge; secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. J. Paice, with a special word of thanks for his past work; the foremen of the 13 towers as the Branch Committee and representatives to the General Guild, Messrs. Castle, Dentry, Moth and Rance.

The next item on the agenda, 'What steps can be taken to keep the branch active?' was introduced by the secretary, who mentioned three ways in which he thought it could be done, by handbell ringing, dummy practice in the tower and by holding meetings whenever possible for social intercourse. A discussion followed, those taking part being Messrs. Parker, Hibbert, Rance, Castle and Diserens (Reading), and finally it was left to the secretary to see if he could arrange some handbell practice at a suitable centre.

The secretary brought forward the matter of a donation towards a wedding present from the Guild to the Deputy Master and Mrs. Wigg, and proposed that the sum of £2 2s. be given from the branch funds. This was seconded by Mr. Moth and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wigg, in reply, thanked the members of the branch for their gift, which he greatly appreciated. Mrs. Wigg also thanked the members and said how much she enjoyed being there that day. 'She said, 'I think your handbell ringing is beautiful.'

The Deputy Master congratulated the branch on a good war-time meeting and gave some practical advice to those taking up handbell ringing. The secretary appealed to foremen and others to help him in getting in subscriptions so as to keep their financial position sound. This concluded the business, and handbell ringing was continued until 8 p.m. It included Grandire and Stedman Triples and Caters. Plain Bob and Double Norwich Major.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. LIVERPOOL BRANCH MEETING.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Woolton on Saturday last, and in addition to members of the local company there were present representatives from the following towers: Wallasey, Bebington, Halewood, Childwall and Liverpool (St. Nicholas).

The bells were rung with tied clappers and before the service a touch of Stedman Triples was rung on handbells in the church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Coxwell and the address was given by the Rev. D. Railton, Rector of Liverpool. The hymns were accompanied on the organ by Mr. P. W. Cave.

Tea was partaken of at a nearby cafe, after which the meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. D. Railton, warden of the Guild. Expressions of sympathy were voiced and the members stood in silence to pay their tributes of respect to the late Rector, the Rev. F. B. Hadow, who had died as the result of a bicycle accident. Mr. Hadow was Rector of Woolton for upwards of 17 years, was an hon. life member of the association and had been a good friend of the ringers. Sympathy and regret were also expressed to the relatives of the late P. C. Alan Trevor, a member of the National Police Guild, who was killed by enemy action during an air raid. It was also intimated to the meeting that the father of the four Robinson brothers of Halewood had died suddenly. The secretary was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to the brothers Robinson in their sad bereavement.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the branch on May 24th at St. Nicholas', Liverpool. As the tower is intact, the intention is to swing the tower bells with clappers tied and to ring handbells.

Votes of thanks were passed to the local ringers for their efforts in making the meeting successful, and to the Rev. E. C. Coxwell for his cordial welcome.

MR. WILLIAM SAMPSON. GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION.

On Friday, March 7th, Mr. and Mrs. William Sampson celebrated their golden wedding at Victoria, British Columbia.

Mr. Sampson came to Canada in 1907 and has been a regular ringer in Christ Church Cathedral since 1938. His native home was at Whitestone, near Exeter, where he first learnt to ring. In his boyhood days as he was watching the gravedigger, the new Vicar asked him to go up into the steeple and help him with the bells, which were four in number. They found them completely covered with jackdaws' nests, and, on striking them, they discovered that the tenor was cracked. The Vicar had it cast into two trebles by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol, and after the restoration Mr. Ferris Shipherd was engaged to teach a band of ringers.

In the following year a new tenor was added, and the band soon learned Minor and rang their first peal in 1886.

In January, 1887, Mr. Sampson left for London and lived within sound of the bells of All Saints', Fulham. It was three months before he could make up his mind to attempt ten bell ringing, but on one practice night Mr. Howe persuaded him to go up into the belfry. There he met several of London's most noted ringers, and they persuaded him to join the band.

Mr. Driver arranged for Mr. Sampson to be put through his first touch of Caters, and soon afterwards he rang a peal on the 5th at Putney. He has many peals to his credit, and several are recorded in the Fulham Peal Book.

On Mr. Sampson's golden wedding day, the ringers of Christ Church Cathedral presented him with a very beautiful silver bowl, and also paid him a surprise visit in the evening, when several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on the handbells. Those taking part in the ringing were Miss M. Izard, D. Boniface, A. C. Melhuish, E. Merrett, A. King, A. C. Lomas, E. Lake, A. Roberts and E. W. Izard.

THE BELLS OF ST. NICHOLAS', YARMOUTH.

FROM THE 'NORWICH MERCURY,' AUGUST 22nd, 1807.

'To Bell Founders.'

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

'Notice is hereby given, that such person or persons as is or are willing to contract for furnishing a new, good, and musical Peal of Eight Bells, or a Peal of Ten Bells, for the Church of Great Yarmouth of such of the weights hereafter mentioned as may be fixed by the Trustees; and for hanging and completing the same Bells, in a workmanlike manner, are desired to deliver Proposals, in writing, sealed up, directed to John Watson, Esq., at the Town Clerk's office, before Monday, the 14th day of September next.

A Tenor of Eight Bells to weigh about 21 cwt.

A Tenor of Eight Bells to weigh about 25 cwt.

A Tenor of Ten Bells to weigh about 25 cwt.

A Tenor of Ten Bells to weigh about 28 cwt.

'April 23rd, 1808.—A new peal of ten bells, cast by Messrs. Mears and Son, and hung by Mr. Edw. Simmonds, of London, the tenor in D, weighing 30 cwt., will be opened in the church of this town on Monday, the 2nd of May next.'

'May 14th, 1808.—On Monday next the Norwich Ringers will gratify the inhabitants of Yarmouth with a peal on their new bells.'

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE POPNELL. EX-MASTER OF THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Popnell, of Bedwelty, Mon., who passed away on his 46th birthday, Easter Eve, April 12th, at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, where he had undergone an operation.

To a visiting friend he expressed himself as immensely pleased with the operation, was quite cheerful and conversed as though nothing had happened. He said he would be getting about within a week. Unfortunately it turned out otherwise.

The funeral was on Wednesday, April 16th. Before leaving the house a portion of the service was read by the curate of the parish, the Rev. A. L. Jones, and a prayer by the Rector, the Rev. James Davies. The hymn, 'Lead, kindly light,' was impressively sung by the large body of men who had assembled from the colliery. At the church the hymn, 'Jesu, Lover of my soul,' was sung and the organist played the Dead March in 'Saul.' The committal prayers were said by the Rector and the service concluded with the hymn, 'Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah.'

The whole of the singing was fervently rendered in the manner so characteristic of Welsh choirs.

The bearers were representatives and officials of the Markham Colliery, of which Mr. Popnell had been one himself, being the company's weighman. A large number of beautiful wreaths were sent. The old ringers of Bedwelty met at the church. The association was represented by Mr. George Large and Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport. Mr. Popnell's peal book shows that he had rung 256 peals. He would go any distance for a peal and was a member of a number of associations. His last peal was Holt's Original at Blagdon on April 20th, 1940.

SILENT APPARATUS. AN ELECTRIC DEVICE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have followed with interest the correspondence on a silent ringing apparatus and would like to put forward a theory for the switching device.

So far, the chief difficulty has been to obtain an apparatus to act at the moment when the clapper would normally strike the bell. This moment depends on two factors; the swing of the bell, which is controlled by the rope, and the swing of the clapper, which is controlled by the force of gravity. Now, how can we reproduce this movement to make an electrical contact?

I suggest the use of a glass tube curved to the arc of the clapper's swing and fixed to the bell wheel. Inside the tube, a drop of mercury is free to roll backwards and forwards just as the clapper is free to swing through its arc. When the mercury hits the end of the tube (at the point when the clapper would normally strike the bell), it makes contact across two wires and gives forth a corresponding ding downstairs. The tube must be curved to the same arc as the swing of the clapper, and its length depends on the length of swing of the clapper at that point.

Thus, if it were placed on the wheel opposite the ball of the clapper, it would have to be as long as the diameter of the bell just there, that is, the distance travelled by the ball in striking the bell. A shorter tube may be used if placed nearer the axle of the wheel, but this would not be quite as accurate as one further out.

Now arises the question of air pressure, but I think this may be considered negligible since both mercury and clapper are heavy metals and fall at about the same speed no matter how big or small they are, just as a 10 lb. bomb falls as fast as a 1,000 lb. one.

I think this device will solve the problem, but the trouble now remaining is to obtain the apparatus. This is not as difficult as it seems, since it could be made quite easily and cheaply in the laboratory of any secondary school. You have only to persuade the science master to give the senior boys a lesson in accurate glass-bending and before you know where you are the job is finished. If this explanation is not quite clear, or if you can find any snags, I should be only too glad to answer them, if I can.

Finally, I would like to add that instead of using ordinary handbells clamped in the rack, a small set of those hated metal tubes would make a far neater and compact striking apparatus in the ringing chamber, since they would not require constant adjustment and removal for other practices.

T. R. BOYS.

3, West Street, Weedon, Northampton.

THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL'S, CORNHILL.

From the 'Norwich Gazette,' November 30th, 1728: 'On Thursday morning 7 Bells were brought from Mr. Phelps's Foundry in White-chapel to St. Michael's, Cornhill, to be hung up with the other 5 already in the Belfry, and all 12 are to be rung on St. Thomas's Day.'

GOOD STRIKING.—'Whoever can beat time' (which is called ringing by beat) will always strike his bell in due time (if the rest are not), nor will have occasion to trust so much to his sight, as he otherwise must: for as a true compass makes the ringing pleasant and harmonious, so on the contrary the want of it produces those "clamberings" and "firings" (as it is called) that destroy all music, and is very disgusting to every judicious ear.—'The Clavis.'

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting of the Central Council was held on Easter Tuesday, March 31st, 1891, at the Inns of Court Hotel in Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, London. Sixty-three members were present out of a total of seventy-four, and thirty-three societies were represented, out of a total of thirty-four. Canon Coleridge represented the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and he has continued to do so, not missing a single meeting. To-day he is undisputed Father of the House, for, although Mr. George Williams was present in 1891 and has been a member ever since, he has represented the Sussex County Association and the Winchester Diocesan Association as well as being for a time an honorary member.

Five other men who were present in 1891 are still alive—F. E. Dawe and R. T. Woodley (College Youths), H. R. Newton (St. James' Society), Joseph Griffin (Midland Counties Association), and C. Tyler (Sussex County Association).

Among the other members there were many whose names have passed into the history of change ringing—Leonard Proctor, of Benington, who had joined the Cambridge Youths as an undergraduate as far back as 1835, and whose band in his home belfry had distinguished themselves by being the first company to ring peals in all the three standard Surprise Major methods; Henry Dains, Nathan Pitstow, Dr. A. B. Carpenter, Charles H. Hattersley, C. D. P. Davies and John Carter, who were the leading composers of the day; James W. Washbrook, the greatest all-round ringer of his time and probably of all time; F. E. Robinson, William Snowdon, Henry Bastable from Birmingham, James R. Haworth, whose membership of the College Youths dated from 1839; John Rogers, William Baron and George Newson from the Cumberlands Society; John W. Taylor, the bell founder; Thomas Blackburn, the bell hanger; three future canons, T. L. Papillon, W. C. Baker and J. H. Elsee; Frederick Knights from Norwich, Robert S. Storey from Newcastle, E. W. Carpenter, E. F. Strange, Henry Earle Bulwer, and, of course, A. Percival Heywood. Two of the Norwich representatives were absent, both leading members of the Exercise, Captain A. P. Moore, who died soon afterwards, and W. L. Catchpole, of Ipswich.

Nine honorary members were elected at the meeting—Canon Wigram, the author of an elementary text book entitled 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' Canon J. J. Raven the antiquary, the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, J. C. Mitchell, H. Thomas, Charles Hounslow, William Wakley, James Pettit and William T. Pates.

It is rather difficult to see what particular strength some of these latter could bring, but, take it as a whole, the Council undoubtedly did contain the most representative and leading ringers of the time, and it can compare very favourably in that respect with any of its successors.

The preliminary meeting of the year before had been reported fairly fully in 'The Bell News,' but at its first formal meeting the Council was faced with a difficulty which was never solved until the publication of 'The Ringing World' in 1911. Properly to report a debate in the Council needs not only a skilled shorthand writer but one who understands what is being said and the technical language that is being used. In the early days there was no such person, and the reports published in 'The Bell News' were usually written up by Heywood from notes taken by Benjamin Keeble, who, though a ringer, was but an indifferent reporter. For the first meeting of all nothing but the official minutes were published, and we are left in ignorance of what was said by the speakers in the debates.

Heywood was, of course, elected as the first president, and it was characteristic of the man and the control he intended to exercise that in his opening speech he told the members, rather in the style of a schoolmaster addressing his boys, that they were met not to contest points of difference in an aggressive spirit, but to discuss the questions before them thoughtfully and with the earnest wish to arrive at decisions based upon careful and unprejudiced consideration of the various views presented.

For the very important office of secretary, there was a contest between E. F. Strange and F. E. Dawe, the latter being elected. Strange may have owed his rejection in some measure to personal feeling, for he was very much disliked by the older London men on account of some attacks he had made on the old societies and the general condition of ringing in the Metropolis. He held a position at the South Kensington Museum, and seemed destined to take a leading part in the Exercise, hopes which were only partially to be realised. At the next meeting Henry Earle Bulwer was appointed secretary, and he held the office till his death.

The most lasting work done at this session was the appointment of a committee to report on suggestions for the repair and preservation of bells and frames, and on the best means of moderating the sound of noisy bells. This was the beginning of one of the most useful of the Council's activities, which has lasted through various phases until the present day.

(To be continued.)

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 5,088 CHANGES

COMPOSED BY J. HUNT.

23456	1	5	6	23654	1	5	6
35426	1		3	35624	1		3
52436	1		3	52634	1		3
42356	1		2	62354	1		2
32546	1		2	32564	1		2
53624		1		53426		1	
32654	1		3	32456	1		3
25634	1		3	25436	1		3
65324	1		2	45326	1		2
52364	1		3	52346	1		3
23654	S		1	23456	S		1

If the calling be begun at the fifth course (i.e., with the Bob at 5) the 4th will be replaced by the 5th.

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JAMES PETTIT. **A FAMOUS COLLEGE YOUTH.**

To-day is the one hundred and seventh anniversary of the birth of James Pettit, who for many years was a leading figure in the Society of College Youths and was representative of the best of the ringing Exercise during the second half of the last century.

He was a London man, born at Hackney, and his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, was at St. John's Church, South Hackney, on December 3rd, 1857. It was a College Youths' peal, and thereafter he took part in most of the notable performances by the society. His first peal of Stedman Triples was conducted by William Cooter at Bethnal Green in 1862, and it was followed by Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, and Stedman Caters and Cinques, which methods with Grandsire Triples and Caters completed the ringers' repertoire in those days.



Among the most notable of his peals were the 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green in 1868, when he rang the third, and the 11,111 Stedman Caters at Fulham in 1883, which he conducted. Both were at the time record lengths for the methods. He was also the conductor when the College Youths lost a peal of Stedman Cinques at Cornhill in 1887 after ringing nearly ten thousand changes with only two bobs still to be called.

At one period James Pettit had probably called Holt's Original more times than any other man; he was the first to call it from every bell, including the tenor, and he took part in the first non-conducted performance in 1884.

He was for many years the conductor at St. Paul's Cathedral and he called the first peal, one of Stedman Cinques, on those noble bells. In his day he enjoyed a very high reputation, and many will still remember him as a gentlemanly man of the old-fashioned type. He died in May, 1912.

BEACONSFIELD. — On April 7th, at St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, K. E. Fletcher 7-8. First quarter-peal 'in hand' by all.

CHANGE RINGING IN WILTSHIRE. **IN THE YEAR 1857.**

'When bellringing was more appreciated than unfortunately it is now, there were societies of ringers in Cambridge, Oxford, London—such as the College Youths (then practising at St. Michael's on College Hill, London) founded in 1637—Birmingham and in other places. There are some societies of ringers now in various parts of England, and there is among others in London a society of College Youths, but it is said not to be descended from the ancient society above mentioned, which became extinct in 1788. There is, I believe, an excellent society of Norwich Scholars.

'I do not know where to find a society of ringers in Wiltshire. There are sets of men who ring for what they can get which they consume in drink; but there is very little love for the science or its music; and alas! much irreverence and profanation of the House of God. There is no "plucking at the bells" for recreation and exercise.

'Church-ringers with us have degenerated into mercenary performers. In more than one parish where there are beautiful bells I was told that the village youths took no interest whatever in bellringing.'

The condition of the saeples and belfries matched the condition of the ringers. 'It is a matter for our grave consideration that so many of our village churches have their towers in so dilapidated a condition. I have seen several in the course of my Wiltshire rambles which are in so dangerous a state that the bells are forbidden to be rung.

'The principal cause of the evil is that churchwardens have been sadly negligent. With a little oil and new ropes allowed now and then, they have imagined that their duty to the bells and to the parish has been faithfully done, whereas mischief of a three-fold nature has been growing and increasing—mischief to the building, to the bells and to the parishioners.

'I have been frequently much pained by observing the shameful state of filth and neglect of many Wiltshire bell-lofts. When the towers have no stone staircase, the bells have to be reached by a succession of crazy ladders, planted on equally crazy floors. How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected! Why should towers be so desecrated? Are they not as much a portion of the church as any other part? Why should they be left to the sole occupation of unclean birds and irreverent ringers?

'We may, I think, attribute this state of things to two causes, first to a want of interest in the art of bellringing; and, secondly, to the difficulty which is experienced by the clergy in managing the generally most unruly set of men in the parish—the ringers.

'I know of more than one instance where, in consequence of the sinful and disgraceful practices of the ringers, the bells have been silenced by the clergyman, only one being allowed to be tolled for service.'—Rev. William C. Lukis.

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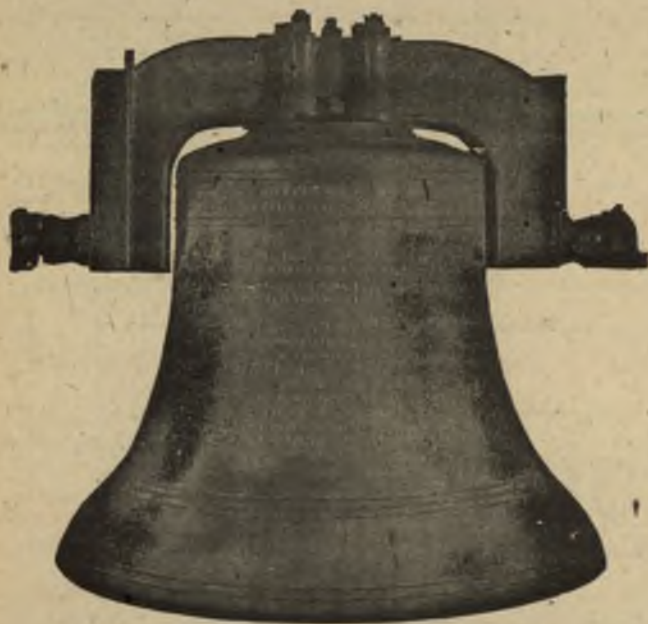
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith continues to make satisfactory but slow progress. He is still in hospital.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. Gabriel Lindoff that he is now much better.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Denison Taylor, who attains his seventy-seventh birthday to-morrow:

Last Tuesday was the anniversary of two famous long peals. On April 22nd, 1889, 15,227 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Cheltenham in 9 hours and 43 minutes. It still stands as the record of the method and was conducted by William T. Pates, who had not previously called a bob in Grandsire Caters.

In 1922 on the same date at Appleton, a band, made up partly by local men and partly by London College Youths, rang the record for any method. It was 21,363 changes of Stedman Caters, the time was 12 hours and 25 minutes, and the conductor was Mr. Herbert Langdon.

Only two or three peals have been rung on the heavy ten bells at the Imperial Institute, Kensington. One of them, Stedman Caters, was rung on April 23rd, 1924.

The first peal of Bob Major was accomplished by the College Youths on April 26th, 1925, on the now destroyed bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street. Benjamin Annable rang the tenor and conducted.

On the same date in 1894 Mr. Charles E. Borrett called at Norwich what was then the longest peal on handbells—11,200 changes of Bob Major.

On April 27th, 1876, the Cumberland Youths rang William Harrison's peal of Kent Treble Bob, 8,896 changes, the longest length with the tenors together produced by ordinary bobs. George Newson conducted, and Henry Dains and John Cox were in the band.

It was the anniversary of the College Youths' long peal in the same method at Bethnal Green, which was rung in 1866.

The then record length of Stedman Cinques, 8,580 changes, was rung at Cornhill by the College Youths on April 27th, 1861.

It was stated last Saturday in a London evening newspaper that the bells which still hang in the steeple of St. Andrew's, Holborn, were rung to celebrate the victory of Agincourt in the year 1415. That is not correct. No single bell in London is nearly as old as that, but it is quite likely that a number of bells still exist which contain metal once part of very ancient bells and which has been recast many times.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one was Stedman Triples, and one Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

DEATH OF MR. EDWIN F. PIKE.

WELL-KNOWN LONDON RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Edwin Frederick Pike, which took place on April 17th after a short illness. Mr. Pike was well known among London ringers and had taken part in many peals in a large number of methods. Before the last war he was associated with Mr. James E. Davis and the band that rang at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and St. John's, Waterloo Road. Since, he has been connected with St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and other churches. He was a frequent visitor at College Youths meetings.

RINGER AIRMAN KILLED.

Guildford Cathedral tower has lost one of its young ringers by the death of Sergt. Victor G. Elliott, R.A.F., V.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott, of 2, Woodlands Road, Guildford. Sergt. Elliott, who was 20 years of age, was killed in action while serving as a wireless operator and machine gunner. For three years he had been a member of the Guildford Diocesan Guild. He and his close friend, Sergt. D. E. Bristow, R.A.F., V.R., who is now a prisoner of war in Germany, rang their first peal of Grandsire Triples together in November, 1937. Regular in his attendance at the belfry, Sergt. Elliott will be greatly missed when once more the band of Holy Trinity reassemble to ring out the message of peace and victory. The funeral was at Guildford on Wednesday.

RECENT AIR RAIDS.

(Continued from next page.)

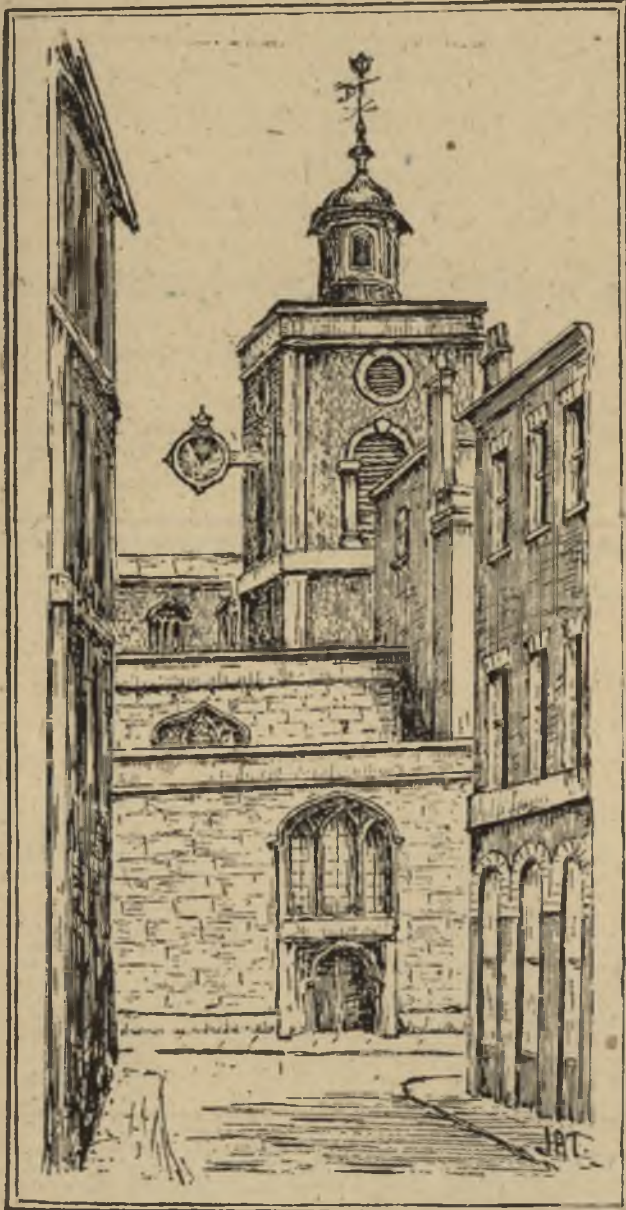
to help to provide for the ring of ten in that church. During the 60 years the old church had a ring, only one peal is known to have been accomplished there. It was 5,040 Bob Major in 1785 by the College Youths, conducted by James Worster. The tablet which recorded it still hung on the tower wall. Chelsea Old Church was one of the places which had an endowment for ringing the evening bell, but the ringing was discontinued in 1822, although the bell specially provided was still in the steeple.

RECENT AIR RAIDS

MORE FAMOUS CHURCHES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED.

More famous churches were destroyed or damaged during the air raid last week, which was officially described as the heaviest suffered by London since the beginning of the war.

A high explosive bomb crashed through the roof and vaulting of the north transept of St. Paul's Cathedral and penetrated as far as the crypt. The dome and the bell tower were not affected, but the structural damage was large.



A FAMOUS OLD CITY CHURCH.

One of the few City churches which survived the great fire of 1666 has now been demolished. The tower still stands and the fate of the ring of eight bells is as yet unknown.

St. Andrew's, Holborn, and the adjoining City Temple were gutted and nothing but the walls of either are left. St. Andrew's had magnificent carved woodwork, which is irreplaceable. In the steeple is a noble peal of eight bells. These are hung on iron stocks in an iron frame. They still hang, but it cannot be said how far they have been damaged by the fire.

All Saints', Chelsea Old Church, an ancient and historical building with memories of the great Sir Thomas More, has also been destroyed.

Another church destroyed was a very fine eighteenth century building with a massive tower and a heavy ring of eight bells. Only the walls and tower are left standing and everything combustible, including the oak frame, has been destroyed.

The bells were restored three years ago and are now, there is little doubt, a total loss. It was in this belfry that Mr. C. T. Coles and his brother Albert began their ringing careers.

St. John's, Leytonstone, has the distinction of being the first church in the London area to suffer damage. This is where the William Pye memorial bells hang. A bomb burst in the churchyard and smashed the windows, but, fortunately, no further damage was done.

St. Mildred's, Bread Street, destroyed in an earlier raid, was not very well known to ringers, for it had but two bells. It was, however, a very characteristic Wren church and had preserved the original atmosphere to a remarkable extent.

Another church, well known to ringers, which stood in a south-eastern London suburb, has, we hear, been destroyed and the ring of eight, which were by Janaway, ruined. It was here that the first muffled five thousand was rung.

A modern church in the same town with its fine ring of bells from Taylor's foundry has also been destroyed.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.

It can now be mentioned that among other churches damaged in recent raids is St. Martin's, the old Parish Church of Birmingham, which played so great a part in the history of the ringing Exercise. An explosive bomb of heavy calibre fell on the approach-way to the west door. It made a crater amongst graves; the blast tore a great hole in the masonry above the west doorway, blew away pinnacles, and damaged much other outer stonework; but—a happy omen?—the statue of St. Martin, standing in a niche on the western facade, was untouched. There was also a great displacement of tiles in the roofing.

Internally, although the havoc was less than the gaping hole in the west front might suggest, grievous damage was done. All the same, much that worshippers at St. Martin's prize escaped. The windows suffered heavily, but the Burne-Jones window that was in the south transept remains undamaged. The glass of the east window was destroyed, but the very beautiful reredos and the organ were unhurt.

The main structure of the church is sound, and a preliminary survey has shown that it will be repairable. It is believed that the tower and bells are quite safe and sound, but it was a narrow escape.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

At the time of Edward VI. St. Andrew's had 'iiij grete bells and a lyttell bell in ye stepull.' In 1587 Robert Mot recast all the bells and supplied a new ring of eight, with a tenor weighing 28 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb., and a new saunce bell. Probably this was the first octave in London and at least one of the first in the country.

In the early part of the seventeenth century the church got into a very dilapidated condition, and John Hacket, who was then rector, collected funds to rebuild it, but the money was confiscated during the troubles which accompanied the Civil War. John Hacket was a member of the Society of College Youths and afterwards Bishop of Lichfield.

The building escaped the great fire of 1666, but was pulled down and re-erected by Sir Christopher Wren in 1686-7 at a cost of £9,000. The old tower was left standing, and in 1704 it was refaced with Portland stone and the upper storey added.

How many of Mot's bells had been recast before the eighteenth century we do not know, but it seems that the ring as a whole was not a good one, and Laughton is especially strong in his condemnation of the sixth.

A word or two I now shall write
about the bells but not in spite
that sixth is bad as e'er swung
the others not so good as e'er was rung
but pretty well if they were in tune
and a better sixth in that bells room
for no kettle pan or old dust tub
e'er made a worser noise.

Shortly afterwards Richard Phelps recast the octave, and most of his bells remained until the recent catastrophe, but the tenor was again recast by Mears and Stainbank. They were a very fine and noble ring. Mot's saunce bell had survived.

When the first peal on the bells was rung we do not know. From what Laughton says we may gather that a five thousand in some method or other had been rung before 1754 and that the first single-handed peal in the steeple was 5,040 Bob Major by the Ramblers on May 9th in that year. John Trenell rang the tenor. Four years later a 'friendly' society rang 6,160 also of Bob Major, with John Box at the tenor.

For several years there has been an excellent local band connected with the tower, and it was one of the few churches in central London where the bells were rung regularly for Sunday services.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH.

Chelsea Old Church had 'in the steeple three greate bells and one lyttell saunce bell' in the year 1552. In 1762 Thomas Janaway recast the bells and increased them to eight, but when the new Parish Church of St. Luke was built, all but the fourth were sold (Continued on previous page.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A NEW PRESIDENT AND A NEW SECRETARY.

The sixtieth annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held on Saturday last in St. Peter Mancroft Parish Hall, Norwich, when the Rev. Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, Vicar of Great Yarmouth, was elected president and the Rev. Alfred G. G. Thurlow general secretary and treasurer.

The service in St. Peter Mancroft Church was attended by fifty members and friends. Canon Aitken gave the address.

Six of St. Giles' bells, with their clappers securely fixed by a member of the City Police, were available before the service, and there were handbells in St. Peter's belfry and the Parish Hall until a late hour. A number of touches in a variety of methods were successfully completed.

After tea the business meeting took place. Mr. William L. Duffield was elected chairman and was supported by Canon R. A. Aitken, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow and Mr. A. L. Coleman (vice-presidents), Mr. W. J. Lee (East Norfolk Branch chairman), Mr. F. N. Golden (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. H. Tooke (North Norfolk Branch secretary), the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, Messrs. W. Clover and W. Barber (committee members), and members from Acle, Attleborough, Aylsham, Bergh Apton, Hethersett, Mellis (Suffolk), Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Giles', St. Miles' and St. Peter Mancroft), Paston, Redenhall and Wiveton.

Canon R. Aubrey Aitken was unanimously elected president on the proposition of Mr. A. L. Coleman, seconded by Mr. W. J. Lee. Returning thanks, Canon Aitken said he was proud to be elected the president of such an important body of churchworkers, not only because he recognised the great work that ringers had done, but also because he was extremely fond of bells.

The vice-presidents were all re-elected.

THE HON. SECRETARY RESIGNS.

Mr. F. Nolan Golden regretted that owing to his impending departure from the diocese he was unable to continue in office and proposed that Mr. Thurlow, who had all the qualities of an ideal secretary, should be asked to take his place. Mr. William L. Duffield, while regretting the loss the association would sustain by Mr. Golden's resignation, was pleased that they had a man of Mr. Thurlow's ability to take over the reins of office. Mr. Thurlow's election was heartily approved. In accepting the office, Mr. Thurlow said he would be glad to do what he could and appealed for the support of every member.

The President expressed the association's thanks for Mr. Golden's hard work, and supported the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation. Mr. A. L. Coleman, with over 20 years' experience, said he could testify to the diligence and capability with which Mr. Golden had discharged his duties. In reply, the retiring secretary attributed any success he had had to the wholehearted support and co-operation of the officers. He was naturally sorry to have to sever his connection with the association, in whose service he had spent many happy hours.

Mr. Golden was the South Norfolk Branch secretary from 1929-1937, when he was elected general secretary. He had also been secretary of the North Norfolk Branch from 1934-1937, and had represented the association as a member of the Central Council since 1930. His peal total for the association numbers 392, a large proportion of which he has conducted and which includes 26 first performances of the association, and the longest lengths of Superlative Surprise and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

The committee was re-elected en bloc. The president ruled that as no branch meetings had been held, the officers of the branches should be considered as still in office.

The report, due notice of which has appeared in 'The Ringing World,' and the balance sheet were adopted. The reserve fund stands at £156 13s. 4d. in National Savings Certificates, and there is a balance in hand of £2 13s. 9d.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Bergh Apton on June 21st.

Mr. F. Nolan Golden spoke of the many people who had contributed to the success of the meeting. He thanked Canon Aitken for his part in the service and for accepting the presidency; the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow for arranging the service and for the use of the hall; Mr. Madden Williams, the organist; Mr. W. C. Duffield and Mr. and Mrs. Gowing for certain supplies for the tea; Miss Tunnadine, Mrs. Golden and Mr. Sayer for catering and waiting at tea; the Vicar of St. Giles' for the use of the bells, and Mr. Clifford Bird for securing the clappers of the bells. This collective vote of thanks was heartily endorsed by the members.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR BEGINNERS.

THE HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I had no wish when I wrote my letter to misrepresent the Highcliffe Society in any way. They (or their secretary) had published accounts of 'a system of teaching handbell ringing having many novel features,' and which they recommend for general adoption by other people. It was a fair subject for comment and criticism.

Here are some of the points: 'Young people soon tire of anything after the novelty has worn off.' 'Never keep them pegging away at one method or one touch until they get heartily sick of it.' 'Before we could ring touches of Bob Minor properly we started to learn Kent. Before we could ring that properly we went on to Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, and before we could ring the latter properly we were practising Double Norwich.'

Whatever progress the Highcliffe Society may have made, of which, of course, I am no judge, I am sure that the above system of teaching is for ordinary people a bad one. The thing that matters is not what methods are rung, but how they are rung. I have had no experience of really first-class handbell bands, but I do know that for ordinary ringers Bob Major and Grandsire Triples will supply all they want and more. Long before they have begun to exhaust what those methods have to give they will have ceased to be learners and may do what they please or rather perhaps what they are able.

It is far better to aim at ringing methods like Bob Major really well (and that will take a lot of doing) than to make a spurious sort of progress by muddling through a lot of more difficult methods somehow or other. 'What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.'

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

ASSTEAD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been following with great interest the articles on the standard methods and the correspondence arising from them.

In the most recent article I see that Cornwall Surprise is selected as being most fitted to become a standard method. Now I have always been of the opinion that standard methods should be reasonably easy of attainment, and I think that had more methods been available when 'Standard Methods' was produced, progress would have been more rapid because we could have taken more gradual steps.

For instance, the gap between Double Norwich or Treble Bob and Superlative or, even more so, London, is a big one, and with our present knowledge it should be possible to make this gap smaller. Many ringers can advance in small steps where they would otherwise fail.

If this reasoning is accepted it follows that our Surprise methods should include one or more which are very simple, and here I want to advocate the claims of 'Asstead,' first produced by Mr. George Baker. For simplicity of work it must be hard to beat. The coursing order is maintained throughout, the tenor dodging exclusively, both back and front, with the 7th and 6th place bells. Dodging is 4 pull except internally where it is 3 pull. This brings up the question of music, and here I think the question of composition does enter, in spite of what has previously been written about judging the musical qualities of a method by its peal figures. If it is contended that the plain course is musical, as it is so contended in the case of Asstead, then a good series of 6th place bells in this method must continue to produce the music. Since this method has a clean proof scale, composition is unlimited.

One further point I want to make and that is the method has 2nd's place at the lead end. It may be just a prejudice of mine, but I should think that if a ringer is contemplating the step from Plain or Treble Bob to Surprise, a 2nd's place method will be easier for him, as he is used to the 'in, out and 4th's' at a bob. If an 8th's place method such as Cornwall is used, the question of 4th's or 6th's place bobs arises. If 4th's are used, all the bells above are affected by a bob, thus creating a little more difficulty for our beginner. At all events, I hope that Asstead has been included in the new Surprise Major book.

ALAN R. PINK.

Kennington, Oxford.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.—It has frequently been observed that learners oftentimes attempt to ring rounds, and sometimes changes, before they are capable of managing a bell itself properly, which is the reason we have so many awkward practitioners in this art; for the attention being divided betwixt the management of the bell, and the method of the changes, the former, which ought to claim the first attention is frequently neglected, which brings on a train of ill habits that soon grow familiar, become natural by constantly practising, and are at last incorrigible.—'The Clavis.'

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THE STANDARD METHODS.**CORNWALL SURPRISE.**

To judge the value of Cornwall for practical ringing, it is well to draw out a skeleton course, and when we do that we find the diagram is a very attractive one. It has most of the good features we hope for in a method except difficulty. There is plenty of variety; the bells move freely without stagnation, such as occurs in Superlative, or great rapidity such as we get in London; the place-making and dodging are all at backstroke, and there is no awkward or uncomfortable work. A bell dodges in 7-8 only with its course-bell, after-bell and the treble, and the same thing happens in 1-2, except for the change when the treble is lying its whole pull behind. If we are hypercritical, the one complaint we can make is that when a bell is placemaking in 5-6, either up or down, both places are made with the same bell. It is not easy to say why it should be so, but it is a fact that when we make a place and dodge with a bell, we expect that bell to go away, and we instinctively look for another to come to us. When the same bell stops we rather wonder what he is hanging about for, and why doesn't he get about his business. This, however, is a small blemish in an otherwise excellent method.

CORNWALL *S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8	3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8
4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7	2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	2 4 6 1 8 3 5 7
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	4 2 1 6 3 8 7 5
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	4 1 2 6 8 3 5 7
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	1 4 6 2 3 8 7 5
6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5

1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5

To take the work in detail. After a bell (the tenor in the first lead) has lain its whole pull behind at the lead-end it does a 3-pull dodge in 7-8 down, does Treble Bob work (dodge-place-dodge) in 5-6, and Treble Bob work in 7-8. In both cases the first dodge is with the treble.

Places in 5-6 down follow (fifth's—dodge—sixth's), then dodge 3-4, and go to work on the front. This consists of a double and a single dodge in 1-2, Treble Bob work in 3-4, and another double and single dodge in 1-2. The last dodge of all is with the treble.

The bell then does a dodge in 3-4 up and makes Court places (fourth's and third's) round the treble, dodging with that bell between the places. Fourth's place and a dodge in 3-4 immediately follow, then Treble Bob work on the front, and 5-6 places up. This is followed by a 3-pull and a single dodge behind, and Treble Bob work in 5-6. The place in this latter is the turning place of the method, and from it the work is repeated in reverse order.

The natural bob of the method and the one which most people will prefer is the sixth's place bob. The bell making 5-6 places up makes sixth's and then 5-6 places down. The two bells behind dodge.

The alternative bob is the fourth's place bob. In it the place is made by the bell which has just finished all its work on the front, and, after doing a single and double dodge in 1-2 and a single dodge in 3-4, is on its way to places in 5-6 up. The two bells which have just made places in 5-6 dodge together and make another set of places.

The effect of this bob is that the work of the bells in 5-6-7-8 is put forward three leads. This will allow a very great range of peal compositions and of a style which has, so far, been very little developed.

The defect of these bobs and, indeed, of the bobs ordinarily used in most eighth's place methods is that they cause a rather excessive amount of dodging in 7-8. In actual practice this is not a great defect for extra dodging at a bob does not produce the monotony the same amount of dodging does at a plain lead. No one, for instance, complains of the 5-pull dodging at the bob in Double Norwich, and many do complain of the 5-pull dodging at a plain lead in Superlative.

This extra dodging could, however, be avoided by making the bob, not at the lead end, but in the interior of the lead. The best position would be at the second cross-section, a whole pull on the front being substituted for third's place. We should get

42316587 instead of 42316587.

43261857

24361857.

This is a possible alternative bob for Double Norwich also.

There seems no real theoretical objection to a bob of this sort, but it is outside the traditions of the Exercise, and is hardly, we think, likely to be adopted.

Cornwall has a clear proof scale with the tenors together, and therefore sixty full natural courses available for composition. This is one of the features in which it is much superior to almost all the Surprise Major methods.

As a musical method, Cornwall ranks very high. It has claims to be the best of all the Surprise Major methods in this respect. To begin with, it has double the number of musical natural courses that all but a very few have. In Superlative, if we use the three 5-6 courses we are debarred from the three 6-5 courses; if we use

(Continued on next page.)

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GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1940.**

The General Committee report that the war and the ban on church bells having hung a curtain over change ringing, the sixty-sixth annual report of the Guild is of necessity short and withal a disappointment to all enthusiastic ringers.

When the Low Countries were invaded the president (the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox) decided to cancel the annual meeting fixed for Whit Monday at Exeter. His action is without precedent in the history of the Guild; even so, it was justified by subsequent events. Nor can we expect anything better until the ban is raised.

Well-attended branch meetings have been held at Topsham, Ottery St. Mary, Cullompton and Exeter, but since May only the Exeter Branch has held a meeting. This latter gathering was successful and handbells afforded occasion for change ringing practice. The committee recommend that other branches should try to hold similar meetings, on the assurance that such gatherings would be helpful in stimulating interest in the Exercise.

Forty-five members of the Guild are serving with H.M. Forces. The General Committee further decided that 'the annual general meeting of the Guild shall be in abeyance for this year (1941); that the subscriptions for the year 1941 shall be reduced by one-half the usual amounts, and that the annual report of the Guild shall be reduced as much as possible for this year.'

Mr. T. Laver was nominated as the hon. treasurer in place of Mr. F. C. Smale, who now is the general secretary.

The finances of the Guild are in a very satisfactory condition. There is a balance of £81, as against £77 in 1939, standing to the credit of the general account. The balance to the credit of the Bells Restoration Fund stands at £113 16s. 6d.

One peal of Grandsire Triples and one of Grandsire Doubles have been rung on church bells previous to the ban, while six handbell peals have been recorded. All these peals were conducted by Mr. C. R. Lilley.—Fredk. C. Smale, hon. secretary.

WEDDING OF MISS M. K. I. EASTES.

The marriage was solemnised at Emmanuel Church, West Dulwich, on Saturday, April 12th, between Miss Mary Kathleen Isobel Eastes and Mr. Reginald George Knights, R.A.F. The Vicar (the Rev. E. Cooke) officiated, and the bride, who is the only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Eastes, was given away by a friend, Gunner C. W. Denyer, R.A., and was attended by Miss Ida Hall. The bride was attired in a turquoise blue dress and coat with nigger brown hat and accessories, and the bridesmaid in a blue flowered dress. The best man was Mr. Donald Forbes, cousin of the bridegroom, and following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's parents. Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Knights are making their new home at 12a, Park Hall Road, West Dulwich. Miss Eastes was for a period secretary of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild prior to leaving Ottershaw to take up residence in Dulwich.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

the three 6-4 courses we may not have the three 4-6 courses. In Cornwall, all are freely at our disposal. Many other Surprise Major methods will only allow us to use a definite number of natural courses which include some of those with the poorest music. So that, if the music of the plain course of Cornwall were no better than the music of the plain courses of other methods, Cornwall would still be the better method musically.

But the music of the plain course of Cornwall actually is equalled by very few and surpassed by none. If the Oxford places of the first section had been in 3-4, and so given parallel dodging in 5-6 and 7-8, it would, so far as that section is concerned, have been better. But the price that would have to be paid in other things is excessive.

There is about the right quantity of dodging in the method, and as the natural coursing order is well maintained, varied only by the 4-bell Treble Bob hunting course, the necessary rhythm is produced.

The more one studies Cornwall and compares it with other methods, such as Cambridge, for instance, the more one appreciates its merits. Here, surely, is one which is worthy to take its place among the standard methods.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL MEETING AT CARDIFF.**

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at Cardiff on Easter Monday in St. James' Church Schoolroom and opened with prayer.

Owing to the damage at Llandaff Cathedral, where the meeting was to have been held, Canon Lewis, Vicar of St. John's, Cardiff, very readily agreed to have the meeting in the schoolroom of the daughter church, St. James'.

Canon Lewis met and welcomed the members and took the chair at the meeting. Mr. J. W. Jones said it was his painful duty to report the passing of Mr. George Popnell, of Bedwellty, who during last year was Master of the association. He died on Easter Eve in the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Only 48 hours before Mr. Jones had sat in hospital with him. He was most cheerful and confident that he would soon be well and wished there would be a good annual meeting. Alas! it was a false hope. He had evidently been buoyed up to think he would soon be all right. As a last tribute of respect the members stood for a few moments in silence.

On the proposition of Mr. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Bailey, all the officers were re-elected.

It was agreed to hold the next annual meeting at the Cathedral Church of St. Woolos, Newport, on Easter Monday, 1942.

The hon. secretary reported that so far as he could learn not a single church with a ring of bells in the association's area had been damaged as regards the tower and bells. Llandaff Cathedral is badly damaged, but the tower and bells are all right. The tower and bells of St. John's, Cardiff, too, have escaped.

It was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' in his illness with a hope for a speedy recovery.

A suggestion was made that when the time arrived for peace ringing all ringers should assist those towers where there is a depletion of ringers owing to service in the Forces.

Canon Lewis was thanked for his kindness and suitably replied. The attendance was the smallest on record for an annual meeting. Representatives were present from Cardiff, Bridgend, Aberavon, Newport, Penarth, Llandaff and Ebbw Vale.

BOWDON BELLRINGER MARRIED.**HASSELL—PRIESTNER.**

Mr. John Hassell, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hassell, of Bowdon, who was a ringer at Bowdon before joining the Royal Navy, was married at Bowdon Parish Church to Miss Edna Priestner, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Priestner, of 1, Vicarage Lane, Bowdon.

The bridegroom returned to his unit the day following the wedding. He belongs to an old and respected Bowdon family.

The Rev. J. W. Hollinshead, curate at Bowdon, officiated.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. William Priestner. She wore a powder-blue two-piece suit with fur revers, and a hat to match. Red carnations made her bouquet. The best man was Mr. Frederick Hassell, brother of the bridegroom.

The service was choral, the hymns, 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us,' and 'God of love,' being sung. Dr. H. L. Read, the organist and choirmaster, was at the organ.

A reception was held at the Methodist Chapel schoolroom in Priory Street, Bowdon.

NOTICES—Continued.

PRESTON HALL, MAIDSTONE.—Mr. Bryan O'Neill (secretary of the St. Peter's Society, Burnham, Bucks) has been admitted to the above sanatorium. As he is in a strange county, I should be grateful if any of my K.C.A. ringing friends would pay him a visit (it would be more than appreciated). He can be visited at almost any time on the top floor, Preston Hall.—Geo. Gilbert, Instr., St. Peter's Society, 5, Fairstead, Lent Rise, Burnham, Bucks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. James George's address is now 645, Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham, 8.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Thomas G. Bannister's address is now 14, Adelphi Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex.

DEATH.

PIKE.—Edwin Frederick, of 10, Becroft Road, S.E.4, on April 17th, 1941, after a very short illness.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MEETING AT BUSHEY, Saturday, April 26th, at Girl Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, 3.45 p.m. Excellent opportunity for handbell practice in all methods and social gossip. Comfortable room. Tea arranged. Open to all interested in ringing. Good bus service.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Herts Association.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Worcester, on April 26th. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—Ernest F. Cubberley, Branch Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting has been arranged at Cookham on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells available. Guild service at 4 p.m. Tea at Royal Exchange at 5 p.m., 1s. 3d. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th. The tower of St. John's will be open, with handbells available. A service will be held at 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Danbury. Service at 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Six 'silent' tower bells available from 3 p.m.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells will be available in the schoolroom from 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due, Reports to hand. Do your duty.—Ivan Kay, Sec., 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 26th. The Cathedral bells will be available for 'silent' ringing from 2 p.m. Handbell ringing in the Ringers' Chapel. Business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. Cathedral evensong at 4 p.m. Will members and visitors kindly make their own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 26th. Handbells in the belfry from 3

p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. You are requested to be present.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. Ringers wishing to enter the restricted defence area are advised to send 2½d. stamp for a personal summons.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Broughton Astley on Saturday, May 3rd. Meet at the Social Club sharp at 6 p.m. Handbells and various games available. Reports now ready. Subscriptions are due.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Leek on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbells available from 3 p.m. All ringers, welcome, and will the association members try to attend? Will ringers make their own tea arrangements?—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Howden, on Saturday, May 3rd, when handbells will be available. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea in Manor House Cafe at 5 o'clock; names, please, by Wednesday, April 30th. Business meeting for election of officers, etc. Annual reports available at meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury, on Saturday, May 10th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., at a cost of about 1s. (please bring your own sugar). Annual business meeting to follow. Owing to catering difficulties, tea will be provided only for those who make application to me by May 5th. Please note, to avoid disappointment. Nearest station to Kingsbury is Wembley Park (Met.), from whence No. 83 buses pass the church.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH, ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—We invite ringers to join with the local band in a social afternoon of handbell ringing at the above church, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea in the Mission Hall, South Street. Do come and join us, we shall be delighted to see you. Names for tea please, no later than Tuesday, May 6th.—O. L. Ashbrook, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available at 2.30. Service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30. Tea at 5.30 (1s.) if a sufficient number signify their intention of being present by May 3rd.—F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kingston Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. —Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

(Continued on page 202.)

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FRIDAY, MAY 2nd, 1941.

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LOSS AND GAIN.

Last week we gave some account of churches and bells, well known to ringers, which have been destroyed or damaged in recent air raids. It is a pitiful tale, and unfortunately all, and perhaps the worst, has not yet happened. On one thing, however, we are all agreed. If this is part of the price we must pay to save the liberties of Englishmen and the soul of England, we shall pay it. Loss and gain are not ultimately to be reckoned in terms of material things. England may be much the better for all this. We hope and trust she will be, and we of the ringing Exercise may share her gain in an especial way of our own.

Just before the last war it might have seemed that the art of ringing had almost reached its zenith and was prosperous in a way it never had been before. Then suddenly all came almost entirely to an end. Bands were broken up or depleted; many ringers lost their lives; and those that were left were older. Reconstruction seemed a difficult and in some cases a hopeless task, yet it was accomplished, and in a surprisingly short time. We have never since in one year reached the number of peals which was achieved in 1913, but in other ways we have gained immensely. There has been within the Exercise during these last twenty years a new spirit which has made for life and progress. It was due almost entirely to the great cataclysm, and so out of evil has come good.

The same will happen again if we are true to ourselves, our art, our Church, and our country; and, much as we regret and hate the great loss of our bells and steeples, we have the consolation that England's wealth of churches and bells is so great that even if the worst we can imagine happens, we shall still be well equipped. Almost certainly when this war ends there will be more bells in ringing order than when the last war ended. That we owe to the splendid work done by our three great bell foundries.

It is in individual places that loss will be most felt, and the sympathy of the whole Exercise goes out to the ringers of Portsmouth, Southampton, Plymouth and suchlike towns. London's loss has been (and, we fear, still will be) heavy, but she had eight rings of twelve and, though two are gone, six are left.

Perhaps the thing most to be regretted is the destruction of some rings which were fine and typical examples of a style of bell founding which belongs to past ages. Modern bell founding is carried out on exact and scientific lines, and modern bells are uniformly better than those of earlier times. Of that there can be no doubt,

(Continued on page 206.)

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

but in the attainment of this excellence, something necessarily has been lost. The older founders worked by traditional and rule-of-thumb methods, which did not give such exact results, but did allow the craftsman to stamp his individuality on his work. Abraham Rudhall's bells could not have been cast by anyone but Abraham Rudhall. Thomas Mears' bells have a quality of their own. These characteristics may quite possibly be due to defects, but they are defects few would willingly see removed. Modern rings of bells have reached a high level of excellence where there is little room for individuality, and there is undoubtedly a sameness in recent bells of like weight. If we lost Mancroft or Painswick twelve, or Fulham ten, they could be replaced by possibly better bells, but the loss would be great. St. Bride's bells are gone, and St. Lawrence Jewry, and St. Nicholas' at Bristol. Some hope there is, and some talk, of restoration. If it does come to pass, would it not be worth while to consider whether the tradition of the old style founding is quite lost? Perhaps the same firm that cast the tenor at St. Saviour's, Southwark, and the tenor at St. Andrew's, Holborn, will supply a whole new ring to Jewry of the same old style and quality.

HANDBELL PEAL.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, April 27, 1941, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

IN THE BRIFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of Norbury, College Exercise, Duke of Norfolk, Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Sandal and Oxford Treble Bob.
Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWARD F. COWPERTWAITE 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 3-4
CYRIL CROSTWAITE... 5-5

Conducted by C. K. Lewis.

First peal in seven methods 'in hand' by all. First peal in seven methods in the district.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT IPSWICH.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held on April 19th in the belfry of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, and the numerous boards on the walls recalled memories of famous peals of the past. No doubt there are many ringers in different parts of England who have pleasant memories of ringing at this tower, and an instance was given when Mr. G. E. Symonds read a letter from Mr. Arthur V. Pearson, of Wolverhampton, wishing the Suffolk Guild success and expressing appreciation of his visits and ringing a few years ago.

Mr. C. J. Sedgley (Ringing Master) was elected chairman.

The secretary said that it had been proposed to hold the meeting on Easter Monday, but it was thought advisable to alter it to the Saturday, as it might be a further inducement for members to attend if shops were open.

The report of the treasurer showed a very satisfactory balance. It was proposed by the Rev. Herbert Drake to buy War Bonds, but it was decided by the meeting to leave the balance in current account.

In re-electing the officers, it was proposed to ask the new Bishop of the diocese to become patron of the Guild in place of Dr. W. G. Wittingham, who had resigned, and to elect Provost White, of Bury St. Edmunds, as vice-president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. Robert Sinker.

The following members were elected on the committee: Messrs. W. J. G. Brown, W. Stannard, L. Poulson, D. H. Elliott, Miss S. R. E. Bowyer and Mr. Frank Fisher, of Ufford.

It was proposed by Mr. C. E. Fisher, seconded by Mr. G. E. Symonds, that a report should be printed for the years 1940-1941. It was suggested that a list of members serving in the Forces might be printed in a future report.

At the finish of the meeting handbells were rung in various methods, the conducting being shared by Messrs. W. J. G. Brown and G. E. Symonds.

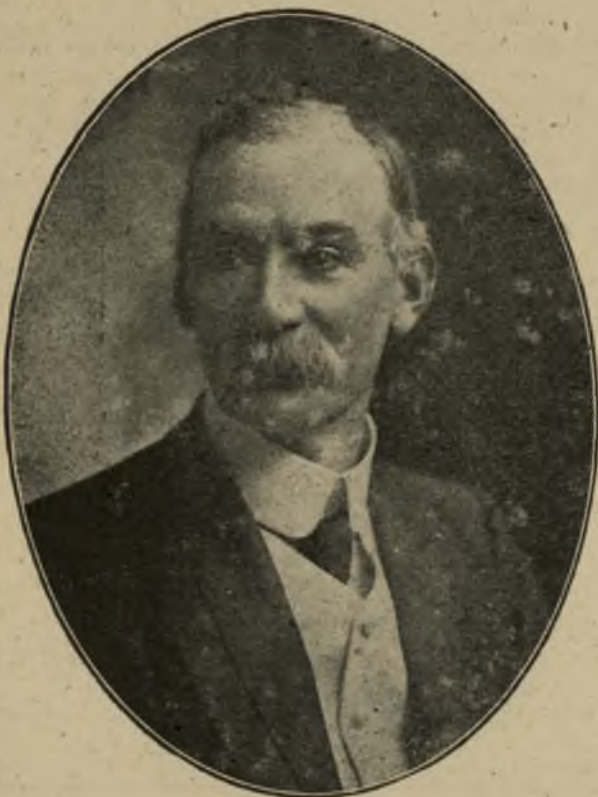
Among those present were Mr. George More, of St. Margaret's, Mr. Fred Howell, of St. Clement's, the Rev. Herbert Drake and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fisher, of Ufford, Mr. William Dye, of Grundisburgh, the Rev. Stannard, of Barking, several of the St. Mary-le-Tower company and two ladies, Miss Sylvia Bowyer and Miss Hilda Snowden.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 196.)

SIX AND SEVEN-BELL PEALS.

It was a fortunate thing that one of the debates at the first meeting of the Central Council turned on a matter which strongly interested and divided the opinions of the ringers of the day. The average ringer was not greatly concerned about the more academic questions, although in the long run they might affect him profoundly. He did, however, have strong opinions about whether it was allowable to ring peals of Triples without a covering bell. As is usual in such cases, the interest had been created and stimulated by personal factors. A few bands, and one in particular, having met short in eight-bell towers, had rung Grandsire Triples,



DR. A. B. CARPENTER.

leaving out the second and turning in the tenor. Other men had led a crusade against the practice, and had tried to get the associations to refuse to book the performances. What real motives lay behind their action is of no consequence. It was fortunate that it gave the Council the opportunity of deciding a question which ordinary ringers did at the time consider important and in which they were keenly interested.

The debate arose out of a series of resolutions proposed by E. F. Strange, which attempted to define the conditions necessary to the accomplishment of a true and complete peal on all numbers of bells from five upwards. So far as the numbers other than Triples were concerned, the Council postponed the matter, and a good deal was to be heard about them in future years. But the seven-bell question called for an immediate decision, and Strange moved, and Dr. A. B. Carpenter seconded, that for a

true and complete peal on seven bells there should be not less than 5,040 changes rung with or without a covering bell, and without interval, being the extent of changes in the method chosen.

This was carried after a keen debate by 40 to 16, seven not voting. The division list was published, and makes rather interesting reading. The original dispute had occurred in the metropolitan area, and the voting by the societies most interested was as follows: For the resolution, the Cumberland Youths, the Trinity Youths, the Surrey Association, the Middlesex Association, and the Essex Association (except for one member). Against the resolution, the College Youths, the Waterloo Society and the St. James Society.

The great majority for the resolution came from the provinces, but Heywood himself voted with the minority. The sequel came two years later at the meeting at Oxford, when only 39 representative members were present out of 73 and two hon. members out of 12. A rider was added to the definition which declared that 'nevertheless a performance of seven bells without the addition of a covering bell is to be discouraged.'

The question of defining a peal on the numbers other than seven came up at the Council's second meeting, held at Birmingham in 1892, when 43 representative and two honorary members were present.

It was laid down that on five bells a peal should consist of not less than 5,040 changes, without the addition of a covering bell, and in not less than three methods. On six bells, not less than 5,040 changes, in true 720's, of which no two in the same method should be called alike. On eight, ten and twelve bells, not less than 5,000 changes in any one method; on nine and eleven bells, not less than 5,000 changes in any one method with the addition of a covering bell. In 1889, the words, 'in all cases, starting from and ending with rounds,' were added.

These resolutions showed one of the great weaknesses of the Council, which, however, in its early days was inevitable. The members attempted to lay down precise rules for an art which had grown up through the ages without any definite rules. They made no attempt to understand the history and traditions which lay behind the generally accepted standards, and they thought that they were fully competent to fix the standards for the future. Especially they were, as a whole, quite out of touch with five and six-bell ringing. There were, however, new ideas just beginning to appear in the Exercise which would refuse to be shackled by restrictions. So far as the higher numbers were concerned, these restrictions were not particularly felt for some years, but until 1925 anything like spliced ringing was formally illegal.

In the case of five and six-bell ringing there was an immediate revolt. The five-bell resolution was a bad and illogical one. Its aim was to set a high standard and to encourage Minor ringing in six-bell towers, but there was no justice and no real need for forbidding a covering bell to peals of Doubles. Nobody really cared anything about the resolution; it was totally ignored by the Exercise, and in 1897 it was quietly rescinded, nothing being put in its place.

Against the Minor resolution the opposition was long and active. For years past the Yorkshire men had been very keen six-bell ringers, and they practised a vastly greater number of methods than was done anywhere else

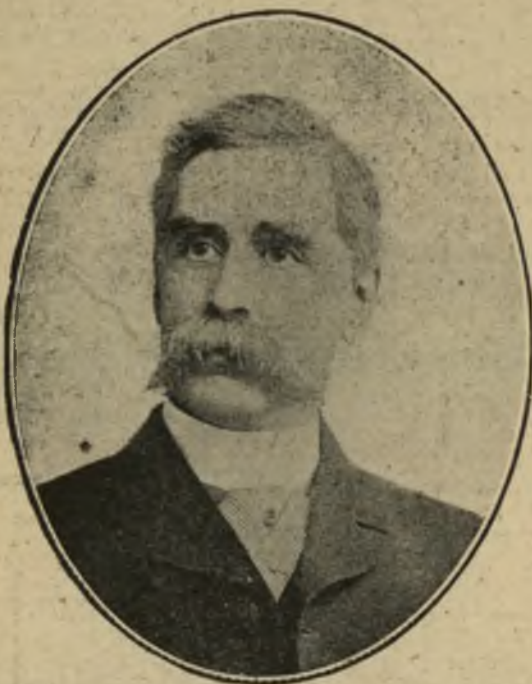
(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

in the country. In order to get more than seven into a peal of ordinary length, they rang 360's and even shorter lengths. They held, not without reason, that these performances were worth more than any peal in one or even in seven methods, and they asked that they should be allowed. This in 1893 the Council refused to do, largely by the direction of the president.

The Yorkshiremen did not accept defeat. Next year the matter was again brought up, and again the Council refused to sanction anything but complete 720's. The debate is interesting because the possibility of spliced ringing was mentioned for the first time. Heywood said that James Wilde had sent him a true 720 consisting of



WILLIAM SNOWDON.

several methods, and Mr. Bankes James pointed out that it was easy to splice plain methods with singles. Nobody, however, seemed to see very much in the idea, and its recognition and development had to wait for a quarter of a century. It was really an idea which had appeared in the early days of change ringing, but had lain dormant.

William Snowdon then started a long correspondence on the matter in the pages of the 'The Bell News.'

One of the chief objections to the fourteen 360's was that in such a peal some of the possible changes on six bells might never be rung at all. To get over this, William Snowdon moved at the Sheffield meeting in 1895 that, provided the 720 changes were first rung in their entirety, the rest of the peal might be made up of lesser lengths, no two in the same method. The Council, however, would not accept it.

It might have been thought that there was now no more to be said on the matter, but the six-bell ringers, and especially those of the north, were highly dissatisfied, and at the London meeting in 1897 the Council rescinded

the whole of its resolutions on the subject, and left no official ruling as to what is a peal of Doubles or of Minor. So the matter stood for fourteen years.

This might seem to be a very poor solution of the problem, and indeed, no solution at all, but it was the wisest thing to do, for the Council had fallen into the mistake to which such a body was very liable. It had attempted to decide on the matter before the members understood what was involved. It was not the first or the last time it would make a similar mistake, but that is nothing to its discredit.

One new standard at least was set up. The Exercise accepted the condition that no two 720's in the same method should be called alike. That has been the generally recognised rule ever since.

Spliced ringing became a real thing about the year 1910. On February 15th, 1911, at Edenham, in Lincolnshire, Law James called a 5,040 consisting of seven true 720's in fourteen methods, and at the Leicester meeting in that year he moved that nothing should be recognised as a peal of Minor unless it consists of at least seven true and complete 720's.

The proposal was not received very warmly. Maitland Kelly insisted (as he did on several occasions) that a 'peal' on six bells is a 720, and anything else is a 'performance.' This was a traditional opinion which lingered for long in the Devon Guild. In the end, James' motion was adopted as a 'recommendation,' not as a 'rule.'

What I believe was the last of the old style multi-method peals was rung on March 16th, 1911, at Tibenham, in Norfolk, and consisted of fourteen 360's.

The Council had not yet finished with the six-bell question, but the further controversies on the matter belong to the story of recent times.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

After the Great Fire of London in 1666, Sir Christopher Wren prepared a plan to rebuild the City on quite different and, as it was supposed more convenient lines, but the scheme came to naught because, while the authorities were thinking about it, the citizens went back to the charred ruins of their houses and started life afresh.

There is a good deal of the same spirit to-day, and among those who share it are the College Youths. They have gone back to the City, though not to their old haunt. You may search for The Coffee Pot, but you will search in vain, for every trace of it has gone, and the society meets at a tavern not so far away, and holds its business meeting at Mr. Langdon's office.

The Coffee Pot was not the only tavern associated with the College Youths' long history which has disappeared. There was The Goose and Gridiron. That fell to the house breakers 40 years ago and so escaped the fate of The Coffee Pot which it would have shared. There was The Barn, which stood where Trafalgar Square now is. There was the Barley Mow by St. Bride's. There is a tavern now on its site, but the name is changed, and it is but a small portion of an immense office building. The Old Bell, where Annable, and Cundell, and Hardham sometimes had a drink, is still there, how much rebuilt and changed we do not know. And what of the Whittington and Cat, as famous a tavern as any in the story of the Exercise, with so many memories of the London Youths and the College Youths, of handbell peals, and Matt. Wood, and Haley, and Cox, and Cooter? That, too, is gone.

The Two Brewers may be a poor substitute for these famous names, but 'twill serve. And the faithful few who every fortnight meet there are doing no small thing to keep alive an old and an honourable tradition.

Last Saturday the meeting was not large, but it was select. The Master, of course, and the secretary, Mr. Bert Hughes, Mr. George Price, Mr. Alexander Young, Mr. Harry Miles, Mr. Langdon, Mr. Murrel, and one or two others.

Business was largely routine and formal, but news of the deaths of three members, Fred Pike, Henry Parker and George Popnell, drew sympathetic references. And then the members, being in reminiscent mood, began to tell tales of the men of old, Wood, and Muskett, and Cooter, and Pettet, and kept it up so long that there was no time for more than a couple of courses on the handbells. But it was all worth while.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT CLENT.**

Excellent weather drew an attendance of nearly forty members and friends to a meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, held at Clent on April 19th, and members were present from Birmingham (St. Chad's and Selly Oak), Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley in the Northern Branch area, and Arley Kings in the Western Branch area.

The tower bells were available for 'silent' practice during the afternoon and evening, and very good use was made of them, the methods ranging from Bob Major and Grandsire Triples to Stedman and Treble Bob, while a course of London Surprise Major, which pleased everyone, was one of the high spots of the after-noon proceedings. Meanwhile the handbells were kept busy down below in the north aisle of the church, where excellent striking was again the order of the day, one touch of 378 Grandsire Triples being particularly noteworthy.

The spirit of the gathering was, if anything, above 'pre-war' standard, in spite of the recent 'blitzes,' and many who had hurried away from their work in the munition factories for an hour or two's recreation at the ropes felt themselves amply rewarded for their efforts.

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

To-day is the 227th anniversary of what is generally regarded as the first true peal ever rung. The tablet, which still hangs in the belfry of St. Peter Mancroft, reads as follows—

'May the 2d 1715 Here was Rung by the Ringers call'd Norwich Scholars that most Incomparable Peal call'd Grausir Bob Triples, it being the 3d whole peal that they have Rung but the first whole Peal that ever was Rung to the truth by any Ringers whatsoever. It has been studied by the most Acute Ringers in England (but to no effect) ever since Triple Changes were first Rung but now at last its found out to truth by John Garthon one of the said Society and Rung by him and the rest of the Society in 3 hours 18 minutes which is about 1,550 Changes in an hour the whole Peal being 5,040 Changes and not one Bell misplac'd or out of Course. The Names of Which Ringers are underwritten against their Respective Bells as they Rung.

John Garthon 1	David. Samevill 5
Isaac Pearce 2	Tho: Gardiner 6
John Briggs 3	William Dixon 7
James Brooke 4	Robert Woodcock 8

An account of the men and the peal was given in our issue of August 2nd last.

A FAMOUS SUFFOLK RINGING FAMILY.**THE MOTTS OF FRESSINGFIELD.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have wondered recently when reading accounts of old ringers of the past whether the Exercise would be interested in the Motts family.

Most people seem to associate them with the late James and Billy, of Ipswich, only, but they were natives and descendants of an old ringing line at Fressingfield. In fact, the last time I saw James Motts was there on the occasion of William Riches' funeral (about 1922), to whom they were related, I believe.

My father was born at Fressingfield in 1847, and a few years before he died in 1934 I tried his memory of the Fressingfield ringers in his younger days and made a few notes.

Before the funeral of William Riches my father, who was also on a visit, told me they would ring a 'dumb' peal and handbells over the grave. This was the only time I have seen or heard handbells with the tongues muffled, with felt or baize, I think it was. I did not know the late Mr. Poppy or Mr. Fred Borrett then, but I think they each rang a pair.

Although my father was not a ringer, he would chat about the ringers of his days there, and when peal attempts were made how people in the village would be interested and listen for the bells to 'come home' or be disappointed at failures.

Another thing connected with the funeral that day was after half-muffled ringing in the evening the bells were 'ceased' by first setting the treble, the second and so on to the tenor. I did not understand the whole pull and stand then, so do not know if it was rung.

At one time there were enough Motts related to ring the octave. James Motts, who kept the Fox and Goose, and Seymour Motts were brothers. James had three sons, William (a baker), Robert and James. William had three sons, Clement, James and William.

According to my father, all were ringers, and the last two were the well-known Ipswich men.

When Saxfield six were opened, the Fressingfield ringers won the gloves (white, I believe).

Dr. Raven, who was Vicar at the time, obtained the Queen's photo on the occasion of Ted Chandler (gardener) ringing for the fiftieth year in succession and Queen's Jubilees 1887 and 1897.

I was shown a copy of the 'Clavis' once at the 'Fox' with the weights of Mancroft twelve written in ink on the inside cover.

DAVID VINCENT.

6, Stanway Drive, Hale, Cheshire.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

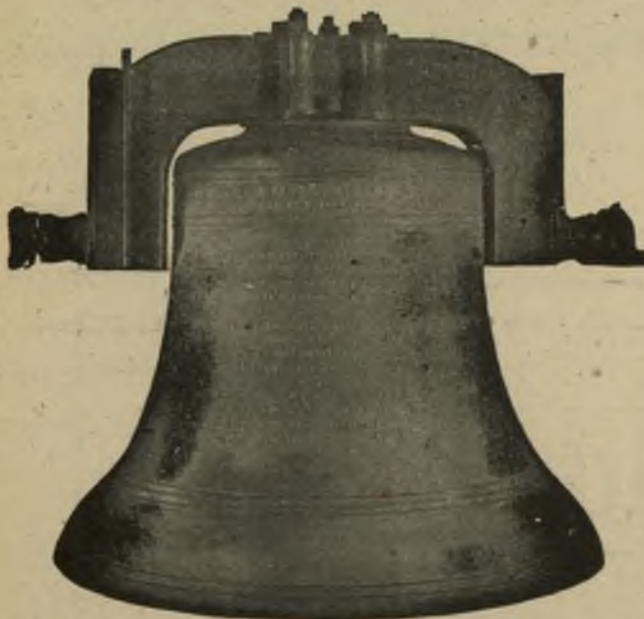
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THE EDITOR.

The Editor is still confined to hospital and, although his progress is slow, it continues to be satisfactory.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Walker, who reaches his sixty-fifth birthday to-morrow.

Among the churches of South London damaged or destroyed in recent air raids is one which had one of the oldest rings of eight in the Metropolis. The belfry played a part in the history of the Exercise and for a short time was the headquarters of the St. James' Society, but for many years the bells have been unringable. The last peal in the tower was somewhere about 1912.

A church, where in the past fifty years much ringing history has been made, had a narrow escape in a recent raid, when several high explosive bombs fell in and around the churchyard. All the doors, windows and louvre coverings were blown out and the roof severely damaged. The bells are safe and sound.

It was here the Ladies' Guild rang their first Surprise peals, and a band whose average age was 15½ years rang a peal of Bob Major. A fund in memory of the late E. Barnett, sen., provides the bell ropes.

Last week we stated that a Taylor ring of eight in a South-Western suburban town had been destroyed. We are happy to say that this is not correct. A peal book dating from the 18th century, which records the doings of early ringers of the town, is also safe.

April 30th was John Carter's birthday. On that date in 1924, when he was 70, he gave a party at Mr. E. A. Young's house in Forest Hill and demonstrated for the first time his reconditioned ringing machine, Miss Edith Parker calling a touch on it.

The present record length of Grandsire Caters is 16,271 changes rung at Appleton in 1932, which beat the 15,227 at Cheltenham mentioned in Belfry Gossip last week.

Capt. Arthur Peniston Moore died on April 30th, 1891. He was a member of a very good band at Redenhall in Norfolk, where he usually rang the tenor. With Mr. Gervas Holmes and Mr. Mackenzie he started a bell foundry which cast several rings of bells, and he was one of the earliest members of the Central Council, although he was not able to attend the first meeting.

The first peal by the Cambridge University Guild was rung on handbells on April 28th, 1890. The method was Plain Bob Triples and the band consisted of the Rev. A. H. F. Boughey 1-2, E. Banks James 3-4, H. Law James 5-6, and C. F. Wedemeyer 7-8. Law James conducted.

On the same date in 1923, the record length of Cambridge Surprise Major, 12,898 changes, was rung by the Midland Counties Association at Stoney Stanton. The composition was by Edwin Hims and the peal was called by Harold J. Poole from the fifth, which was fixed throughout instead of the seventh. This was necessitated by the fakeness of the method.

On May 5th, 1817, the Painswick Youths rang 12,312 changes of Grandsire Caters. It was the longest at the time by ten men, but the Norwich Scholars as early as 1737 had rung 12,600 in the same method, but with the tenor double handed.

On the same date in 1887 the first peal in Dorset, Grandsire Triples, was rung at Bridport.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 4, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1. One of the peals of Stedman was Mr. Isaac Emery's first in the method. It was rung at Chislehurst and was called by J. W. Washbrook. The composition was 'Thurstan's Reserved,' about which there has lately been some correspondence in our columns. On the same day Washbrook called Holt's Ten-Part on the neighbouring bells, which have recently been destroyed.

THE LATE GEORGE POPNELL.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass on your valuable space to pay a short tribute to my closest ringing friend. He had a wide circle of friends, who will all regret to hear of his passing.

I first met him in April, 1928, when he arranged and rang in my first peal of Grandsire Triples. Although he was nearly 20 years my senior, age was no barrier to a friendship that made us well nigh inseparable. His enthusiasm was unbounded and infectious. Distance was no object in the cause of ringing, and in our association we had rung some 52 peals together, many of them my first peals in various methods.

I mourn the loss of a fine ringer and a staunch friend.

Bristol

DONALD G. CLIFT.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

For the first time in its existence the Hertford County Association held its annual meeting on a Saturday (April 19th) instead of Easter Monday, the arrangement being made under the impression that there would be no bank holiday. There certainly was not as large a gathering as usual, nor was it expected, but 39 partook of an excellent tea provided at the Waterend Barn, a sixteenth century tithe barn removed from Lord Brocket's estate in Hertfordshire.

The members attended 4 o'clock evensong in the Cathedral. The Dean said that it was a pity the bells could not be rung, but it was good that the Herts Association should come to their annual service. They were practising their art in silence, hoping for the day when the bells would ring out for peace.

Mr. C. H. Horton (president) presided at the business meeting, and after a few words of welcome said that it was a pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which some people had taken up handbell ringing, and asked members to support their local secretaries and keep their subscriptions up to date, so that the association could be kept going, ready for the times of peace.

The secretary, in the absence of the treasurer (Lieut. G. E. Debenham) presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £3 3s. 3d., a drop of £10 5s. 10d. on the previous year, partly accounted for by the accounts of one district not being received until after the accounts had been audited on April 16th, and the non-payment by many members, who it is hoped will send along in due course. He also presented the report on the Benevolent Fund. The balance in hand now amounts to £29 6s. 2d., representing an increase of £2 12s. 9d. on the year. Contributions have fallen off during the year, the only sums received being from the Watford District and the St. Albans District.

The Voluntary Bell Fund now has a balance at the bank of £11 8s. 4d., an increase of £3 2s. 2d. on the year. The chief source of the year's income was the collection at the ringers' service at the Cathedral on Easter Monday, 1940, and, in addition, contributions have been received from the Watford, St. Albans and Northern Districts.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In his annual report, Mr. G. W. Cartmel referred to the ban on ringing and the uncertainty which for a long time existed as to how or on what occasions the bells should be rung in the advent of invasion.

'After centuries of ringing on Sundays,' he continued, 'the stoppage is not only a serious menace to change ringing, but it is a great national loss to the community. Well, we will shoulder our burden courageously, trusting the day may be near when righteousness, which alone can exalt a nation, will triumph over wrong, and our bells again ring their ever welcome music. To carry on in the best possible way is the test before us, which must be seriously tackled by us all. In the meanwhile, the upkeep of the bells must not be neglected for indifference may mean damage. As to ringing in general, I believe that much is being done in various ways throughout the country to keep bands together until peaceful days arrive. My information as to our own association is somewhat meagre, being confined chiefly to the St. Albans and Watford districts.'

Meetings for handbell ringing had been carried out in the Watford district under the capable and energetic guidance of the president with great success. Eight had been held with an attendance of 139 ringers. The effort is much appreciated, for it has given impetus to handbell ringing and renewed friendship over the cup that cheers and promotes good fellowship. At St. Albans Cathedral the clappers of the front ten have been displaced and electric bells have been fitted in the ringing chamber through the initiative and ingenuity of its conductor, Mr. H. E. Goodenough. This enables practices to be carried on and beginners instructed. At St. Peter's "dumb" practice is carried on most successfully, and rumour says that a touch of Cambridge was rung at a recent meeting. At this and at the Cathedral tower there is a strong nucleus of lady ringers. Broxbourne have also carried on with their practices.

NEW LADY RINGERS.

Following the example of St. Albans, the ladies of North Mimms have taken up practice, and at a meeting in June three joined as members. Mr. H. J. Hazell was responsible for this meeting and combined his secretarial duties with that of organist on the occasion.

Peals have been few: three on tower bells and three on handbells. Grandsire Triples at Bushey Heath, conducted by Mr. C. W. Woolley; seven Surprise Minor methods at Apsley End, conducted by Mr. Walter Ayre; Stedman Triples at Northchurch, conducted by Mr. E. S. Turner. On handbells, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Minor, conducted by Mr. C. W. Woolley, and a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, conducted by Mr. E. S. Turner.

We have lost by death, continued the report, several of our oldest members, notably Messrs. Challis F. Winney, G. B. Lucas, W. D. Smith, J. Chatley, Charles H. Howard, Alfred Pye and others. Mr. Winney first identified himself with ringing in St. Albans in 1884, at a time when change ringing was being revived in the city, and the Cathedral Society came into existence. His practical interest in our association was keen to the last, for he found much pleasure and spiritual uplift in our annual service and meeting. A scheme has been launched for the erection of a tablet to his memory in the ringing chamber of St. Clement Danes' Church, subscriptions for which are being collected by Mr. A. B. Peck, secretary to the Ancient

Society of College Youths. He has gone to his rest, but the memory and influence of a good life will remain with us always.

Mr. G. B. Lucas, of Walthamstow, was an ardent and enthusiastic ringer, and must have attended nearly all our annual meetings. I remember meeting him at Hertford at the annual meeting in 1890, and again in 1939. His "penny-farthing" bicycle must have carried him thousands of miles for ringing purposes with his chum, Waghorn. He was a gifted ringer, and it has been truly said of him that he was always ready to help others, many of whom are now famous ringers.

Mr. W. D. Smith was probably known more to London ringers, had been a member for many years, and was with us at the opening of the Cathedral augmentation.

Mr. H. Walker, who migrated from St. Albans to Luton many years ago, was a good ringer, and we sympathise with the Luton band in their loss. Messrs. Greenhill (Hemel Hempstead), Newell and Norris (Berkhamstead) must also be added, with regret.

Mr. Joe Chatley was known to many especially in St. Albans, being a member of the Cathedral band and also associated with St. Peter's tower by honorary membership. At the graveside, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells, and in the evening, at St. Peter's Church, a touch of Grandsire Caters was rung.

Our sympathy goes also to the Aldenham ringers, in the death of their last Vicar, the Rev. Canon Gibbs, a member of the Association for many years. Canon Gibbs was greatly interested in ringing, and we shall remember his geniality and goodness towards ringers at all times. We also sincerely regret the recent damage the church has sustained by German barbarity.

I am sure we all heard with regret of the illness of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, the editor and proprietor of "The Ringing World," and that we are now glad to hear also that he is recovering from his operation. I feel sure that the goodwill expressed by letters to him from so many ringers will be a tonic to a quickened recovery and ever remain to him a monument of answered prayers and good fellowship. To keep "The Ringing World" in circulation is a problem he has to face, for it is uncertain what drastic measures the Government may take at any moment in decreasing supplies of paper. The absence of men under war conditions must have decreased the circulation, and I would suggest that this leakage might be met by new subscribers. One copy in a belfry is not sufficient for a band, and I would most earnestly ask for your support. We have a paper which caters for ringers alone, and I think the absence of peals has made the paper far more interesting to everyone than hitherto. Let us cheer our sick brother by becoming subscribers.

THE LIBRARY.

At the suggestion of the acting librarian, Mrs. Fergusson, it has been decided to remove the more valuable books of our library to safer quarters, and Messrs. Thompson and Debenham have kindly offered to put them into a safe; a very gracious act.

The treasurer's statement and the hon. secretary's report were adopted.

Mr. T. G. Hawkins, of Chalfont St. Giles, and Mr. W. Wolstencroft, of Ashton-under-Lyne, were elected non-resident members. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. C. H. Horton; treasurer, Mr. G. E. Debenham; secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel; acting librarian, Mrs. Fergusson; auditors, Messrs. Mercer and Hole.

The president very nicely thanked the Dean for his presence and for his address, which the Dean acknowledged, regretting the absence of the collection at the service. He promised two guineas for the Voluntary Bell Fund, which has since been received.

Mr. W. Ayre moved that as a matter of economy the annual report be not printed. The secretary moved an amendment that it be printed in a modified form, as he considered it was vital for the success of the association. A chorus of voices supported the amendment, and the president said he could not carry on his work as a district secretary without it. It was carried with a large majority.

A vote of thanks to the officers of the association, the choir at the Cathedral for their beautiful singing, and to Dr. A. C. Tysoe, the organist, who played as a concluding voluntary 'The Music of the Bells,' was heartily given. Both the towers of the Abbey and St. Peter's were visited during the day, and some good practice was obtained both on the tower and handbells, the electric bells fitted in the Abbey chamber being voted a great acquisition and success.

The secretary thanked very warmly the members for notifying their attendance. Thirty-nine accepted, and the same number had tea. Thus concluded a meeting which was well worth while.

REMINISCENCES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in reading the reminiscences by E. B. It brought back to my mind very forcibly the occasion, some thirty years since, when I saw the late Ernest Pye ringing the eleventh bell to Stedman Cinques at York Minster, which the local men said did not go well. I much admired the splendid way he handled it.

I saw also at that time the late George Breed ring the tenor to a course of Kent Maximus there, and had the pleasure of hearing some of his reminiscences of London life and ringing there before he came to York.

W. L. DUFFIELD.

Long Stratton, Norfolk.

CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At last we are told what that absurd term, 'backward hunting,' is supposed to mean. It reminds me of the meeting of the Central Council at Liverpool, when we had a motion about it on the agenda. During the discussion, I asked Mr. Trollope straight out what it meant. He replied, 'Backward hunting is—er—backward hunting.' He did not intend this to be funny; indeed, he was never more in earnest. The reporters, however, had a different idea; they seized on it eagerly. Not only was this reported in our own papers, but it went all over the world. I heard from the other side such comments as, 'We saw in our paper the funny question you asked in Liverpool.' So we had, between us, added to the 'gaiety of the nations,' and caused people to think how absurd ringers are. Now I do not suppose Mr. Trollope worries about this; but he should remember that there are some ringers who do. And in any case it means that some likely recruits were warned off, and lost to the Exercise.

However, after the meeting I resolved to find out, and asked everyone I met the same question. But first of all it was put to me. For, encountering a large group of members, one of them asked me, 'What is this "backward hunting" you have been talking about?' Is it the same as what we usually call "hunting down"? Someone chimed in, 'Of course it is.' And with this they all agreed. My assurances that it was not were met by expressions of polite incredulity.

Now these men were in the front rank, as we should all agree. They were much better ringers than I was, though they did not consider themselves so good as I was in regard to nomenclature, or they would not have tackled me as they did. There were enough of them to alter the voting, had they understood what the words meant.

STEDMAN SLOW SIX.

All the others to whom I put this question agreed in one thing. This was that the slow six in Stedman is 'backward hunting.' They all admitted this with a curious reluctance. This was not because (as we shall see) all the six changes have not this motion. But because they thought it meant something more than appears in a Stedman slow six. And it was in this something more that the trouble began. For unfortunately they all differed about it. Evidently this ridiculous term conveys a different idea to each one who uses it. If, therefore, most ringers do not know what it means, and those who do think they know cannot agree as to its meaning, do you not think it would be better to give up using it?

Anyway it cannot be much wanted, for during all these years since the Liverpool meeting it has never been used till lately. The first time it appeared in print was when half of it was inserted in Trollope's edition of 'Stedman.' There, over a quick six is printed 'forward,' and over a slow six 'backward.' No attempt is made to explain these words, but 'hunt forwards' and 'backwards' is mentioned in the letterpress. About a year ago, the whole expression appeared in your columns; and since then another half of it has appeared. These instances, which I think are exhaustive, do not look as if it were of much use.

It is not difficult to understand why the expression is not much used, apart from the ridicule it brings on ringers. For with all due respect to what your article says about two kinds, I should say that there are three kinds of movement in change ringing. The first is hunting; the second places; the third dodging. Of these three, hunting is the one that neither causes or is caused by the motion with that absurd name. The dodging may be altered by it, but so it may in other ways; and to join the name to dodging would therefore be misleading, though not so wrong as perversely calling contrary motion 'hunting'—the one thing it is not.

It is, however, by places that the motion is altered. As long as the number of places is even—two ('making places'), four, and so on—the movement is not altered. But if there are an odd number of places—one (a snapping blow, at lead or elsewhere), three places, or an odd number—the motion is at once altered. If, therefore, a special name were required for contrary motion, it should be joined rather to places than to either of the other two.

THREE KINDS OF MOVEMENT.

These three kinds of movement may overlap somewhat. Thus a snapping blow, at lead or elsewhere, partakes of the nature of all three. This, however, is no reason for mixing them, and for saying that 'leading and lying whole pulls are a part of hunting.' We are only misleading ourselves and others by writing such nonsense, which every ringer knows is not the case; and which no one would have thought of, had they not to support this impossible technical term.

Hunting is movement from or to the lead. As soon as the lead is reached again, hunting ceases—unless it is a snapping lead, when hunting down overlaps with hunting up. In other cases hunting down ceases, before hunting up begins. To see that this is so, we can imagine (though we should not be allowed to ring) a bell to lead three or more times. Then between the first blow at lead and the last there are one or more rows. These certainly do not belong to the hunting down, and equally they do not belong to the hunting up. Thus there must be an interval at the lead. But, it may be said, it is to prevent this argument that we say that leading is part of hunting. This is not very logical, but we will meet him who raises it on his own ground. From the row in which a bell leads at hand

stroke there is a change to the row in which it leads at back. Now is this change up or down? It cannot be down, for the bell has finished hunting down as soon as the lead is reached, that is by the time the preceding row is begun. Neither can it be up; for hunting up is only when a bell leaves the lead. It does not begin until another bell has led. There must, therefore, usually be one change which is pure leading, neither hunting down nor up.

This may be shown graphically thus. If there are a few changes containing the full lead of any bell, written on paper ruled in squares, and we join the centre point of each square occupied by the number which represents that bell, we get a diagram of its course. Up to the first lead we have a line at an angle of 45 degrees to the rulings. After the second lead we also have another line with the same angle, but in the other direction. How are we to join these two lines? If your article is right, we should produce them until they meet. This, however, is impossible, as a bell cannot be in front of the lead. It is equally impossible to join them by lines in the other direction. The only possible way is, as we know, by a line perpendicularly down. This line represents a lead—a down line; while hunting is always represented by a line which moves sideways as well as down. These are always different lines, and the two cannot ever be the same.

'BACKWARDS.'

This naturally brings us to the second portion of our delectable compound, 'backwards.' If a man is falling from a height, he will fall in a perpendicular straight line. If a wall is near, the place at which he falls will be the same distance from it as that from which he fell, and in the same straight line; he is, therefore, moving down only, not backwards or forwards. The article says the motion in question is when the leading is back and hand. This, however, is as we have just seen, vertical motion, like falling down from a height. How can it be forwards or backwards? No other science mixes up vertical and horizontal (or diagonal) motion in this way, or it would soon come to grief. And change ringing cannot claim to be a law to itself in this matter.

We are given an illustration in which one column is marked 'forward.' There is nothing forward in this column, or at any rate nothing that is not equally backward. The same applies to the other column labelled 'backward,' a word which is just as misleading.

Nothing is said as to which row is handstroke. If in each case the column is begun with a handstroke, as is usually the case where a line is not drawn, the result will not agree with the article.

We have already words to describe the two kinds of leading: 'right' and 'wrong.' I am not quite sure whether 'wrong' is the right word for us (to use an Irishism). But at any rate the word is in use, and it is understood by everyone. Why not use a slightly ridiculous term, rather than a wholly ridiculous one, even if its meaning has to be a little enlarged—if one must be used? Moreover, it has only one syllable instead of four.

But it may be said, so far we have only considered one part of the definition. Unfortunately, it is the only part which is intelligible. The other part says, 'When the odd bells go down, and the even bells go up.' Now in ringing as in other things, whatever goes up has to come down. In the examples shown, every bell goes up half the time, and the other half down, and this applies to odd and even alike. Evidently something has been left out; it would be unprofitable to speculate on what the missing words may be.

There is, however, one thing which is clear. In the examples given, one column is the other inverted. The top of one is the bottom of the other, in both cases. Can it be that inversion is the real definition that the article is trying to give us? At any rate, three different definitions are mentioned—the incomplete one about odd bells going up; the leading at back and hand; and inversion. They have to be made to fit, which is not self-evident. And they must apply to principles, such as Stedman; a requirement which does not seem to suit any of them.

A PLAIN STATEMENT WANTED?

Can it be that what would solve the difficulties the writer seems to have got into would be a plain statement that to invert a piece of ringing (or to introduce contrary motion therein) you must have a snapping blow somewhere?

Take Stedman, as all seem agreed on it. In a slow six the contrary motion is introduced by the snapping lead with which it begins. That snapping lead is in the 'right' position, not as the two following leads (four rows), which are 'wrong.' The last row has a snapping lead (again in the 'right' position); this brings us back from contrary motion. Thus there are only five changes in this six which are in contrary motion. The first change is in ordinary motion, and could be added to the preceding quick six, which would then have (to use another Irishism) seven such changes.

From this we see that contrary motion is not opposed to the other kind in such a way that all changes are similarly divided; so that the number of one kind equals that of the other. In methods where a snapping blow is found neither in the plain course, nor in the calls, there is no contrary motion.

The other articles in this series have been so uniformly good that it has been an unpleasant duty to find fault with this one. But we know that even Jove has been known to nod, and if the writer felt himself bound to bolster up this 'backward' fallacy, well, we can only be sorry for the woolly and inconclusive arguments he had to introduce.

H. DRAKE.

THE STANDARD METHODS. DIFFICULTY.

Ever since the year 1835, when the Norwich Scholars achieved what they called the 'unsurmountable task' of ringing a peal of London Surprise and, indeed, from long before that, London has always been considered the most difficult of all Major methods. From time to time other methods have been rung or been published which have claimed to supersede it, but none has as yet succeeded in taking its place, nor are there any signs that its prestige is likely to be diminished in the future. What are the reasons for its great popularity?

No doubt the method owes a great deal to its name and to its history. It appeared in London, probably as the composition of the great Benjamin Annable, at a time when method ringing had not been greatly developed, and it proved too hard a nut to crack even by the very skilful band of the ancient Society of College Youths, who had already rung the first peal of Cambridge. After that it was printed in the 'Clavis' and most of the succeeding text books. So when the great modern expansion of method ringing began it had already gained its reputation.

But it is one thing to gain a reputation and another to keep it. Fifty years ago Cambridge and Superlative were difficult methods, only practised by the most skilful of all bands; now the average ringer reckons to ring them. London is certainly far more widely practised than it was, but it still is treated with respect.

The popularity of London is due entirely to its difficulty and to the demands it makes on the attention and skill of the ringer. In almost every other quality it is deficient and second-rate.

There have been people—perhaps there still are—who have maintained that London is a musical method, and usually they have based their opinion on the number of rows in the course in which the tenors are not parted by more than one or two other bells. Such a test is, as we have already pointed out, a purely fallacious one. It is difficult to believe that anyone who listens carefully outside the tower to a well-struck peal of London, can find any satisfaction in the music.

An excellent way of comparing the rhythms of different methods is to listen outside (not when you are yourself ringing) to an ordinary peal of Spliced Surprise on the 3-lead course plan. All four methods are then at their best, for only the Middle, Wrong and Home leads are rung, and the inferiority of London to the other three is most noticeable. When you are yourself ringing, the interest which London supplies entirely counterbalances this musical inferiority.

To ring a method properly, there are two things you must master; you must know thoroughly what you have to do, and you must know thoroughly how to do it. There are methods which require a good deal of time and attention to learn, but, once learnt, do not present any particular difficulties in ringing to the really competent men. And there are methods which scarcely need any learning at all, but which are supremely difficult to perform. Many years ago James Motts, of Ipswich, a first-class twelve-bell ringer, in a conversation on this matter agreed that probably the most difficult thing in ordinary ringing would be to perform well a peal of Plain Bob Maximus, in which all the bells were thoroughly mixed

up. The difficulty would be caused by the fact that the movement is rapid and that all the guides and landmarks by which you ordinarily find your way among twelve bells have been removed.

There is a considerable amount to learn before you start to ring London, and when you do ring it, the movement is rapid and there are not many signposts and landmarks to help you to find your way.

The movement in Plain Bob Major is rapid, quite as much so as in London, but in Plain Bob the path is a regular one, the signposts are many, and the regular coursing order brings the bells to you in a very easy fashion. In London most of the work is backward plain hunting with abrupt turns which, if you miss, will throw you far off the path you should be on. And when you do miss the path it is not so very easy to find it again.

Is it possible to produce a more difficult Surprise Major method than London? Probably not on its own lines, though there are many methods which at first sight and at first practice will appear more difficult, for, as in all other things, the difficulties of London grow less the more familiar they become. But there are methods which not only at the beginning, but after they are well known, will prove quite as stiff and even stiffer propositions than London. So far these methods have not been practised, and with some diffidence we present one here as possibly the most difficult of all.

GLASGOW S.

12345678	25374681
21354687	23547618
12536478	32456781
21356487	34265718

23154678	43256178
32514768	34521687
23157486	35426178
32517846	53241687

23571864	35214678
32758146	53124768
37251864	35217486
73528146	53127846

37582416	51328764
35728461	15238746
53274816	51327864
52347861	15372846

13527486

Bob J5372846

13578264

When we draw out the skeleton course of this method we find that it contains a very large amount of work, much of it novel and almost all of it intricate. The places are made both at handstroke and backstroke, and the bells move both forwards and backwards. There is little of that symmetry of detail which is one of the great attractions of Bristol and which reduces its difficulty. A most unusual thing in a Major method is backstroke dodging in 4-5. An additional difficulty both in ringing and conducting is caused by the fourth's place bob.

Musically, Glasgow seems to be a very satisfactory method, though that cannot be properly judged without

(Continued on page 215.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

It has been the custom to hold the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association on Easter Monday, but this year, since the Government's decision as to the holiday was not known in time, the committee thought that a Saturday afternoon would be the best occasion, and it was held on April 19th at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham, when five of the seven districts of the association were represented.

The tower was open for handbell ringing and the vestry was used for the meetings and tea.

The committee meeting was at 2.45 under the chairmanship of the president, Canon FitzHerbert, who piloted the business through in his characteristically efficient way. It is a great pity that pressure of other business has prevented him from attending more meetings. A résumé of the decisions of the committee was given to the general meeting.

The Rector of St. Peter's conducted a short service, during which the ladies busied themselves in preparing tea, and what a feast! It did one's eyes good, in these days of rationing to see such a 'spread,' and members showed their appreciation of the good fare in no uncertain manner—the ringers' wives are to be specially thanked for making such sacrifices from their larders.

At the general meeting the president read a letter of apology from Mr. Ernest Morris, the general hon. secretary, who, very regretfully, was unable to be present on account of other duties. The election of officers for the ensuing year was the main item of business, and in relinquishing the office of president, Canon FitzHerbert said how fortunate they were to secure the nomination of Canon Wilkinson, who had recently removed from Ordsall in North Notts to West Bridgford in South Notts. A ringer of first-class repute and well known amongst the clergy for his interest in our art, he knew of no one who was more fitted to be president.—Canon Wilkinson's election was carried unanimously. The new president acknowledged Canon FitzHerbert's kind remarks in a humorous and racy speech, and said that although his parochial duties of looking after 23,000 souls was a big job, he would do his very best to merit the honour which had been done him.

The vice-president (Mr. Colin Harrison) and the general hon. secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) were re-elected, but Mr. W. E. White, the late faithful treasurer, felt that he could not continue in office owing to advancing years and ill-health. The president and other members spoke of the great work Mr. White had done for the association throughout his 54 years' membership, and particularly his office as treasurer during which he had looked after the best interests of the association. It was with sincere regret that his resignation was accepted, but he would receive some consolation from the fact that Miss I. B. Thompson, a friend and zealous worker for the association, would take over the office.—Miss Thompson was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. White.

Mr. Colin Harrison, vice-president, acting as secretary pro tem., gave a brief outline of the decisions reached by the General Committee, which included:—

No general meeting to be held until the next annual meeting unless in the meantime the ban on ringing has been lifted. District meetings to be carried on as hitherto.

Honorariums to be paid as follows for the past year: £5 to the general secretary and £1 each to the district secretaries.

The minute, authorising the transfer of interest on War Loan and Building Society investments from appropriation account to Bell Repair Fund, be suspended for the time being.

Reports for 1940 to be issued free to members serving in H.M. Forces.

Mr. Harrison thanked Canon FitzHerbert for the kindly and efficient way in which he had conducted the meetings during his tenure of office, and congratulated both Canon Wilkinson and Mr. A. J. Harris, the former upon his elevation to a Canonry in Southwell Minster and the latter upon his investiture by His Majesty the King of the medal of the Order of the British Empire for conspicuous gallantry during the air blitz in Leicester.

After a most interesting letter had been read from Capt. R. Radcliffe Hall, an honorary member now in a Bournemouth nursing home, the proceedings were brought to a close.

The first three members to enter the committee room had an average membership of 53 years.

The annual report shows that during 1940 14 peals were rung, half of them on handbells. The tower bells were one each of Stedman Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Major and Stedman Triples, and four of Minor. Two of the handbell peals were Bob Minor, the others Doubles. Forty-eight ringers took part.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first half-hour of the annual general meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, was spent in examining the old peal boards, which date back to 1838. After that handbells were rung until the time of the business meeting, at which the president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) took the chair. He was supported by members from Armley, Bramley, Batley, Burley, Bradford Cathedral, Almondbury, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church and Rothwell.

The officers were elected as follows: President, Mr. J. F. Harvey; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Barran, W. H. Senior and T. W. Strangeway; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Drake; secretary and treasurer, Mr. H. Lofthouse.

The secretary reported that 10 ringing and one committee meetings had been held. The financial position had been well maintained and only eight subscriptions fewer than in the previous year had been collected. That was very satisfactory, and the total balance of the society is greater than it was a year ago. The report concluded with an appeal to those who had not attended many meetings to spare an hour or two on the last Saturday of the month, bearing in mind that most of them are working for longer hours and have many voluntary duties to perform.

It was agreed to approach the Shipley tower (where the bell clappers have been removed) for permission to hold the next meeting there on May 31st.

One of the Leeds clergy had asked if the society could arrange to ring handbells before the services on festival days, and after discussion the following resolution was passed: 'That this meeting expresses its approval of the idea and leaves the matter to individual towers to consider details and carry them into effect.'

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens, proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. Helliwell, concluded the meeting.

Further handbell ringing took place until 6 p.m.

DEATH OF MR. DAVID AYLING.

VETERAN WITLEY RINGER.

The death is announced of Mr. David Ayling, of Witley, at the age of 76. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding in December, 1938.

Born at Witley, Mr. Ayling worked on his father's farm at Culmer, and for a time was baker to his father. For many years he had been gardener to Miss A. Foster at Inglewood, Witley, and was at work until a few weeks before his death. One of the oldest bell-ringers in the district, he had been a member of the Witley company for about 50 years, and captain for most of that time; in 1939 he became captain emeritus, and on occasions rang, despite his age, until the outbreak of war when ringing was prohibited. At his golden wedding, the ringers rang to commemorate the anniversary and presented the then captain with a case of pipes. At one time Mr. Ayling was captain of the Witley Drum and Fife Band, which long ago ceased to exist. As a boy he was in Witley Church choir.

In addition to the widow, Mr. Ayling leaves two sons and two daughters. The elder son, Mr. Hubert Ayling, is in America.

At the funeral the Witley ringers were represented by Messrs. F. Hagley and F. Woods, and former ringers present were Messrs. G. Baker, J. Russell, E. Rapley, A. and E. Ashdown, A. Hardy, G. Hammond and G. Woolten.

THE LATE MR. EDWIN F. PIKE.

At the funeral of the late Mr. Edwin F. Pike on April 22nd the Ancient Society of College Youths was represented by Mr. E. Alexander Young, who maintained the ringers' tradition by striking three whole pulls slowly and solemnly on a handbell over the grave after the Benediction.

SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the growing interest taken in new methods, and the fact that the new Surprise Major methods book cannot be published until some time after the war, would it be possible to give weekly (or when space permits) an article on methods selected from the book, on the same lines that Cornwall Surprise has been so ably dealt with in recent weeks? I feel sure that this would add an interest that would help the sale of the book when publication becomes possible.

G. MARRINER.

Leatherhead.

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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.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Handbell ringing 3.30. Business meeting 4.30. Half-rail fare (maximum 2s.) allowed to resident members. Address by Vicar of Brighton during the afternoon. No arrangements for tea. —S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmore Avenue, Brighton 6.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Howden, on Saturday, May 3rd, when handbells will be available. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea in Manor House Cafe at 5 o'clock. Business meeting for election of officers, etc. Annual reports available at meeting.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Handbell practices will be resumed at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 7.30 p.m., commencing Tuesday, May 8th.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury, on Saturday, May 10th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., at a cost of about 1s. (please bring your own sugar). Annual business meeting to follow. Owing to catering difficulties, tea will be provided only for those who make application to me by May 5th. Please note, to avoid disappointment. Nearest station to Kingsbury is Wembley Park (Met.), from whence No. 83 buses pass the church.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH, ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—We invite ringers to join with the local band in a social afternoon of handbell ringing at the above church, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea in the Mission Hall, South Street. Do come and join us, we shall be delighted to see you. Names for tea please, no later than Tuesday, May 6th.—O. L. Ashbrook, Tower Sec., 17, Harvard Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern and Western Branches).—A joint meeting will be held at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.), on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Six tower bells probably available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.30 p.m., followed by handbells and social evening. Numbers for tea by previous Tuesday, please.—B. C. Ashford, Northern Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cassington on Saturday, May 10th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea for those only who let me know by May 6th. Handbells available. A good attendance is necessary.—W. Evetts, Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 in the tower.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Sandal on Saturday, May 10th. A room will be reserved at Duke of York Hotel, Agbrigg Road. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting and handbells. Those requiring tea must let me know by May 7th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel, opposite St. James', on Saturday, May 10th. Handbells 2.45. Tea and meeting 4.5. All ringers welcomed.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addi-on Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available at 2.30. Service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30. Tea at 5.30 (1s.) if a sufficient number signify their intention of being present by May 3rd.—F. L. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Girls' Club Rooms, Chain Street, Reading, on Saturday, May 10th, at 4 p.m., followed by tea at 5 p.m., 9d. per head. Handbells available. Please let me know by May 6th how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, May 17th. Service at St. Nicolas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall (next to the church) at 5 p.m. Please send numbers for tea to me by May 13th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Meeting. — Preliminary Notice. — The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Worcester on Saturday afternoon, May 17th.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Latnton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from page 213.)

actual practice. The bells come up behind in natural coursing order, and the dodging there is sufficient without being excessive. The false course ends are B24365, F32465, and G43265. These will give thirty full natural courses, twenty-seven of them without either the second or third in sixth's place at the course end. There is a large scope for peal composition.

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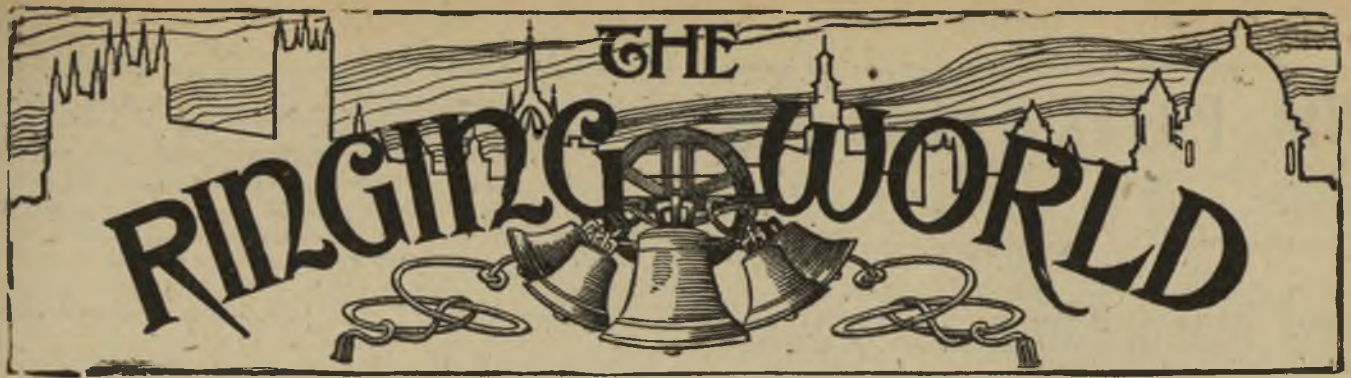
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No. 1,572. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, MAY 9th, 1941.

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THE HISTORY OF THE EXERCISE.

A fortnight ago we printed an extract from a well known book on Church Bells written by the Rev. William C. Lukis. It was published nearly one hundred years ago and gave a very lamentable picture of the state of the bells, belfries and ringers of Wiltshire at that time. This paragraph has drawn protests from two or three of our readers who think it ought not to have been reproduced. The picture drawn, they say, is not a fair one. Things were never so bad as that, and even if they were it is better to forget all about them. Why not talk about the progress that has generally been made since? Why give a handle to those people who are always on the look out to find nasty things to say about ringers?

We rather sympathise with our correspondents, but we think they hardly understand why the paragraph appeared. It certainly was not to libel the ringers of by-gone days or to blacken their characters, nor yet because the extract is in itself of any particular interest.

The exigencies of the war and the ban on ringing have compelled ringers, including ourselves, to turn their attention to matters which in ordinary times they look upon as rather of secondary importance. One of them is the history of the Exercise. We have published a number of articles and letters from several contributors, and the evidence is that quite a lot of interest is taken in the history of ringing.

But there is one condition which the writing of history shares with change ringing itself—if it is to be anything at all, it must aim at being true. To write accounts of past men in the style of after dinner speeches is not writing history, it serves no purpose, and it is not particularly interesting to read.

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Central Council. We have tried to give some account of the beginnings of that body, the causes of its foundation, and the general conditions of the Exercise. That led us further back to the foundation of the great territorial associations and the belfry reform movement, of which we hear very little nowadays, but to which we owe so very much.

There were great men among the ringers of past days, men who not only served their own generation, but have benefited those that came after them. They were not all peal ringers, or composers, or writers of books. Much of what they did has been forgotten, and their very names are usually overlooked. But if we would understand the history of our art we must know the truth about the state the Exercise had got into a century ago;

(Continued on page 218.)

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otherwise we cannot appreciate what these men did, and the debt we owe them.

The extract from Lukis and the other one from Thomas Geering are valuable historical evidence because they were written by men who lived at the time, who had full opportunities of knowing the truth, and who had no reason for representing things as otherwise than they really were. These extracts are footnotes to the historical articles which appear in other columns, and should be treated simply as such.

The Exercise has no reason to be ashamed of its history, taking it as a whole, but if it had, the truth is still the truth. If we are going to have a picture of old ringers let it be a true picture, otherwise we had better keep silence.

HANDBELL PEALS.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 26, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

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

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C. Collection No. 131).

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 27, 1941, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 22 in C.

RONALD SUCKLING	...	1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN	...	5-6
BASIL REDGWELL	...	3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	...	7-8
			ALBERT WIFFEN	...	9-10

Composed by E. M. ATRINS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION REVERSED.

THE PEAL AT CHISLEHURST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see that you included among your notes of 'Peals rung fifty years ago to-day,' a peal of Stedman Triples at Chislehurst on May 2nd, 1891, in which I took part and prior to which I was proposed a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The band was J. W. Washbrook (conductor) treble, T. Durling 2, G. Conyard 3, I. Emery 4, H. P. Harman 5, H. G. Fruin 6, F. J. French 7, G. Durling tenor. Unless Harry Fruin is still alive I am the sole survivor of the band. Harry Fruin came to Bromley in 1888 or 1889 and revived change ringing here, which at that time was at a very low ebb. After the band had progressed and he (Fruin) had called one peal for them, they in the spring of '91 invited Washbrook up for a week-end. On the Saturday morning, May 2nd, they rang Holt's Ten-Part at Bromley, in the evening the Stedman Triples at Chislehurst, and on the Sunday afternoon a peal of Kent at Erith. Washbrook conducted the three.

The Stedman was the composition which was queried some months ago by Mr. E. Barnett, and I have waited until now, hoping someone could prove conclusively what composition J. W. W. actually did call, but it seems to remain a mystery. I do not know, for I was the youngest in the band and had not rung much Stedman Triples. I do know that there was a single very early in the peal, whether it was at 1 or 2 I cannot say, but if the late Mr. Barnett, who heard the start, said it was 8 at 2, well, it was at 2. I cannot dispute it. What I have often wondered is why Mr. Barnett, who rang the 7th at Erith to the Kent on the Sunday afternoon, did not ask Washbrook what peal he called the night before.

I well remember that after the peal, as we wended our way across the common, I asked, 'What kind of a peal was that, with a single so early on?' Someone (I believe it was Harman or Fruin, but certainly not Washbrook) said, 'Thurstans' reversed.' I said, 'Thurstans' Four-Part?' 'No,' came the answer. 'Thurstans' One-Part.' So as I am probably the only one of the band left and I cannot prove anything, I am afraid it will have to remain wrapped in mystery.

I. EMERY.

49, Wellington Road, Bromley, Kent.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

V. THE GLOSSARY.

I do not know whether Arthur Heywood ever drew up a list of the matters he intended the Council to deal with, but the Johnson dinner resolutions show that something of the sort was in his mind, and that foremost among them was the revision of the technical terms used in change ringing.

He had gone deeply into composition, and was not content, as most other men were, to put forth the result of his work in the form of peals. He wished to educate the Exercise by explaining the scientific laws of composition. He was not the first to do this; C. D. P. Davies is, perhaps, entitled to that honour, and, before him, Jasper Snowden had explained Lockwood's system of composition. But Heywood was a real pioneer and he wrote many articles of the greatest value.

In doing so he was acutely conscious of the fact that he might be using words which did not convey to his readers the ideas that were in his mind. That is a difficulty which confronts every writer when he is explaining new ideas, but in Heywood's case it was especially prominent. He was dealing with mathematical subjects, he had had a mathematical training at Cambridge, and approached his problems with the mind and the equipment of a mathematician. If he could have used the idioms common to other mathematicians his task would have been simple. Already W. H. Thompson had shown how successfully it could be done. Thompson was not a ringer. He knew nothing about ringing, nor of ringers' ideas nor modes of thought, nor of the terms they used. He was given the problem—Is a peal of Grandsire Triples possible with ordinary bobs only? It was a mathematical problem, and he solved it brilliantly, working as a mathematician and using a mathematician's methods. Perhaps no book on ringing has had a greater influence than his. It entirely altered the outlook on composition as a whole. But, like some other famous books, its effect was indirect. I wonder how many ringers have ever read it, and of those who have, how many have really understood it.

Heywood could not work like Thompson. He had to make himself understood of the people. The ringers he addressed were not mathematically trained, in a general sense they were uneducated men, and Heywood was acutely conscious of the gap between himself and them. He showed it clearly in his book on Duffield. In his Investigations into Stedman Triples he apparently deliberately wrote for the few.

He formed the opinion that these difficulties could largely be got over if the Exercise were provided with a revised and enlarged set of technical terms which would be available to everybody. Each term should be carefully and straitly defined, so that whenever a writer used it, there could be no doubt about his meaning. As it was, the terms used by ringers were loose, indefinite, and antiquated. No improvement had been made since the days of the Clavis more than a hundred years before.

The result of all this was the appointment in 1894 of a committee to consider the technical terms used in the art of ringing, to suggest such corrections as may seem desirable, and to prepare a Glossary for the use of learners.

Several reports were presented to the Council, and finally the Glossary was printed and published in 1901.

Nominally the work of the committee, it actually was compiled, practically unaided, by Earle Bulwer, for as he wrote to me shortly before his death, 'the committee gives me no help.'

The Glossary was in many ways a most excellent book, but Heywood was quite mistaken in thinking it would, or could, have the effect he intended. It was quite true that there was a great deal of looseness in the use of technical terms, and they were in no better state than they were at the time of the Clavis. But a committee of the Council was not the proper persons to put the matter right. Words cannot be invented and imposed by authority. They must come spontaneously to supply particular needs. And no word and no term can be given by authority a precise and definite meaning, which, and which alone, it must bear. For words and terms are the expressions of thoughts and ideas, and as thoughts and ideas change and expand so must the meanings of the words. A writer must not complain that words do not convey his meaning; it is his job as a writer to see that they do, and if he occasionally finds there is no term to suit his purpose he must provide one, though, if he is wise, he will do so sparingly. If the reader cannot gather from the text what the writer means, he can hardly do so from a Glossary. This does not mean that a Glossary cannot be useful to a beginner.

But a writer is entitled to expect that the reader will do his share, and take a little trouble to understand what is said, especially when the subject is a difficult one.

All the ringing terms we use grew up naturally as they were wanted, and the reason why there was no development from the time of the Clavis until the end of the nineteenth century, was that in those years the Exercise had no one who could really write.

The Glossary and his share in the Investigations into Stedman Triples form Bulwer's best claims to fame, though in his lifetime he exercised a great and to some extent unique influence. Intellectually he probably was the greatest man in the Exercise at his time, but his circumstances were peculiar and his activities very much restricted.

Henry Earle Bulwer came of a younger branch of a very old and distinguished Norfolk family, the Bulwers of Heydon Hall, who gave many able men to the service of the country. His father was rector of Cawston, and in that village he was born on March 23rd, 1841. He was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and was ordained deacon in 1864, and priest in 1865. In 1879 he went as curate-in-charge to Needham, near the town of Harleston, where Captain Moore and Gervas Holmes, both enthusiastic ringers, had started a bell foundry in conjunction with an engineer named Mackenzie. Bulwer became acquainted with them and took a great deal of interest in their enterprise.

The parish church of Harleston is at Redenhall, where is a noble tower with a fine ring of eight bells. The belfry had for long been the centre of a good band of ringers, who, as early as 1877, rang a peal of Superlative Surprise, the seventh that had then been performed in the method. Here Bulwer learnt to ring, his first peal, on May 3rd, 1881, being in the very uncommon method, Double Oxford Bob Major. This he followed up with five peals of Oxford Treble Bob Major, the method then almost exclusively practised in the Eastern Counties. In 1882 he went to Hunstanton as

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

curate, in 1884 he accepted the vicarage of Stanhoe, a village nearby, and there he lived until he died. In neither place were there any bells, nor was there any ringing anywhere in the district, so that his connection with practical ringing from first to last was limited to no more than three years. Stanhoe is served by a branch railway, but there were no more than one or two trains a day, and, of course, it was long before there was such a thing as a motor-car. That meant that he was cut off from intercourse with ringers as completely as if he had been living in the North of Scotland. It says much for the man that under such circumstances he should have become one of the best known and most influential members of the Exercise.

It may seem strange that a man of Bulwer's intellectual ability should have been content to spend his life in almost complete isolation, but that was the fashion of the times and among the men of his class. By birth and tradition he belonged to the country, and his social equals were the country gentlemen and squires. His class was quite distinct from the average town clergymen. Personally he was a big man, with a long flowing beard, and an extraordinarily dignified presence. He was the last man with whom anybody would attempt to take a liberty, but there was nothing haughty or 'stand-offish' in his demeanour.

He took a great interest in the theoretic side of ringing. He was the first man to compose a peal with the deliberate intention of keeping the second away from the tenor in 7-8, and his 3-part peal of Treble Bob, which once was a very popular one, set a fashion which was followed, more or less, by all subsequent composers. He was the first to introduce a new Surprise Major method, and his New Cumberland has many merits. It does not now rank technically as Surprise, which may be one of the reasons why it is never rung nowadays. It is no disparagement of Heywood's work to say that the more complicated and abstruse part of the 'Investigations' into Stedman Triples was done by Bulwer.

At the second meeting of the Central Council, Earle Bulwer was appointed honorary secretary. He held the office until his death, and it is fair to say that its successful work was due as much to him as to Arthur Heywood.

In compiling the Glossary, Bulwer used the ordinary methods of a dictionary maker. That is to say, he searched every available text book on ringing, noted the technical terms, and gave the meaning which seemed to be in the mind of the writer. He also collected all the traditional words used in belfries in different parts of the country and many more that had become obsolete. It was a very big job and was done excellently well. No small tribute to Bulwer's work is supplied by the fact that it was incorporated almost entirely in the great Oxford English Dictionary, the standard work on English words and their meanings.

But it was not the book Heywood had asked for. He had called for new and exact definitions and terms. Bulwer, like a true lexicographer, gave those already in use. Nor was it possible that such a book could be compiled without some defective or disputable definitions. For instance, the first word given is 'belfry,' which is defined as 'the part of the tower in which the bells are placed.' That, no doubt, is one of the meanings of the word in ordinary English, though it is not the usual meaning. When we come across it in a book it generally refers to the whole bell tower. When ringers use it they almost always mean the ringing chamber, not the bell chamber.

Here is one of the instances where a word has several meanings, and if a glossary is to be of any real use, these meanings must be explained and contrasted.

There are many other similarly defective definitions. Actual misstatements are few, but we are told that 'warner' was an old, now discarded, term for 'bob-caller.' The 'warner' in the old societies was the official whose duty was to give notice to, or 'warn' the members of meetings and special ringing. There were no post cards and no ringing newspapers in those days.

Judged as a dictionary, however, the Glossary is a good book, and might well have taken its place among the standard ringing text books. But two bad mistakes were made, one by the Council, the other by Bulwer himself.

The Council printed an edition of a thousand copies, issued it at a surprisingly low price, and speedily got rid of the lot. That was good business, but instead of realising that all present needs had been met, the Council printed another two thousand. Nobody wanted them, and the result was that ultimately the stocks had to be given away. The effect on the book's reputation was disastrous.

Bulwer's own mistake was even more serious, though quite excusable. He added an appendix in which he attempted to explain and classify the systems and methods of change ringing. It was part of the idea, held by Heywood and others at the time, that the Council could and should bring everything connected with ringing into proper and final order. All was to be tidied up, and every item properly described, labelled, and put in its right group.

Whether any real system of classifying methods is desirable or even possible is now seen to be very doubtful, but these people not only thought it could be done, but they tried to do it and without knowing much about the matter. The greatest difficulty lay in deciding what should rank as a Surprise method. Bulwer's Glossary definition is that a Surprise method is 'a Treble Bob Method in which the work is highly elaborated and more or less difficult of execution.' That is a good dictionary definition, and does quite accurately describe the meaning of the word as used in the Exercise for a couple of centuries; but when Bulwer tried to discover some rule

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which would exactly define a Surprise method he thought he had discovered it by saying that no definite portion or division of the work must ever be exactly repeated in the same course, save in the opposite direction.

It was very ingenious, but the snag was that London refused to conform to the rule, and to meet that, Bulwer tried to remove the method from the Surprise class altogether and called it London Marvel. The Exercise, however, would have none of it, and this failure discredited, not only Bulwer's system of classification, but the whole of the Glossary. It was hardly fair, but he suffered from two disabilities, one that there was as yet insufficient knowledge of method construction, and the other his almost complete divorce from practical ringing. The partial failure, however, should not blind us to the great work he did for the science of change ringing.

GLASGOW SURPRISE. ITS COURSING ORDER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not question your opinion that 'Glasgow' Surprise would be more difficult to ring than 'London' Surprise, but it may interest the Exercise to learn something about the coursing order of 'Glasgow.'

In the plain course the tenors are in Plain Bob coursing order for 14 changes! They are together for 53 changes!! They are reversed for 58 changes!!! They are parted for 99 changes!!!!

The importance of Plain Bob coursing order so greatly stressed by yourself is sadly lacking in 'Glasgow.'

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

GEORGE BAKER.

We do not see the point of our correspondent's letter. 'Glasgow' was given as an example of a very difficult method, and it should be obvious that we cannot have difficulty unless we depart very widely from natural coursing order in the interior of the lead. To reverse the tenors in coursing order sounds very dreadful, but it often happens in methods, and when it is done below the treble, as in 'Glasgow,' it is not a defect. Considering how difficult it is, 'Glasgow' appears to be musically a very satisfactory method, but, as we said, that can only be decided definitely by actual practice.

MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

EIGHTY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY.

All our readers will join us in congratulating Mr. George Williams, who reached his eighty-fourth birthday last Wednesday.



MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams is the Grand Old Man of the Exercise, and few ringers have had a career in any way comparable to his. By birth a Hampshire man, he rang his first peal at Sober-ton in that county in 1883. He made his name when he was the conductor to the famous band at St. Peter's, Brighton, in the nineties of the last century. They were one of the first to ring the Surprise methods as a matter of routine, and they were the first to score a peal of Bristol, Mr. Williams conducting.

On July 19th, 1938, at St. Mary's, Southampton, Mr. Williams and Mr. Frank Bennett, another notable Brighton ringer, each rang his 1,500th peal. Those were the bells which have since perished in an air raid. At North Stoneham, where he now lives, Mr. Williams gave two trebles to make one of the lightest rings of ten in the country. He shares with Canon Coleridge the distinction of having been a member of the Central Council ever since its first meeting 50 years ago. He is still hale and hearty, and we wish him many more years of activity and happiness.

HANDBELL RINGING AT CHELTENHAM.

On Sunday, April 27th, for the first time handbells were used for the morning service at the Parish Church, Cheltenham. Two short touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by Messrs. Rowland Fenn, Frank Shorter and Wilfrid Williams, of London, and Charles Martin, of Cheltenham, and, as might be expected by such experts, the striking was exceptionally good. The innovation was much appreciated by the congregation.

Handbell practices will be held throughout the coming summer at the Parish Church Room near the Fire Station, St. James' Square, on Thursday evenings from 7 o'clock. The average attendance at these meetings is about ten, and any visitors, especially ringers in H.M. Forces, will be made welcome.

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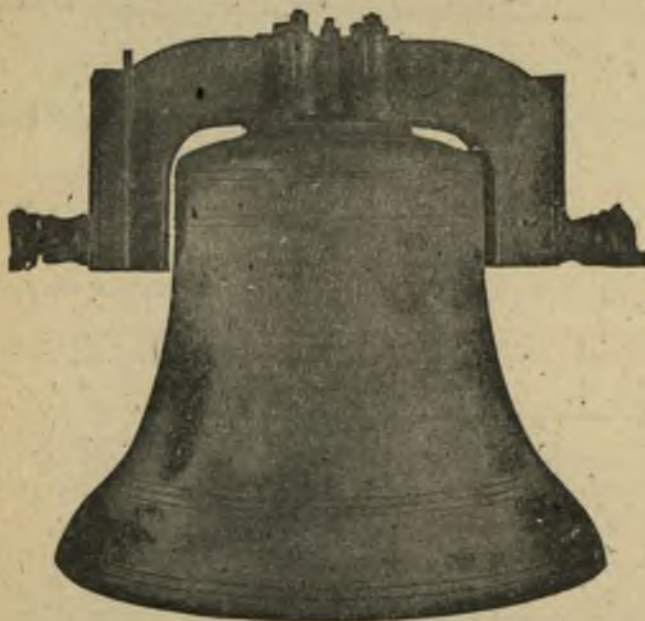
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THE EDITOR.

It has been found necessary for Mr. Goldsmith to undergo another minor operation. He is not likely to be able to leave hospital for some time.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the annual vestry meeting at Frodsham on April 16th, Mr. William Bibby was nominated by the Vicar to be his warden for the current year, and Mr. Bibby's younger son Francis was elected by the vestry as people's warden.

Readers will be sorry to learn of the serious illness of Mr. John Perry, of Brewood. Unfortunately, there is little hope of his recovery from a seizure.

On May 6th, 1922, 10,400 changes of Superlative Major were rung at the Loughborough Foundry Bell Tower. At the time it was the longest length in the method and was composed with bobs with the treble behind as well as in front.

The London Youths rang the first peal (Bob Major) on the heavy bells at Harrow-on-the-Hill on May 7th, 1780.

On May 8th, 1788, the Cumberlands opened Edmonton bells with 5,280 Oxford Treble Bob Major. John Reeves was composer and conductor.

Next Sunday is the thirty-eighth anniversary of the record peal of London Surprise Major, which was rung at King's Norton on May 11th, 1903. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. James Motts was at the seventh, and Ernest Pye at the fifth. The composer, Mr. Lindoff, who rang the fourth, George R. Pye (2nd), William Short (3rd) and William Keeble (6th) are still, happily, alive.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, and Kent Treble Bob Major 1.

Mr. A. Patrick Cannon has gone abroad. Any of his friends who wish to write to him should communicate with Miss Sylvia C. Jessop, 74, The Crescent, Eastleigh, Hants.

DEATH OF MR. A. WILKERSON.

RINGER AND VERGER AT NUNEATON.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Abraham Wilkerson, of Nuneaton, which took place recently after a short illness at the age of 70.

Coming to Nuneaton from Cambridgeshire about 20 years ago as an accomplished ringer, Mr. Wilkerson became attached to the Nuneaton Society, and besides taking part in 77 peals for the Warwickshire Guild, six of which he conducted, he helped to train a number of young ringers who have since made good progress.

He was hon. secretary of the Warwickshire Guild during the difficult years which followed the last war. A few years ago he left Nuneaton for Weston-super-Mare to open his own bakery and confectionery business. He rang at Weston and at Bristol, but returned periodically to Nuneaton, where he was always welcomed by his old associates. Last year he returned to Nuneaton as verger of the Parish Church, but he was not destined to occupy the position for very long.

The funeral service was at Nuneaton and was fully choral, being attended by a number of church officials and members of the Warwickshire Guild of Ringers. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Marcus Knight, assisted by the curate. The hymns, 'The King of Love' and 'Jesus lives,' were sung, and also the Nunc Dimittis.

The interment took place at Chilvers Coton Churchyard, and after the Blessing a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave by Mrs. A. H. Beamish 1-2, Mr. A. H. Beamish 3-4, Mr. H. Argyle 5-6, Mr. J. E. Moreton 7-8. Wreaths were sent by the Warwickshire Guild of Ringers, Nuneaton Parish Church ringers, and ringers of All Saints', Chilvers Coton.

THE LATE EDWIN T. PIKE.

HIS LOVE OF MUSIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to add a word or two as to the deceased's great love of music, though not himself an executant. His spare time was largely spent in attending recitals and concerts, and he could speak with critical appreciation of many of the works of the well-known masters, and also as to the abilities of those connected with their production to-day. This was particularly so in the case of Beethoven and Bach.

Mr. Pike was always reticent as to his family and affairs, and it was left for his sister to tell me that both his parents and a sister were organists. Though he spoke of 'my nephew, the organist,' he never mentioned to me his uncle the bellringer, which is again indicative. His sister adds that he was born at Dedham, Suffolk, and 'that he was one of the choirboys of Hoxne Church till, at 10 years of age, he was turned out because he would always be away in the belfry.'

It is of interest to note yet another case of the ringer's interest in and love of music.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG.

Italian Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

A NEW ARCHÆOLOGICAL WORK.

As readers will have seen from our notice column, the third part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' is now on sale, and the author is to be congratulated on being able to carry on his work without any lowering of the quality of paper or printing, notwithstanding the great difficulties of the times.

The present part deals with twelve churches which between them possess one ring of eight, three of six, one of five, one of four, one of three, one of two, and four single bells. With one exception, none of these is known among ringers, but several are very interesting from an archæological point of view. At Compton Beauchamp there is a bell, by an unknown founder, dating from the first half of the fourteenth century, and with an inscription which suggests that its founder, or his workman, was illiterate, for he used a number of letters without



THE REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

any order and making no sense. The hangings also are extremely interesting. The headstock is not later than the fifteenth century and may be as old as the bell. The wheel is a fifteenth century half-wheel increased to a full wheel in the seventeenth century. The clapper and gudgeons are mediæval.

Didcot has two early fourteenth century bells from the Wokingham foundry, but they are hung in modern fittings supplied as late as 1926 by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton.

Drayton is the parish where the Rev. F. E. Robinson was Vicar for 30 years, and the light ring of eight in the steeple receives full notice by Mr. Sharpe, who mentions many of the notable peals rung there. The first was Grandsire Triples in 1880, and was the first occasion on which a parson had called a peal in his own tower. Others included the first clerical peal (Stedman Triples in 1884), 11,328 London Surprise Major in 1896, and Robinson's 1,000th peal (Stedman Triples) in 1905; besides many others of Stedman, Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge and London. Some of them were called by Robinson and many more by Washbrook.

We notice one mistake in this account. Misled by the wording of the tablet, Mr. Sharpe says that the first unconduted peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Drayton in 1899. The first actually was rung at Burton-on-Trent in 1886. The Drayton peal was only the first non-conduted performance of Thurstans' Four-Part on tower bells.

A very attractive feature of Mr. Sharpe's book is the illustrations of ancient lettering and photographs of some of the bells. This is a book that will make a worthy addition to the fine series of county bell histories, and no one who is interested in that side of bell lore can afford to be without it on his shelves.

HEXHAM ABBEY BELLS.

AN OLD RECORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I came across a cutting from 'The Newcastle Chronicle,' dated September 8th, 1848, among other old records in my possession, which I am sure will be of interest to your readers. It is headed:—

'Hexham Abbey Bells. The Members of the Union Society of Change-ringers of Newcastle and Gateshead had a pleasure excursion to Hexham on Monday, Sept. 4th, when, with the consent of the Rector and Wardens, a party of them ascended the Tower of the Noble Abbey and rang on their Splendid set of bells a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5,040 Changes. The above peal was completed in the unprecedented time of two hours and 41 minutes, being the shortest time that such a peal of that number of changes has been rung in that weight of metal, tenor 21 cwt. The following are the names of the members who accomplished this task: John Bennett, Treble; John Stokoe 2nd; Thos. Cook (1st peal) 3rd; Thomas Denton 4th; Joseph Pescott 5th; Robt. Balmra 6th; Thomas Gay 7th; Richard Warsless, Tenor.

'The above peal (Thurstans) contains 170 singles and 76 bobs, and from its excellently arranged method has been called the "Non-pariel." It was ably conducted by Mr. Robt. Balmra. This is the first peal on the bells since they were cast by Thos. Lester in 1742 from the old six bells, the tenor of which weighed 70 cwt.'

I gathered this cutting locally when our association reopened the restored peal on December 4th, 1884, and made a note then that 'Of the above band only one now survives, Tom Denton, and still rings. The son of the treble man, John Bennett, has now been many years verger of St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.' Denton himself passed on, I think, about 1903. I also remark in my diary that through the tremendous noise in the belfry we did very little change ringing. Only plain courses were rung, probably because we could not hear the bob-caller.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne 2.

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

AND HALSTEAD BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Thomas regarding endowment for bell ropes, Halstead has a similar instance. Three acres of land named 'Bell Rope Field,' let for £4 per year, was left as an endowment for the repair of the bells and ropes. It is not known from whom this property was acquired and when. We now receive £10 6s. 9d. per year on this land, and bell ropes have the first preference on this fund.

It might be of interest to give the dates of the bells in this tower of St. Andrew's. The treble and second are comparatively modern, cast in 1903 by John Warner and Sons; 3rd inscribed, Thomas Gardiner, fecit 1755; 4th inscribed, Miles Graye made me 1633; 5th inscribed, Richard Bowler, me fecit, 1589; 6th is an undated pre-Reformation bell inscribed, 'Dulcis sisto melis campana vocor Gabriëlis.' The Vicar has dated this bell as approximately 1380; there is no trace on the bell of the name of the founder. If any reader can give us any more details of this bell we should be glad to receive them. 7th inscribed, Henry Pleasant made me 1700. Tenor inscribed, Omnia jovam laudant animantia, 1575. From the Bury St. Edmunds foundry, then in the hands of William Land and Thomas Draper.

In a cupboard in the belfry is a ringers' jar capable of holding 4½ gallons of liquid. It bears the following inscription:—

Ringers' jar, St. Andrew's Church, Halstead, Essex. Agvst, 1658. SB, IH, GT, RH, TM, IM.

Be merry and wise

Use me much and breake me not

For I am but an earthen pot

As W sit by the fyre to keepe ourselves warme

This pot of good liquor will doe us no harme

If you be wice fil me not twice at one sitting in summer heate

And winter cold to drink of this we dare be bold.

The upper initials are those of five ringers, and the initials below, I.M., may be those of the maker of the jar.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

BELLS IN ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A short while ago some correspondence took place regarding bells in the Isle of Man. At present I am in the island, and from what I can gather the tower became unsafe and the tall spire had to be taken down. Since then the bells have been used only by tunes being tapped on them. I do not know whether the tower is safe to ring them now, or whether it is the lack of interest for change ringing.

Regarding the peal at St. Thomas', Douglas, I made inquiries and was told there was a peal of six until 1926 and two more bells were added. Only tunes were tapped on them. I have not been up the tower to look at them yet.

W. FARRIMOND.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CROYDON.

The annual meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Croydon on Saturday, April 26th.

The tower of St. John's was open for handbell ringing from 4 p.m. to 5 o'clock, and a service followed, conducted by the Bishop of Croydon, vice-president of the association. The lesson was read by the Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt.

The Bishop, in his address, welcomed the members and made some inspiring remarks about the present state of conflict. We were witnessing, he said, examples of domination by force, but it was only by love that the world would find true and lasting peace.

Tea was held at the Silverdale Road Hall, to which about 35 members sat down. Those present will agree that the meal would in peace time have been regarded as of most generous dimensions.

Previous to the business meeting which followed, the Bishop again welcomed the gathering and expressed his pleasure at being with them. He was sorry that he was unable to remain for the business, as he had a particularly heavy day on the morrow.—Mr. Birt, the Master, who occupied the chair, suitably replied.

The members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to Mr. C. H. Reading and Mr. A. Dean, a vice-president of the association, whose death had been lately reported in 'The Ringing World.'

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The treasurer's statement and the committee's report were adopted. The committee, in their report, said that the year had begun in practically a normal manner with Sunday service ringing much as usual, though limited in places by the 'black-out.' Practices were well attended where they had been well supported in peace time, much experience and enjoyment being gained by many members. Association meetings had been quite successful, three district meetings being held in the North-Western District up to the end of May with an average attendance of 45.

In June, however, bellringing suffered the greatest setback of its existence when the ban was imposed. The committee soon met to discuss the situation, and it was agreed that as the chief attraction of meetings no longer existed, the usual programme of gatherings should be discontinued and an effort made to arrange meetings which would offer alternative attractions. With this in mind, a meeting was held at Leatherhead in August, which included a pleasant walk from Box Hill Station to Leatherhead followed by a service, tea and social evening. It was pronounced by all who attended to be most successful, and it had been hoped to arrange a similar meeting at Merstham at the end of September, but circumstances prevented it taking place.

It was agreed that the valuable property of the association, such as the peal books and important records, should be deposited in as safe custody as possible. Accordingly this property has been placed in the strong room of the Westminster Bank, Redhill. Existing records comprising minutes of the last annual meeting and minutes of the committee meetings held during the year and details of cash transactions for the year had been duplicated and dispersed among the general officers to lessen the risk of the loss of this important information.

Up to the moment the affiliated churches and towers had suffered small damage as the result of enemy activity, and no damage to bells or fittings had been reported.

LOSS BY DEATH.

During the year three members had been lost by death, Mr. E. Accock, of Croydon, Mr. A. Bundle, of Carshalton, and Mr. J. Beams, of Ewell. Mr. Bundle had been a member for a great number of years and had been associated with Carshalton tower for a great length of time. Mr. Beams, who celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as member only this year, was a keen supporter of the association and rang and conducted many peals. He was the conductor of two of the four peals accomplished during the year. It was for his untiring and admirable work in the writing of the peal books of the association that he will live in memory, and the committee felt that they should place on record their deep appreciation of his valued services. Mr. Randall had kindly offered to undertake the writing of the peal book in succession to Mr. Beams.

Quite a number of members are now serving with H.M. Forces, including 16 from the North-Western District, and the committee recommended that the opportunity should be taken to send them very best wishes for their present and future welfare with the hope that their return will not be far distant.

The committee pointed out that possibly in some instances no supervision is being given to the bells, fittings and ropes, and they sug-

gested that periodical inspection should be made. Bearings should be kept lubricated with the proper type of oil or grease, and precautions should be taken to preserve the ropes from rotting. Commonsense suggestions will avoid considerable delay and perhaps disappointment when the bells are again required.

Four peals had been rung during the year; two of Grandsire Triples at Ewell, conducted by Mr. J. Beams, one of Stedman Caters at Beddington, conducted by Mr. F. E. Darby, and one of Cambridge Royal also at Beddington, conducted by Mr. C. H. Kippin. Two members had rung their first peal and five their first in the method.

The committee intended to arrange meetings during the coming months on the lines of that held at Leatherhead, and hoped that the support shown then will continue. If such support is forthcoming, the future of the association should give little cause for anxiety.

The Chairman remarked that these were especially trying times for bellringers, but he was sure that so long as they were able to maintain the spirit shown by the present gathering, when happier times came the association would arise with new vigour.

Miss Marian Ellis and Miss Joyce Franklin, both of St. Peter's, Croydon, were elected members.

It was agreed to leave the place of the next annual meeting to the committee to decide according to circumstances.

The following officers were elected: President, the Bishop of Southwark; Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt; treasurer, Mr. C. H. Kippin; secretary, Mr. E. G. Talbot; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Parks; auditor, Mr. G. W. Steere.

The printing of the new service pamphlet was deferred until after the war. The meeting decided to send to Mr. F. Woodiss a letter of sympathy in his continued indisposition with the hope that his recovery to health would be speedy and lasting. The secretary was requested to write a suitable letter to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who made a practice of attending the annual meetings, congratulating him on his recovery from his recent operation.

It was agreed that a meeting be held in June at Reigate, details of which would appear later.

Mr. Harman announced that the clappers had been removed from the front eight at Leatherhead, and practices will be held on Tuesdays at 8 o'clock.

On the proposition of Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. W. Hewitt, it was decided to write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. A. Dean and to Mr. J. Crawford, who has recently become blind through enemy activity.

The Chairman, on behalf of the association, thanked the organist and verger for having the church in readiness, and Mr. Dan Cooper for making all the arrangements, and particularly the following ladies for preparing the tea and waiting at table: Mrs. Kippin, Mrs. Butler, the Misses Kippin and Miss D. Williams.

ROCHDALE RINGER KILLED IN ACTION.

The death is announced of Stoker Ernest B. Sykes, of H.M. Navy, which recently occurred in action. He was 23 years of age and had been in the Navy for about four years. Previously he was a ringer at Oldham Parish Church, where both his brother and sister were members of the band.

A short time ago Mr. Fred Crosland, the oldest member of the Oldham and District Society, was laid to rest. He was 85 years old, and began his ringing career 60 years ago. His ringing was at Leesfield, Oldham and Glodwick. He was a life member of the Lancashire Association and retained his interest in ringing affairs to the last. He had taken part in over 30 peals, one of them 9,000 Grandsire Major.

THE LATE WILLIAM NEWTON.

AN APPRECIATION OF A PARTICULAR FRIEND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass upon your valuable paper to pay a short tribute to a very close ringing friend, who passed away on Wednesday, April 23rd, and was laid to rest in Durham Road Cemetery on the 26th. I think he was the oldest member of the Durham and Newcastle Association and was an original member.

We first met in the early part of 1897, when the Stockton bells were six. At that time there was great enthusiasm in Surprise methods, he was always ready and willing to join in a 5,000 and I have had the great pleasure of ringing several with him. Above all, he was a man who struck the bell perfectly, which makes ringing worth while.

I mourn the loss of a true friend, who passed away in his 85th year.

Middlesbrough.

T. METCALFE.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

BRIGHTON AND ASHTEAD SURPRISE.

All Plain, Treble Bob and Surprise Major methods have two variations. In one second's place is made at the lead end; in the other eighth's place. The actual rows in the plain course are the same in both variations, the only difference being that the leads come in a different order. In practice this difference is sufficient to make the variations distinct methods and as a rule they are given distinct names.

Not all these variations are of any value. In some the bells run round at the first lead end; in others bells lie still for more than two consecutive blows; and in yet others the amount of continuous dodging is excessive. Usually one of the two variations is better than the other, but it sometimes happens that there is little to choose between them.

In some methods each of the two variations has itself two variations. In one, first's place is made at the half lead end; in the other, seventh's. These variations are subject to the same limitations as the others.

To the ordinary ringer there is not much difference between a second's place method and an eighth's place, except in the bob making, the Bob Major bob being the type of the first and the Double Norwich bob being the type of the second; but to the conductor there is a very considerable amount of difference, and many of them (probably most of them) prefer a second's place method to an eighth's place method. This preference was expressed in our columns lately by Mr. Alan R. Pink, who, since he has called the first peal in about a dozen Surprise Major methods, is entitled to an opinion on the matter.

It may be, as Mr. Pink suggests, that this preference is largely prejudice, and that a second's place method does not really enjoy any advantages over an eighth's place method, but it is a fact that almost exactly three times as many second's place methods have been rung to peals as eighth's place methods.

Every method should be judged as a whole and not on any isolated feature, for we must never forget that almost every desirable feature has to be paid for.

For instance, in a Surprise method, if second's place is made at the lead end, then we can have a single dodge behind when the treble is in 1-2, or we can have a 5-pull dodge; but we cannot have a double dodge, a 3-pull dodge, or a 4-pull dodge. With an eighth's place method we can have two 3-pull dodges, with the treble in 1-2 and 3-4. Double dodging is possible with an eighth's place method, but not with a second's place method except when the treble is in 3-4 and 5-6. This refers to methods with all backstroke work; it is somewhat modified if handstroke work is introduced.

The best way to compare the effects of the second's place and eighth's place is to take the two variations of the same method, and a very good example is given by the method mentioned by Mr. Pink.

Brighton Surprise is a double method with eighth's place at the lead end and first's at the half lead end. With second's at the lead end it becomes Boveney. With second's at the lead end and seventh's at the half lead end it becomes Ashtead. With eighth's at the lead end and seventh's at the half lead end it becomes Ewell.

All four are excellent methods, and the first three have been rung to peals. Which is the best is, of course,

largely a matter of taste, but on the whole we think Brighton should have the preference, though Ashtead has actually proved the more popular.

Brighton S.	Ashtead S.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
12346857	12346857
21438675	21438675
<hr/>	
24183657	24183657
42816375	42816375
24186357	24186357
42813675	42813675
<hr/>	
24831657	24831657
42386175	42386175
24381657	24381657
42836175	42836175
<hr/>	
24863715	24863715
42687351	42687351
46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351
<hr/>	
68472531	46283751
86745213	64827315
87642531	68523751
78465213	86247315
<hr/>	
87456123	68274135
78541632	86721453
87546123	68724135
78451632	86271453
<hr/>	
87415623	68217435
78146532	86124753
87416523	68214735
78145632	86127453
<hr/>	
71854623	81672435
17586432	18764253
71856342	81674523
17583624	18765432
<hr/>	
15738264	18674523

When Brighton was first rung, the bob was made in fourth's place; when many years later it was again rung (under the impression that it was a new method) a sixth's place bob was used.

When the skeleton course of Brighton is compared with that of Ashtead it will be seen that the movement is freer. All four variations have a clear proof scale and so sixty full natural courses available for composition. Our impression of the music of Brighton, derived from memories of the first peal, is that it is excellent, though we are not quite sure whether a 4-pull dodge is not too long.

At any rate, both Brighton and Ashtead, though not quite in the same class as Cornwall, are worthy to rank as standard methods.

MR. DRAKE AND BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—The Times' leading article to-day has the following sentence: 'We are actuated by a single-minded desire to help the man on his way and be quit of him; and yet we cannot make him understand.' It rather reminded me of Mr. Drake.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

SILENT APPARATUS.

THE SWING OF THE CLAPPER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. T. R. Bys's letter is a very interesting contribution to this important subject, but as he asks if anyone can find any snags in it, may I point out that he seems to have overlooked some important factors.

First the swing of the clapper is not controlled by the force of gravity, though that does enter in a very complicated manner. The force which swings the clapper is imparted by the bell, the arc in which the bell swings is not the same as that in which the clapper swings and the clapper does not swing on a fixed axis as the bell does. The relationship between the swing of the bell and the wheel and the swing of the clapper gives a definite and fairly constant result, but in itself is very complicated and difficult to calculate. It would take a very large amount of calculation and much experiment to design a glass tube fixed to the wheel with a moving metal ball which would reproduce even approximately the motion of the clapper.

There is also the very great practical difficulty of making a satisfactory electric contact between the moving wheel and the handbells below. A flexible cord, of course, will be suggested. Easy in theory, but would it work?

MAURICE CLARK.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Dear Sir,—May I be allowed a few lines in your columns with regard to the theory advanced by Mr. T. R. Boys in your issue of April 25th? I would first address a word of warning to those who might be tempted to try out the device outlined. Theories do not by any means 'work out' in practice just according to paper plans, and this applies particularly to bells and clappers, as may be found by actual experiment.

The snag in this theory lies in the assumption that the ball of the clapper is a weight falling freely by gravitational pull. A moment's reflection should correct this idea. The clapper is actually a pendulum whose point of suspension (i.e., the crown staple) is continually changing position. Take the case of a bell hung normally, that is with the crown staple *outside* the gudgeon line. When the 'set' bell moves from 'hand' to 'back' the crown staple describes a circle, which in effect advances the point of suspension during the whole revolution, and simple gravitational law does not fit the case. It will be found by experiment that any device in the nature of a freely moving weight would fall much quicker than the clapper, even though describing a similar arc. In fact, it would probably fall its full extent while the bell itself was still on the downward half circle.

Assuming that the bell could be raised with the device 'right' (as compared with correct clapping), an appliance of this kind (mercury tube) would probably make contact before the bell moved a half revolution. Also the contact would not be 'momentary' but continuous while the mercury connected the wires, and consequently wasteful of current. But could it be raised 'right'? The mercury 'blob' in the tube when the bell is down would be at the lowest point, the centre of the tube which would be at the lower part of the wheel. Upon raising the bell the 'blob' would fall alternately to the *wrong* side (as compared with correct clapping), and when up it would be 'wrong,' and no turning over would be possible. Even supposing the tubes solved the question of contacts the remainder of the electrical equipment would be difficult to acquire at this time. The use of metal gongs of tubular pattern would certainly save space, and also allow of deeper 'pitch,' but they have little resonance and the sound dies quickly, giving small satisfaction to the listener. Handbells of large size if obtainable are preferable even if occasional adjustment is necessary.

To conclude may I offer to our Editor best wishes for a speedy recovery.

E. MURRELL.

17, Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.2.

PRACTICE AT CAMBRIDGE.

'Dear Sir,—It may interest many of your readers to know that practices are held on Monday evenings at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, at 7.30 p.m., on Seage's apparatus. A new set of handbells has been bought. Everybody will be welcomed.

J. QUINNEY.

Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.

A NEW APPARATUS.

Dear Sir,—I have lately tried a new version of a silent practice apparatus and found it very successful. The apparatus is designed for use with electrically struck indicators, but can easily be used on a mechanical system.

The principle is roughly this, a wooden base board with a wooden upright about 6in. x 8in. x 1½in. is fastened just above the bearings. A wooden rod, about 30in. x 1in. x ½in. is pivoted about 1½in. from its lower end (which is bevelled to an edge) by a long screw or bolt fastened into the upright. This rod is pushed over by studs on the wheel, and as it moves the bevelled end curves down and presses together the two parts of an electric contact. It will be seen that this has one or two similarities to the Seage apparatus, but has the following advantages:—

(1) By varying the position of the studs the apparatus can be made to operate at any desired point (within about 45 degrees of the balance).

(2) The cost is low, and owing to the use of wood no metalwork tools are needed; a saw and screwdriver are quite sufficient.

(3) The moving part is light and almost frictionless, so removing the check given to the bell by the stiff arms of the Seage apparatus. This is only a rough idea of the apparatus. I will be very pleased to send full details and drawings to anyone who will write to me, giving, if possible, the following details:—

(1) Nature of frame (iron, wood or steel).

(2) Number of bells to be fitted.

(3) Whether a mechanical or electrical design is desired.

19, Grantchester Street, Cambridge.

R. LEIGH.

DEATH OF TWO BEENHAM RINGERS.

The Berkshire village of Beenham last week lost two of its ringers. One was the Rev. R. Howes, who had been Vicar of the parish for nearly six years. Previously he was Vicar of Cold Higham in Northamptonshire, and was the author of an elementary book on change ringing entitled 'Village Bells.' The other was Mr. Frederick Wigmore, aged 77, who had been a ringer for about fifty years, and rang the treble in a peal of Minor when 73 years old. Both died on Tuesday, April 22nd, and were buried on Saturday, April 26th.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD CLARK.

BRISTOL RINGER KILLED IN AIR RAID.

In a recent air raid on Bristol, Mr. Richard Clark, his wife and sister-in-law were killed when his house was hit by a high explosive bomb.

Mr. Clark had rung about 350 peals, which included the first of Clifton Surprise Royal and other first peals in methods in the city. The funeral was at Greenbank Cemetery on April 19th.

RECORDS REPLACE CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On going through the 'Wireless and Electrical Trader' journal this week, the following article published on March 1st, 1941, came to my notice:—

'An idea which has successfully been put into practice by the Rev. W. E. W. Denham, Vicar of Chorley Wood, Herts, may well interest dealers who have at some time in the past installed sound equipment in church towers to replace the original bells by records.

'For two years the Rev. Denham has had a public address system in use. The loudspeakers are in the church tower, and originally broadcast the service to overflow crowds outside. When bellringing was banned the Vicar thought parishioners might welcome music from the tower.

'Many records of hymns are therefore played, and "they have just as good an effect as the bells in calling people to church." "My people like the music," he says, "and I believe the walkers on the common do also."

It would be a pity if this enforced ban on church bells is to be an excuse for 'synthetic' means of calling people to church after the war.

L. WALTER PROSSER.

119, Caerphilly Road, Birchgrove, Cardiff.

HYMN TUNES AT WEYMOUTH.

Synthetic music was broadcast from the tower of St. John's Church, Weymouth, on Easter Sunday.

The church authorities had secured permission to have 'canned' music in the form of hymns for a quarter of an hour before the service.

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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.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Handbell practices will be resumed at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 7.30 p.m., commencing Thursday, May 8th.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury, on Saturday, May 10th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., at a cost of about 1s. (please bring your own sugar). Annual business meeting to follow. Nearest station to Kingsbury is Wembley Park (Met.), from whence No. 83 buses pass the church.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern and Western Branches).—A joint meeting will be held at Wychbold, near Droitwich (D.V.), on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Six tower bells probably available for 'silent' practice. Tea 5.30 p.m., followed by handbells and social evening.—B. C. Ashford, Northern Branch Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cassington on Saturday, May 10th. Service 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. A good attendance is necessary.—W. Evetts, Hampton, Tackley, Oxford.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 in the tower.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Salisbury in the Church House on Saturday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available at 2.30. Service in St. Thomas' Church at 4.30.—F. Ll. Edwards, Hon. Sec., Kington Magna Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Girls' Club Rooms, Chain Street, Reading, on Saturday, May 10th, at 4 p.m., followed by tea at 5 p.m., 9d. per head. Handbells available.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, May 17th. Service at S. Nicolas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall (next to the church) at 5 p.m. Please send numbers for tea to me by May 11th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Saturday, May 17th. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, will probably be available from 2.15 p.m. and again in the evening for payment of subscriptions, distribution of reports and handbell ringing. Owing to catering difficulties, it has not been found possible—up to the moment—to arrange for tea. Will members please provide for themselves? — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea arranged, but only for those whose names are received not later than May 17th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Details next week.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Tea, free to all resident members who are clear on the books and who apply to the general secretary for tickets on or before May 24th. Non-resident members and non-members 1s. 6d. each, to be sent with application for tickets. No application for tickets will be entertained after May 24th. This will be strictly adhered to. Bring sugar if required. Bells (6) (silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

A meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society, held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, April 26th, was attended by upwards of 40 members and friends. During the afternoon St. Peter's belfry was open for handbell ringing, and at the committee meeting it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Wolverhampton on Saturday, June 21st. In the church a short service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Barker, who gave a nice address. Mr. Seymour, of St. George's, kindly officiated at the organ.

At the social in the evening in the George Hotel various methods were rung on handbells and a few selections were rendered by the St. Peter's Handbell Quartette.

PRESTWICH, MANCHESTER.—At Rectory Lane, on Monday, April 21st, 720 Bob Minor: W. Sidwell (first 720) 1-2, Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith (conductor) 3-4, F. Reynolds (first 720 'in hand') 5-6.

BEACONSFIELD.—On April 23rd, at St. Mary and All Saints' Church, a quarter-peat of Plain Bob Major in 42 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, K. E. Fletcher 7-8. Rung in honour of St. George's Day.

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FRIDAY, MAY 16th, 1941.

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SILENT APPARATUSES.

When, some weeks ago, we wrote about Silent Apparatuses in this column, we did not think the subject was more than one which would afford an interesting field of study and experiment among such mechanically and scientifically minded members of the Exercise as might need something connected with bells and belfries to maintain their touch with our art during the present silence enforced by the ban. We were, therefore, agreeably surprised to find from our correspondents that, not only has a good deal of interest already been taken in the matter, but that experiments have been made which have solved many of the difficulties involved, and we do not doubt that our satisfaction will be shared generally, and hopes and expectations formed of the invention of a really workable silent apparatus.

Already, if we judge aright, some of the important difficulties have been surmounted. It has been found possible to make a workable contact between the bell in the bell-chamber and the handbell in the ringing room, and to do it both by electrical means and by mechanical means. That is a great achievement in itself, for experience showed that the system of wires used in the old and fairly familiar device was very liable to fail in this particular. It has also been found possible to make a workable system of adjustment and to instal it in the ringing-chamber and not in the bell-chamber. How great an advantage that is only a little thought will reveal.

As these results are brought about by simple and inexpensive means, a great deal has been achieved, but one thing so far has baffled the inventors, and that is how to ensure that the handbell in the belfry will strike at the exact point of time that the clapper of the bell above would have done. The importance of this cannot be overstressed, and here perhaps will be found the ultimate test of the value of any apparatus. For unless the silent apparatus can reproduce exactly the striking of the open bells, not only will it prove of no value for teaching and learning change ringing, but it will be a positive danger. Approximation can be had, and it seems to be a matter of dispute how near the approximation is to the real thing.

It depends on the very complicated relationship between the swing of the bell and the swing of the clapper. When a bell is rung up does the clapper always strike the bell when it is in the same position, or is the position altered by the strength of the pull given by the ringer, and the rate at which the bell is rung? On this question opinion seems to differ very considerably, and all the

(Continued on page 230.)

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more so because at the present we are forbidden to test it by practical experiments. If the point of contact between the bell and the clapper is, for all practical purposes, a constant one, as one of our correspondents seems to maintain, we do not see why the perfect silent apparatus should not be invented. But, if it is not, as others say it is not, then the perfect apparatus will, we fear, belong to the realms of unrealised dreams.

More than one of our correspondents have sent us directions for making apparatuses which they have invented, and which they find successful to a greater or less degree. These designs have been generously placed at the disposal of the Exercise without any reservation of inventors' rights. In some cases the articles sent have been illustrated by diagrams, and we regret that it has not been found possible to reproduce them.

The whole question is one which calls for further investigation and experiment, and that can hardly be done fully while the ban lasts. When the war is over it may be possible for the Central Council to decide on one or two good and proven systems, and make them available to the Exercise by printing and publishing a short and illustrated pamphlet.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NORTHPREPS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

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Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

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THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

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RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7-8

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ANOTHER FORM OF EXTENT.

To the Editor.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

C. D. P. DAVIES.

From the beginning the Central Council did much of its work by means of committees. That is the usual procedure of such bodies, and was inevitable, because the members as a whole had neither the time nor knowledge to deal with the questions of complexity and detail. The theory is that when some such matter has to be settled you select a few competent and able men who pool their knowledge and skill, and submit the result of their joint labour in a report which the Council debates, and adopts, amends, or rejects as it may see fit.

That is the theory, but the practice has not always worked out just so. For some things the committee



THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES.

system has been an unqualified success. The work of the present Analysis Committee is an example of how a long, continuous, and at times tedious task can be accomplished by the co-operation of several persons each of whom does his allotted share. In another way the Towers and Belfries Committee is a success, for their particular work is largely done by the members as individuals.

In the past, however, things have usually been somewhat different. As a rule the committees were too large. When the subject matter was an abstruse or controversial one it was found impossible to debate it in detail by all the members by post, and, as a result, the report was usually the work of one, or perhaps two men, the rest of the committee being tacitly ignored.

In this way one of the earliest published reports, that on 'recommendations as to calls,' was really the work

of C. D. P. Davies and bears the stamp of his personality and opinions on every line.

It arose out of a debate at the second meeting, held at Birmingham in 1892. H. A. Cockey moved 'that a committee be appointed to receive and classify all compositions of 5,000 changes and upwards, and to issue an annual report, in which all peals composed in the previous 12 months shall be published.' This was amended by a proposal to appoint a committee to consider the matter, and C. D. P. Davies, J. W. Washbrook and C. H. Hattersley were duly appointed. A further motion dealing with calls was then debated, and Davies persuaded the Council to refer that matter also to the new committee.

It was a subject in which he had taken a great deal of interest, and on which he had formed definite opinions, and it is not surprising that when the report did appear it strongly reflected those opinions.

Washbrook signed the interim report, presented in 1893, but retired from the committee before the final report was adopted. No reason was given for his action; but, since he was a man who had strong opinions of his own, it is at least likely that he did not see eye to eye with Davies. His place was taken by Nathan Pitstow.

Charles Douglas Percy Davies was one of the most influential members of the Council, and earned an honourable and distinguished name in the history of the Exercise. He was born at Tewkesbury, on September 12th, 1856, where his father was Vicar for thirty-one years. His connection with bells began when he was eleven years of age, and after a period of stoney, somewhere about 1874 he began to introduce change ringing into Tewkesbury belfry. In 1876 he went to Oxford, where he had gained a scholarship of Pembroke College, and there he came into contact with several men who then and after played no small part in the movement for reform and improvement which has benefited the Exercise so enormously.

He never had the advantage of coming into permanent contact with a really first-class band, but he took what opportunities offered themselves to ring peals, and his record in his early days, judged by the standards of the times, was quite a good one. It included peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Kent Major and Royal, and Double Norwich, Double Oxford and Superlative Surprise Major. He rang in the first peal by a band of parsons. That was Stedman Triples, at Drayton in 1884, conducted by F. E. Robinson, and he called the first clerical ten-bell peal, one of Stedman Caters, at Warwick in 1910. He rang the second at St. Giles-in-the-Fields in 1884, when Holt's Original was rung non-conducted for the first time, and the seventh in the 13,054 Stedman Caters at Cheltenham in 1888.

Davies' chief claim to fame lies in the fact that he was the first man to attempt to deal with the composition of peals as mathematical problems to be solved by deductive reasoning. For many years composers had worked by experimental and hit or miss methods. Much good work had been done so, and continued to be done, and deductive reasoning can hardly have been altogether absent from the minds of men like John Holt and John Reeves. But there is no evidence that they used it consciously. They judged their work by results. A peal was a fact,

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

and if it was true, it did not matter whether there was a flaw in the reasoning by which they had produced it.

But experimental methods, though they may produce true peals, will seldom establish general truths, and, still more seldom, negatives; and there was one great question these old composers continually asked but could never answer. Is it possible to compose a peal of Grandsire Triples with ordinary bobs only? And if not, why not? Holt, and perhaps one or two others were, we can hardly doubt, sure that it was not possible; but they could not prove it, nor had they any answer to the retort which Jasper Snowdon in effect gave to Davies himself—because you cannot do it is no reason for saying that no one else can.

Davies went a long way towards solving the question, but he did not succeed. He had not the clear logical mind that W. H. Thompson brought to bear on the subject. Indeed, though to say it may seem unjust to a man who had come so near success, he was not a logical thinker. He was far too diffuse, and this defect is apparent in all he wrote. He was one who never used three words if five would do, and in his anxiety to make himself clear smothered his meaning in verbosity. This was strongly impressed on me when I wrote the last edition of 'Stedman,' following much the same lines as in his book, but having less than half the space at my disposal.

Nothing, however, can detract from the fact that as an expositor of composition he was the earliest pioneer. Other men followed and some surpassed him, but he had shown the way.

His great success in Grandsire Triples was, however, to some extent his undoing. Living in remote country districts and away from practical ringing and ringers, he lost touch with the spirit of the Exercise. While he was an active ringer Grandsire and Stedman were the important methods. He understood them far better than most people, but he made the mistake of thinking that rules and standards valid for them must be valid for all methods. Major ringing he neither liked nor understood, yet he tried to force it into conformity with what he thought were fundamental principles, but really were no more than individual prejudices and preferences. He had a rule of the succession of the nature of the rows which he proclaimed as the ultimate basis of ringing. Kent and Cambridge and London and Bristol refused to abide by it, and instead of seeing that there must be something wrong with his rule, he was quite prepared to reject them, and scores more, as illegitimate.

It was due largely to his being out of touch with practical ringing, but it was a great pity, for it marred much of what he wrote, and it obscured and detracted from the real solid merits of his books.

His 'Stedman' is a good book, marked everywhere with knowledge and painstaking thoroughness, yet because of his obstinate prejudice against any but old fashioned all-tittum peals, there is not in it a single one of Stedman Caters that an average modern conductor would choose to call.

Davies was not the only man who was old fashioned and prejudiced, and there is a good deal to be said for standing in the old paths and mistrusting new fancies

(Continued in next column.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

A NEW COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am pleased to be able to send you a peal, which seems to mark another advance in the art. It shows that what we all thought could not possibly exist only remained to be discovered.

I gather, from the joint letter of Messrs. Trollope and Turner, which you published, that someone else has thought our earlier idea might be wrong. Mine was based on the fact that so many courses of one method were false against the plain course of another. However, with a winter of black nights before me, this question of the existence of a peal of Spliced Surprise, with at least one full course of each method, intrigued me. I decided it was worth while to make a thorough investigation, and here is the result.

It will be interesting to learn that others have been equally successful.

On the three-part plan it is surprising to find that three courses each of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative exist true against each other. They seem, however, to be false against everything which joins them, even when the tenors are parted.

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

A peal of Spliced Surprise Major in five methods, with a full course of each method, 5,024 changes. Each course-end is followed by leads of the various methods as shown by letters on the right, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, L for London, R for Rutland, and S for Superlative. Where X is shown, the lead may be rung either as Cambridge or Superlative. When no figure precedes the letter one lead is implied. The calling which produces each course-end is shown on the left.

M	W	H	23456	R	X	R
—	—	—	52436	R	X	R
—	—	—	42635	R	C	L
—	—	—	56234	7L		
—	—	—	25634	L	X	R
—	—	—	36452	R	X	L
—	—	—	45362	L	X	L
—	—	—	35264	L	X	L
—	—	—	46253	R	X	R
—	—	—	24653	R	X	R
—	—	—	65243	L	X	L
—	—	—	26543	R	4C	
—	—	—	42563	4C	R	
—	—	—	64523	R	C	R
—	—	—	52643	R	X	L
—	—	—	36245	7B	R	
—	—	—	43265	R	X	B
—	—	—	64235	2B	X	L
—	—	—	53246	L	X	R
—	—	—	23645	R	C	R
—	—	—	56342	R	X	R
—	—	—	35642	L	X	L
—	—	—	63542	R	X	R
—	—	—	45236	R	C	R
—	—	—	63254	L	X	L
—	—	—	26354	L	C	L
—	—	—	32654	R	C	R
—	—	—	56423	L	X	L
—	—	—	32465	L	X	R
—	—	—	46325	L	6R	
—	—	—	53624	R	C	L
—	—	—	62534	R	C	3S
—	—	—	43526	R	S	R
—	—	—	54326	C	R	L
—	—	—	32546	L	X	L
—	—	—	45623	L	X	R
—	—	—	36524	R	X	L
—	—	—	25463	L	X	L
—	—	—	34562	R	X	R
—	—	—	53462	L	X	L
—	—	—	65432	L	X	L
—	—	—	34256	L	X	L
—	—	—	25346	R	C	L
—	—	—	42356	L	X	L
—	—	—	35426	4S	R	
—	—	—	23456			

Includes 320 changes of Bristol, 1,472 of London, 1,504 of Rutland, 1,728 of Cambridge and Superlative.

(Continued from previous column.)

which may be but of a day, but the writer of a text book on such a thing as ringing should aim at giving what the Exercise as a whole has found to be worth while, and should put aside his own personal preferences.

DEATH OF MR. WALTER FRANKS. LEADER OF THE BATTLE COMPANY.

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Franks, which took place on March 19th at the Buchanan Hospital, Hastings.

Mr. Franks learnt to ring in 1881, he joined the Sussex County Association in 1885 and had been leader of the band at St. Mary's, Battle, since 1888. He took part in 64 peals, of which he conducted 27.

His interest in change ringing never wavered and he taught many bands among them being Brightling, Iden, Blacklands, Sedlescombe, Salehurst and St. Clement's, Hastings. When the war silenced bells it seemed to him a definite break with the past, for he had seldom been absent from ringing for morning and evening services at St. Mary's, Battle, during 60 years, and the proudest moment in his career was when on Christmas Eve, 1938, he was able to conduct a touch with seven of his sons and daughters standing in.

Mr. Franks, who was 75 years old, had worked at the local tanyard for 58 years, and was a familiar figure in Battle.

The funeral was on March 22nd at the Parish Church. It was conducted by the Dean, the Rev. W. W. Youard, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Catterick. The hymns and psalms were sung by past and present members of the church choir.

DEATH OF ESSEX LADY BELLRINGER.

The death is announced of Nurse Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, Essex, which took place on Monday, May 25th, at the early age of 25, after a very brief illness.

At the beginning of the war Miss Caton undertook nursing duties at Colchester Hospital. It is feared she contracted her fatal illness in the course of her duties.

The funeral at St. Mary's, Mistley, was attended by a large and representative congregation. Many members, men and women, of the St. John Ambulance formed a guard of honour, and many members of the Mistley G.F.S., Rangers and Guides were present. The ringers included Mr. G. W. Moss, Mr. A. Fuller, Mr. A. Honeywood, Miss D. M. Andrews and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, of St. Mary's, Mistley, and Miss V. Frost, of Tendring. The Essex Association was represented by Mr. L. Wright, the hon. secretary of the North-Eastern Division.

Miss Caton was one of six ladies who learnt to ring at Mistley in 1936 under the guidance of Mr. G. W. Moss, and she gave the tower loyal support for Sunday ringing.

She had taken part in three peals, all at Mistley, and was the first lady to ring a peal on the bells.

Much sympathy is felt by all for her parents, ex-Police-Sergt. W. H. Caton and Mrs. Caton, in the great loss they have sustained.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

MEETING OF THE EXETER BRANCH.

A meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Devonshire Guild was held at St. Thomas', Exeter, on May 3rd. More than twenty members were present in the afternoon. Some of the members assembled in the belfry for handbell practice, and before the service a 168 Bob Minor was rung by J. E. Lilley 1-2, C. R. Lilley 3-4, and Preb. E. V. Cox 5-6. The Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Price, welcomed the company and conducted the Guild office. His address, though short, was much appreciated. It was based on the words, 'Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King.'

Mrs. Biffin, with the help of lady friends, arranged the tea in the Scouts' Hall, near the church, and the chairman, Mr. E. J. Ryall, was supported by the Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox, the Rev. K. R. Martin and the treasurer and secretary of the Guild. Mr. A. E. Searle sent apologies for absence.

Mr. C. R. Lilley reported that satisfactory progress was being made with the handbell practice.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Tedburn St. Mary on August 16th.

The Vicar, responding to the vote of thanks to himself and the ladies for providing the tea, expressed his pleasure at the meeting being held in St. Thomas' and invited the company to take a stroll round the Vicarage garden.

Those interested in the welfare of the Exercise do feel that this meeting helped to keep alive and stimulate interest in change ringing. It is at least a thread which links the happy past with the happier days we hope will come soon.

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the correspondence about endowment for bell ropes, the following may be of interest:—

'In the year 1361 Mr. John Hamden, of this parish, gave by deed six shillings a year for ever to be paid out of his lands in this parish to the churchwardens for the time being, towards the maintaining of the bell ropes.'

The above is one from a list of endowments printed upon a board and hanging in the belfry of Smarden, Kent, Church, but although I was attached to the tower for some years, I have no recollections of any funds being administered for that purpose.

Incidentally, the land referred to forms part of a farm near the church, and is called 'Bell Ropes' to this day.

F. S. MACEY.

Bram Lea, Sutton Valence, Kent.

John Taylor & Co.

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THE

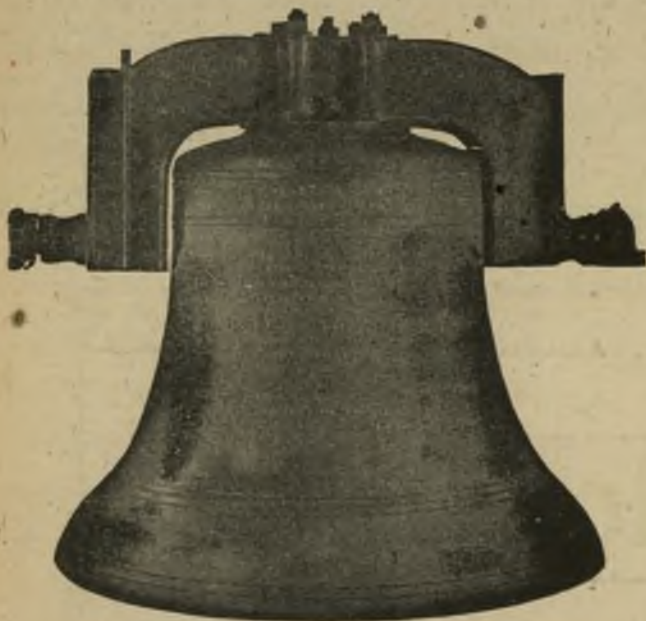
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THE EDITOR.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith is still in hospital, but hopes to return home before long, when all his friends will be informed.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

A famous London church, well known to ringers, which had previously been damaged once or twice in air raids, has now been gutted by fire and only the walls are left standing. Some time ago the ten bells were taken down from the steeple and put in a place of safety.

Another church destroyed is in South London. It was here that the Waterloo Society had its headquarters in the few years before it came to an end. The eight bells in the tower have, we fear, perished. The society's property had been moved back to St. John's, Waterloo Road, by Mr. J. E. Davis, and shared in the fate of that building. The handbells and peal book are, however, safe.

Among the churches destroyed in raids in the North of England was one which had the oldest iron bell frame in the country. The bells are unashed.

The handbells used in the peal rung at Northrepps on May 3rd are a much travelled set. They have been to Burma and were used in India by ringers in the Forces during the last war.

On May 14th, 1924, a peal was rung at Whitley Bay which forms a landmark in the history of change ringing, for it was the first time that more than one Surprise Major method had been included in a five-thousand. The methods were Cambridge and Superlative, the composition was by Mr. Joseph W. Parker, and the conductor was Joseph A. Gofton. Six of the band belonged to the talented Gofton family. It was not until more than three years later (June 11th, 1927) that Mr. Alfred Pulling called the peal in which the four standard Surprise Major methods were spliced for the first time.

John Cox called 6,485 Stedman Caters 'at St. Clement Danes' on May 14th, 1845.

Yesterday was the anniversary of two notable long peals. On May 15th, 1837, the St. James' Society rang 12,096 changes of Grand-sire Caters at Fulham with Thomas Tolladay as conductor. They thought it was the longest length, but 20 years earlier the Painswick men had rung 12,312.

In 1894 a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 8,800 changes, was accomplished at the Parish Church, Loughborough. The composition was by Nathan Pitstow, who conducted, and it was the longest that had so far been produced in the method. One of the few peals on the recently destroyed octave at St. Lawrence Jewry was 5,040 Double London Court Bob, rung by the College Youths on May 17th, 1735. Richard Spicer conducted, and it was William Laughton's last recorded peal.

Thurstans' four-part peal of Stedman Triples was rung for the first time at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on May 18th, 1846. Henry Johnson conducted, and the composer was not in the band.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. One was Stedman Triples, the other Kent Treble Bob Major. On the following Monday (Bank Holiday) 22 peals were rung. They consisted of Grand-sire Doubles 1, Triples 4, Stedman Triples 4, Caters 1, Bob Major 1, Canterbury Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 6, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Minor 2. One of the peals of Kent was Mr. George Williams' 100th peal. He took part in the first Sussex 'ringing week' from May 11th to May 15th, in which three peals of Stedman Triples, two of each Double Norwich and Superlative, and one of Kent were rung. Washbrook called six of the peals and F. E. Robinson two.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The meeting on Saturday, May 10th, was well supported and was quite a happy gathering. H.M. Forces were represented by the brothers Len and Tom Fox, home on leave together. Other very welcome figures were Mr. H. R. Newton, now one of our oldest meeting members, and Mr. H. Hoskins. Mr. E. A. Young reported that he had seen the finished C. F. Winney memorial tablet and he was very pleased with its appearance.

Stories of the past and handbell ringing brought another meeting to its end.

Greetings were received from R. T. Hibbert, Congrieve Pridgeon, F. E. Darby and G. H. Myers and all absent friends were remembered.

WINNEY MEMORIAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, £19 12s. 6d. Further donations received: Canon G. F. Coleridge, 10s.; Raymond G. Cousins, 5s.; Percy W. Cave, 5s.; J. A. Trollope, 2s.; George R. Newton, 2s. 6d.; Douglas S. Archer, 1s.; Anon., 2s. 6d.; R. Edwards, 5s.

Will any other ringer desirous of associating himself with this memorial kindly forward his donation without delay, as the fund will be closed on Saturday, May 24th. Thanking all subscribers on behalf of the committee.—A. B. Peck.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association was held last Saturday at St. Andrew's, Kingsbury. This is the North Middlesex church which was removed stone by stone a few years ago from Wells Street, one of the streets leading out of Oxford Street. That district has suffered severely in the air raids and it may be that the removal has been the means of preserving St. Andrew's from destruction.

It is a fine building and one of the best examples of late Gothic architecture erected in the nineteenth century. The bells are famous as being a full maiden peal not touched by the tuning lathe in any way. The founder cast over twenty before he got eight that satisfied his ear. The ancient Church of St. Andrew, a tiny building, stands beside the new church. It has three small bells, one the oldest in Middlesex. They are, however, inaccessible.



ST. ANDREW'S, KINGSBURY.

The meeting on Saturday was well attended. Choral evensong was at half past four, with an address by the Rev. E. C. Bridgwater, curate-in-charge. Before the service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung in the choir gallery by Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Messrs. C. W. Woolley, H. G. Cashmore and E. C. S. Turner. With such a band it was quite good ringing, and would have been better still if it had been ever so much slower.

At the tea in the Parish Hall the chair was occupied by the vice-president, Mr. J. A. Trollope, supported by the Rev. E. C. Bridgwater, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. Ball (churchwarden) and Mr. Oram. The gathering was a very representative one, though, of course, not nearly so large as it would have been in peace times. Fifty-two sat down to tea, among them being Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Goodship, Mr. Edwin Barnett, Mr. A. Cutler, Mr. George Kilby,

Mr. J. E. L. Cockey, and all the officers of the association except the president and Mr. George Fletcher, who sent apologies. Mr. Fletcher was engaged on Home Guard duties.

Mr. C. T. Coles mentioned the names of the members who had passed away during the year, and paid a special tribute to the memory of Stephen Wood, killed on duty in a Bristol air raid. His death, he said, was a grievous blow to the whole Exercise.

Mr. Coles stated that no printed report will be issued this year, and he read a short report which was circulated among the members by means of copies kindly typed and duplicated by Mr. and Mrs. George Fletcher.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The report was as follows:—

The ban imposed on the ringing of church bells by the Minister of Home Security has caused the cessation of ringing since June. Despite many appeals, the Minister has so far refused to modify or withdraw the order, and consequently our bells remain silent. We all look forward to the day when we shall ring the bells for the victory that will surely be ours.

The annual general meeting was held at St. Mary's, Acton, on April 27th. The sermon was preached by the Rector (the Rev. P. Gough).

At the business meeting the committee were given powers to decide in what form to issue the annual report, because of high costs of printing and paper shortage. As the position is now worse in both respects it is considered advisable to issue only a very abridged report until such time as our activities are normal. Care will be taken to collect all records, which will be printed in the first post-war report.

It was also decided that the application of Rule 3 should not be insisted upon in the cases of members serving in His Majesty's Forces. Further, any ringer serving in the Forces and coming into London for training purposes could become a member for the period of the war on payment of one year's subscription.

District meetings were held at Upper Clapton, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Stepney and St. George-in-the-East. Also at Heston, Brentford and Kuislip. The attendances were generally very good. The association visited Stepney for the first time and received a cordial welcome.

Twenty-two peals were rung, with one exception all being on handbells. The only tower-bell peal was rung at Willesden. There were 24 ringers and six conductors in these peals. Most of the handbell peals were rung by members of the Bushey band and friends.

A few quarter-peals have been reported. These include three at Kilburn, and one each at Clerkenwell and Twickenham.

New members during the year were, of course, much below the average number. However, one honorary and 13 ringing members were elected.

We deeply regret the loss by death of several members, many of long standing and good worth. Their names are H. Barton, C. H. Howard, W. A. Cave, W. D. Smith, G. B. Lucas, G. Dent, J. Holman, A. Howell and S. H. Wood. The last named was killed during an air raid on Bristol in November, whilst on civil defence duties. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives. In a later report we hope to make further reference to these deceased members.

We are sorry to lose the services of the Rev. A. S. Roberts, who came into the county a few years ago, when he took up a curacy at Edmonton. Mr. Roberts has now charge of a parish at Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

One of our vice-presidents, too, has left the diocese. The Bishop of Willesden, who on more than one occasion has preached to us at our annual meetings, has been appointed Bishop of Leicester.

DAMAGED CHURCHES.

A list of churches in the diocese which have been damaged in air raids, and which contain peals of bells, is being prepared, with special reference to those affiliated to this association. This record will be printed in a future report. Will tower secretaries and others interested please keep a record of damage done, and later report it to the hon. secretary? Meanwhile, we desire to express our deepest sorrow at the loss of so many churches and peals of bells.

We also regret the loss of many valuable ringing records and treasures when the headquarters of the A.S.C.Y. was destroyed on December 29th, and accord to the members of that society our deepest sympathy.

The books belonging to this association, which have hitherto been kept in the belfry at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, have, together with a complete duplicate set of reports, been removed for greater safety to North Mimms, to the home of Mr. T. J. Lock.

It is hoped that the list of members serving in His Majesty's Forces will be kept up to date, for publication in a future report. All information should be sent to the hon. secretary.

In conclusion, we trust that all members will keep in touch with their belfries and with the association. To assist this a few meetings will be held during the summer and autumn months. We must keep ourselves ready for the day when peace comes, when we may carry on our work with renewed vigour.

The statement of accounts was presented by the treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram, and passed.

The officers were re-elected en bloc, namely: President, the Rev. W. P. Cole Sheane; vice-presidents (active), G. W. Fletcher and J. A. Trollope; Master, H. Kilby; hon. treasurer, W. H. Oram; hon. secre-

(Continued on next page.)

BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A friend tells me I ought to say something in reply to Mr. Drake. Many readers, he says, do take an interest in composition and method construction, and we should give them all the explanations we can.

I am not quite sure about the matter. I think when we try to do too much in the way of explanation we only muddle people and make them believe things are difficult when really they are very simple. After all readers have got brains and can think for themselves, and some can even see a church by daylight. Still, I'll do what I can.

Suppose your clock ran down at (shall we say?) five minutes past two, and you set it going again at twenty to seven. You would have to alter the hands, and to do that you would move the minute hand from left to right, first to a quarter past the hour, then half past, and so on till you had moved it right round the dial back to the place you started from, and round and round as long as you wished. If I asked which way you moved the hand you would say, 'Forward,' and if I asked, 'Why forward?' you would say, 'Because it is the way the hands usually move.'

But you could have moved the hand in the opposite direction from right to left, and instead of putting it from five minutes past to a quarter past, you could have put it back to the hour, then to a quarter to, and so right round the dial till you came back to where you started from, and you could go on moving it round and round as long as you liked. If I asked you which way you moved it this time, and you had enough patience left to go on answering silly questions, you would say, 'Backwards,' and backwards because it was in the opposite direction to that in which the hands normally move.

Movement in change ringing is exactly similar to the movement of the hand of the clock. If you are ringing, say, the fourth to eight bells, and you were told to start plain hunting and keep on, you would first go into third's, then second's, then to the lead. After that you would go up behind and then down again till you reached the place you started from, and you would go on, round and round, until you were told to stop. That would be forward hunting.

But you could have gone in the opposite direction. Instead of moving from fourth's to third's, you could have gone to fifth's, then up behind, then down to lead and so round and round until you were told to stop. That would be backward hunting, and 'backward' only because it is the opposite to the normal direction.

All the ringing we do is made up of these two kinds of movement. When you ring the treble to Bob Major all your movement is continuous forward plain hunting. When you ring the second or the third it is nearly all forward plain hunting, but every now and then you take one step backwards. We call that dodging.

In any Major method, produced by backstroke work only, we never get more than single steps of backward movement among the forward movement, but in the more complex methods, which have handstroke places, there are usually fairly long stretches of backward hunting. There is never any continuous unbroken backward hunting like the forward hunting of Bob Major, but in London Surprise a bell for the greater part of its work is hunting backwards with such variations as are needed to allow it to avoid falling foul of the Treble Bob path of the treble. Study the method and see for yourself.

Shipway produced a method which he called Imperial Place Major, and the Cumberlands rang a peal of it. It consists entirely of plain forward hunting by the treble and plain backward hunting by the other bells. The way the two movements are reconciled is by place making alongside the treble's path, and there is not a single dodge in it.

The difference between forward and backward hunting is a real one, and every practical ringer, who has had experience of any of the more complex methods, knows it. The whole thing is extremely simple and elementary, and I feel rather ashamed of myself for taking up so much of your space writing about it. J. A. TROLLOPE.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

tary, C. T. Coles; assistant hon. secretary, E. C. S. Turner; auditor, G. W. Fletcher; trustees, W. H. Oram, C. T. Coles and E. C. S. Turner.

Mr. Coles referred to the illness of the Editor of 'The Ringing World' and expressed the sympathy of the association with him as well as congratulations on the way the paper had carried on.

In putting Mr. Coles' motion to the meeting, the Chairman said that during his connection with the paper he had been much impressed by the many tokens of regard towards the Editor, which had come from ringers in all parts of the country. He pointed out that the production of a ringing paper during war time was attended by many difficulties and hoped readers would not be too censorious.

A resolution was passed of goodwill towards members serving in His Majesty's Forces, and the thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Bridgwater, Mr. Ball, the local company, and Mrs. Collier and her lady helpers. Mr. Collier suitably replied.

During the afternoon and evening there was handbell ringing, most of it of a high order. A fairly long touch (about 400) of Spiced Surprise Major by E. C. S. Turner 1-2, C. W. Woolley 3-4, H. G. Cashmore 5-6, and C. C. Mayne 7-8, was noticeable, and so was a course of London Major, in which Mrs. Fletcher took part.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association was held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 3rd. Forty-three members were present from Southover, Wadhurst, Hastings, Wadhurst, Rotherfield, Balcombe, Eastbourne (St. Mary's), Storrington, Pulborough, Arundel, Burgess Hill and the Brighton towers.

New members were elected from Southover, Lewes, being the Misses M. Carpenter, M. Monk and M. Uridge.

The Master's report and the balance sheet were circulated and accepted. It was noted that although the sums received from affiliation fees were reduced by some £20, expenses had also fallen, and the balance, therefore, was not greatly depleted. It is hoped that with due economy the present position will not greatly depreciate.

The divisional officers were re-elected except in the case of the Western and Eastern Divisions, where the secretaries are absent on national service. Mr. E. Treagus consented to act as secretary during Mr. F. Meeten's absence in the Western Division, and Mr. J. Downing consented to act as substitute for Mr. C. Levett in the remaining vacancy. Committee members were also re-elected, with the exception of Mr. W. Franks, of Battle, who had passed away a few weeks previously. The Master gave a short appreciation of Mr. Franks' services, and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The president and vice-presidents were re-elected, as were the general officers: Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. D. Stone; hon. general secretary, Mr. S. E. Armstrong; hon. peal secretary, Mr. F. I. Hairs.

The peal secretary read his report and stated that only one peal had been rung during the year, Minor in four methods at West Grinstead, conducted by Mr. A. J. Steele; who thus ranks as the champion conductor for the year. The peal secretary made a plea for the further use of handbells as a substitute for the tower bells, now unfortunately silent. A discussion ensued, and it was agreed that meetings for handbell ringing should be arranged during the summer months, the peal secretary kindly offering accommodation for one meeting. The opinion of the members was asked as to the suitability of holding meetings on Sundays, using the handbells as a part of the ordinary evensong at the church selected. Many members are not now available for meetings on Saturdays, and it was decided to arrange at least one such meeting if the incumbent were agreeable.

A discussion also took place regarding the safe disposal of the association records, and it was decided that a copy should be made of the peal reports, and this and other documents should be placed in the strong room of St. Peter's. The question of payment of rail fares to divisional meetings was also considered, the committee having recommended their suspension for the ensuing year. The main part of the association balance is invested in Government bonds and at the present not easily or advisably realisable, the cash balance being relatively small, and after expressions of opinion on both sides of the subject, it was decided to let the committee recommendation stand for the year and be reconsidered next year.

Mr. Rapley proposed that the general secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Goldsmith expressing the association's best wishes for his complete recovery from his illness. This was carried with enthusiasm.

During the course of the afternoon the tower was visited by the Vicar of Brighton, the Rev. Canon G. H. Warde, who remarked on the depression ringers must feel at the sudden ending of their activities on the tower bells, an event unprecedented in history, and the more deplorable now that the conflict was so evidently one between the forces of materialism and Christ's teaching. In such circumstances anything which tends to lessen the call of the Church is to be regretted, and the sound of the bells was one of those things which had in times past been greatly associated with the call to religion. We must, however, place national requirements in the forefront of our efforts, for only by such a wholehearted devotion can a speedy victory and a just peace be attained. It is up to the ringers to prepare for that time, and if the suspension of tower-bell ringing is a means to the desired end, it must be accepted in a willing spirit.

During the afternoon the handbells were rung to methods which included Grand sire Doubles, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich.

AN OLD RECORD FROM WAKEFIELD.

May 12th, 1788. On Monday last was rung at Wakefield by the Ringers of that place a New Composition Peal of Tripple Bob Tripple called Wakefield Delight Consisting of 5040 in 8 courses complete. The same set of Ringers without changing a man or setting a bell, began another Peal of Oxford Single Tripples in Twelve Courses consisting of 5,040 called Wakefield Surprise. Both these peals consisted 10,080 changes were performed including the Raising and Settling the bells in Seven Hours and One Minute, and were rung with a exactness and nice distinction, as instance never before Done in Ye Kingdom. 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.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to work out the relationship.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

EALING SURPRISE.

We gave Cornwall as probably the best of all the easy Surprise Methods. We now come to another very similar method, which, though not quite so good when everything is taken into consideration, is fully worthy of taking its place as a standard method.

Ealing S.	Leatherhead S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7	1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5	2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5
2 4 1 3 6 8 5 7	2 4 1 3 6 8 5 7
4 2 3 1 8 6 7 5	4 2 3 1 8 6 7 5
2 4 1 3 8 6 5 7	2 4 1 3 8 6 5 7
4 2 3 1 6 8 7 5	4 2 3 1 6 8 7 5
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1
6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5	6 3 4 2 8 7 1 5
3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1	3 6 2 4 7 8 5 1
6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1	6 3 4 2 7 5 8 1
3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8	3 6 2 4 5 7 1 8
3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1	3 2 6 4 7 5 8 1
2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8	2 3 4 6 5 7 1 8
3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8	3 2 6 4 5 1 7 8
2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7	2 3 4 6 1 5 8 7
2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8	2 4 3 6 5 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7	4 2 6 3 1 5 8 7
2 4 6 1 3 5 7 8	2 4 6 1 3 5 7 8
4 2 1 6 5 3 8 7	4 2 1 6 5 3 8 7
2 4 6 1 5 3 7 8	2 4 6 1 5 3 7 8
4 2 1 6 3 5 8 7	4 2 1 6 3 5 8 7
4 1 2 6 5 3 7 8	4 1 2 6 5 3 7 8
1 4 6 2 3 5 8 7	1 4 6 2 3 5 8 7
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5
1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7	1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7

In construction Ealing is a very simple variation of Cornwall. If we turn to the figures of the latter (they are given in our issue of April 18th) we shall see that the middle change of the first section

is 21436587
... .. 12346578

and

at the second cross section 42316587
... .. 24361857

In both of these changes 5, 7, 8 are in the three hindmost positions. In the former the 5th makes sixth's place; in the latter the 7th makes eighth's place.

Now it is obvious that this place-making can be transposed, so that the 7th makes eighth's in the former change and the 8th makes sixth's in the latter. The result will be the same. This variation, with the cor-

responding one in the second half of the lead, and seconds at the lead end are all that are needed to produce Ealing from Cornwall.

But, though the difference is so small, there is enough distinction to make the two separate methods in actual practice. Cornwall has a clear proof scale and sixty full natural courses available for composition. In it the Oxford places in the first two sections are made by bells widely separated in coursing order. In Ealing there are no Oxford places in the first section, and those in the second section are made by a pair of coursing bells. That means that we have the false course end B 24365, and only thirty full natural courses available for composition. Of these thirty, however, twenty-seven have either the 4th, 5th or 6th in sixth place at the course end, and so plenty of musical peals can be had.

Cornwall has 3-pull and single dodging; Ealing has 4-pull and single dodging, and this is not an improvement. Ealing, in fact, is one of those methods which raise the question of the desirability of 4-pull dodging. In theory it ought to be too long; yet Ealing is not only interesting to ring,* but is very musical. The method was one of those included by the talented Bushey band in their spliced handbell performances, and when they gave a touch at the College Youths' dinner Ealing sounded by far the best of all the methods they rang, better than Rutland, better even than Bristol, and much better than Cambridge or London. That, of course, is not a conclusive test, for only a couple of leads were rung.

Below the treble Ealing is the same as Cornwall and shares its excellences.

If we turn Cornwall into a second's place method we get excessive dodging behind; with Ealing the second's place gives a method which not only meets the requirements of those people who prefer second's place to eighth's, but one which is very useful for splicing. So far only two peals have been rung of it, but it has been included in several spliced peals.

At the lead end it has 3-pull dodging in 3-4. We are not quite sure whether that is a very desirable feature, but it is not very objectionable, and it is inevitable in any second's place Treble Bob method with a clear proof scale in the first section.

The eighth's place variation of Ealing is for all ordinary purposes quite as good a method. In the new Surprise book it has been given the name of Horsham, the title under which Ealing itself was known to some people before it was rung to a peal.

We pointed out that a variation of Cornwall can be had by substituting two backward plain hunting courses for the one Treble Bob hunting course on the four bells below the treble. A similar variation of Ealing gives Leatherhead, which, though inferior, and rather more difficult, has many good points.

MR. FREDERICK G. WOODISS.

We regret to announce that Mr. Frederick G. Woodiss died suddenly at Banstead on Sunday last. Mr. Woodiss was one of the best known among Surrey ringers, and we hope to give more details of his ringing career in our next issue.

THE MUSIC OF STEDMAN CATERERS.—Of all methods on nine or more bells, Stedman Caterers, when properly treated, lends itself to produce the best variety of musical combinations. As commonly rung with the treble a fixed bell, it is small wonder that critics decry the music as inferior to that of Grandsire.—Sir Arthur Heywood.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The sixty-ninth annual general meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College on Wednesday, April 30th. The attendance was fair, and in the absence of the president the Master took the chair.

The treasurer's report was adopted, and the Master gave an account of successful activities during the Hilary term. Though the silent-bell practices in New College tower had not evoked a lot of enthusiasm, handbell ringing (double-handed, of course) had been popular. There were six competent ringers in the society, and every member could ring at least 1-2 or 7-8 in a course of Grandsire Triples. Two quarter-peals had been rung during the term.

Officers were elected for the next year as follows: Master, J. E. Spice (New College), second term of office; secretary, W. L. B. Leese (St. John's), second term of office; treasurer, Miss E. Macnair (Somerville).

Meetings for the term were arranged for Thursday evenings on silent tower bells, and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m. for handbells. It was decided to have a society photograph taken during the term.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Spice for the kindness he had shown as Master, for the loan of his premises for handbell practices, and for the food he had given the society on many occasions.

THE FIRST PEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.**A LETTER FROM MR. JAMES PRIEST.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the letter by Mr. E. Barnett in 'The Ringing World' of January 3rd, may I say that it was Mr. Gardom who gave me my first lesson in change ringing. Later I got to know other ringers, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Green being my closest friends. When Mr. Barnett went to Monmouth he invited me to come, as he was instructing a band, and about twelve months afterwards we were able to ring the Monmouth peal.

I left England on May 24th, 1890. Mr. Green had left twelve months earlier, and we were at Woodstock when the bells arrived, so got together a band and struggled along until we succeeded in ringing the Woodstock peal. Mr. Alfred Pye paid us a visit and did a bit of ringing. Mr. Green retired some years ago after taking the trip to England, and is now settled here in Cape Town.

J. F. PRIEST.

Lunsdown, Cape Flats, South Africa.

JACKDAWS VERSUS SUMMER TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One day last week our parish church clock was found to have lost six minutes. The steeplekeeper climbed the steps to ascertain the trouble, but apparently the clock was going perfectly and is always recognised as a perfect timekeeper. However, the following morning the clock was found to have lost 20 minutes in the night. This seemed to cause quite a dislocation in the village life. The school girls missed their bus, and so had a day's holiday. The farmer in his usual way consulted the trustworthy timepiece and patted himself on the back that he had 20 minutes in hand. The farm worker, however, discovered the fault and uttered most disparaging remarks. The steeplekeeper again went to the tower to make investigations and found it was the work of the jackdaws. On closer investigations to the dial case it was found that a long brier was encircled round the small hand and had caused the retardment of the clock, also large quantities of sticks lay on the roof below. Evidently the jackdaws don't hold with this extra hour of summer time.

With best wishes to the Editor for a speedy recovery and good wishes to all ringing friends. May the day not be long before normal times are here and we are in the 'plain course' again.

C. T. H. BRADLEY.

Folkingham, Lincs.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.—Through the tact and energy of Sir A. P. Heywood, Bart., the Central Council of Church Bellringers was founded in 1890, some members of existing societies thinking it unnecessary, and asserting that they could manage their own affairs without any such extraneous help.—F. E. Robinson.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HOWDEN.**

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, May 3rd, and was attended by about a dozen ringers from Goole, Hessle, Hull, Kirk Ella, Selby, York and the local company.

A short service was held in church, at which the Vicar, the Rev. A. Waring, M.A., gave a most interesting address on religion and character, and prior to the service some handbell ringing took place in the nave.

Tea was served in the Manor House Cafe, a former residence of the Bishops of Durham at a time when Howden formed a part of that diocese. The tea would have done ample justice to peace time, there being a good supply of everything.

The business meeting, over which the Vicar presided, followed, and the district secretary (Mr. H. S. Morley) was re-elected for a further period of three years on the motion of Mr. S. Steel, seconded by Mr. F. Cryer. Messrs. F. W. Dale and F. Terry were re-elected on the District Committee, the first named on the General Committee, and Mr. S. Steel, of York, was elected to the vacant place on the District Committee, all for a period of three years.

Mr. Steel invited the district to hold the next meeting at York in July, and this was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Cryer proposed and Mr. Steel seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, an old friend of the ringers, who gave up the whole of his Saturday afternoon and evening in order to be with them. It would be a good thing if all incumbents made themselves as homely and entertaining as does Mr. Waring.

In his reply, the Vicar said he was glad to welcome the company to Howden and how pleased he always was to be with them.

Mr. R. B. Smith replied on behalf of the local company.

A collection for the association's bell repairs fund realised 7s. 6d.

Further handbell ringing concluded a most enjoyable if small meeting on a lovely spring-like day.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, of Sherburn-in-Elmet, and from Mr. J. W. Thompson, of Howden.

EDWIN BARNETT AND JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Emery's letter on the peal at Chislehurst is interesting.

At the time when father and I were discussing Thurstan's Reversed, he told me that he asked Mr. Washbrook what peal it was, saying, 'You had the bells out of course the very first six.' This must have been the following day at Erith, as had he been outside all the time at Chislehurst he would undoubtedly have taken the whole peal off, thereby setting our minds at rest as to what actually was called.

I do not think there can be any doubt that the composition was the Four-Part, and not the One-Part as Mr. Emery suggests, for, having started with a single at 2, the second single would come at 14 in that course, and father would have detected it immediately the bells came in course again if it had been the latter.

Father also told me this was the only occasion he found anyone able to ring four in hand with him. They rang a touch each of Grandsire and Siedman Triples, a course of Bob Major and half a course of Treble Bob, when Mr. Washbrook, who was ringing 5-6-7-8, had to give up, having rubbed the skin off his fingers.

Thirty years ago I paid a flying visit to Ireland, and while there I called on Mr. Washbrook at Arklow. He recalled this and said, 'Had it been possible for your father and me to get a little practice together, we should have rung some peals.' I firmly believe they would.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that many ringers have been most interested in the letters about silent apparatus which have appeared in your pages, and I hope some good will come of them. It is good to know that these clever people are making experiments, and though it is too early to talk about it now, perhaps when the war is over steps will be taken to see which is the best, and the Central Council might prepare and publish full directions, with illustrations and diagrams, so that bands could take advantage of it where practice is objected to or restricted.

HAROLD SMITH.

J. A.
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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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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.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, May 17th. Service at S. Nicolas' Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall (next to the church) at 5 p.m.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clendon, near Guildford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Saturday, May 17th. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, will probably be available from 2.15 p.m. and again in the evening for payment of subscriptions, distribution of reports and handbell ringing. Owing to catering difficulties, it has not been found possible—up to the moment—to arrange for tea. Will members please provide for themselves? — J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow, Evesham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 24th. Members will meet at the Two Brewers, Shoe Lane, E.C.4, at 2.30. Business meeting and handbells at 15, Farringdon Avenue, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available. —J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. — The annual general meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Meeting in Ringing Chamber 6.15 p.m. Six 'silent' bells available afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, May 24th. Tower open 3 p.m. for tower and handbell ringing. Service (if possible) 5 p.m. A tea will be arranged if possible. A good muster is hoped for, as the President, the Rev. Arthur Scott, intends to be present. Intending visitors please notify.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough and Burton Districts. —A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. It will greatly assist the caterers if those intending to be present will forward their names to J. W. Cotton, Overseal, by Wednesday, May 21st. Subscriptions are now due and reports ready. A good attendance is necessary.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available. Owing to catering difficulties those attending will have to make their own arrangements for tea. Ringing from 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. Teas can be obtained for ringers who forward their names by Tuesday, May 27th. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Those requiring tea are particularly requested to notify the general secretary not later than Wednesday, May 28th. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Tea, free to all resident members who are clear on the books and who apply to the general secretary for tickets on or before May 24th. Non-resident members and non-members 1s. 6d. each, to be sent with application for tickets. No application for tickets will be entertained after May 24th. This will be strictly adhered to. Bring sugar if required. Bells (6) (silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

MR. A. J. HARRIS wishes to thank the many friends who have written to congratulate him on the honour recently conferred on him by H.M. the King. He will take an early opportunity of replying personally by letter. His address is 86, Stoughton Street, Leicester.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—On Thursday, April 24th, at 35, Woodstock Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: G. H. Spice 1-2, Betty Spice 3-4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5-6, Mrs. G. H. Spice (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 7-8. Is this the first quarter-peal 'in hand' by father, mother, son and daughter?

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FIRES AND BELL FRAMES.

A letter from one of our correspondents which appears on another page raises a question of some considerable importance. How far does an iron frame afford a safeguard to the bells against fire? Can that safeguard be made more effective? And would it not be well to collect all available information from present disasters to be used in the reconstruction of the future?

These are questions, essentially, of course, for experts, and the obstacles against the collection of details of the damage done in air raids are known to all. But a general ventilation of the subject can do nothing but good, especially if it leads ringers and steeple keepers to take notice of the conditions in their own towers.

The bitter experience of London seems to give good examples of the conditions which generally exist, and we will make a brief examination and contrast of them, but with the proviso that our knowledge is far too imperfect for us to do more than treat them as types.

St. Lawrence, Jewry, had a heavy ring of eight hung by modern fittings in an old wooden frame. The square, stone tower was surmounted by a rather elaborate spire of wood. In the church below, and almost beneath the tower, was a wooden gallery with the organ. Within the tower the floors and the joists were of wood, and there was a considerable amount of inflammable fittings. Under those conditions, when the nave of the church was set alight, the tower acted like a chimney and the whole of its contents from top to bottom became a raging furnace. Everything except the stonework was destroyed, and not even a trace of the bells could be seen among the fallen debris. They could not have escaped in any circumstances; if the frame had been of iron instead of wood, and they had not crashed to the ground, they must have been melted where they hung.

St. Bride's, Fleet Street, has a stone spire. The bells were hung in the original wood frame, and the joists and floors were wood. But the base of the tower was clear of inflammable fittings, and there was nothing to spread the fire from the body of the church to the belfry. Indeed, the conditions seem to have been as good as could be hoped for except for one thing. The exception is that, as is usual in churches which have an interior ceiling below the outside roof, there was an opening from the space between into the tower. It was through this, probably, that the fire spread from the roof of the church to the tower, and it is likely that, had the opening been closed by some fire-resisting material, the tower and bells might have escaped, as the tower and bells of St. Michael's Coventry, escaped.

(Continued on page 242.)

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Our information on this point is far too imperfect for us to speak definitely about St. Bride's, but here certainly is a point that should be taken notice of by all who have the charge of towers and bells. Some authorities have thought fit to take the bells down from the steeples, and there must be many who would go to the much less expense of isolating the tower from the roof space if the conditions seem to make it advisable.

The bells of St. Giles', Cripplegate, were hung in an iron frame, but this was rendered nugatory by the stocks being of wood except in the case of the tenor. The space below the tower was clear and was surmounted by a stone vaulting. The steeple was crowned by a wooden cupola, and there was a lot of wood inside. The chamber immediately below the bells was full of parts of disused partitions, wooden tablets, and other furniture. The bells crashed and were broken, except the tenor, which still hung on its iron stock, but was ruined by the fire. Here again it is unlikely that all-iron hangings would have made much difference.

At St. Andrew's, Holborn, the bells were in a modern iron frame with iron stocks. The space below the tower was clear, and though the fire reached the belfry and burnt all the wooden joists and floors, it probably was not so fierce as in St. Lawrence's and St. Giles'. Anyhow, the bells still hang, and it is hoped they are uninjured. But that remains to be seen.

Certainly here is a field for expert investigation, and we hope it will not be overlooked by the proper authorities. When the war is over, and they have time and opportunity, the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council might bear it in mind.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 1-2 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6

*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* 200th handbell peal.

ALDERSHOT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, May 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 37, HIGHFIELD GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

WILLIAM H. VIGGERS... 1-2 | *HAROLD C. HOBDEN ... 5-6

SERGEANT J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-4 | MAURICE HODGSON ... 7-8

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by SERGEANT J. FREEMAN

* First peal in the method on handbells.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Seven extents, each called differently. Tenor size 15 in C.

*IVOR C. N. BELL ... 1-2 | †W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 3-4

†REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor 'in hand.' First peal of Minor as conductor. Rung after meeting short for Major.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE COLLECTIONS OF PEALS.

The committee appointed in 1892 to deal with calls and peal collections presented their report in the following year. It was debated and, after having been referred back for the consideration of one or two minor points, was adopted by the Council in 1894, and was printed.

It was intended to be the definitive statement on bobs and singles, but actually it added little or nothing to the Exercise's store of knowledge, and is only read to-day out of curiosity, if at all. It was rather a good example of the art of saying nothing much in a great number of words, and that was mainly because the committee had nothing much to say.

So far as the great majority of methods are concerned, custom and convenience have provided one bob, and all along ringers and composers have shown no particular desire to introduce any other. Some exception to this may perhaps be found in eighth's place Major methods, where both fourth's and sixth's place bobs have at times been recognised as allowable. It might, therefore, seem that there was no reason for raising the question and nothing particular for the committee to report about. But it so happened that at the time the attention of composers like Davies was largely centred on Grandsire and similar Triples methods. Up to but a few years before composition in those methods was, apart from the bob-and-single peals, represented entirely by Holt's compositions and their variations.

Holt had given his work to the Exercise, but the methods by which he worked remained a secret, and until the time of Davies, Hollis and Penning no composer, not even John Reeves, seems to have had any idea of how to set to work to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples. This state of ignorance was now being ended.

For practical purposes Holt's Ten-part was the most valuable, besides being an extraordinarily clever production. It has two in-course singles, and though special calls of the sort have never been altogether liked, they were looked upon as necessary and legitimate.

Davies' report, therefore, concerned itself largely with them and the proper form of those in other Triples methods. A good deal also was said about the proper single to be used in Union, all of which is of little interest to-day, for that method, after enjoying two or three years' modified popularity, has fallen into disuse.

About this time Joseph J. Parker produced his 12-part peal of Grandsire which quickly supplanted Holt's 10-part in the belfry, and in effect rendered in-course singles in the method unnecessary and obsolete. They must, however, always be used in the other pure Triples methods. Composers did not then understand the part symmetry plays in producing true peals, and the report recommended singles for Double Oxford, Court and similar methods which are quite useless for composition.

The primary purpose for which the committee was appointed was to make and publish a collection of peals, and this represented what was at the time a marked phase in the life of the Exercise.

The publication of a collection of peals might seem at first sight to be for the benefit of conductors. To some extent that was the ostensible reason, but it was not the real reason, nor has it been the real reason for the de-

mands which have been made from time to time for a 'register' of compositions. It was the composers and the would-be composers who wanted the collection and who hoped to benefit by it.

All along, though in varying degree, men have sought to be recognised as composers, and to be able to claim peals as their own. Many of them, probably the large majority, knew nothing really about composition, but it is a simple thing to put together course ends by means of a table of course ends, and not a particularly difficult thing (in some methods at any rate) to prove the result. So long as there was no means of publishing the figures there was not much inducement to be a composer, but when 'The Bell News' appeared and printed peals, composers began to multiply enormously. If the actual figures were different from any that had been printed before, the peal was supposed to be original and the man's very own.

It was inevitable, however, that more than one man should produce the same peal, and that led to innumerable disputes as to who really was the owner. The one test which was universally accepted by all, even by the leading men like Bulwer and Heywood, was priority of publication.

This view was reflected in a report presented in 1897 by the committee which then consisted of Bulwer, Davies, Dr. Carpenter and Henry Dains. 'The earliest ascertainable true composition,' they said, 'on any definite plan in any method which is not a reproduction or colourable imitation of a previous composition in the same composition in another method is entitled to be termed the original composition on that plan, and subsequent compositions on the same plan which are not demonstrably reversals or transpositions may be considered distinct compositions and allowed the distinction of originality.'

Here is the reason for the collection of peals. If a man could get his figures, with his name attached, into a Central Council book, then he had made good his claim against any who might come later.

All this, of course, induced men to take an interest in the theoretic side of ringing, it stimulated thought, and in the end did a lot of good. But at the time men were far more concerned to prove that their particular group of figures was independent of anything else, than to study the mathematical laws which control the production and relationship of true peals. That necessarily had to be left to the few, and only gradually have people realised that originality, in the sense that the word was used, simply does not exist.

It is necessary to know these facts to understand how the Central Council collections of peals were made, and why they were failures.

It is not impossible to make a good collection of the peals of any method, nor to publish it in a way which will be both useful and interesting. Indeed, Jasper Snowdon had done it in the case of Treble Bob; and his book may serve as the model for any collection. But Snowdon had several advantages which the later men lacked. He had an excellent method to deal with, he knew his subject thoroughly, he knew how to write a book, and he was not himself a composer.

Snowdon's collection of Treble Bob peals is an interesting book to read and study. It contains every known true peal produced in the method during a cen-

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

tury and a half. The peals are arranged systematically, with short explanatory notes, and particulars of first performances.

The method lends itself to this treatment. There is an enormous variety in the form and qualities of the peals, and they are easily seen from course ends, which even in one part peals seldom number more than fifteen or sixteen.

A dozen one part peals of Treble Bob can be put in two or three pages of a book and can easily be studied by the reader with interest. A dozen peals of Grandsire Triples would take a dozen closely printed pages, and would present the reader with nothing but a mass of figures which mean very little to him unless he is prepared to do an immense amount of pricking and close study. However a collection of peals of Grandsire Triples is presented, it can never be so interesting as a collection of peals of Treble Bob, and it is difficult to see how it can be made interesting at all, except to the very few people who are themselves composers of Grandsire Triples. There you have, perhaps, the greatest reason why the Central Council collections were a failure.

But that was not the only one. Snowden had made his collection and studied how to present it, before he thought of publication. The later men thought of publication before they knew anything about what was really involved in making and editing a collection. The whole thing was carried out as an experiment, without much system and the men engaged had very little knowledge or experience of what is involved in preparing and writing a book. They thought and the Council thought that provided a man knew a lot about the composition of a method he was fully competent to write a book about it.

The first publication of peals by the committee was at the end of the printed report. It consisted of half a dozen peals of each Grandsire and Union Triples, ten of Grandsire Caters, one of Grandsire Cinques, and nine of Treble Bob Maximus. There seems to have been no other reason for this selection than that the committee happened to have them in their hands.

Still, the figures were well presented, and some of the peals were excellent. Parker's 12-part of Grandsire Triples appears in a text book for the first time, and the others in the same method, all by Mr. Banks James, marked a distinct advance in composition. Except for the composer, the peals of Union had little value then, and have none now. The peals of Caters and Cinques were similar to many with which the Exercise had for some time been familiar, and the peals of Maximus apparently were included for no other reason than that they were composed by one of the members of the committee, who took the opportunity of making good his claim to them.

In 1895 an appendix was published. It was a book of one hundred pages, and consisted of the figures of peals only without any explanatory letterpress. Except that the peals in the same method were grouped together, there was no system in the way they were given, there was no guarantee of originality as it was then understood, or of truth, and there were many mistakes in proof reading. The collection did not pretend to be exhausted or representative, nor to contain the most suitable compositions for a conductor's use. Such people as cared to take the trouble sent figures to the committee and they were printed. I myself, then a youth of eighteen, sent a dozen peals of Bob Major and they duly appeared. As compositions they were quite good, but with one exception (a very simple and ordinary four-part) of no use at all for the average conductor. They consisted of in-course one-parts, some six-thousands and three or four thirteen-thousands. One of the in-course one-parts actually was rung a fortnight ago.

The Appendix was of little use for the practical ringer and the composers were anything but satisfied with it. Nathan Pitstow, as one of the committee, took charge of Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and Surprise, and out of 185 peals, 95 bore his own name. That gave a lot of offence, yet Pitstow ought not to have been blamed. It could not be said that his peals were not good peals, for they were among the best and most useful included, and it was not suggested that he left out other people's compositions to make room for his own. Any one of his critics would have done the same as he did. It was really a case of jealousy that one man should have figured as a composer more prominently than his rivals. It showed the falsity of the ideas which lay behind the demand for a collection of peals.

So far the attempt to publish a collection of peals had proved a failure. In 1896 the committee was reconstructed. Pitstow and Hattersley withdrew, Bulwer was brought in to take general charge and Dr. Carpenter and Henry Dains were added.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Cookham on April 26th. The service in the church was well attended and the singing was good.

At the business meeting Mr. W. H. Fussell presided. All the officers were re-elected. The secretary said he had nothing to report. The Branch Master gave a retrospect and stressed the importance of keeping the bells well oiled and paying attention to ropes and fittings.

Mr. Fussell asked Canon Coleridge to make a presentation, on behalf of the branch, to the Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Wigg on the occasion of their marriage. The latter both thanked all for their kindness. It was decided to make a contribution from branch funds towards a wedding present, from the General Guild, for Mr. and Mrs. Wigg.

After an omnibus vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist and Mr. Fowler, who arranged everything, handbells were produced and made excellent use of, the methods including Grandsire Doubles to Caters, Plain Bob Major, Stedman Triples (and a tune), finishing with a plain course of Grandsire Doubles in octave.

Cookham has only six bells, and the extent of the ringing was one 120 of Grandsire Doubles and a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Minor, with silent bells.

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HEXHAM ABBEY BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is interesting to note that the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Hexham Abbey on September 4th, 1848, and referred to by Mr. Routledge in your issue of May 9th, is considered by Snowdon in his book, 'Grandsire,' to be one of the earliest, if not the earliest, known performance of 'Thurslans' Five-Part composition. I should be pleased to know if any of your readers have the record of an earlier performance. More information about the Abbey's old ring of six bells, tenor 70 cwt., would also be welcome.

Mr. Routledge's remarks about the noise recall to mind the occasion when, almost 90 years after the above-mentioned peal, a second peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in the same tower by a band from the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association at Easter-time, 1938, as follows: M. Anderson 1, K. Cheeseman 2, I. Anderson 3, T. W. Crowe 4, W. J. Davidson 5, J. Roach 6, K. Arthur 7, A. Deas 8. Conducted by K. Arthur, the composition being Moore's Twelve-Part.

This time, when the bells were being raised in peal, the noise was tantamount to bedlam, but on investigation it was found that the belfry door and a couple of trap doors leading to the clock weights were wide open. When this trouble had been rectified a start was made for our peal, and the tonal beauty of this glorious ring was enjoyed to the full without further interference.

Another point. Has any North Country ringer the complete history of the Union Society of Newcastle and Gateshead? There are the records of a few peals rung by this society in Newcastle Cathedral, All Saints', Newcastle, and St. Mary's, Gateshead, dating from 1790 to 1850, but otherwise there appears to be little else remaining to show of its existence.

K. ARTHUR.

14, Cranley Drive, Ruislip.

IRON BELL FRAMES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Many readers will be sorry to see in your Belfry Gossip that the bells which hung in the oldest iron bell frame in the country have been destroyed. We have been led to expect that iron frames would be some safeguard in case of fire, but evidently they are not. Would it not be well to collect all the information on the matter for future guidance?

A. F. S.

THE BELLS OF BOURDEAUX.—The city of Bourdeaux was deprived of its bells for rebellion, and when it was offered to have them restored the people refused it after having tasted the ease and convenience of being freed from the constant din and jangling of bells.—'The Clavis.'

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

Mr. Edward J. Thomas mentioned in a letter a piece of land at Skenfrith, in Monmouthshire, which had been given to provide for the repair and upkeep of bell ropes, and asked for similar instances.

In olden times such endowments were quite common, but, with one notable exception, we believe they have all lapsed either through neglect or fraud. The exception is at St. Martin's, Birmingham, where the endowment is now a very valuable one and provides money for many other than the original purposes.

In the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into Charities, issued in the year 1843, mention is made of the Skenfrith endowment, which is said to consist of a house and £4. It had been alienated and a case had been certified to the Attorney General for the purpose of recovering the property.

Other endowments for bell ropes are stated in the report to exist at Leighton Buzzard, in Bedfordshire; Hinxton, in Cambridgeshire; Blackmore, Foxearth, Lambourne and Great Leighs, in Essex; Eardisley and Thuxton, in Herefordshire; Abkettleby, Sheepy Magna and Witherly, in Leicestershire; Yaxham, in Norfolk; Bradden, in Northamptonshire; Hook Norton, in Oxfordshire; Alveley, in Shropshire; Ashfield Magna and Lavenham, in Suffolk; Reigate, in Surrey; and Aneley and Birmingham, in Warwickshire.

It is also stated in 'Church Bells of Nottinghamshire' that at L1t Drayton in that county there is a small field up a lane called Long Ridding, which bears the name Bell-string Close. The tenant, who is usually the parish clerk, has it rent free on the condition that he provides new bell ropes when necessary.

We should be glad to know from our readers if any of these endowments still exist.

THE LATE GEORGE POPNELL.**HIS LIST OF PEALS.**

The late Mr. George Popnell rang in all 256 peals, of which he conducted 13. They included the first peals of Yorkshire Surprise Major and Royal, Lincolnshire Surprise Major, Forward Major and Spliced Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major in Wales, and the first peal of Spliced Yorkshire and Cambridge Surprise Royal in London. The following is the complete list:—

Doubles 9, Minor 12.

Triples: Grandsire 54, Stedman 30, Oxford Bob 4, Erin 1.

Major: Plain Bob 28, Kent Treble Bob 12, Oxford 1, Forward 1, Double Norwich 6, Spliced Oxford and Kent 1, Cambridge 15, Superlative 8, London 1, Bristol 2, Yorkshire 1, New Cambridge 2, Lincolnshire 1.

Caters: Grandsire 21, Stedman 13.

Royal: Plain Bob 3, Cambridge 5, Yorkshire 1, Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire 1.

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THE EDITOR.

We are happy to state that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith's illness has taken a rapid turn for the better and he hopes to be home in a day or two.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the Society of College Youths should note the change in the place of to-morrow's meeting.

Congratulations to Mr. E. Alexander Young, who reached his seventy-third birthday yesterday.

We are now able to state that the church in South London referred to in last week's issue is St. John the Divine, Vassal Road, Kennington.

We regret that in announcing the death of Miss Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, we gave the date as May 25th instead of May 5th.

On May 19th, 1777, ten 'select performers,' members of the Society of College Youths, 'insatiated with glory,' rang 'a compleat peal of 11,080 changes' of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, 'which will be transmitted to posterity as a masterpiece of the art.'

On the same date in 1827, 'a select company of Ringers rang 5,376 changes of that very ingenious and intricate Composition, Norwich Double Court Bob,' at St. Giles', Norwich.

The first peal on the ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, one of Tittum Bob Royal, was rung on May 20th, 1780, by the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths and conducted by Phineas Smith.

On May 20th, 1795, the Cumberland Youths rang at Edmonton 5,120 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Major. There is some doubt as to what the method was, but it is almost certain it was an early peal of Kent.

On May 20th, 1840, a disastrous fire at York Minster destroyed the old ring of ten bells.

Thirteen thousand and fifty-four changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Cheltenham on Whit Monday, May 21st, 1888. C. H. Hattersley rang the 6th, C. D. P. Davies the 7th and Canon Coleridge the 9th. W. T. Pates conducted.

William Pye rang his 1,000th peal as conductor on May 21st, 1921.

Wednesday last was the 18th anniversary of the 12,675 Stedman Cinques at Southwark, to which Mr. A. B. Peck rang the tenor. It turned out to be no peal, but was a failure more praiseworthy than most successes.

On May 22nd, 1799, John Noonan sat in the belfry at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields and called from manuscript the first peal of Stedman Triples rung away from Norwich.

James W. Washbrook rang the 27 cwt. tenor at Kidlington and called 17,024 changes of Double Norwich on May 22nd, 1899. 'Some doubts were cast on the truth of the performance.'

The first true peal of Treble Ten in Ireland was rung at St. Patrick's, Dublin, on May 24th, 1901.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The last was at Caversham, and was the 100th peal by Canon Coleridge, who rang the tenor and conducted. He was then curate at Caversham and assisted in making a very fine band in the steeple. This was their first peal of Double Norwich (but not his) and they went on to Superlative, Cambridge and London. His first hundred peals included 13,000 and 15,000 of Stedman Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Maximus, and Cambridge and Superlative Major.

The Canterbury Pleasure Major was a 6,000 at Erith, composed and conducted by Edwin Barnett.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to be among the first to congratulate Mr. J. W. Parker on his composition of Spliced Surprise Major which you published last week. This is the first composition in which all the bells ring the whole of the work of all five methods used. Mr. A. J. Pitman sent me about five years ago a somewhat similar composition of 5,856 changes in four out of the five methods used by Mr. Parker. This composition contains one course each of London and Rutland, two courses of Cambridge and two courses each consisting of one lead of Cambridge and six leads of Superlative. In these latter courses the lead of Cambridge is the first lead in one of the courses and the last lead in the other. I made two attempts at calling this peal (shortened to 5,088 changes), and as far as I can remember we rang about half of it on each occasion.

So far only one peal has been rung in which the tenors ring the whole of the work of more than two methods. This was a peal containing London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, composed by Mr. Pitman, which I called at Willesden on October 8th, 1935. This composition contained two courses each of the first three methods. I have spent many hours attempting to put together a peal in which the tenors ring the whole of the work of all of these methods. Mr. H. G. Cashmore and I understand, Mr. A. J. Pitman have also tackled this problem. Perhaps one day one of us will be successful.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

65, Kingsley Avenue, West Ealing, W.13.

ST. CLEMENT DANES'.

DESTRUCTION OF FAMOUS LONDON CHURCH.

As we intimated in our last issue, St. Clement Danes' was one of the churches destroyed in a recent air raid on London. It had previously been badly damaged by high explosive bombs, and now it has been hit by incendiaries and burnt out, only the bare walls and the tower left standing. Some time ago the ten bells were taken down from the steeple for safety. They were on the floor below the tower, and so have escaped destruction, but two are said to have been cracked, probably by falling debris.

This adds another to the sad and growing list of Wren churches destroyed, and unfortunately it includes some of the most important of the works of the great architect, St. Bride's, St. Lawrence Jewry, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Mildred's, Bread Street—it is difficult to find four among those that survive equal in value to these.



THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES.

What makes the loss of Wren's churches so regrettable is that they form an architectural group which is quite unique. England is extraordinarily rich in fine mediæval parish churches, and if we lost St. Peter Mancroft and St. Mary Redcliffe as we have already lost St. Michael's, Coventry, bad as it would be, we should still have dozens more of the same style and of little less value.

But Wren's churches stand alone. One or two by James Gibbs, such as St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and St. Mary's-in-the-Strand may at first sight seem to belong to the same group, but there are real distinctions, and church architecture very quickly developed into something different from that of Wren's churches.

St. Clement Danes' was of ancient foundation, and is said to have got its name because Harold the Dane, son of King Canute, and others of his countrymen were buried there. No particulars of the old church or churches on the site seem to have survived, and nothing is known of the bells they contained, but in 1680 the building which then existed had become very dilapidated and was pulled down. Two years later Wren's church was completed. The lower stages of the fifteenth century tower were left standing, but were recased, and in 1717 James Gibbs added the present spire. In 1693 William and

(Continued in next column.)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING AT SALISBURY.

The Rev. C. C. Cox, of Lyme Regis, the Master, presided at the annual meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Church House, Salisbury, on Saturday. Owing to war conditions there was a smaller attendance than usual, about 35 being present.

The annual Guild service was held at St. Thomas' Church, Salisbury. It was conducted by Canon Hellins.

A letter of apology for absence was read at the meeting from the president, the Earl of Shaftesbury. Another member who wrote regretting that he could not attend suggested that at the end of the war a victory peal should be rung by a band composed of Home Guardsmen.

The statement of accounts showed an increased balance in hand.

The following officers were re-elected: Master, the Rev. C. C. Cox; hon. secretary and treasurer, the Rev. F. L. Edwards, Kingston Magna, Gillingham; assistant hon. secretary, Mr. F. Green; auditors, Canon R. E. G. Newman and Mr. W. Hinks.

It was resolved to send congratulations to Mr. George Williams on attaining his 84th birthday, also a message of sympathy and good wishes to Mr. Goldsmith, with an expression of appreciation of the way that 'The Ringing World' continues its good work and is always so full of interest.

The Master expressed sympathy with ringers whose towers had been destroyed by enemy action, adding that he did not think any bells had been lost in the Salisbury diocese. He hoped that the card on the preservation of belfry and bells, sent out by the general secretary, would be observed, and the records, such as noteworthy touches that had been rung, minute books of local Guilds, etc., would be carefully put away and preserved.

Thanks to the diocesan authorities for the use of the room and to the Vicar of St. Thomas' for the use of the church were expressed by Canon Hellins, and Mr. Edwards thanked Canon Hellins for conducting the service.

Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung on handbells in St. Thomas' Church before and after the Guild service.

(Continued from previous column.)

Philip Wightman supplied eight, with a tenor of 24 cwt. They are a very fine ring and fully justified the description of them in Strype's 'Survey of London'—eight noble bells.

The two trebles were added in 1843 by a man named Oliver, who was employed at the Whitechapel foundry, and who, as Mr. Albert Hughes thinks, did the work in his own time, borrowing the strickles and other tools. Several generations of Olivers have been employed at the foundry, and the family is still represented there.

Although they are one of the oldest octaves in London, the bells of St. Clement's do not figure very largely in the history of change ringing before the nineteenth century.

The first recorded peal was one of Oxford Treble Bob by the College Youths on February 12th, 1733. Benjamin Annable conducted. The next was ten years later almost to a day. On February 13th, 1743, the Eastern Scholars rang Bob Major, and after that there is no other recorded until 1760, when the College Youths rang another peal of Treble Bob.

In 1839 the headquarters of the St. James' Society were moved to St. Clement's, and ever since the belfry has been one of the most important meeting places of the London Exercise. This, in the first instance, was mainly due to two men, Thomas Tolladay and George Stockham, both of whom held the office of steeplekeeper for many years.

It is in St. Clement's belfry that the memorial to Challys Winney is to be placed. Fortunately, though the design is complete and the bronze cast, the erection had been deferred until after the war.

All London ringers will deeply sympathise with the Rector, the Rev. Pennington-Bickford, who takes a keen interest in the bells and in ringing generally.

Since we wrote the above we have learnt of more and even worse damage, which we can only hint at for the present. The ancient church illustrated a week or two ago, then damaged by a high explosive bomb, has since been completely destroyed by fire. The tower is gutted and all the bells down. The church with the finest spire in the City has been destroyed, the tower burnt out and, we fear, the world-famous bells destroyed. A suburban church with a very similar name has been destroyed by a high explosive bomb which partially demolished the tower and ruined the ring of eight bells. The tower where the first peal of Major was rung has been gutted, and Rudhall's ring of eight destroyed. We shall give further particulars when the regulations, which are necessary in the interests of the country, permit.

THE SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON THE FABRIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like you to state that, as surveyor to the Parochial Church Council, I immediately inspected the church and felt fully justified in reporting to the Rector that it is capable of full repair.

Irresponsible statements in the Press are much to be deprecated. Their echoes, too, are world-wide and can never be fully overtaken.

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

GUILDFORD GUILD AND RINGING BAN

'AS LOYAL CITIZENS ACCEPT THE POSITION.'

CARE OF LIBRARY.

'It seems evident that the ban is not just the result of a brain-wave of some official, but that there are sound reasons for it, and the members of this Guild must, the committee feel, as loyal citizens, accept the position, but at the same time remaining firmly resolved that at the first available opportunity they will waste no time in recommencing activities and spare no effort to raise our art to the high standard it had attained at the time when we were forced to abandon it.'

With these words the Guildford Diocesan Guild, at their annual meeting at Guildford on Saturday, summed up the present position of the Exercise in the annual report of the Executive Committee. Mr. Walter Harrison (vice-president) was in the chair, supported by Mr. G. L. Grover (hon. secretary) and Mr. J. Corbett. Instead of the anticipated 60 members, a company of 100 taxed the tea tables. The Guild service was held at St. Nicolas' Church, the address being given by the Rector (the Rev. P. R. Lobbs).

At the outset of the meeting the secretary announced that he had received a letter from the Master (Major John H. B. Hesse), who was in Torquay, stating that he would not be coming back to Surrey for some time. Another absentee was Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, who was still in hospital after a very bad operation. An encouraging report of his progress was received.

The report of the Executive Committee stated that the total ban which the Government had thought necessary to impose on bellringing had dealt a terrific blow to ringing, and if it continued for several years would threaten their art with extinction. From time to time protests had been voiced and applications made to the Government for the lifting of the ban. The protests, not all of which had come from practising ringers, showed that their art was not without its supporters and admirers throughout the country, and the replies which had been read from the Ministry of Home Security, and in one instance from the Prime Minister himself, showed that ringers were not without sympathy even from Government officials.

Circumstances had been so unprecedented that it was impossible to compare the activities of the past year with those of any previous year. The membership position was as follows: Chertsey, hon. members 4, ringing members 33, Farnham, 20, 105; Guildford, 22, 112; Leatherhead, 29, 32; life and unattached, 34, 5; totals 109 and 287.

The committee placed on record that the authorities at Chertsey Church had declined to pay their affiliation fee. They felt that the prospects of a brighter future for the Guild so far as the Chertsey District was concerned had not been enhanced by the withdrawal.

NEW CATHEDRAL BELLS.

The committee had hoped to report increasing support for the Benevolent and Cathedral Bells Fund, but alas, contributions to both these funds had been small. The acceptance of the bells of All Hallows' would not render their Bell Fund redundant, as even if a certain quantity of metal was received as a gift, a large sum of money would still be necessary to provide for the rehanging and furnishing, to say nothing of possible recasting, which would be necessary to provide a ringing peal worthy of the new Cathedral.

Only four peals were rung on tower bells, that at Ewhurst being the first since augmentation. Four of the five handbell peals were the direct result of the exigencies of military service having demanded the presence of Sergt. John Freeman at Aldershot.

Particulars of the peals rung were as follows: Bramley, Bob Minor (conductor, W. J. Robinson); Haslemere, Grand sire Caters (F. W. Rogers); Ewhurst, Stedman Triples (C. E. Smith); Shere, Kent Treble Bob Major (C. E. Smith); Addlestone, Grand sire Doubles, handbells (E. Armstrong); Aldershot, Bob Minor, handbells (J. Freeman); Aldershot, Bob Major, handbells (J. Freeman); Pyrford, Bob Minor, handbells (J. Freeman); Aldershot, Bob Major, handbells (J. Freeman).

SYMPATHY WITH THE MASTER AND MR. GOLDSMITH.

The report concluded: Not only members of the Guild, but every ringer in the land will join in recording sympathy with Mr. Goldsmith in his illness and in the fervent hope that he will soon be restored to his normal health and activity. Ringers, too, would regret to hear that Major J. H. B. Hesse, the respected Master, had met with an accident and broken his ankle. They trusted the fractured bone would speedily mend and be fit to stand his weight during the run of many a 5,040 in the future, including that with which we hope the Guild will be able to celebrate the confounding of the knavish tricks of our enemies and which will, we all sincerely pray, herald a lasting peace.

(Continued in next column.)

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am glad my theory has not passed unnoticed and I would like to take this opportunity of enlarging on it and answering the two letters published.

First, I would point out that the tube must be fixed opposite the centre of gravity of the clapper and not at any point on the wheel as I suggested at first. Both correspondents mention that theories do not always work out in practice, but since I have neither time, facilities nor money to carry out experimental work, I decided to put the idea forward for anyone to take up.

Next, Messrs. Clark and Murrell think that the device does not sufficiently reproduce the movement of the clapper, but I will show how it does this exactly. It may best be explained by considering the various forces acting on the clapper. First, there is the arm which limits its swing to a particular arc inside the bell. This is reproduced by the tube which confines the mercury to an arc exactly parallel to that of the centre of gravity of the clapper. Next we come to a most important factor, that of speed. This is determined chiefly by the 'push' from the bell, but the end of the tube pushes the mercury at the same speed so there should be nothing to worry about there. Then there is gravity, which is constant in both cases, and air resistance, which is negligible, since both metals have a high density and present a similar shape to the air. Thus (theoretically) the mercury moves at the same speed through the same distance and parallel to the clapper. Therefore (again theoretically) the device should work perfectly. Then, if the bell is checked, the mercury shoots up to the end of the tube, causing the handbell to strike correspondingly sooner. Also, there is no reason why it should go up wrong.

Mr. Clark does not like the idea of a flexible lead, but a small coil to act like the balance spring of a watch should be quite satisfactory. Personally, I don't think it would be hard to obtain the rest of the apparatus—it is only a matter of several electric bells (easily convertible to produce a single strike) and the necessary yards of flex.

In conclusion, I would again mention that since these are only theories, any reply must also be theoretical and nothing can be settled until some experimental work has proved or disproved them.

T. R. BOYS.

3, West Street, Weedon, Northampton.

(Continued from previous column.)

The accounts showed a balance in hand of £44 18s. 1d., compared with £39 18s. 2d. at the beginning of the year. The Benevolent Fund had a balance of £68 9s. 2d., and the New Cathedral Bell Fund one of £37 16s. 3d.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The meeting stood in silence in memory of the following members who had died: Messrs. H. Prior (Farnham), G. Andrews (Ash), John Beams (Ewell), H. Tidy (Ewhurst, killed in action), H. G. Rance (Worplesdon, hon. member), H. J. Hunt and R. J. Harding (Yorktown, hon. members), A. Dean (Leatherhead), F. G. Woodiss (Banstead), Sergt. V. G. Elliott (Holy Trinity, Guildford, killed in action), D. Ayling (Witley), and Mrs. S. G. Welsh (Cobham, life member). Sympathy was also expressed with the relatives of Mr. T. H. J. Cyphus, organist of St. Nicolas' Church.

THE OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected: Master, Major John H. B. Hesse; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Corbett (Bagshot); hon. secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover (East Clandon); hon. auditor, Mr. R. Hasted (Farnham); Central Council representatives, Messrs. A. H. Pulling, A. C. Hazelden, G. L. Grover and A. Harman; committee, the Rev. F. A. Woodard, Mr. W. Massey and Mr. E. W. Morey (Chertsey District), Messrs. W. Gillians, W. A. Dollimore and F. Nye (Farnham District), Messrs. S. Petter, E. J. Ayliffe and R. Whittington (Guildford District), the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge, Mr. G. Marriner and Mr. A. J. Adams (Leatherhead District).

Mr. A. H. Pulling raised the question of the safety of the Guild library, and asked that the action of the librarian (Mr. A. C. Hazelden) in arranging for the dispersal of a number of books, many of which were valuable, should be confirmed.

Mr. Hazelden replied that bundles of books had been sent to Mr. Corbett (Bagshot), Mr. Grover and Mr. Ayliffe. The Guild approved of his action.

The meeting expressed its sympathy with Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, and the secretary was requested to write to him expressing the Guild's good wishes. Thanks were also expressed to Mr. Harrison for presiding and the Rector and choir of St. Nicolas' Church.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

COMBINATIONS.

It used to be the custom to treat every method as a distinct and independent thing and to learn the rules for ringing it without reference to any other method. Perhaps it is so still with many people, but of late years we have recognised more and more that methods are very much interrelated and that gives us a lot of help in actual ringing.

Last week we described the relationship between second's and eighth's place Surprise Major methods, giving as illustrations Brighton and Ashtead. An understanding of the similar relationship in Minor methods is a very great aid in ringing spliced peals. We can, for instance, ring a 720 made up of Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Minor by treating the four as one method, and making the alterations involved by the second's or fifth's place at the order of the conductor as if they were special bobs.

This, we believe, is actually done by some bands and is capable of a good deal of development.

In order to combine methods in this way it is necessary for the ringer to know how every bell starts in a lead and (when all four methods are used) how every bell starts in a half lead, and this will modify the traditional way of learning methods.

In the new edition of 'Standard Methods' this is pointed out, and we will quote some further remarks of the book on the same subject.

'There is yet another way of dividing the work of a method which will be found very useful. This is to treat the work above the treble as a whole, and the work below the treble as another whole, and to note carefully how the work starts from and ends with the treble's path. When a man is learning a method he should not try to divide the work in this way, but when he has become proficient, he should adopt the plan as an addition to his other knowledge.

'The value of it lies in the fact that very often above the treble a method is exactly the same as another method, and below the treble exactly the same as a third method. For instance, York Surprise Minor is exactly the same as Cambridge Minor above the treble and as London Minor below the treble. It is evident, therefore, that a man who thoroughly knows Cambridge and London, and who knows how the work of those methods starts from and ends with the treble's path, can without any further study go and ring York.

'This is not an isolated or uncommon instance, and in these days, when so many new Major methods are being rung, this way of treating a method is often very useful. The man who realises that above the treble both Yorkshire and Rutland Surprise Major are exactly the same as Cambridge has saved himself half the trouble of learning those methods.'

The new Surprise Major book has something to say on the matter. 'The spread of method ringing is widening men's views and the possibilities of variation are beginning to be realised. When they are understood many of the most strongly held opinions of the Exercise will be radically altered. The old idea that every peal was composed by somebody and is his property, will no longer be tenable, and the effect on practical ringing will be just as great. For, suppose you have a band which can ring Norfolk, Peterborough and Ealing Surprise (and

nowadays that is not a very extravagant supposition), if you could say to them, ring Peterborough above the treble and Norfolk below, or Ealing above the treble, and Peterborough below; or make eighth's place at the lead end instead of second's; or any similar sort of thing—you would have, not just three methods, but ten or a dozen. There would be no necessity as now for the band to learn each of the dozen separately; all they would have to do would be to accustom themselves to the idea of passing from one method to another. This idea is becoming familiar through the ringing of spliced peals and could be developed without much trouble.'

If we could add to the Standard Methods one or two really good and suitable ones, by means of these combinations we could produce a very useful group of methods which, though not quite worthy of being admitted into the select group would be available at any time for occasional practice or peal ringing by really competent hands.

We have already given one or two instances of this, and here is a method, as yet unknown, which we think is worthy of some attention.

Brereton S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	4 6 3 7 2 8 5 1
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	6 4 7 3 8 2 1 5
1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8	4 6 7 8 3 2 5 1
2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7	6 4 8 7 2 3 1 5
2 4 1 3 6 5 7 8	4 6 7 8 2 1 3 5
4 2 3 1 5 6 8 7	6 4 8 7 1 2 5 3
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	6 8 4 7 2 1 3 5
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	8 6 7 4 1 2 5 3
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 7	6 8 7 1 4 5 2 3
4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5	8 6 1 7 5 4 3 2
4 6 2 3 1 8 5 7	6 8 7 1 5 4 2 3
6 4 3 2 8 1 7 5	8 6 1 7 4 5 3 2
4 6 2 3 8 7 1 5	8 1 6 7 5 4 2 3
6 4 3 2 7 8 5 1	1 8 7 6 4 5 3 2
4 6 3 7 2 8 1 5	8 1 6 7 4 5 2 3
6 4 7 3 8 2 5 1	1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
	1 7 8 5 6 3 4 2

Above the treble the work of Brereton is exactly the same as the work of Cornwall; below the treble the work of Brereton is exactly the same as the work of Superlative. A band which treats Cornwall and Superlative as standard methods could at any time they pleased ring a touch or a peal of Brereton.

With such a parentage Brereton is bound to be an interesting method, and when we examine it we find it has most of the good qualities, as well as some of the defects, of its parents.

Above the treble we get the 3-pull and single dodging of Cornwall, and the same good musical qualities; in fact for six of the eight sections of the course the changes are exactly the same as in Cornwall.

Below the treble, though the work is exactly the same as in Superlative, the actual rows are not quite the same. In one respect this is an improvement, for the bells always come to the front in their natural coursing order, and we get twice as much dodging by the tenors in 1-2 as we do in Superlative.

(Continued on next page.)

HANDBELL RINGING AT ISLEWORTH.

A very pleasant and successful afternoon of handbell ringing was held at All Saints', Isleworth, on Saturday, May 10th, when visitors attended from Guildford, Leytonstone, Kingston-on-Thames, Isleworth, Epsom, Dagenham, Hastings and Westminster. Nine members of the local band were also present.

Ringling started at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.30, when there was a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. W. Shepherd-Smith. In welcoming the visitors to Isleworth, the Vicar spoke in high praise of the effort that is being made by ringers to 'carry on.' He then introduced his new assistant priest, the Rev. K. Toole-Mackson.

Tea followed in the Mission Hall, after which more handbell ringing was enjoyed, and the opportunity taken to renew acquaintance with friends not met for many months.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar for conducting the service and for allowing the meeting to be held; to Mrs. Shepherd-Smith for accompanying the hymns, and to the ladies who prepared and served the tea.

Methods rung during the afternoon and evening included rounds and Queens on twelve, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Bob Minor and Major and Stedman Triples, also a series of delightful tunes rung by the Dagenham band. A course of Grandsire Caters was rung by the local band immediately before the service.

As this little meeting was entirely an experiment, the local band are very pleased indeed with the result, and will feel encouraged to hold a similar one later on.

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION REVERSED.**THE PEAL AT CHISLEHURST.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was a most interesting letter from Mr. I. Emery. I have a faint suspicion that the mystery can be unwrapped if he can remember when the second Single was called.

Thurstans' One-Part, being what one might call a cart wheel composition, can be commenced with any spoke, but must be continued on from there.

Now then, Mr. Emery, just visualise the scene again, and let us know when the second Single was called. 'Tis only 50 years ago.

H. H.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

The 5-pull dodge on the front is, of course, reproduced, and that is a defect which forbids us to place the method in the highest class, but there are very few among the simpler Surprise Major methods with which it cannot hold its own.

The first three sections of the course give a clear proof scale, but the fourth gives the two false course ends F 32465 and G 43265.

These are the same as those of Superlative and will allow of thirty full true natural courses, twenty-seven of them without the 2nd or 3rd in sixth's place at a course end. A good variety of musical peals is therefore possible.

There are about fourteen or fifteen Surprise methods worth ringing in which the work above the treble is the same as in Cambridge. The majority have been rung to peals and two of them, Yorkshire and Rutland, may rank as standard methods. Others, fairly well known, are Belgrave, Ipswich, Whitminster, Hinton, and Lincolnshire. The last is spoilt by a 5-pull dodge on the front in which the bells are not in natural coursing order. Pudsey is the same as Cambridge below the treble.

Cambridge, however, is not a method which readily combines with other methods.

THE LATE FREDERICK G. WOODISS.**LOSS TO SURREY RINGING.**

Ringling in Surrey and at Banstead in particular has suffered a severe loss in the passing of Frederick George Woodiss, who died on Sunday, May 11th, at the age of 51, after an illness lasting several months.

He began his ringing career at Hersham, but it was after he moved to the Sutton district that he extended his interest in the art to association affairs and became known to so many ringers.

For many years he was treasurer and later secretary to the North-West District of the Surrey Association, and he relinquished the latter office only about a year ago. He remained a member of the committee, however, and had also served on other committees.

He took a keen interest in the formation of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and was the first secretary of the Leatherhead District, in itself no mean task.

He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

He served during the Great War in the Grenadier Guards, and post-war years found him in business in Banstead, where he set about forming a change ringing band. He received some much needed help when other experienced ringers took up residence in the district, and from that time progress was steady and continued.

It was a red-letter day for him when the band rang its first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, to which he rang the treble.

He was now residing in Sutton and working in the City, but he was just as regular in his attendances at both Sunday ringing and practices, and it was due in no small measure to his patient and conscientious work that at the outbreak of present hostilities the band was ringing Spliced Surprise for Sunday services.

He had rung approximately 120 peals, ranging from Grandsire Triples to the Surprise methods, mostly for the Surrey Association.

Of a modest and genial disposition, he had a wide circle of friends throughout the Exercise. He leaves a widow, son and daughter, and to them we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss. Mrs. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, was his cousin.

The funeral took place at Sutton on May 15th and was attended by relatives and friends and the following ringers: Messrs. C. H. Kippin, D. Cooper and E. G. Talbot, representing the Surrey Association; J. Hoyle and A. Harman, representing the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and A. E. Cheesman and H. N. Pitstow, representing the Banstead ringers. The service in Sutton Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. E. P. Woolcombe, Rector of Sutton, assisted by the Rev. Canon F. N. Skene, Rural Dean of Epsom.

At the interment at Sutton Cemetery a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by H. N. Pitstow 1-2, D. Cooper 3-4, C. H. Kippin 5-6, A. E. Cheesman 7-8.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Surrey Association, Guildford Diocesan Guild, and his fellow ringers at Banstead.

AN APPRECIATION.

It was with deep regret that I read of the passing from us of Fred Woodiss, for not only was he a very keen practical ringer, but also one who played a large part in guild and association work.

When Hersham secured its light peal of eight in 1901 his father, Mr. George Woodiss, sought my aid in order to assist teaching the new band, and I often used to see Fred at his home. He was then a schoolboy and little did I dream he would become one of my pupils, especially in handbell ringing. Soon after he had learnt to ring in the tower he became keen in handbell ringing and he used to love watching us struggle away at Triples and Caters. He would never push himself forward, but he grasped a lot, not only by watching, but also by acting as umpire. His progress was steady and sure, which soon stamped him as a good striker and one which promised him to become a progressive and reliable ringer. When Fred was on the tenors on even or odd numbers he could be trusted to keep perfect time, which resulted in many splendid peals being scored.

When the Great War broke out in 1914 he soon joined up and served in the Grenadier Guards. After his return to civil life he settled down in Surrey, and it was then that he followed up his ringing career by active work both in and out the ringing chamber. Fred always managed to look for the best in anyone and give every chance to those not so far advanced as himself, and this alone made him popular wherever he went. All he undertook was carried out with that thoroughness which not only helped to further the art, but made him a host of friends in every walk of life. He worked hard for our cause and we have lost a fine ringer and organiser.

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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.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A district meeting will be held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tower bells (silent) and handbells available. —J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch. — The annual general meeting will be held at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 24th. Service 4.30 p.m. Meeting in Ringing Chamber 6.15 p.m. Six 'silent' bells available afternoon and evening. Please make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec., Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Scunthorpe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, May 24th. Tower open 3 p.m. for tower and handbell ringing. Service (if possible) 5 p.m. A tea will arranged if possible. A good muster is hoped for, as the President, the Rev. Arthur Scott, intends to be present. — G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough and Burton Districts.—A joint meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Subscriptions are now due and reports ready. A good attendance is necessary.—A. E. Rowley and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

DOŇCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Campsall on Saturday, May 24th. Handbells available. Owing to catering difficulties those attending will have to make their own arrangements for tea. Ringing from 3 p.m.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — **Change in place of meeting.**—The meeting arranged for Saturday, May 24th, will be held at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome. — C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. Teas can be obtained for ringers who forward their names by Tuesday, May 27th. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Those requiring tea are particularly requested to notify the general secretary not later than Wednesday, May 28th. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting will be held at Shipley on Saturday, May 31st. Silent bellringing practice from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea may be obtained from café near the church. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Earl Shilton, Saturday, May 31st. Bells (silenced) at 3.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Schools at 5. Handbells afterwards. Names for tea to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, by Thursday, May 29th. Reports available.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held (p.v.) on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Tea, free to all resident members who are clear on the books and who apply to the general secretary for tickets on or before May 24th. Non-resident members and non-members 1s. 6d. each, to be sent with application for tickets. No application for tickets will be entertained after May 24th. This will be strictly adhered to. Bring sugar if required. Bells (6) (silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells 2.45. Service 3.30, followed by tea (if possible) and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 31st? Please make an effort to attend.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying for tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Cheadle, Staffs, on or before June 1st? No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. William H. Hewett has removed to 119, Coleman Street, S.E.5.

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FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 1941.

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ASSOCIATION RECORDS.

All who realise the value of the books and manuscripts which have come down to us from old times, and the importance of documents in carrying on the ordinary life of a society, will have noticed with satisfaction the steps taken by several associations to safeguard their records, or at least to reduce the risk of their loss to a minimum.

At one time it seemed as if the chance of any particular steeple being destroyed was a very remote one, but now, as we near the completion of a full year of intense bombing, we know from bitter experience that hardly any place can be considered safe, and the plan is being adopted of dispersing the property of a society among several of the leading members, so that, if some part is destroyed, all will not suffer the same fate. That seems the best thing to do, except in the comparatively rare instances where a place can be found which may reasonably be considered as absolutely safe. We would urge the authorities of all associations which have not so far taken any steps to consider this matter.

An example of the inconvenience which may attend the destruction of papers was mentioned last Saturday at the meeting of the Society of College Youths. Mr. Herbert Langdon, who called the long and record peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton in 1922, had preserved in his office the original manuscript, signed by the composer, of the composition. It was the final authority on what was rung. As it happened, the figures when they appeared in this journal were given with a mistake, a small one, but still a mistake. Suppose that fifty years hence someone turns up 'The Ringing World,' and, having noticed the error, casts doubt on the truth of the peal. Had the original manuscript survived, an appeal to it would have decided the matter offhand, but the paper perished when Mr. Langdon's office was burnt out some time back in one of the air raids. He suggested, and the society decided, that Mr. Miles, the composer, should write out and sign a copy, and that it should be placed among the society's records.

That was a wise thing to do, although the chances, we imagine, of anyone challenging the truth of the Appleton peal, either in its composition or its execution, are very remote.

The discussion led to a further question being raised. Why are not the figures given in the society's peal book? It is a question which has been raised before, and as far back as 1879 Jasper Snowdon wrote in the introduction to his collection of peals of Treble Bob, 'Of what use are the costly and carefully kept books of such societies as the College and Cumberland Youths, when they do not

(Continued on page 254.)

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even attempt to preserve from oblivion the only particulars of permanent interest connected with the performances they record? Were all these by-gone performances true, and thus worthy of record? If so, surely the men who spent their time and wearied their brains over their production should have their work preserved from ignominious extinction.'

History supplies an answer to Snowdon's questions. The old societies at first did put the figures in their books, and a great deal of what we know about the early composition comes from the records of the Eastern Scholars, the Union Scholars and the College Youths; but there came a time when men began to look back at those figures, and they found many of the peals false. That, and the scare caused by the discovery of the internal falseness of Treble Bob, led to a wholesale destruction of peals lest they, too, should fail to stand the test. Men who had called peals kept the figures to themselves as the best way of insuring that others should find no fault with them. When once the plan of recording the figures was lost, custom and prejudice prevented it being revived.

Things have changed much since those days and, indeed, since Snowdon's time. Peals and compositions have multiplied so enormously that the truth or falsity of any individual one is of little importance except to the people immediately concerned, but truth, after all, is the fundamental essential in change ringing—truth of composition and truth of execution—and everything which ensures it should be fostered. In the case of record and outstanding peals, there should never at any time be any doubt about what actually was rung.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, May 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MAURICE HODGSON ... 1-2 | SERGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-6
*GMR. C. W. DENYER, R.A. 3-4 | PTE. L. J. FOX, P.C. ... 7-8

Composed by GEO. F. WILLIAMS. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First eight-bell peal 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 20, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 1-2 | *ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4 | †FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by W. HARRISON. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 50th handbell peal. † First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL AT CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Much interesting information has been given us of the history of the Cambridge Youths by Mr. Trollope and by Mr. Slater, for which I thank them.

Their accounts differ, however, as to whether J. Bartlett or J. Bowtell called Holt's Original at St. Mary's on June 2nd, 1797.

Mr. Trollope is correct in saying J. Bartlett called the peal, as a board on the wall of the ringing chamber in good preservation recording the peal clearly gives the name of Bartlett as conductor. Bowtell was not in the band.

Mr. Slater writes of a tablet recording Holt's Original rung on the same date with J. Bowtell as conductor, but there is no tablet in the tower now recording this peal. Whether one was erected and has since been taken down and lost or whether the peal was rung at all I do not know.

23, Hemingford Road, Cambridge.

E. G. HIBBINS.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE PEAL COLLECTIONS.

(Continued from page 244.)

The Appendix of 1895 showed that the attempts by the Council's committee to publish a collection of peals were so far failures. Nobody was satisfied, and in 1896 Nathan Pitstow and Charles Henry Hattersley retired. Hattersley had been dissatisfied from the beginning, and had taken very little interest in the matter. His opinion was that the expense of printing would be too great for the object to be achieved, many of the peals were not worth the paper they were written on, and he did not see any good to be served by publishing them in book form. The event showed that he was right, but the Council was anxious to have something in print, and so the Appendix appeared.

Charles Henry Hattersley represented the best elements in the Exercise during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He came of a distinguished ringing family, his grandfather, William Booth, was one of the leading ringers in the North of England during the earlier years of the century, and his brother Thomas was hardly less well known than himself. Hattersley inherited strong traditions, but he was open to new ideas. He was an excellent ringer, and he had high standards, both of striking and of composition. Personally he was a likeable and popular man with a strongly marked personality. He was a first-class judge of the quality of compositions, but naturally his standards were those of his time and, like the others, he looked on a peal as an independent thing and (apart from the recognised and very restricted rules of variation), as 'original.' He did not object to the peals sent to the committee because they were not original, but because they had no merits as compositions. He knew nothing about the art of putting a book together, and in any case was not the man to produce a good collection. At the same time, if his particular skill and knowledge had been used in the right way, he could have done much good. What the committee needed was a Jasper Snowden to put into shape the material the others collected, but that they lacked.

Nathan Pitstow held a position in the Exercise not unlike Hattersley's. He, too, was a skilled composer of the old type, and a good practical ringer. He had not the marked personality of the other man. I met him several times, but retain no impression of his attitude towards the various problems which were then discussed and argued about in the Exercise.

When the committee was reconstructed, Davies remained, and Earle Bulwer, Dr. A. B. Carpenter, and Henry Dains were brought in. These changes strengthened it in some ways but not in all.

Dr. Carpenter was an intellectual man and a clever composer, but his interest, like Davies', was mainly centred on Triples methods, and there is no reason to suppose that he had studied composition as a whole. The whole mass of the peals in Major methods would be left mainly to Dains.

Henry Dains was a man with many admirable qualities. I knew him well, and for several years a close friendship existed between us. I may have something more to say about him in another connection. He was an industrious and, within limits, a skilled and successful composer, but he had marked limitations, and he possessed scarcely one of the qualifications necessary for producing a good col-

lection of peals or any other text book on ringing. Neither he nor anyone else recognised his limitations; they knew he had composed many good peals of Treble Bob, Surprise and Double Norwich, and had definite opinions about them; and that was all they thought was needed.

He had one good quality, he did try to extend knowledge; but he had the defect which often goes with that sort of man, he was sometimes very careless and inaccurate in his work. There have been few among the men who have made names as composers who have not, at one time or another published false peals. That is inevitable, but Dains was specially unfortunate, and Snowden's books and the Council's collections contain far more false peals by him than by anyone else. He would put together a peal by the course ends on a plan which seemed to promise success. If it came out with the required qualities and number of changes he would prove it and, according as it was true or false, he would retain it or throw it away. He had developed a very large amount of skill in working in this experimental way, and he was a thoroughly competent prover of peals. But after he had produced a peal, he often put it aside, intending to prove it, but not doing so; and then, when he came across the paper later, he assumed it was true without further thought.

He was one of the stoutest believers in the ownership of peals, and he was frequently in controversy with other people who had, as he maintained, published variations of his compositions. His attitude to composition was not sufficiently detached for him to make a really good collection, and he knew nothing of the art of putting a book together.

Earle Bulwer evidently came into the committee with the idea of taking general charge and putting the work of the others into order. For that he had many qualifications. He and Heywood thought out a scheme which promised success, and it might have produced some good collections, but, unfortunately, before anything was published he died, and meanwhile most of his energies had been taken up by the Glossary.

The scheme was to invite a number of men to assist the committee. Each man was given the job of collecting the peals in a particular method. When he had made his collection he was to hand it over to the committee, who would assume the final responsibility for the selection, arrangement and printing of the figures.

In my early days I had taken a lot of interest in the composition of Bob Major, and had made a very fair collection of peals. Bulwer knew of this, and he and Heywood treated it as the model on which the others were to be formed.

The scheme was a good one so far as it went, but it did not go anything like far enough. A great mass of figures was got together, but it was left to the individual collectors to decide how they should work, whether they should themselves search for peals, or sit still and wait for interested persons to send them; whether they should decide what was original; whether they should make a selection or just pass on what they had got together; and it was generally assumed that they took no responsibility for the truth of the peals. Consequently the work done was very unequal in quality.

However, there was enough material to make a good and representative collection provided it was handled

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

properly. But that was just what the committee could not, and did not, do. It is possible that Bulwer might have acted as a strong editor had he lived, but it is doubtful. He and all the others were far too much occupied with solving particular problems in particular methods to study composition as a whole with the interrelations between different peals and different methods. A useful and entertaining book might have been made if a good and small selection of peals had been printed giving those most suitable for the conductors' use and those which best illustrated points of composition, with well-written explanatory letterpress. But such a book was not to be hoped for. There was no one to write it, and it would have been sure to have provoked a storm of protest from the 'owners' of peals whose 'right' had been infringed. As I have said, all the composers wanted was to have their peals in print with their names attached. They were very little interested in other people's work.

When Bulwer died, the committee had no one who could act as the general editor and see that the final book was put into right shape. Each method was left more or less as the collector had sent it in, and the proof reading was very bad.

The first book was published in 1903, and dealt with Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques; and Union, Oxford, Court and Double Court Triples. The Grandsire Triples was the work of Davies, and was an excellent collection, well arranged and free from mistakes. The other peals of Triples were dealt with by Dr. Carpenter, and they, too, were without mistakes, but to print 67 peals of Union Triples was altogether out of proportion, since the method was seldom or never practised, and 34 peals of Oxford Bob, though not so disproportionate, was still too many. Three good peals of Oxford Bob and none of Union would have sufficed for any good collection.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

A MEETING PLACE IN SOUTHWARK.

At the College Youths' meeting on Saturday a letter was read from Mr. R. T. Woodley, who is one of the society's oldest members, and was one of its representatives at the first meeting of the Central Council. The following is an extract:—

'The article in "The Ringing World" on page 208, headed The College Youths, mentioned the meeting houses of the society, but left out one of the most frequented in the years 1880 to 1890. I mean the house in the Borough Market under the shade of St. Saviour's. What the sign of the house was I cannot remember, but it was managed by a very genial and obliging chap named Tom Powell. Ringers from away have stayed there, and I have stayed there with them. I have cause to remember that house, for when I was elected secretary of the society I found I had over 100 emblems and rule books to issue, arrears left by poor old Musket.

'We had some hectic nights there and we used to get poor old Tom Powell's rag out by not clearing out at the proper time. We used to upset him over his dog. He had a collie, which he had taught to fetch the cat out of the kitchen, so every chance we had we used to say, "Bob, fetch the cat," and out would go Bob scrapping the cat back, swearing and spitting. Poor old Tom used to call us everything but gentlemen. He was a decent fellow and eventually left the house and went to manage a house back of St. Mary-le-Sirand. For the world I cannot think of the name of the house in Borough Market, but probably Bob Newton or Frank Dawe could tell you, and it ought to have been mentioned in "The Ringing World" article of May 2nd.'

BEDFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your issue of February 7th you published three peals of Bedford Surprise. In the first course of the first peal alternative calling must be used. Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, has kindly pointed out that there is falseness in 7-8. I was quoting from memory of 30 years ago when I said that the method was only false in 1-2. Saffron Walden.

F. DENCH.

LONG PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

THE SUCCESSIVE RECORDS.

May 18th was the fifty-eighth anniversary of a very notable long peal, 16,608 changes of Kent Treble Bob, rung at Mottram-in-Londendale, Cheshire, by the Ashton-under-Lyne men, and conducted by Samuel Wood.

Treble Bob was for many years the most popular of all eight-bell methods and it was natural that it should be chosen by the old ringers for long lengths, but they were greatly hampered by the lack of true compositions.

The first was the 10,080 rung as far back as 1727 by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's Costany. Although it was so early, there is good reason for believing that the composition was true.

This length was not beaten until 1800, when George Gross conducted a peal of 10,112 changes, his own composition, at Edmonton, with a band of Cumberland Youths. The figures are lost and we do not know whether they were true.

On August 27th, 1814, the Yorkshire men rang at Otley a 12,320 composed by Shipway. Two men were needed for the tenor and the bobs were called from manuscript by a man who did not ring himself. This was rather strange, as the band included Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, a noted composer and conductor.

William Eversfield produced a 14,016, and this was rung single-handed in 1821 at Oldham. It was in the Kent variation; all the earlier peals were Oxford.

Ten years later at St. Mary's, Elland, the Yorkshire men rang 15,168 changes composed by Hugh Wright. Ten men took part as the ringers of the 3rd and 4th had to be relieved. Two men shared the bob calling.

In 1832 Thomas Day succeeded in producing 15,648 changes, which he afterwards extended to 15,840, and that length was accomplished at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on April 27th, 1868, by a band of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Henry Haley conducted, and Cooter, Pettit, Horrex, Matt. Wood and J. M. Hayes were in the band.

About the same time Thomas Day obtained two longer lengths, 16,032 and 16,608. The latter was in 1872 attempted by a band at Earlsheaton in Yorkshire, and for some time it was thought they had succeeded, but it leaked out afterwards that the bells had got wrong and were jumped home at the finish. It was the Lancashire men who, as stated above, first accomplished the peal.

This length could not be beaten for many years because there was no true composition, but about fifty years ago the Suffolk men made several attempts to repeat it in the Oxford variation. On one occasion in 1891 at Debenham, with James Motts as conductor, they rang 9,024 changes and failed. Later on in the same year another and rival band, with Mr. Charles Mee as conductor, made an attempt at Eye, the 24 cwt. tenor being turned in by that fine heavy bell ringer, John Souter. The peal actually was accomplished on June 6th, 1892, at Debenham. Mr. Fred Tillet, happily still with us, rang the tenor.

This was the record for 14 years, but in 1906 the Ashton men again at Mottram, and again with Samuel Wood as conductor, rang 16,800 changes of Kent, and that was beaten at Over in Cheshire by 17,280 changes, composed by Mr. J. W. Parker and conducted by Mr. Robert Sperring.

The record in the Oxford variation is 17,824 changes, rung at Hoptonstall in 1927, composed by Mr. T. B. Worsley and conducted by Mr. E. Jenkins.

In 1922, 18,280 changes of Kent had been rung at Mottram, but the composition turned out to be false. It was one of the greatest peal ringing disappointments in the history of the Exercise.

GRANDSIRE CINQUES.

A NOVEL QUARTER-PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following quarter-peal of Grandsire Cinques is a novelty inasmuch that it contains only four plain leads.

Where handbells continue to be practised it would make an unusual touch when there is not time for a whole peal.

G. F. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

1,254					
234567890E	1	2	3	4	5
324567890	—	S	—	—	—
2367458	S	—	—	S	S
2347658	—	—	—	S	—
3267458	—	—	—	S	S
234567809E	S	S	—	S	S
23654	—	—	—	S	—
32456	—	—	—	S	S
2365479E80	—	S	S	S	S
234567890	—	—	S	S	—

Rounds by Bobs at 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1.

MANCROFT BELLS.—St. Peter's, Mancroft, in the city of Norwich, though it remains the last peal of twelve, is by some deemed the first in point of merit.—'The Clavis.'

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**BELLS LOOTED FROM BOMBED CHURCHES.**

By invitation of Mr. A. A. Hughes, the College Youths last Saturday held their meeting at the Whitechapel Bellfoundry. In the absence of the Master, Mr. Alexander Young occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Hughes, the hon. treasurer, and by Mr. A. B. Peck, the hon. secretary. Other members present included Messrs. Dear, Miles, Cockey, Murrell, Collins, Stannard, J. Marks from Bletchley and Isaac Emery from Bromley.

The Chairman expressed the society's sympathy with Mr. Herbert Langdon in the loss he had sustained through the destruction of his office by fire. Mr. Langdon, replying, mentioned the great kindness he had received from many people who had offered him assistance, especially Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon.

Mr. Hughes reported the sudden death of a past Master, Mr. C. H. Horton, of Watford. Several members made sympathetic references to him, and the company stood as a mark of respect to his memory and that of Mr. Frederick Woodiss.

Mr. Young reported that he had received the books of the late Frederick Pike and presented his copy of the second edition of 'The Clavis' to the society. It would serve as a memorial to him and replace the copy lost in the destruction of The Coffee Pot.

Mr. Hughes gave some particulars about the destruction of bells in recent air raids and names of churches were mentioned, which, though quite in order at a private meeting, may not yet be done in the public Press. He said he had inspected St. Andrew's, Holborn, and found that most, if not all, the bells, though they still hang in their frame and can be swung, have been ruined by the fire, and that the destruction at St. John's, Vassal Road, was complete. The five pre-Reformation bells of St. Bartholomew-the-Great had been taken down from the steeple, and the six early 17th century bells of St. Andrew Undershaft would be taken down during the following week.

There had been a bad case of looting at the neighbouring Church of St. Mary, Matfelon. Some persons had driven up to the church with a lorry and taken away five of the bells which lay broken at the base of the tower. At St. Lawrence Jewry among the debris had been found some basketfuls of broken bell metal, which apparently had been got ready by some unknown persons for illicit removal. The police had warned all the incumbents of City churches to be on the alert against attempts at similar looting.

Mr. Isaac Emery was congratulated on completing 50 years' membership of the society, and a very interesting letter was read from a still older member, Mr. R. T. Woodley. We give an extract from it elsewhere in this issue.

After some handbell ringing the members went a little further up the street and there finished a very enjoyable meeting.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.**ANOTHER EXCELLENT COMPOSITION.**

We have received from Mr. Joseph W. Parker another peal of Spliced Surprise Major of outstanding interest and value. It contains 5,088 changes in five methods, with three full courses each of Bristol, Cambridge and London.

There is a slight error in the figures of Mr. Parker's peal given in our issue of May 16th. The thirty-third course-end should have been followed by the letters L C R, not C R L as printed.

5,088				
M	W	H	23456	R 7B
—	—	—	64352	L 4C
—	—	—	34256	4C L
—	—	—	62453	R S L
—	—	—	56423	L C L
—	—	—	32465	R S L
—	—	—	63425	L S L
—	—	—	42635	7L B
—	2	—	26435	L C R
—	—	—	43265	R C R
—	—	—	24365	L S L
—	—	—	62345	L C R
—	—	—	46325	R C R
—	—	—	23564	

Twice repeated.

Each course-end is followed by leads of the various methods, shown by letters on the right, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, L for London, R for Rutland, and S for Superlative. Where no figure precedes the letter, one lead is implied. The calling on the left produces the next course-head. The peal contains 1,248 changes of Cambridge, 768 of Bristol, 1,824 of London, 864 of Rutland, and 384 of Superlative.

THURSTANS' REVERSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been casting my mind back again and I am fairly certain that the Singles were not consecutive calls, as, of course, they would have to be if it were the one-part. To the best of my recollection the second Single was about half-way. So it must have been some variation of the four-part, which was then and is even now practically unknown. I did not say it was the one-part. I merely stated what someone else said, and it is now fairly evident that they did not know what it was.

I. EMERY.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

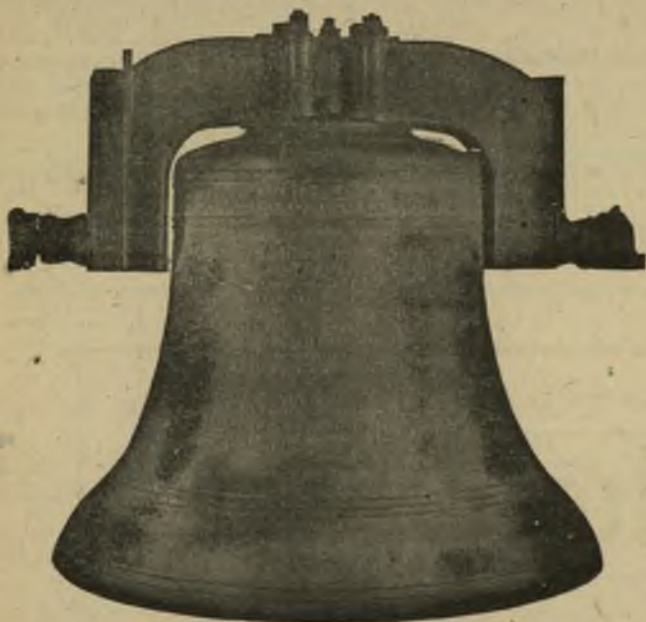
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THE EDITOR.

We are pleased to state that the Editor has now returned home from hospital. It will, however, be some time before he can resume his normal duties.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. William Hewett is one of those who has suffered at enemy hands. He tells us that his house was left with no roof, no windows, no doors, no ceilings, and all the walls cracked. It is not surprising, therefore, that he decided to change his address, and he is now living at 119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

He is towerkeeper at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and reports that so far the bells are intact and the only damage done is two sides of new louvre boarding blown down.

The two oldest rings of bells in the City of London have been taken down from the steeples and put in places of safety. The five at St. Bartholomew-the-Great are all pre-Reformation bells, all by the same founder, and all of the same date. Only one other complete pre-Reformation peal exists in England—the five at St. Lawrence's, Ipswich.

The six at St. Andrew's, Undershaft, are early 17th century bells from Whitechapel. It was at this church that Fabian Stedman was buried.

It is good to know that it is intended to restore St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and to replace the destroyed ring of twelve. The design for the new frame has already been made, and new concrete floors will probably be put in the tower before long. The bells and the general rebuilding will, of course, have to wait until the war is over.

No one has taken a greater interest in the ruined City churches and their bells than Mr. Richard F. Deal. He informs us, on the authority of the Vicar, that five of the eight bells in the suburban church referred to in our last issue are sound and unbroken.

On May 28th, 1787, the ancient Society of College Youths rang at St. John's, Horsleydown, the first peal of Stedman Caters ever accomplished. It was composed and conducted by John Reeves. The tower at St. John's is one of the smallest in which a ring of ten has ever been hung. It was for a long time a popular place with the Metropolitan societies for peal ringing, but the bells had been out of order for many years and there are not many men living who have rung on them. In one of the earlier raids on London the church was burnt out and the bells destroyed.

A notable peal was accomplished at Hornchurch, Essex, on May 27th, 1912, when a band of the Middlesex County Association rang 15,264 changes of Bristol Surprise Major. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted, and the band included such well-known ringers as Isaac Shade, John Cheesman, Bertram Prewett, Alfred Grimes and Ernest Pye. They are all dead now, but Mr. Reuben Sanders and Mr. George R. Pye, who rang the treble and second, are happily still with us. A little more than a month earlier a band of the Hertfordshire Association, with Mr. George N. Price as conductor, had rung at Knebworth 12,160 changes in the same method.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith conducted the first Surprise peal rung outside England on May 28th, 1901. It was one of Superlative at Bray in Ireland.

On the following day members of the same band rang the first handbell peal on the sea. It was 5,173 Stedman Caters on the S.S. 'Cambria' between Ireland and Wales. Mr. W. Short conducted.

To-day is the centenary of a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. The board that records it is the oldest still remaining in the Metropolis.

The first peal in Earle Bulwer's method, New Cumberland Surprise Major, was rung at Burton-on-Trent on May 31st, 1886, and on the same date in 1898 the Birmingham men rang at Aston 8,888 Stedman Caters on handbells. That remained the record length of the method in hand until June 1st, 1912, when the Guildford men, with Mr. A. H. Pulling as conductor, rang 14,031 changes.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Minor 1.

SILENT APPARATUSSES AND PEAL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leading article of March 7th you say that however good a silent apparatus is, it should be used only for practice, not for peal ringing.

Could you inform me if 5,000 changes were rung on the Seage apparatus such as we have at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, would it be recognised by the Central Council as a peal? Some years ago 5,056 of Bob Major was rung at Great St. Mary's and recorded on a board in the tower as the first peal on this apparatus.

Cambridge.

E. G. HIBBINS.

MR. JAMES HUNT.**SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.**

Yesterday Mr. James Hunt reached his seventieth birthday, and his many friends in all parts of the country will join us in congratulating him.

Mr. Hunt is a Devon man, born at Tiverton on May 29th, 1871. For many years he was one of the leading ringers in the Guildford district. He then removed to London, where he was employed by John Warner and Sons, the bell founders, who had among their staff a complete band of ringers. For many years Mr. Hunt has been associated with St. James' Church, Taunton.

Among the many interesting peals in which he has taken part are a 'grandfather's' peal of Stedman Caters by members of the Royal Cumberland Youths, the first peal of Stedman Caters by a resident band for the old Winchester Diocesan Guild which he called, the first peals of Double Norwich Major and seven Surprise Minor methods for the Bath and Wells Association, the first peal of Cambridge Major by a resident band west of Bristol, and the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major by a band resident in Somerset.

His outstanding performance was the record handbell peal of Stedman Caters rung at Guildford in 1912. There was at the time in that town a band who rang peals of Stedman Triples and Caters almost on every evening in the week, and it was only natural that they should think of ringing the record peal in hand. This they did by ringing 14,031 changes, but, not satisfied with that, they proposed to beat all records on handbells or in the tower, and started for a length of 22,220 changes. But they began rather late, and so when 11 o'clock came and they had passed all previous lengths, they not unnaturally thought they had done enough and let the bells come round at 19,738 changes. Mr. Hunt rang 7-8 to this peal, which, we imagine, will not be beaten for many years. It was his greatest performance, but he has taken part in many other good peals.

Since 1920 Mr. Hunt has represented the Bath and Wells Association on the Central Council, and he is one of the best known of the members of that body. Indeed, the Central Council meetings would hardly be themselves without his presence and his speeches. Not that everybody always agrees with all he says, but everybody recognises the sincerity of his opinions and the fact that they are based on real experience and knowledge. For Mr. Hunt has had a wide experience of ringing in many parts of the country, and is not only a first-class ringer himself, but has associated with some of the leading men of the last 40 years and more.

He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocese, his subject being, of course, bells, he is a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council, and has been Ringing Master of the Taunton Deanery for 20 years.

Mr. James Hunt is one of those men on whose exertions and work the very existence of the Exercise depends. Besides being a peal ringer and a conductor, he has done a great deal of teaching, has always made a point of ringing twice on a Sunday whenever possible, and has been a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years.

(Continued from next column.)

May I add that the non-churchgoer ought to be asked to help because the bells, in addition to being the Church's responsibility, are the heritage of all British people. Every bellringer should see that our bells have got to be insured and nothing must stand in the way. Let us see to it everywhere that our bells are not overlooked. If our area is in a safe place, let us think of the less fortunate and make the Government scheme work.

F. B. LUFKIN.

73, St. Mary's Road, Prittlewell, Essex.

FIRES AND BELL FRAMES.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to the letter by A.F.S. headed 'Iron Bell Frames,' I can cite one case in the City of London, i.e., St. Andrew's, Holborn. The frame is of cast iron mounted on a steel girder foundation, and the headstocks are of cast iron. The only items left in the tower are the eight bells hanging in their framework. (One can stand on the ground floor and look right up through the tower to the sky.) All timber parts of the fittings have been destroyed, but the bells can still be swung to and fro in their bearings. Alas, however, most of them, if not all, are cracked.

The important point for consideration is not the material for the bell frame, but that of the floors. Concrete floors would prevent such disasters, and, in addition, would considerably strengthen the tower. The old objection of resonance in concrete can now be overcome by the application of acoustic plaster.

ALBERT A. HUGHES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRECAUTIONS.

Dear Sir.—The Exercise will, I am sure, feel thankful to you for enlarging on the pros and cons in debating what is doubly a burning question—the extraordinary vulnerability of our towers and their contents. I have already some three months since given my views and also voiced a strong warning.

It is clear from your summary that the foremost thing is to remove all valuable things, including, of course, the bells to a place of safety, not necessarily to the church floor. If that is the only available place then they should be fully sandbagged. Valuable peal boards and books should be taken to some reasonable place of shelter away from the church.

The tower itself could be well protected by bricking up all openings leading into the church, including the windows which overlook the same. Spirelets of wood could be enclosed with corrugated iron sheeting on light steel framing.

I will only add that expert advice should always be taken on these occasions and followed.

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

ST. MARY'S, SOUTHAMPTON.

Sir,—After the loss of St. Mary's, Southampton, what can one suggest for real safety against fire? There to a casual visitor was an ideal tower for bells to be safe from fire. The whole place was concrete, and, if my memory is correct, the only wood was the trap doors. If our information is right, the door at the bottom leading to the church was either burnt or opened, and the tower acted as a chimney. When we heard the church was burnt out we thought the bells would be safe, and it came as a great sorrow and surprise to hear they had been destroyed.

I had the pleasure of ringing one peal of London on the eight and one of Stedman Caters on the ten, and both peals were rung without a thought of catching a train, so we received to the full the benefit of the music of those beautiful bells, which will live as long as memory lasts.

Perhaps Mr. Faithfull, of the local band, or Mr. Pullinger, who knows the church well, can tell us how the fire spread to the tower. It might be useful to other towers to take precautions during this Hitler madness.

One good thing is that they were a modern peal and we can be assured that the same firm will put in as good a peal as was lost.

A. H. PULLINGER.

The Grammar School, Guildford.

CHURCH BELLS AND INSURANCE.**URGENT NEED FOR ACTION.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been given to understand that the fabric of our churches is insured free against enemy action, but all furniture, fittings, organs, bells, etc., have to be paid for at 30s. per £100 for the period up to September 30th. One-third must be paid before the end of this month. Should the income be good and enemy action not too great, it will probably be reduced for the next period. Churches are going to have difficulty in raising the money to insure everything, so it is the duty of all ringers to face this question at once and to see that bells are insured, so that we may be able to hand down what we have received. There is the danger of the bells being overlooked, or through lack of funds being left out, for what some might think more important things.

It has already come to my notice that a certain church complaining of the expense was told by their Bishop to insure one bell only, as that was all that was necessary. This town may never again have bells should they be so unlucky as to lose their present very fine peal.

I think the best way is to insure every bell. It would be the cheapest and the fairest in the long run. Those more fortunate should help those less fortunate.

(Continued in previous column.)

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES H. HORTON

PAST MASTER OF THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles H. Horton, which took place very suddenly last week. Mr. Horton was a Bristol man and learnt his ringing in that city. Later he moved to London and became associated with the Ancient Society of College Youths. He held the office of Master for two years shortly after the last war.

At the time of his death he had been for many years the hon. secretary of the Watford District of the Hertford County Association, and he carried out his duties with great enthusiasm and success. Since the beginning of the war he had arranged a regular handbell meeting at Bushey, which was particularly successful.

It was largely owing to a suggestion made by him at a College Youths' dinner that the annual dinner of the Bristol United Guilds was started.

He was in business in the City of London as a commercial photographer and had taken many fine photographs of churches. Unfortunately, all his negatives perished in the great fire raid on London and with them the set of handbells which had belonged to Challis F. Winney.

In his younger days he had accompanied a scientific expedition to Central Africa as the official photographer in connection with research into tropical diseases.

The funeral was at Watford Church last Monday.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

VISIT OF MISS DOROTHY SAYERS.

Miss Dorothy Sayers, the distinguished writer, was present on Wednesday afternoon, May 21st, at a meeting of the O.U.S.C.R., of which she is an honorary member.

After tea the Master, Mr. J. E. Spice (New College) said how pleased he was that Miss Sayers had been able to come to the meeting and extolled the 'Nine Tailors' as one of the best recruiting agents the belfry had ever had.

Miss Sayers said that when she wrote 'The Nine Tailors' she had never seen a bell rung. People had often asked her how she came to write the book. It was no sudden impulse, but rather the maturation of a number of ideas: the danger of remaining in the bell chamber while the bells were ringing, the magnificence of the bells ringing out over the fens (a district well known to her), and the story of the bursting of the sluice at Denver.

Having evolved the scheme, the next job was to learn about change ringing. It was no good to ask an expert about such a subject, as one always gets to know a lot that one doesn't really require, and never exactly what one does want! In the Charing Cross Road one day she came across an 1898 edition of Troyte's 'Change Ringing for Beginners,' and from it the 'Nine Tailors' was developed. Three of the mistakes in the book were due to the use of Troyte.

She was glad the book had attracted people to change ringing. Some had written to her and said that previously they had not known such people as change ringers existed. Even the Press were now more kindly disposed towards ringers. Some teetotal ringers had complained that the book put too much stress on beer drinking, but in a Croydon tower she had visited excessive emphasis on this subject was claimed to be impossible.

She thought it noble that a ringing society should be able to keep going in such conditions as the present, and to keep alive what was so completely a national institution. If ringers had a fault, it was, perhaps, that they did not always get on well with the local parson, but the University ringers, with the clergy represented in their ranks, were apparently free from any feuds.

Since the invasion scare she had done her best for the safety of church bells by constantly writing to the papers, hoping that if invasion came the ringing of the bells would be left to those competent to do so. She concluded by wishing the society the best of luck in its future activities.

The Rev. C. E. Wigg (president) thanked Miss Sayers for her amusing talk. As a ringer himself, he saw both sides of the question when it came to feuds between church and ringers. He could not, he said, emulate Miss Sayers' tales, but he quoted a German writer as saying that the English were fond of loud noises, be they from bells or guns.

Mr. Miles, the vice-president, traced the society's history during the last few years, and said how well the practice of investing the official positions on undergraduates had worked out. He was convinced that the ringing of bells on Sundays had a good effect on the nation, and wished that the ban could be lifted for ringing for Sunday morning services.

A well-rung course of Grandsire Caters by undergraduate members of the society brought the meeting to a close.

CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In his attempt at a reply, Mr. Trollope seems to go rather heavily, and to make something like mistakes—which he does not often do. If he would only apply to himself his own words at the end of page 232, he would, I am sure, be much happier. He there writes: 'The writer . . . should aim at giving what the Exercise as a whole has found to be worth while, and should put aside his own personal preferences.' I have shown what the Exercise as a whole thinks of these foolish terms. He makes no attempt to answer that part of my letter, for, of course, it is incontrovertible. Let him, therefore, take the medicine which he sees is so good for other people, and 'put aside his own personal preferences' for such terms.

However, to come to his letter. He first gives the example of setting a clock. But he forgets that an ordinary clock, unlike a bell, is built to go one way only; and that is why we call that way 'forwards.' I have just turned round to look at an electric clock; this is made to go either way equally; and when I set it I have to take care to start it the right way; if I did not, it would gaily go on 'forward' all right—but the wrong way round!

It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that Mr. Trollope makes a similar mistake in applying his illustration. He says that if, after the first change, four has changed places with three, four has hunted forward. If she has changed place with five, she has hunted backward. (He does not use those exact words, but I will not stop to examine the wording, as I think we are agreed as to the thing.) One can only reply that this is not so. No bell moves either forwards or backwards in either case, except in the sense that some bells move up and others down; and this Mr. Trollope does not mean—puzzling though this may seem! I am not denying that there is a difference (Mr. Trollope seems to think I am); I am only denying that this difference can be described as either forward or backward.

He goes on to say that backward is 'only because it is the opposite to the normal direction.' This gives the case away. For the opposite to normal is not backward, but abnormal. If we talk of 'abnormal hunting,' we see how wrong it is.

Nor is he right in saying that four is hunting differently if she changed places with three, from the hunting when she changes place with five. In each case the hunting, as hunting, is exactly the same. All three words are quite wrong, and Mr. Trollope has said nothing to show that they are right.

Now let us see exactly what happens in the case mentioned by him. If changes begin with contrary motion (four changes places with five), the treble having already led once at back stroke, will now be leading again at hand stroke. Three will be the next bell to lead, also the wrong way, and so it will go on, hunting being the one thing that will not be altered; until there is a snapping lead or some odd number of places made, when ordinary motion will supervene. In short, the rows will be inverted.

In my former letter I said that none of the three differing explanations were any use for Stedman. Mr. Trollope now gives a fourth explanation; but Stedman is still left out. Mine covers not only Stedman, but every possible method.

Moreover, the idea of motion means that *all* the bells that are ringing are included, which is the case. Hunting implies the idea of only *one* bell: or that *some* may be in one motion and others in the other. This can never be.

To sum up. We have now got one word instead of four. A simple word for a simple thing. So simple that a child can understand it, in place of what makes all the ribald world to laugh. Something that is correct, complete and compact. Something that will help ringers and ringing, in place of what is hindering them, and, furthermore, causing an unreasonable and ludicrous stumbling-block.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT SANDAL.

At the meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Sandal on May 10th, about twenty members were present from Badsworth, Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rawmarsh, Rothwell, Wath and the local company.

A room was reserved at the Duke of York Hotel, and handbells were rung in the afternoon until 5 o'clock, when tea was served. The Vicar, the Rev. A. Walls, joined in at the tea and presided at the business meeting which followed. Business was soon disposed of. The secretary announced that a suggestion had been put to the Doncaster District Society to hold a joint meeting at Wath. This was agreed to and the date fixed for Saturday, June 21st.

On the motion of Mr. E. Brooks (president), seconded by Mr. F. C. Wilson (Rawmarsh), thanks were tendered to the Vicar for presiding, and the latter, replying, said he was pleased to welcome the society once more and was very thankful to know that the ringers were meeting regularly and keeping together. When the time came they would be ready to go back into the tower and man the ropes again. He sincerely hoped it would not be long.

The rest of the evening was spent in handbell practice. Touches of Minor and Major and a course of Grandsire Major were rung, the last at the request of the oldest member, who himself took part.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE BRISTOL GROUP.

The qualities which go to make up a good method are many and usually contradictory, and it is therefore only a waste of time to try to arrange methods in any definite order of merit. If, however, we were asked to name one in which the things we desire are most happily and successfully combined we should probably mention Bristol.

Bristol is not so musical as Double Norwich or Cornwall, it is not so difficult as Glasgow, it is not so interesting to ring as London, but it provides a better combination of all these qualities than any one of the others. From the point of construction also, it is one of the most interesting of methods. Much of its good quality is due to the fact that it deviates very little from the natural coursing order and, like so many more excellent methods, it is an offshoot of the Double Norwich group.

In Double Norwich the natural coursing order of the working bells is maintained throughout the course, the treble changing position twice in each half-lead, with the bell hunting next in front of it.

This alteration in coursing order is effected by the bell in front of the treble making a place, crossing the treble's path and then making another place. In a half-lead of Major there are two positions where this can be done at backstroke, and three where it can be done at handstroke, the result being the same in every instance.

The handstroke place making in two of the three positions inevitably causes a bell to lead or lie for three blows in succession, so we will ignore them and consider the other three only. They are:—

A.	C.	B.
12345678	12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587	21436587
24135678	24163857	24163857
42316587	42613587	42618375
24361857	46231857	46281357
42638175	42638175	64823175
46283715	46283715	46283715
64827351	64827351	64827351

Each of these by itself would produce the first lead-end of Bob Major, 3527486, but as in a symmetrical method the corresponding shunt must be made in the second half-lead, we get the second lead-end of Bob Major, 5738264.

A gives the method which in the Plain Major Collection is called (not quite accurately) Shipways Double Court, A and B combined give Double Norwich, and A, B and C combined give Double Coslany Court. To all three, either or both of the two Extremes (seconds and sevenths at lead-end and half-lead-end) can be added, but when the total number of shunts within the lead is seven, the bells will run round at the first lead-end.

We are at present concerned with the combination A + B + C, with and without the two Extremes.

Here we have two Plain methods which in construction are very simple variations of Double Norwich and Double Oxford, but the addition of the handstroke work and the backward hunting puts them into an entirely different class. In actual practice Coslany with its rapid movement will be found to tax the skill of even the most competent company. Several years ago a peal of it was all but rung at Willesden by a band which included Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. G. R. Pye and Mr. J. E. Davis. The bob was then made in sixth's place because the conductor

thought that to call the method from an inside bell with a fourth's place bob was beyond his capacity. When, however, the peal was actually rung a year or two ago, he turned the job over to a younger man and far abler conductor, and Mr. E. C. S. Turner called it with a fourth's place bob, using a peal of Bristol doubled by singles.

Double Coslany C. Double Mancroft B.

12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
24135678	24135678
42315768	42315768
24351786	24351786
23457168	23457168
32547618	32547618
23456781	23456781

24365871	32547681
42638517	23456718
24368157	32546178
23461875	35241687
32416857	53214678
23146587	35124768
21345678	31527486
12436587	13254768

14263857	13527486
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Coslany Court is hardly suitable for being a standard method, but it is worthy to rank high among those that a first-class band needs for special peal ringing, and it is important in construction for it is the foundation upon which Bristol Surprise is immediately based.

We first of all turn it into a Treble Bob Method, and because we are dealing with double methods in which the natural coursing order is regained at the half-lead-end, we need not pick more than a half-lead.

X.	Bristol S.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
12345678	12346857
21436587	21438675
24135678	24136857
42316587	42316587
24135678	24135678
42315768	42315768

24351786	24351786
23457168	23457168
32541786	32541786
23457168	35247168

32547618	53427618
23456781	35246781
32547618	32547618
23456781	23456781

X is a Surprise Major method, but it is useless, because six rows in every half-lead are repetitions, and those we must get rid of.

The way we do it is simplicity itself. In the first six changes the four hind bells are continuously dodging. Each takes one step forward and then one backwards

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

three times. Instead of that we make each take three steps forward and then three steps backwards, which, of course, brings them to the same opinions.

P	
5678	5678
6587	6587
5678	6857
6587	8675
5678	6857
6587	6587

We then make a similar movement on the four front bells below the treble, the backward steps coming before the forward ones, and that will give us Bristol Surprise.

But Bristol is only one method in a group, though it is the best in that group. The first and obvious variation is to add the two Extremes, which will give us Premier. One extreme only we may not add, for that would make the total number of shunts within the lead seven, and so bring the bells round at the first lead-end.

We cleared the falseness of X by making the four hind bells take three steps of forward hunting, followed by three steps of backward hunting instead of dodging continuously.

Another way would have been to make two bells take three steps forward and three steps backwards, while the other two are left to their dodging.

Above the treble the first pair must for practical purposes be those in 5-6, but below the treble they may be either the pair in 1-2 or the pair in 3-4.

R.	S.	T.
5678	2345	2345
6587	3254	3254
6578	3245	2354
5687	2354	3245
6578	3245	2354
6587	3254	3254

When we work out the various combinations of these variations we get a number of quite good methods, all very similar to Bristol, but all differing in some respect.

Some of them have already been rung. As R above the treble and as Bristol below is Dublin Surprise. As Bristol above the treble and T below is Reverse Dublin. As R above and T below has been rung and called Double Dublin. That was inaccurate, for it is not the double of Dublin, which, in fact, cannot be doubled.

THE CURFEW.

'Oft, on a plat of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide-watered shore,
Swinging slow with sullen roar.'

John Milton, *Il Penseroso*.

ELIJAH ROBERTS.

A FAMOUS TAPPER OF CHANGES.

Last Friday was the one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the birth of a man who, by reason of some very remarkable achievements, holds a unique place in the history of the Exercise.

They were remarkable achievements, speaking generally they were praiseworthy achievements, but they were not achievements that ordinary persons would wish to copy.

Elijah Roberts was born in Birmingham on May 23rd, 1807, and at the age of twelve began to take an interest in ringing, first by tapping changes, and then in the belfry. About the year 1821 he rang the second at Aston to a peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Thomas Day, the well-known composer of Treble Bob. What he did in the next ten years we do not know, but in 1830 he rang the fifth in Day's peal of Stedman Triples, and for some few years after that he took part in most of the performances by the Birmingham, St. Martin's, Youths. Among his peals was 5,104 Treble Bob Cinques, 6,000 of Kent Treble Bob Royal, and 6,282 Grandsire Caters, the two latter of which he composed and conducted.

But it was as a tapper of peals on handbells that he particularly distinguished himself. The first was in 1824 when he was 17 years old. It consisted of a plain course of each of Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Triples; Grandsire Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major; Grandsire Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Caters; Grandsire, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Royal; Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob Cinques; Grandsire, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Maximus; and Treble Bob 16-in. The whole took 3 hours and 27 minutes and was a marvellous feat of mental concentration. It, however, was not Roberts' greatest achievement. In 1827 he tapped a peal of Kent Maximus, 5,040 changes; and in 1830, 7,536 of the same method in 4 hours and 51 minutes. The bobs were called by Joseph Powell and the truth of the peal attested by several competent witnesses, including Henry Cooper, James Jarvis and Charles Thurstans.

Three years later Roberts tapped a peal of Stedman Cinques, composed by himself and conducted by Cooper. John Hopkins, John Lates, Henry Johnson and Daniel Woods, of Norwich, were among those who witnessed this peal.

About 1837 Roberts left Birmingham and eventually settled in Liverpool, where he was the landlord of the Derby Arms tavern. Here on March 23rd, 1837, he tapped the last and greatest of his peals, 19,440 changes of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 13 hours and 43 minutes. There were no expert witnesses to this, but there is no reason to doubt its truth.

Elijah Roberts died by his own hand on January 26th, 1865, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. This has sometimes been given as an example of the danger a man may run by over-stimulating some of his mental faculties at the expense of the others, but there is no reason to suppose that his tapping had anything to do with his suicide. The evidence at the inquest was that he had been drinking heavily and the verdict was the usual one of temporary insanity.

In recent years two or three men have to some extent emulated Roberts' feats, though the system they used was considerably different. They tapped many more complex methods than did Roberts, but did not attempt the higher numbers. Mr. John Seager tapped peals in several Minor methods and so did Mr. Olave E. Broyd. Mr. Arthur T. Morris tapped peals of Triples and Major, including Cambridge and London Surprise.

Tapping is a form of change ringing which necessitates much practice and marked mental faculties. It has, in its simpler and cruder forms, a fascination for many people, but is quite outside the main stream of the art.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your excellent article on this subject you say that the one difficulty now left is 'to ensure that the handbell in the belfry will strike at the exact point of time that the clapper of the bell above would have done.'

But is this necessary? Certainly it is convenient. It would be inconvenient if a bell struck, say, false at one stroke on the handbells and at the other on the tower bells. But, after all, it would be only like having two different rings of bells in the same belfry, and every beginner ought to learn how to ring on strange bells.

What is essential is that the handbell should always strike at a known time, so that the striking should be under the control of the ringer. This is where exactness is needed, is it not?

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

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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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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.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, May 31st, at the Studios, Falconer Road. Comfortable, pleasant room. Tea can be arranged. Handbell practice and social chinwag. All interested in ringing are welcome.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A silent practice and joint meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Worsley, on Saturday, May 31st. Bells 3 to 7 p.m. Reports ready. All ten bells will be available.—Joseph H. Ridyard and Peter Crook, Branch Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., followed by the meeting in the Chapter House. Tea afterwards at Cannon's Restaurant, Duke Street. Tower bells (8, silent) and handbells during afternoon and evening.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.), on Whit Monday, June 2nd, at Kingsthorpe, when the Vicarage grounds will be open. Central Committee meet at the Vicarage 2.45. Service 3.30, with address by the Vicar. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting and election of officers. Bells (6, silenced) and handbells before and after the meeting.—Robt. G. Black, Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells 2.45. Service 3.30, followed by tea (if possible) and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Saturday, May 31st? Please make an effort to attend.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 7th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying for tea kindly notify Mr. H. Carnwell, Sunnyside, Kingsley, Cheadle, Staffs, on or before June 1st? No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 7th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Surfleet on Saturday, June 7th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea at Mermaid Inn, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells,

bowls and topical talk on lawn at Glyn Garth. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. R. Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, not later than Tuesday, June 3rd?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ramsey on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. All those requiring tea must notify the district secretary by June 10th, or bring their own teas. A good bus service from Colchester via Mistley.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, for which notice must be received by me not later than June 9th, about 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The summer meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock, names to Mr. W. E. Dransfield, 21, Westgate, Almondbury, not later than Tuesday, June 17th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 19th, please, to B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. William H. Hewett's new address is 119, Coleman Road, S.E.5, not 'Street,' as given in our last issue.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part III.—Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Berkshire Archaeological Society,' by permission of the society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, price 1s. post free.

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CHARLES DICKENS ON BELLS.

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ROBERT SOUTHEY on Bell Ringing.—The country's best music, a music hallowed by all circumstances, which according equally with social exaltation and with solitary pensiveness, though it falls upon many an unheeding ear, never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates, and some which it softens.

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A PROBLEM IN COMPOSITION.

The two peals of Spliced Surprise Major by Mr. Joseph W. Parker which we lately published are not only a very welcome reminder that his hand has not lost its cunning, but are proof that the problems of theoretic ringing are almost inexhaustible. Half a century ago it was commonly said that the composition of peals was worked out; so many men had been at the job that there was nothing left for anyone to do. Even so clever a man as Sir Arthur Heywood stated publicly that only one problem in the science of ringing (a seven-part peal of Stedman Triples) remained to be solved.

Had it been so, we should have been in a sorry case, for the intellectual efforts of our leading composers are among the most potent of the forces which keep the art alive.

The value of what they do is not to be measured by the use to which their work can be put. Whether Mr. Parker's peals are rung or not does not greatly matter; what does matter is the evidence they afford of the scope the science of ringing gives for the highest intellectual gifts, and that the Exercise contains the men who have them.

Mr. Parker, by reason of his age and attainments, shares with Mr. Gabriel Lindoff the foremost place among living composers, but fortunately they do not stand alone. Mr. Pitman was the first to develop the idea of splicing Surprise Major methods on the plan introduced by Henry Law James, and hard on his heels have come younger men, Ernest Turner and Harold Cashmore.

It does not seem so very long ago when, at the Central Council's meeting in the Chapter House, at Salisbury, the question of ringing more than one Surprise Major method in a peal was first debated. A proposal had been made to attempt to ring four separate quarter peals of the four standard methods. Would the Council sanction such a thing? The idea rather shocked some of the older members. 'You are proposing to violate the fundamental principle on which all ringing is based, that of truth.' So said C. D. P. Davies, and not a few agreed with him. Others said, 'Ring the four methods if you like, but ring them as a true peal,' but that was just what everyone thought could never be done. Then Law James had his brilliant inspiration and produced his peal in three-lead courses. It is justly entitled to be called an epoch-making composition, for it laid open a vast field for development in actual ringing, and though it is itself likely to be superseded, its effect will be lasting.

(Continued on page 266.)

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Spliced ringing has come to stay, but old prejudices die hard, and there are still people who object to it on the grounds that some bells (usually the tenors) do not ring the full courses. Already that objection has been partially answered. Peals have been rung which have included full courses of some of the methods, and Mr. Parker has succeeded in introducing full courses of as many as five. So far no peal has been composed in the four standard methods which contains a full course of each of them. Though it may seem strange to the uninitiated, it is a harder job with these four alone than when Rutland is added to them to make a fifth. Perhaps the problem will remain insoluble, but it will not be for want of trying.

HANDBELL PEALS.

HEVINGHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At Mr. WALTER C. MEDLER'S HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in B.

ALBERT ROUGHT ...	1-2	F. NOLAN GOLDEN ...	5-6
JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ...	3-4	WALTER C. MEDLER ...	7-8

Composed and Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 26, 1941, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ...	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ...	7-8

Composed by EDGAR WIGHTMAN (C.C. Collection No. 139).

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes;

At 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*IVOR C. N. BELL ...	1-2	†W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ...	5-6
†JACK S. ROBERTS ...	3-4	†REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ...	7-8

Composed by W. HARRISON. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal of Major. † First peal 'in hand.' ‡ First peal 'in hand' on eight bells. First peal of Major as conductor.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

EFFORT TO KEEP UP MEMBERSHIP.

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 24th. Twenty-one members attended, which, under present conditions, was considered very good. Six 'silent' bells were 'rung' during the afternoon and evening, those taking part very much enjoying the feel of the ropes again.

A short service was conducted by the Vicar (Canon Whitworth), who, in his address, congratulated the members on their efforts to carry on now that no ringing can be done.

The business meeting was presided over by the Guild Ringing Master, Mr. Rupert Richardson.

The members stood a moment in silence when Mr. F. S. W. Butler touchingly referred to the death of the president, the Ven. Archdeacon Parry.

The hon. secretary gave a brief account of what had been done during 1940, together with the approximate financial position.

Canon Marsden, Vicar of Grimsby, was unanimously elected president, the remaining officers being re-elected.

It was decided to hold a half-yearly meeting at Willingham-by-Stow on August 9th.

Several suggestions were put forward as to how best to keep the members together in these difficult times, and it was agreed that a big effort should be made to keep up the membership total.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to all who had helped with the arrangements and to Mr. Richardson for presiding.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE PEAL COLLECTIONS.

(Continued from page 256.)

The peals of Grandsire Caters and Cinques had been collected by Arthur Knights, and evidently were printed just as he sent them in. Davies and Carpenter had carefully corrected the proofs of their own figures, but apparently they never troubled whether Knights' were corrected or not, or (as is most likely), they left the job to Dains. The result was 39 bad mistakes in the figures of 114 peals. That rendered the whole thing valueless, for, of course, unless a conductor can have absolute confidence that the figures are accurate and true, no collection is of any use to him.

The figures were given without any particular arrangement, and in any case there is a sameness about peals of Grandsire Caters which makes a collection of them very uninteresting to the average ringer.

The second collection appeared in 1904, and dealt with Plain Bob and Double Oxford Bob. I was the collector for the former, and J. Holme Pilkington for the latter.

Holme Pilkington was the Rector of Framlingham in Suffolk. He learnt to ring rather late in life, and rang no more than a few peals in the simpler methods, but he had some distinction as a composer of Bob Major. For three years he represented the Norwich Diocesan Association on the Central Council. His collection of peals of Double Oxford was a small one, numbering no more than twenty-eight, but it was an excellent one and quite sufficient. Almost every peal is one which a conductor might now choose to call, and that is a good test of the value of a collection. Thirteen bear Heywood's name, for his band at Duffield had extensively practised the method. Some can hardly stand any test of originality, for they were merely adaptations of peals in other methods, and a good example is one which bears my name and is only the old twenty-seven courses adapted to short courses. It has appeared over many names in many methods from the time of John Reeves. Pilkington pointed out that some of the peals may have been adaptations, but he did not attempt to decide the question. One of Heywood's peals was a 7,008, which he had rung as the longest in the method. It is false. Dains added a peal of his own, also false, and so are one or two that he added to the Plain Bob.

The proof reading of the book again was bad, and there are many mistakes for which the committee were responsible.

Looking back after forty years I may perhaps be allowed to use my work as the collector of the Bob Major peals for an illustration of the difficulties of making a good collection and as a warning for the future.

I had studied the composition of Bob Major fairly deeply, and knew pretty well what the method was capable of. The majority of the best composers rather despised it as being too simple for their serious notice. As I have already mentioned, I had made a very fair collection of peals and a large number of others were sent me by various people. When the book was due for printing Davies asked me to make a selection, which most people then thought, and many probably would still think, was quite an easy thing to do. If the collection was to number a couple of hundred peals, all that was necessary (so it would seem) was to pick out the best couple of hundred and send them in.

But it was not nearly so simple as that. There were several ways of choosing the peals. Those selected might be the ones most suitable for the conductor's use, or they might be the cleverest from the composer's point of view, or they might be those which best represented what the method is capable of—simple and complex—or I could have allotted the available space among the men who had sent in figures, and given their peals roughly in proportion to the number they had provided. Whichever way it was done, it was sure, in the particular circumstances, to cause some dissatisfaction.

Throughout the history of the Exercise we find examples of the men who have written text books being faced consciously or unconsciously with similar difficulties. On the one hand they wished to give the best in their books, on the other they wished to figure as clever composers and the two interests clash. The Clavis avoided the difficulty best of all. Almost all the compositions in it are by John Reeves, one of three authors, but his claim to them is generally asserted in the preface and no name is given below the actual figures! Shipway put names to all the peals, his own included, and so created the impression that he was trying to advertise his skill. Sottanstill and others carried it much further, and actually did harm to their reputations. Both Shipway and Sottanstill did compose really fine peals, but readers are more apt to remember that they passed off variations of older peals as their own than to give them the credit they fairly earned by their genuine work. Jasper Snowdon did not attempt to be a composer, and for that reason was the better author.

The selection I made was intended to represent the best the method could produce and to illustrate its history. Looking back now with complete detachment, I think it was quite a good selection.

It appeared in the book not quite as I sent it in, for Davies altered the arrangement, and Dains added one or two peals. When I saw it in print I was disappointed. I did not like the arrangement, there were too many mistakes in proof reading, and my name appeared at the foot of too many peals. Out of 191 compositions, 35 were my own production, and naturally there were people who said that I had exploited the Council's publication for my own benefit. It was not really true, for when I made the selection I was more concerned to include the peals I thought necessary than to bother about who had composed them, nor was the proportion of my peals greater than that of the collector in the other methods.

I made up my mind then that never again would I be responsible for any selection of peals if names of composers were added, for the rivalries between them were so keen and the disputes as to ownership so many that it was almost impossible to judge a composition objectively. It so happened, however, that I could not keep to my resolution. When I prepared the Collection of Plain Major Methods I worked out a number of suitable peals for those methods for which none then existed, and I wished to have them printed without any composer's name; but Law James strongly objected and insisted on initials being added—on the whole, I think, a worse plan than giving full names.

My selection of peals of Bob Major was quite a good one, but it was very little use as it was printed. After

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

I sent it in I had no more to do with it. The committee ought to have seen that it was printed without mistakes; and if they had been up to their job they ought to have added explanatory letterpress, or got somebody to do it for them. And they ought to have made sure that no false peal was included in any publication for which they were responsible. It is easy to be wise now after the event, and the chief good these early collections of peals did was to show us what mistakes we must avoid in any future publications.

Just as the book was going to press Davies asked me for some peals of Royal and Maximus. I had made no collection of them and I had to supply some offhand. For that part of the book there is little good to be said.

The third collection dealt with Double Norwich and was a complete failure. The peals were badly collected, badly selected, badly proved, badly arranged and badly printed. Davies knew nothing about Major composition, and exercised no supervision; Dr. Carpenter was hardly more interested; and Dains, on whom, as both the collector for the method and a member of the committee, the work devolved, was the last man who should have undertaken to prepare a book in all its stages.

After this failure Davies asked me to join the committee and prepare the Treble Bob peals for the press. I did so, and I had a long but fairly straightforward task. Something had been learnt from past mistakes, and there was Jasper Snowdon's book on Treble Bob to serve as a model. I spent many hours bringing that collection up to date. The number of peals that came into my hands was enormous. I searched every available source, whether in print or in manuscript, and I carefully edited and arranged the figures. The number of the sections and sub-sections into which the peals were grouped ran to many hundreds, and I wrote a long descriptive introduction.

The intention had been to print another book, but it began to be clear to everybody that there was no great demand nor need for these collections of peals, and my work never got into type. It was, however, not altogether wasted. H. T. S. Richardson proved all the peals (a very big job), Mrs. Fletcher typed them, and the Council's library now contains what is probably the biggest and most complete collection of peals which will ever be made for any one method. It is available for the use of anyone who really needs such a collection.

Collectors had been appointed for all methods and a great mass of peals of Stedman Triples and Caters, Surprise Major, Duffield and others were sent to the committee. I came across the papers not long ago and, after binding them roughly, handed them to the Council's librarian. The manuscripts have historical interest, some being autographed copies of compositions by leading composers like Heywood, Bulwer, Arthur Knights and others, but the peals, if published, would not have been of much use to-day. Almost all the Stedman Caters, for instance, are old-fashioned all-tittum peals.

The attempt to make and publish complete collections of peals was an important part of the Council's early activities and that must be my excuse for dealing so fully with the matter.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SATISFACTORY ANNUAL MEETING.

Office of Clerical Secretary Left Vacant.

The facts that Worcester is so fully 'occupied' that a room could hardly be found available for handbell ringing, and that no catering establishment could undertake any arrangement for tea, did not detract from quite a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association on Saturday, May 17th. A total of 43 members was present at the business meeting, including visitors from Cheltenham, Bristol and one in khaki from Chichester, while others 'looked in' during the course of the evening.

In the absence of the president (the Dean of Worcester), who had a prior engagement, the Master, Mr. S. T. Holt, presided over the meeting, held in the Chapter House.

The report and balance sheet were adopted, Mr. E. E. Barber, auditor, referring to the satisfactory total of the association's funds.

The librarian (Mr. C. W. Cooper) again reported a very quiet year. Only three applications for six books were made, and members were again reminded of the facilities provided for books on loan and were urged to put the library to better use.

The librarian said he had received from the relatives of the late Mr. Harry Mason, of Hagley, a complete set of the association reports from its foundation, and these, beautifully bound, were on view. Enquiries revealing he had had these bound at his own expense, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Cooper for his generosity, while the secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Mason's relatives.

In passing, it may be remarked that this is at present the only complete set of reports of the Worcestershire Association known to be in existence, a second set already in the library being short of the years 1911-12. These should be easily obtainable, but of the series in the general secretary's possession, and despite efforts to obtain it, the report for 1886 is missing. It will be appreciated if any member knowing of the existence of a copy will communicate with the secretary.

The Dean of Worcester was re-elected president, and a discussion arose on the election of a clerical secretary, the office being vacant through the death of the Rev. G. W. Webb. No name was forthcoming, and it was eventually decided to leave this office vacant for the moment.

All the remaining officers were re-elected en bloc, and a vote of thanks to them for their services was supported by several speakers.

It was decided that the Master should arrange for the annual peal to be rung on handbells, and Worcester was again chosen (D.V.) for the next annual meeting.

Two new performing members were unanimously elected—Miss Janet Peat and Miss Christine Richardson, aged 11 years (daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson), both of the Malvern Abbey School Guild. In presenting these names for election, the secretary read a letter from Miss Monica Richardson, the moving spirit of the Guild, stating these young ringers had both rung several 720's of Minor, and touches of Grandsire and Bob Major on handbells, and that the Guild were now practising Oxford Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

On the proposition of Mr. W. C. Dowding, it was decided that the secretary should write to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, expressing the association's sympathy with him in his illness and expressing the sincere hope for a speedy return to his normal health and activities. Mr. Goldsmith's work for the Exercise could not be measured, and the speaker appealed for a wider and more individual support for 'The Ringing World,' and so relieve the Editor of some of his difficulties.

The meeting decided that the cost of tea at the annual meetings for the duration of war be borne by the members themselves.

A vote of thanks to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the Chapter House concluded the business.

The members later attended choral evensong in the Cathedral, following which the disappearance of the Master led to the supposition that he was exerting pressure and undue influence to obtain a room for handbells. In this he was eventually successful, and the ringing ranged from tunes and Grandsire Doubles, à la 'Skinny Lizzie,' to Treble Bob Major and Stedman Caters.

MIDLAND CHURCHES DAMAGED.

RINGERS LOSE THEIR HOMES.

In a recent blitz on a Midland town another well-known church was destroyed by incendiaries, while a high explosive bomb of heavy calibre fell in the churchyard outside the south wall, making a huge crater and demolished everything except the tower, which, however, is cracked from top to bottom.

The Vicarage and Parish Hall were also badly damaged by blast, as also was the home of Mr. J. E. Moreton, captain of the tower for many years.

This is the 'home' tower of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish. Their residence escaped damage except for one broken window.

The Parish Church of the same town was also badly damaged by blast, but the extent of the injuries to this tower is not yet known.

The homes of two well-known ringers connected with this tower, Messrs. T. W. Chapman and D. H. Argyle, were, we are sorry to report, completely demolished, but both they and their families are, happily, safe.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. LIVERPOOL BRANCH MEETING.

St. Nicholas', the old Parish Church of Liverpool, has been burnt out and destroyed by enemy action, but, happily, the tower still stands, and there on Saturday, May 24th, a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held.

A good number of members attended, the front eight bells were used with tied clappers and several touches were rung on the handbells. The president (the Rev. Arthur Scott) was a welcome visitor and he took the chair at the meeting. In his address he expressed his pleasure at being present and congratulated the branch on holding the meetings and on their efforts to keep the association's flag flying.

The secretary said he had received a letter from the Rector of Liverpool (the Rev. D. Railton) saying that he was going away for a time. He is suffering from a severe internal injury and it is hoped that a few weeks' rest will bring him freedom from pain. The meeting extended to him their sympathy in his illness.

It was reported that Mr. E. Gibbins had recently celebrated his golden wedding jubilee. He had written a letter thanking the members of the branch for their congratulations on the occasion.

It gave the meeting much pleasure to hear that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith had left hospital for home, and hopes were expressed that he was completely restored to health. It was moved and seconded that letters of sympathy should be sent to the Rector of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Walton, and to the Vicar of St. Luke's, Liverpool. Both these churches with their bells have been destroyed in recent air raids.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Nicholas'. It will be the third meeting there this year. The advantages of a central meeting place were pointed out while travelling is so difficult.

Supporting the president were the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the hon. treasurer, Mr. C. I. Davies. The towers represented were Bebington, Bootle, Huyton, Oxtown, Rock Ferry, Southport, Woolton, Ormskirk, Prescott and Liverpool (St. Nicholas'). Altogether it was a very representative meeting.

HANDBELLS IN A MOTOR-CAR.

Handbells have been rung in many queer places, and peals and quarter-peals have been brought round in trains, charabancs, on ocean liners and even in bed. Not many quarter-peals, however, can have been rung in the confined space of a private motor-car, but on Saturday week, while travelling between Swindon, Wilts, and Cirencester, Glos., a distance of 16 miles, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung by the following: Ivor Bell 1-2 and Jack Roberts 3-4, in the back seat; Dennis Smout 5-6, in the front seat. The Rev. Malcolm Melville was both driver and conductor.

MR. DRAKE AND BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I rather wonder whether Mr. Drake knows what people are referring to when they speak of backward hunting. It is pretty evident he does not, and, therefore, it seems futile for him to argue whether it is properly named or not. However, here is a test. Will he answer this question? The work of the second in a plain course of London Surprise: which part of it is what we call forward hunting, and which part is what we call backward hunting?

He says I made no attempt to answer parts of his letter. That is true, but the reason was not because they were incontrovertible, but because they were beside the point. Actually his letter is full of errors, and two of them show how little he really has understood the subject. He says that what he calls contrary motion goes on until there is a snapping blow, or some odd number of places are made, when, ordinary motion will supervene and the rows be inverted. Actually on any even number of bells there must be an even number of places at every change, and there can never be an odd number (nought counts as an even number). And on any odd number of bells there must be an odd number of places in every change, and there can never be an even number.

Also instead of it being impossible for one bell to be hunting forward at the same time others are hunting backward (as he asserts), that is the only way changes are produced or can be produced.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to congratulate Mr. J. W. Parker on obtaining his composition of Spliced Surprise Major in five methods containing a full course of each method.

As kindly pointed out by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, I did some work in this direction a few years ago and produced a composition on a similar plan in the four methods, London, Rutland, Cambridge and Superlative. As regards London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative, I had not completed my investigations when other matters claimed my attention, and through lack of time chiefly I have not since taken the matter up.

Seeing that others are interested in the matter, there is no doubt one will be obtained in the latter in four methods also.

40, Pentyla, Aberavon, Port Talbot.

A. J. PITMAN.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—On Saturday, May 10th, in Hughenden belfry, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 37 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Miss D. R. Fletcher 3-4, R. Lee 5-6, Miss V. Look (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 7-8.

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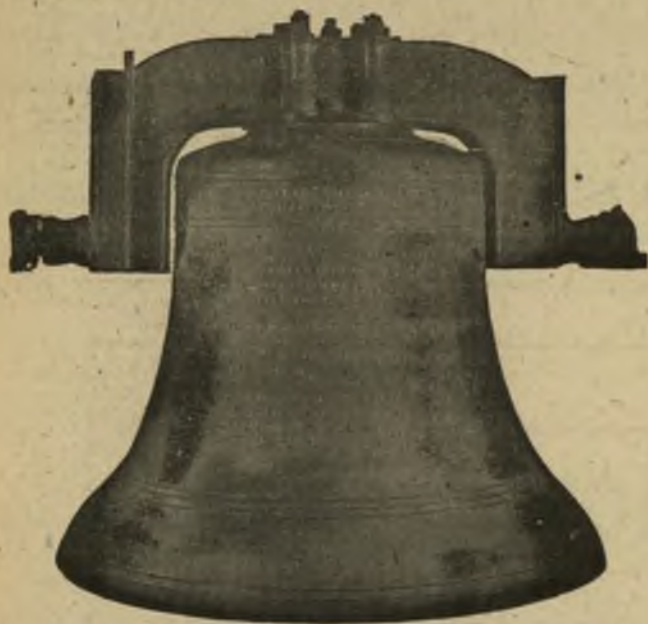
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THE EDITOR'S MESSAGE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY.

The first words I write for 'The Ringing World,' after returning home from hospital and so long an enforced absence from the editorial chair, must be to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to all those hundreds of ringers throughout the country who have sent me messages of sympathy in my illness and their good wishes for my recovery.

It is in times of adversity that one finds one's truest friends, and the widespread and wonderful display of kindly thought that has been exhibited towards me during the trying ordeal through which I have passed has been a revelation and one of the greatest sources of encouragement.

I regret sincerely that it will be a physical impossibility for me to reply individually to the innumerable letters and messages I have received, and I trust that all who have written will accept, through this channel, my warmest thanks for their sympathy and kindly wishes, which have cheered me through many dark hours and helped me back to the stage of convalescence. These thanks are no formal acknowledgment, but are as sincere as any that could be conveyed by private letter.

After one hundred days in hospital and an illness so severe, the period of recuperation is likely to be fairly lengthy, and resumption of normal duties may not be possible for a while yet, but I want to assure all those who have shown such kindly interest that there is every prospect of unimpeded progress to full recovery.

In the meantime, the task of carrying on 'The Ringing World' will continue to be in the capable hands of Mr. J. A. Trollope, to whose ungrudging labours during the past months not only I, but the whole Exercise, owe a debt of gratitude. Of that, however, I shall have something to say on a future occasion. For the moment Mr. Trollope is still carrying on.

J. S. GOLDSMITH, Editor.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell party which has been meeting at Aldershot will lose heavily by the departure, which has now taken place, of Sergt. John Freeman, who, in happier times, is, like his father and brother, a member of Lincoln Cathedral band. During his stay in the south Sergt. Freeman has conducted several handbell peals, including a recent one of Stedman Caters.

The wedding of Mr. N. M. Newby, hon. secretary of the Furness and Lake District Branch of the Lancashire Association, and Miss S. E. Postlethwaite, of Swalkmoor, took place on Whitsun Tuesday. They will have the best wishes of all the association members and there may be a wedding peal in the future.

At Taunton the local band are carrying on by holding handbell practices every Monday evening at St. James'. With the assistance of Mr. T. H. Taffender, who is staying in the neighbourhood, they have rung Stedman Triples and Caters, Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major. Mr. W. H. Lloyd is the organiser.

The Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was formed on June 2nd, 1883.

The first twelve-bell peal in Birmingham, one of 5,324 Grandsire Cinques, was rung on June 3rd, 1773, at St. Martin's.

John W. Taylor, of the famous Loughborough bell foundry, died on June 4th, 1919.

On June 4th, 1762, the ten bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, were rung for the first time.

On the same date in 1898 Holt's Original was rung non-conducted at St. John's, Waterloo Road.

The Suffolk men rang Day's long peal of Treble Bob Major at Debenham on June 6th, 1892, and on June 8th, 1906, the Lancashire men beat it at Mottram. The numbers of changes were 16,608 and 16,800.

The record peal of Bob Major, 18,144 changes, was rung at Bennington, Hertfordshire, on June 5th, 1933. Mr. S. Carter conducted.

The first peal of St. Blaise Surprise Major was rung at Guildford on June 8th, 1927.

What was, we believe, the first double-handed peal of Minor on handbells in seven methods was rung on June 3rd, 1891, at St. Albans and conducted by Mr. John Christopher Mitchell. It contained Yorkshire Court, for nobody knew then and for some time afterwards that the method will not produce a true 720.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 3, Caters 1, Bob Major 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Oxford 1, and Minor 1.

CHURCH BELLS AND INVASION.

The leaflet giving instructions to the public in the event of invasion, which has this week been distributed throughout the country, contains the following paragraph:—

7. What does it mean when the church bells are rung? It is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question. Church bells will not be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has taken place. The ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches.

We were able to give details of this extract several weeks ago.

FORTY YEARS ON. RECOLLECTIONS OF A MEMORABLE IRISH VISIT.

Hitherto Unpublished Sidelights.

Two paragraphs in 'Belfry Gossip' last week are another reminder of the flight of time. They recalled that 40 years ago 'J. S. Goldsmith conducted the first peal in a Surprise method ever rung out of England,' and that the first peal rung on the sea was completed between Ireland and Wales.

It doesn't seem 40 years ago that that memorable trip to Ireland was made, and I still have happy recollections of some of the incidents of those five hectic days. In these times of enforced inactivity, therefore, it may not be out of place to recall some of the sidelights (which, as far as I remember, have not hitherto appeared in print) as well as the main objectives of that visit, although, naturally, they can only be viewed through the mists of time.

Exactly how the trip came to be arranged I do not now precisely recollect, but—he will correct me if I am wrong—I believe Bill Barber (now so long 'of Newcastle') had been working in Dublin, whither Gabriel Lindoff went to take charge of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral bells, and as a result, on Bill's return to England, a peal ringing visit to Erin was discussed and eventually took shape at Whitsun, 1901. I was fortunate enough to be invited to be one of the party. I was easily the junior of the company, and, almost a pygmy among ringing giants—William, Ernest and Bob Pye, William Barber, William Short, Isaac Shade, James George, names to conjure with even in those days, and John Buffery, who had much earlier made a name in Birmingham.

It was the first occasion on which I had met the Pyes, and I met them at three o'clock in the morning in the uncomfortable third-class cabin of the cross-channel steamer. I had reached Holyhead with the other two Bills some hour or two ahead of the London boat train, and we had tried to doze on the hard wooden seats of the cabin. Under the circumstances the dozing was, to say the least, fitful, and the London contingent, having searched us out aboard, found at least one owl-like traveller awaiting them. Later that day on arrival in Dublin we were a lot of very tired travellers, and I have recollections of some of us trying to snatch a little sleep on the hard boards up in St. Patrick's ringing chamber—but those who have tried that sort of nap know how difficult it is.

However, by evening we were ready for the fray, and in 3 hours 51 minutes rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal at St. Patrick's, with a 45 cwt. tenor (there were only ten bells at St. Patrick's then and for many years after). This peal was recorded as 'the first peal of Treble Bob Royal rung out of Great Britain.' And thereby hangs a tale.

AN UNDISPUTED CLAIM.

A few years before there had been two incidents; one concerned a peal of Treble Ten at the opening of St. Patrick's bells in 1897 and was spoken of with almost bated breath, because, in the first place, there were men in the peal whose honesty was above suspicion, and, secondly, those who spoke of it seemed not quite sure of the facts. The second incident had occurred in 1899; it was the dispute over the 17,000 of Double Norwich Major at Kidlington. Both peals had been conducted by James W. Washbrook, who, at the time of our Irish visit, had become custodian and instructor at Arklow, Co. Wicklow, which church we hoped to visit.

Now the story about the Treble Ten at St. Patrick's was that the peal, as rung, was false. It was described in the official recording as a composition by Henry Johnson, but something must have happened in the calling to send the bells astray. They rolled home all right, but one man, at least, in the band observed that the peal, which had begun with a bob Wrong and thus with the whole plain course, had finished with a bob Middle, which produced the plain course again. How far this had been a 'wangle,' arising originally out of a mistake, or how far it was one of those acts of mental carelessness to which Washbrook, one of the greatest conductors of all time, was known to be susceptible, remains, I believe, untold. Eventually, however, it became known that the peal, as rung, was not true. But the record was never withdrawn, at least up to the time of our visit to Ireland, although I believe the conductor had admitted the facts in a letter to someone who had challenged him on the subject. Be that as it may, the claim which we made to the first peal of Treble Ten outside Great Britain was never disputed.

That peal was rung on the Friday night. On Saturday morning five of the 'brass hats' knocked off a peal of Stedman Caters on handbells, and in the evening we rang a short-course peal of Stedman Caters at Christ Church Cathedral. For some of the ringers this latter was tough going. The back-enders had their work cut out, and Gabriel Lindoff stood by as spare man. He came up into the tower at intervals to see how things were going, and on one visit brought with him an orange. Bill Pye, on the ninth, had apparently got thirsty. At an appropriate moment, when Bill's bell was up at back stroke, he opened his mouth, and Gay popped in a bit of orange. But he rather over-estimated the capacity of Bill's mouth, and it seemed quite a while, during which everyone was ready to burst with laughter, before Bill could shut his mouth again. It might have cost us the peal.

A DIZZY STAIRCASE.

On Sunday afternoon we made an attempt for a peal of Stedman Caters at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, but lost it for some reason which I now forget. There are, or were, one or two curious features about this tower, which was known as 'twenty-seven by twelve,' from its dimensions. The ringing chamber was more than twice as long as it was wide, and the ropes hung in straight lines along the walls, five on one side, three on the other, with one at each end.

The ringing chamber was approached by a hair-raising iron spiral staircase—at any rate it was hair-raising for those who were not used to it. I have never visited the church since, but in my dreams I have more than once climbed that endless spiral, and saved myself by my eyebrows from falling from its dizzy height. The explanation of the installation of this stairway, if I remember right, was that the church was grieved, the tower carried up as a continuation of the front of the building, the bells hung and the scaffolding dismantled before it was realised that no staircase leading to the ringing chamber had been provided. So the open iron spiral steps were carried up from a gallery beneath the tower. I remember even now seeing one very nervous ringer among the visitors negotiate the first part of the downward journey on his hands and knees, to the amusement of the rest of the party—who had already reached safety at the bottom.

On Whit Monday we went to Arklow as guests of the newly-formed Irish Association. It was a day of rare experiences. We attempted a peal of Superlative in the morning, which, to my surprise, I was asked to call. I felt that no greater compliment could have been paid to the junior member of the party. But after an hour or so a broken rope put an end to the peal. The ropes were fairly new; the cause of the break was a mystery which we did not attempt to probe.

The Earl of Carysfort, upon whose estate the church was situated, entertained the Irish Association that day to lunch, which was served in a large marquee. It was the association's annual meeting and the business was to follow lunch. Everyone was in the gayest of spirits, and, as is the wont on such occasions of hospitality, there were complimentary speeches and thanks. Then the company dispersed to enjoy ringing at the church and the beauty of the park and gardens.

Too late it was realised that the whole purpose of the gathering, which had brought ringers from many parts of Ireland, had been overlooked—the business meeting had been forgotten! I have never heard how Gabriel Lindoff recorded the proceedings in the minutes.

TWO GREAT RINGERS BRIDGE A CHASM.

The day provided many surprises, but one incident might have marred for us the whole visit. Happily it didn't. We visitors had had qualms beforehand, but the upshot brought a feeling of unqualified relief and satisfaction. It originated in the disputed Kidlington peal rung two years before. The facts are open for all to read who like to turn up the files of 'The Bell News' of the time, and the two chief figures have passed on, so that there is no harm in briefly recalling what had happened. On April 3rd, 1899, at Erith, a band, with William Pye as conductor, had set up a new Double Norwich Major record: on May 22nd, James Washbrook called a longer length at Kidlington. William Pye was a listener to that peal and immediately the record was published he disputed its validity on account of some of the ringing and avowed that a certain course end had been forced up.

This led to a bitter controversy and to the production of figures by Washbrook, which Pye declared were not those that were rung. The affair left these two great ringers, to put it mildly, thoroughly estranged. Now on this tour they would for the first time since the dispute come face to face. What would be the reaction? That was what troubled some of us.

They met; they shook hands; they smiled—and all was well. Afterwards they rang handbells together and the chasm which had previously yawned between them was closed. Looking back, that meeting, to those who knew how bitter had been the correspondence, was a great gesture by two great ringers and stands out in my mind as a striking example to those who, even in these days, are ready to nurse petty grievances in the belfry.

The following day was the last of our stay in Ireland and it was a successful one. The Superlative was rung at Bray on one of the most glorious rings of eight (the tenor is 30 cwt.) I have ever listened to. The official record stated that I 'conducted' the peal. It is true I called the bobs, but 'conducting' was unnecessary with a band which consisted of John Buffery on the treble, William Short, George R. Pye, Isaac G. Shade, William H. Barber, myself, Ernest Pye and William Pye.

MINOR CONTRETEMPS.

In the evening, with Messrs. R. R. Cherry and Gabriel Lindoff, we rang a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Patrick's, Dublin. Mr. Cherry was a member of the Bar and later became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. He came back into ringing after more than 20 years' absence when St. Patrick's bells were installed, having learned to ring in his native Waterford and scored his first peal there in 1873. The peal of Stedman Caters and the conclusion of our successful visit naturally needed celebration, and we were entertained at Mr. Cherry's home on College Green. We English were a very tired crowd, more asleep than awake by the time we were seated round the table, so nearly asleep indeed that one (who shall still remain unnamed) put a plate of food upside-down into his lap while he nodded over the cloth.

(Continued on next page.)

FORTY YEARS ON.

(Continued from previous page.)

I, too, have to confess to an accident which has never been told in print before. Into a glass containing claret I tried to direct lemonade from a siphon. Alas, I had the angle of the glass wrong. The force behind the lemonade shot the lot over our hostess, Mrs. Cherry. Never have I wished more devoutly than at that moment that the floor would open and swallow me. But, lady that she was, Mrs. Cherry took the unfortunate contretemps in good part and laughed it off.

Coming across the Irish Sea the next day the first peal on the sea was rung—and there wasn't another until 1934 on the Mediterranean. The Pyes and the other two Bills made up the band. With James George and Ike Shade as umpires, they went down into a corner of the forward saloon and knocked off Stedman Caters. It was a daylight crossing and they missed the pleasure of the upper deck, but they made history, finishing in the nick of time as the ship glided up Holyhead harbour.

That evening we rang at Bangor the first Surprise peal in Wales and then parted company. I stayed on in Bangor with relatives until the end of the week to visit some of the beauty spots in North Wales.

The reminiscences of this trip would not be quite complete were I not to add a personal note which has nothing to do with the actual ringing. I was employed on a newspaper in Eastbourne at the time, and was naturally more than keen to be able to accept the invitation to take part in the excursion. My greatest anxiety was to know how to get the necessary leave, in a firm where holidays were only grudgingly given. Whitsuntide, too, in a seaside resort was not a good time to expect to be allowed to be absent from work. In making my request, therefore, with a bit of special pleading, to be away 'over Whitsun' I was most careful not to say how long 'over Whitsun'; to have told the whole truth would have been fatal. And so I went without leaving any address that would find me in order that I could not be recalled. I reached home on Saturday; on Sunday I met a colleague who immediately wanted to know 'where I had been all the week' and warning me of the wire consequences that awaited me when the 'gov'nor' met me the next day.

I went to the office with some trepidation, was questioned by my editor, who refrained from verbally chastising me because, I think, of what was to come from the 'boss,' who, I was told, had been storming at my absence all the previous week. Presently the boss' ponderous footsteps came through the outer office; I expected to be metaphorically slung into the street; I tried to console myself in those few moments with the thought that my holiday had been worth even that. He strode into the editorial room; I don't know if I actually quaked, but all he said in his deep gruff voice was, 'Hello! I thought you were lost!'

And that is how I got away with it.

J. S. G.

SILENT APPARATUSES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Before the war I was experimenting with three types of bell silencers. A, the Launton type, consisted of a clapper bar fitted with a small striker operated by centrifugal force at handstroke and by gravity at backstroke. After much trial and error I succeeded in making the apparatus strike the bell at the same moment as the clapper whatever position the bell is in after it has been raised slightly. The principle aimed at was to produce the nominal or fifth partial tone of the bell commencing from the bottom, and not to let the bell, as a whole, vibrate. It succeeded admirably and we found the apparatus very useful at Launton, especially as one could teach a beginner to rise and fall as well. The effect was that the bells sounded an octave higher than normal, and the sound not being of a penetrating nature, while reasonably loud near the bells, would not carry more than 100 yards approximately from the church.

The second type (type 3) is or was in use at All Saints', Oxford, and consists of a wooden device to restrict the movement of the clapper so that it gives the bell a very light blow. The same applies to Type C or the portable type, which is made of leather and within certain limits can be carried about in a small attache case and in a few moments easily adjusted to fit any bell. Type C was used for the peals at Bray and Sherborne Abbey, and a great number were in use before the war in all parts of the country.

Unfortunately, all types are of no use under the conditions imposed by the 'ban,' as the bell is struck in each instance; but the device in Type A could be used as a switch for an electrical apparatus, and as it operates at the same time as the clapper would normally strike whatever position the bell may be in should be useful. I will gladly put this device at the disposal of the Exercise.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

ENDOWMENTS FOR BELL ROPES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the article on endowments for bell ropes in 'The Ringing World,' page 245, may I say that the endowment at Yaxham, Norfolk, of 1s. per annum for bell ropes is still in existence.

E. W. BLYTH.

Northrepps Rectory, Cromer.

LONG PEALS ON HANDBELLS.

To-day is the thirtieth anniversary of a peal of Bob Major, 13,440 changes, at Pudsey, which at the time ranked as the longest in hand. Altogether only five peals of over 10,000 changes have so far been rung on handbells, but the record has reached 19,738, and we imagine it will be long before that is exceeded.

On Tuesday, October 16th, 1883, the Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang 10,176 changes of Grandsire Major in four hours and fifty-five minutes. Grandsire on even bells had been for long popular with the Birmingham men, and they rang 6,720 changes of Major on handbells in 1880. John Carter composed and called the long peal, which had the 120 course ends and the tenors together throughout. The band was Thomas Russam 1-2, John Carter 3-4, Thomas Miller 5-6, and Joseph W. Cattle 7-8. Mr. Miller, happily, is still with us.

In 1894 a young band at Norwich attempted to gain the record by ringing the extent of Bob Major with the tenors together. They started on March 15th, but, the weather being cold, the bells were allowed to run round at the half-way. A second attempt was made on April 26th. This time one of the umpires turned up late and the peal had to be shortened to 11,200 changes, which were duly rung in five hours. The band was J. A. Trollope 1-2, George P. Burton 3-4, John E. Burton 5-6, Charles E. Borrett (conductor) 7-8.

The intention was to complete the full length, but it never came to anything, and it was not until 17 years later, on Whit Monday, June 5th, 1911, at Pudsey, a band of the Yorkshire Association completed the 13,440 changes. The time was seven hours and seven minutes, two hours and seven minutes longer than the Norwich peal with 2,240 extra changes. The band was: William Frederick Thorpe 1-2, Frederick W. Jones 3-4, Ernest Maun (conductor) 5-6, Ernest Hoyle 7-8.

Just before the last war there was a very skilful handbell band at Guildford who extensively practised Stedman. On June 1st, 1912, they set up a new long length record for handbell ringing by scoring 14,031 changes of Stedman Caters in 7 hours and 3 minutes, four minutes less than the previous Bob Major. Three months later, on August 31st, in order to make certain about the matter, they started for 22,222 changes, but after ringing 19,738 in nine hours and thirty-two minutes, when all records either on handbells or on tower bells had been passed, the bells were brought round. The band was: A. F. Shepherd 1-2, A. H. Pulling (conductor) 3-4, W. Shepherd 5-6, J. Hunt 7-8, F. Blondell 9-10.

ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

Last Wednesday was the one hundred and twenty-seventh anniversary of the opening peal on the twelve bells at St. Nicholas', Liverpool. Four years earlier, on February 11th, 1810, 'a few minutes before the commencement of divine service, while the bells were ringing the second peal,' the old tower collapsed in ruins. Part of the congregation was already in the church, and masonry, falling through the nave roof, killed 25 people, of whom 18 were children.

When the new tower was built, William Dobson, of Downham Market, Norfolk, had the order to supply a ring of twelve bells, which were to be a replica of the twelve at St. Peter's, Mancroft. Dobson was an excellent founder and cast many good bells, but Liverpool were not among his best.

At the opening 'a numerous assemblage of amateurs were invited,' and a competition was held, with a 'beautiful silver cup, value twenty guineas,' as the prize. The contest was won by a mixed band, made up partly of Sheffield men and partly of Birmingham men, with James Dovey, of Stourbridge, and Samuel Lawrence, of Shifnal. William Hudson and William Booth were among the Sheffield men, and Alexander Sanders and Henry Cooper among the Birmingham men.

The winning touch was 3,000 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and 14 men were required, which shows that the heavy bells had not 'settled down to their bearings,' as the saying was. Next day a full peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung.

Although the band was a mixed one, the touch and peal were rung as St. Martin's Youths' performances, and the silver cup went to Birmingham. It was placed in the custody of Henry Cooper, but after a time it disappeared. Cooper was a silver plater by trade, and not unnaturally suspicions were aroused of his honesty in the matter. Nothing was proved, but his reputation suffered badly.

St. Nicholas' Church was severely damaged in some of the early air raids on Merseyside, and was entirely burnt out, but fortunately the steeple and the bells have so far escaped. The front eight were rung with tied clappers during a recent meeting of the Lancashire Association.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE TERM SURPRISE.

The word Surprise has been used in the Exercise as a sub-title of methods from at least as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, but only in the last thirty or forty years has it had its present meaning. The old ringers used it as a sort of claim that the method they had rung was a more difficult and intricate one than those generally practised, but they made no attempt to set any bounds to what should be reckoned as a difficult method. To do so would have been an impossible task, and is so still.

This old meaning is quite accurately defined in the Glossary, which says that a Surprise method is a Treble Bob method in which the work of the course is highly elaborated and more or less difficult of execution. The great Oxford English Dictionary adopted this definition, and it is a pity the Exercise did not leave the matter so. But when the Central Council was founded there was a great eagerness among its leaders to reduce everything to precise order, and among other things to classify methods so that each should be put neatly and definitely into its own group. They thought it could be done, and in much the same spirit an attempt was made to assess the value of peals by allotting so many points to each. Experience showed in the end how futile this latter was, and after some years the Council dropped it. Greater knowledge has also shown that the idea which lay behind the attempt to classify methods was equally futile, but that cannot be undone so easily.

In the nineteenth century there were nine recognised standard methods; of them Cambridge, Superlative and London stood out unquestionably as the most difficult, and therefore they were justly labelled Surprise. Up to that point it was quite all right, but when many more methods were known and rung, it became clear that, except for the fact that both are on the Treble Bob principle, London differs more from Superlative than Superlative does from Double Norwich. When we take all the possible Treble Bob methods into consideration, so far from Superlative being one of the most difficult, it is one of the simplest and easiest. The proper thing would have been to recognise that the art of change ringing had outgrown the meaning of the word Surprise, and it should have been left as an ornament to those methods which had earned the right to it by long possession.

That course could not be taken, partly because ordinary ringers still attached more importance to methods which were called by the magic word Surprise than to any others, and partly on account of the urge for tidying up things we have referred to. So the term must have its precise definition and several attempts were made to find one. Earle Bulwer tried his hand, as was explained in 'The Ringing World' lately. He failed because his definition did not cover London, and shortly afterwards the present definition was put forward by the Methods Committee and was generally adopted by the Exercise.

Our readers will have noticed that when we give the figures of Treble Bob methods as illustrations we always divide the lead by horizontal lines after every group of four rows. Each group of four rows is called a section, and the change which divides two groups (and is represented by the horizontal line) is called a cross section.

According to the definition, a Surprise method is one which has at least one place made at every cross section (the lead-end and half-lead-end are not technically cross sections).

It was a clever definition. It was clear, precise, easily understood, and easily applied. It covered fairly well all the methods then considered to belong to the class, and it was a thoroughly bad and mischievous definition. It made no distinction between easy and difficult methods (in the circumstances that could not be done), it lumped together as equal in style and complexity the most diverse methods, and in effect it put on a lower plane a great number which have every right to rank as the equals of those it included. It drew a purely arbitrary line through the Treble Bob methods, and the result has been that those which are on the wrong side of the line are not even considered, let alone practised.

If the definition is as bad as all that, why, it may be asked, was it ever adopted? The people who introduced it were not altogether fools nor completely ignorant. They had begun to understand something about method construction, but they had reached as yet only a limited understanding. They thought that the essential things in the construction of a method are the places. We discussed this matter in our article of March 21st, and we pointed out that there was at one time a group of men who held that places are the only things that really matter in a method. 'Get the places right and everything else follows automatically. Places are the method.' Of course, there is some truth in this, but it becomes false when it is pushed too far; and it was pushed too far in the definition of a Surprise method.

Places made at a cross section may have no more value than places made in the interior of the section. That is made quite clear by our recent examination of Cornwall, Ealing and other Surprise methods.

The present definition makes no distinction between easy and difficult methods, nor between good and bad methods; and therefore is not only useless, but actually misleading. Ringers still think of Surprise methods as the most complex of all, whereas many of them are quite easy. Still, as far as Major ringing is concerned, no great harm is done. The group is so large, and so varied, that it gives ample scope for development. But on ten and twelve bells it is different. Though Surprise Royal and Surprise Maximus methods are the most highly esteemed, they are, generally speaking, the most unsuitable for actual practice. Both for interest in ringing and for outside effect, the Plain Royal and Maximus methods are far superior, and they should receive more attention from ten and twelve bell ringers. Plain methods, we may point out, are not necessarily easy methods.

Before the war some of the Plain Major methods were beginning to receive attention, and bands were beginning to realise that there is much more in some of them than in the average Surprise method. That was all to the good.

There is no need to alter the present definition and, in fact, any attempt to improve it would probably only make matters worse. Let it stand as it is. What we should do is to realise that any attempt to classify methods is a mistake, and let us treat the sub-titles—Surprise, Court, Bob and the rest—as ornaments and nothing more.

FIRES AND BELL FRAMES. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You ask a most interesting question in your leader of this week's 'Ringing World': 'How far does an iron frame afford a safeguard to the bells against fire?'

It seems obvious that it provides little more protection than a timber frame, for it all depends upon the intensity of the fire in the rooms below the bell chamber.

The solution to the problem of fire that will generally be advanced probably will suggest clearing all inflammable material out of the tower and substituting concrete and steel—concrete floors, steel tables and chairs, not even a peal board of wood—a somewhat dreary ringing chamber, I would suggest. But the greatest drawback will be a resonant ringing chamber, owing to the reinforced concrete that may be used in the reconstruction. Ringers cannot put the best into their art in a resonant belfry.

Whatever happens with a fire in a tower, one thing is certain, that even if the bells escape, the frame is most likely to be ruined. A good illustration of what happens to steel is shown by the effects of fire on the steel framework of modern buildings. It is a fact that timber of heavy section is more fireproof than steel.

Now let us get this problem of fire in its right perspective. Ignoring the results of this war, what percentage of our belfries have been destroyed by fire? The percentage will prove surprisingly small; in fact, almost negligible.

To deal with the problem of the present emergency we can only clear out as much of the inflammable material and take all the precautions that are possible. This is a mere palliative and not the remedy. The remedy is for all men and women, church officials and ringers to see that, once peace is gained, war is banished from this world for ever.

When we rebuild our churches we must plan for peace and not for the incendiary bomb. We must be guided by the principle that only the best is fit for the house of our God. If timber proves to be more lasting than steel it should be used. The question of fire will hardly enter in the problem, as it did in the pre-war days. Our motto must be, 'To do all to the glory of God.'

G. P. ELPHICK.

Southover, Lewes.

THE LATE MR. C. H. HORTON.

HERTS ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT'S SUDDEN DEATH.

As was recorded in our last issue, the death has taken place of Mr. Charles H. Horton, president of the Hertford County Association and hon. secretary of the Watford District.

Mr. Horton died suddenly while on the way to his allotment. He had not been ill previously, but no doubt the loss of his business in London in the 'blitz' worried him, and a weakened heart gave out. He was 65 years of age and leaves a widow in bereavement.

As already mentioned, in addition to the offices he held in the Hertford County Association, Mr. Horton had been intimately associated with the College Youths for many years, and was a past Master of the society. He was held in high esteem among Hertfordshire ringers for his hard work and patience as secretary of the district, and his efforts in arranging district meetings even in the extreme difficulty of war conditions was much appreciated.

The funeral took place at Watford Cemetery on Tuesday, May 27th, when the service was conducted by the Rector of Bushey.

The mourners were the widow and friends, while ringers were represented by Messrs. E. Jennings and J. Rootes (Bushey), F. W. Brinklow (Oxhey), S. H. Hoare and R. Bell (Watford), T. Clark and W. Ayre.

At the close a well-struck course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by F. W. Brinklow 1-2, E. Jennings 3-4, W. Ayre 5-6, J. W. Rootes 7-8. Floral tributes were sent by the Herts County Association, the Watford District, the Oxhey tower and St. Mary's, Willesden.

Mrs. Horton asks us to state it is impossible for her to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy she has received, and desires to extend her sincere thanks to all Mr. Horton's ringing friends who sent wreaths and letters.

Charlie Horton, writes a fellow officer of the Herts Association, will be sadly missed. His preliminary cough (how we listened for it!) and 'What would you like next, gentlemen?' will linger long in memory with us.

He was an indefatigable worker, very keen on principles, a whole-hearted College Youth, and a faithful president of his association.

As a neighbouring secretary he was admirable to work with and always gave his support.

It is up to us all not to let his work be wasted. A finer memorial he would not wish to have.

W. A.

LONDON CHURCHES.

THEIR STYLE CRITICISED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Permit me to raise a little criticism of what appeared in 'The Ringing World' of May 23rd. It is in reference to 'the architectural beauty' of London's churches.

Speaking of certain rings of bells in various parts of the country which are well known to ringers, a few weeks ago 'The Ringing World' remarked, 'Sad as would be the loss of these peals, should they ever be destroyed, they could certainly be replaced by something better.' This is how I feel about London churches, whose 'picturesque or architectural beauty' has, in my opinion, been grossly over-estimated, and I speak as one who has been in over 900 churches in various parts of the country.

I shall never forget the first time I visited a London church and the remark I passed to a friend, who pointed out to me that that was St. George-the-Martyr, where we were going to ring. 'What,' I said, 'you never mean to say that's a church!' 'Yes, that's where we're going,' he replied. 'Why, it looks more like our Town Hall, an assize court or a corn exchange,' I remember commenting. My friend then informed me that that was how most London churches were. Later on we visited St. Lawrence Jewry. Here I remember remarking upon the musical quality of the bells, which to this day have always struck me as the best I have ever heard in London outside Southwark Cathedral, but I remember saying to my friend, 'I don't like the look of the building. It looks too much like a guildhall, with a clock tower built upon it, in a market square.' A little further on we came to Bow. Here again the whole building seemed to resemble a town hall on a street corner. The unique spire certainly struck me as picturesque, but beyond that I could see nothing to make it appear (without being told) that it was a church. The same impression I gained of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields—a guildhall with a clock tower on top; and as for the bells (like Bow) I thought what a poor lot they were. St. Andrew's, Holborn, was another church we visited. Here was certainly a little variation as far as the tower went, but the whole structure seemed to have nothing of the architectural beauty of thousands of churches outside London. Like all your other readers, Mr. Editor, I am sad to think that the time and money which has been spent upon these buildings for centuries has all to be raised again. But I hope when the time comes to rebuild, what will replace them will be on a different style to the old buildings, for between these and some of the present-day 'churches' for design there is little to choose, with the exception that the old London churches no doubt were stronger and of stone instead of red brick. Finally, when thinking of London churches as compared with most other town and village churches, I am reminded of the words of a well-known hymn, 'Within a hallowed acre.' The absence of such spoils what little bit of picturesque or architectural beauty may have been found on London churches, to my mind.

'TOURIST.'

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

BURTON AND LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICTS.

Despite the showery afternoon, about 20 ringers and friends attended the joint meeting of the above districts, held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, May 24th, when the following towers were represented: Derby Cathedral, Shepshed, Ibbstock, Hugglescote, Copt Oak, Burton (St. Paul's), Ticknall, Newhall, Overseale, Netherseale and the local company.

The Vicar, Canon H. D. Hanford, met and welcomed the members as they assembled, but regretted he was unable to stay for the meeting and tea.

Short touches and a few tunes on the handbells preceded the meeting, which was held in the belfry. Mr. A. E. Rowley took the chair for the Burton District business and the question of Sunday meetings was discussed. It was decided to arrange at least one such meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. The Loughborough members present decided to hold their next meeting at Woodhouse Eaves, the date being left for the secretary to arrange with the incumbent.

Mr. J. H. Swinfield proposed that the secretary (Mr. J. W. Cotton) be instructed to write Mr. Goldsmith expressing sympathy with him in his illness and best wishes for a complete recovery.

Tea was served at Messrs. Radford's Cafe, after which the tower was revisited and further handbell ringing took place.

It was felt by those responsible for the arrangements that the meeting helped to keep alive and stimulate interest in the districts concerned, and further joint meetings will be held in the near future.

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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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 7th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Surfleet on Saturday, June 7th. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea at Mermaid Inn, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Handbells, howls and topical talk on lawn at Glyn Garth.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ramsey on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. All those requiring tea must notify the district secretary by June 10th, or bring their own teas. A good bus service from Colchester via Mistley. Visitors coming by car must obtain their permits before entering the defence area.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, for which notice must be received by me not later than June 9th, about 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City and Bristol Rural Branches.—A combined meeting of the two Branches will be held at Almondsbury on Sat., June 14th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meetings to follow at 5 p.m. Darts and handbells will be available for those who wish to show their skill. All heartily welcome. Buses from the centre (Gas Company's premises) at frequent intervals.—R. C. Gifford, Rural Sec., A. M. Tyler, Bristol City Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at North Marston on Saturday, June 14th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells from 2.45. Service at 4. Tea and meeting to follow.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.

—The summer meeting will be held at Almondsbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock, names to Mr. W. E. Dransfield, 21, Westgate, Almondsbury, not later than Tuesday, June 17th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 19th, please, to B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. Members and friends attending are requested to meet at the **Village, Merstham**, at 3 p.m. From there it is proposed to walk to Reigate via Gatton Park. Service at Reigate Church at 5 p.m. Following the service, Mr. M. A. Northover has very kindly offered to provide tea and his house and garden will be at the disposal of the association for the purpose of the meeting. Will those who require tea please notify me by Tuesday, the 17th inst.? Don't forget caterers are rationed too! So if you intend to be present please send that card.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual joint meeting of Southern District, Barnsley and District and Doncaster and District Societies will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea 1s. 6d. each, Warburton's Café, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Those requiring tea **must** notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, nr. Rotherham, not later than June 18th. Hoping for a good attendance.—S. F. Palmer, D. Smith and E. Cooper, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 21st. Committee meeting at 6 p.m. and general meeting at 6.30. Handbells. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of George W. Fogden is now 31, Canham Road, South Norwood, S.E.25. He will be glad to hear from any of his old ringing friends.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. James George is now Quinton Hall, Quinton, Birmingham, 32.

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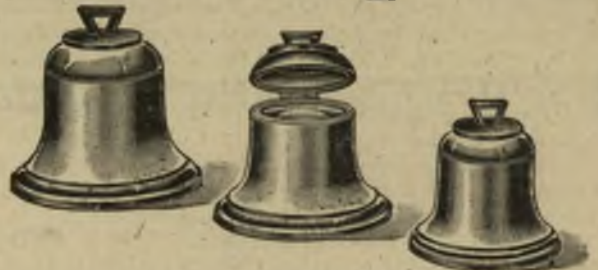
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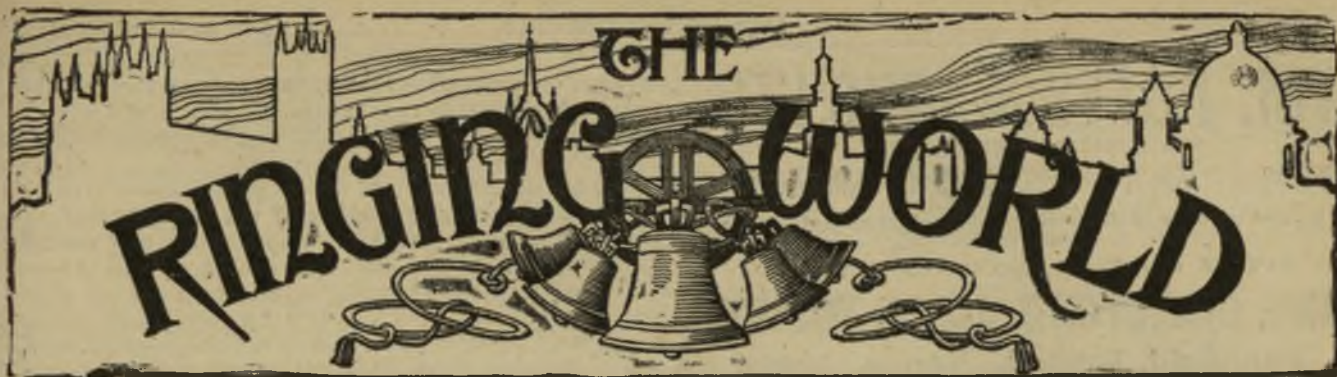
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FRIDAY, JUNE 13th, 1941.

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SILENT APPARATUSES & PEAL RINGING

In a recent letter Mr. E. G. Hibbins, of Cambridge, mentioned a peal of Bob Major rung some years ago on the Seage's apparatus at Great St. Mary, and recorded on a board in the belfry. He reminded us that we said in this column on March 7th that 'however good a silent apparatus is, it should be used only for practice, and not for peal ringing'; and he asks whether a performance similar to the one at Cambridge would be recognised by the Central Council.

What attitude the Council would take, if the matter were brought before it, we do not presume to say. The question has never been raised, and any attempt to decide it by citing any of the existing resolutions would be unfair and mischievous, since they were drawn up to solve other problems. One of them, however, might perhaps have some relation to the matter. It lays down 'that every bell must during the peal sound at every change.' It must not, of course, be read as necessitating the sounding of the bell in the bell-chamber, though it is being rung by the ringer. The sounding of the handbell in the belfry would be a valid substitute. But it does definitely state that the failure of any one of those handbells to strike in every change would invalidate the peal. A silent apparatus, unless it is very perfect in its working, is liable to irregularities in the striking of the handbells, and a condition such as is contemplated by the Council's resolution might easily arise during a peal.

If we are ever so fortunate as to come into possession of a silent apparatus which gives results sufficiently good to tempt bands to use it for peal ringing with any frequency, the situation could be cleared up and put in order by a formal resolution of the Council. As we said, we do not know what course would be taken, but we do not doubt that the matter would be discussed fully and in all its bearings. One broad consideration should in the end decide. What would be the effect of such peals on the bands who rang them and so indirectly on the whole Exercise? Would they help progress or hinder?

Much can be said on both sides of the question. Peal ringing undoubtedly does stimulate interest, and improve ringing, and so help in no small degree the use of bells in the service of the Church; and peal ringing is most decidedly worth doing for its own sake. There are many towers where normally open peal ringing is but sparsely permitted. Why should not the bands at such towers take advantage of a silent apparatus and ring peals to their hearts' content without causing an-

(Continued on page 278.)

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noyance to anyone? That is one side of the question, and if an apparatus can be devised, which will give inside the belfry the same effect as the open bells, it is hard to find more than one answer.

But the difficulty is that so far no apparatus seems to be able to reproduce the effect of the actual bells. To put it simply, the striking is a makeshift, and must be treated as a makeshift, and that can hardly fail to lower the standard of the ringing when the bells are open. Here is the danger. There is a tendency, and to some extent a growing tendency, to treat the method as the most important thing, and to relegate good striking into a secondary place as a most desirable quality, but not that of the first importance. Method ringing can be learnt and practised, and perhaps enjoyed, on a silent apparatus; but we very much doubt if good striking can be learnt so. Method ringing can be learnt and practised with silent clappers, but we fear that a lot of it would have a disastrous effect on striking.

It has been suggested that to allow peals on silent apparatuses would open the door to fraud and false peals. We do not attach much importance to such a fear even if cause for it exists. There always have been, and probably there always will be, some people who are not over scrupulous in peal ringing; but they are not many, and in the long run they usually defeat their own ends. A deliberate attempt to fake a peal may be hidden, but it often comes to light, and one such doubtful performance does more harm to a man's reputation than a score of good peals do good. And the man who thinks it worth while to fake peals can find plenty of opportunities for doing so when the bells are rung open.

We trust to a band's sense of honour and truthfulness, and it is seldom that the trust is misplaced. When a band say they have rung a peal on handbells we do not doubt their word, though they had shut themselves up in a room where there was no one to hear them. Why should we doubt them? There is not much satisfaction in saying you have rung a peal unless you actually have rung it. You are the only person who really bothers about it, for in days, when peals are so plentiful and so comparatively easy to score, the ringing of one does not fill other people with any excessive amount of either admiration or envy.

We need not consider whether peal ringing on silent apparatuses would lead to deliberately false peals; we must consider whether it would tend to lower the standard of ringing and of striking.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. WHITSUNTIDE MEETING.

The May meeting of the society was held at St. Paul's, Shipley, on Saturday, May 31st, in perfect weather, and as it was the start of the Whitsun holiday, it was hoped that a good number would be present to try the clapperless bells, but owing to a wages dispute in the bus company, and the fact that Shipley is on a direct route to the West Coast, travelling was very difficult. Ringers were greatly delayed on the journey and only the most enthusiastic arrived at Shipley.

After tea at a nearby cafe the bells were pulled up in peal and silent touches were enjoyed, but could not be compared to the handbells, the music of which made the ringers realise what they were missing.

The business meeting was held in the tower. Mr. J. F. Harvey presided, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Bramley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle and the local company.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local company, including Mr. Ernest Simpson, was proposed by Mr. P. A. J. Johnson and seconded by Mr. F. W. Dixon.

The next meeting will be held at Batley on June 28th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Friday, May 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
At 24, Suffolk Road,***A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**One each of College Single, Oxford Bob, Woodbine Treble Bob,
Merchant's Return, Kent and Oxford, and Bob Minor.MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4
HAROLD HOWSON ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First seven methods 'in hand' by all.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Saturday, May 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. F. J. HAIRS ... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS ... 3-4 | *R. GORDON CROSS ... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* First peal on handbells. A birthday compliment to Mr. James Hunt.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Tuesday, June 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,***A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4 | *FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Wednesday, June 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
At 81, COUNTY ROAD,***A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**Seven different extents. Tenor size 11 in G.
IVOR C. N. BELL ... 1-2 | *MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4
REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung on the wedding anniversary of a popular local ringer.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Thursday, June 5, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen 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 JENNINGS ... 7-8

Composed by B. ANNABLE. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The ban on church bells has been in operation for nearly twelve months now, and I, for one, have still to see any written instructions as to their use in case of enemy invasion. Whether invasion will ever be attempted remains to be seen, but as nothing has happened up to the present, I think the Central Council should, as a body, approach the Ministry of Home Security again and see if the ban can be lifted, or even modified. In this direction they should, in my opinion, enlist the co-operation of the two Archbishops and any other Church dignitaries.

Mr. C. T. Coles, in a letter which he wrote to you some time ago, truly stated, I think, that the Government had made our churches military objectives, and it would be interesting to know whether the Government would be prepared to compensate those Church authorities whose bells have been destroyed or damaged by enemy action, as probably restoration work will be much more costly after this war is over.

AUBREY L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh, Devon.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BIBBY.

WELL-KNOWN CHESHIRE RINGER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Bibby, of Frodsham, Cheshire, who passed away on June 3rd in Chester Royal Infirmary.

Mr. Bibby was long a prominent figure in the Chester Diocesan Guild, which he represented on the Central Council from 1912-1914 and 1921-23.

Not only was he the mainstay of ringing for many years at Frodsham, where he was in business as a basket maker, but trained his family as ringers, his sons, John Edward and Francis, and his daughter, Miss Norah Bibby, being prominent members of the Chester Guild.

Mr. William Bibby had rung some 160 peals for the Chester Guild and over 50 for the Lancashire Association.

GUILDFORD RINGER REPORTED MISSING.

LOST IN H.M.S. 'FIJI.'

Captain of the S. Nicolas', Guildford, band, Mr. Sidney Elton, son of the late Mr. T. Elton and Mrs. Elton, of Walsall, has been reported 'Missing, believed killed' from the action in the defence of Crete. He was serving as a fitter-artificer on H.M.S. 'Fiji', having joined the Royal Navy in November, 1940. Mr. Elton was 35 years of age and had been associated with S. Nicolas' tower for many years. A talented bellringer and conductor, he had rung peals in many methods, including Surprise. While in Guildford he worked at Messrs. Dennis Bros. His wife is living at Middlesbrough.

DEATH OF BOURNEMOUTH RINGER.

FORMER CAPTAIN AT ST. PETER'S.

Mr. James Bennett, formerly captain of the ringers at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, passed to his rest quite suddenly on May 26th at the age of 77 years. He began his connection with the mother church of Bournemouth at the age of ten as a choirboy and subsequently was a bellringer as well as a chorister. For many recent years, however, he had not taken an active part in either capacity, for whilst the doctor forbade the long climb up to St. Peter's belfry, his wife's ill-health prevented his regular attendance in the choir.

Mr. Bennett sang bass and few choristers could sound such a resonant bottom C, and his 'weight' in the lower clef was greatly missed when he retired. As a ringer Mr. Bennett did not aspire to becoming a 'star' performer, but he had few superiors on the back end in Stedman or Grandsire Triples, and with Mr. George Preston must be counted among the pioneers of change ringing in the Bournemouth district.

He had the satisfaction of standing in the first peal ever rung in St. Peter's tower, as also did Mr. Preston.

The funeral service took place in St. Peter's on Friday, May 30th, the singing of the hymns, 'Jesu, lover of my soul' and 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,' being led by many of his former colleagues in the choir.

A course of Grandsire Triples, struck in slow time on handbells by Mr. Frederick Townsend 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, Mr. Arthur V. Davis 5-6 and Miss F. Childs 7-8, was rung in the church, and the cortege left to the singing of the Nunc Dimittis.

Many ringers from the district were present in the congregation, including the Rev. C. A. Phillips (Salisbury Diocesan Guild), Mr. G. Preston (Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, Christchurch Priory), Messrs. C. R. Porfitt, E. Waters, C. Chandler and H. Osborne (St. Peter's), and Mr. H. R. Bennett (St. John's, Surrey Road).

DEATH OF MR. A. J. SMITH,

OLD ESSEX RINGER.

On June 2nd, Mr. A. J. Smith, of the Essex village of Langham, who had passed away quietly and suddenly, was laid to rest in the churchyard. He was 82 years of age and had been a regular chorister and keen bellringer for more than fifty years. For long he was a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council, and Steward for Langham of the Tending Hundred Benefit and Sickness Society. He was a life member of the Essex Association and had taught many ringers. He took part in one peal, but peal ringing did not appeal to him.

The Rector, the Rev. C. J. S. Ward, officiated at the funeral service, which was fully choral, Mr. F. P. Pratt being at the organ. The mourners included Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Smith (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. Edward Smith (son), Mrs. Crack (daughter), Mrs. Mabel Liddamore, Mrs. Ivy Davey and Mr. Cyril Smith (grandchildren), Mr. E. Liddamore, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sage, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Nevard, and Mr. L. Wright (hon. district secretary of the North-Eastern Division, Essex Association). Floral tributes were from Mr. F. C. Smith and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. Smith and the grandchildren.

Mr. Smith's two sons are both ringers and well known to members of the Essex Association. Mr. Frank Smith is still at Langham, and Mr. E. D. Smith is Ringing Master of the Leytonstone band.

DUBLIN.—On May 25th, at St. George's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 7-5-8 covering, in 49 minutes, for the Ascension service: Miss Sadie Lorgan 1, David McGregor 2, Miss Ada C. Dukes 3, William Hall 4, Ernest Davidson 5, Frederick E. Dukes 6, George McGregor 7, William McGregor 8.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 268.)

THE THIRD COUNCIL.

The first session of the third Council was held at Whitsuntide in the marvellous summer of 1897. It was the year of the Diamond Jubilee, the culmination of the great Victorian epoch. Never had England seemed so great, so wealthy and so prosperous, and the spirit of the times was reflected in the military pomp and pageantry. Historians tell us now that already there were signs of coming trouble, but of that the ordinary people knew nothing.

The Council's meeting was held at the Church House in Dean's Yard, Westminster, the building which recently was pulled down and where for many years the Council held its London sessions. The attendance was, as in all the early years, far from satisfactory. Out of a total number of 91 elected members, 38 were absent. It was Henry Law James' first meeting, and from that time until his death he was one of the most active and important members. It was also my first meeting. In the previous year I had been elected to represent the Norwich Diocesan Association, more by the favour and influence of Earle Bulwer than on account of any merits of my own. He said nothing to me, nor, I believe, to anyone else, but simply put my name forward, in my absence, at the annual meeting of the association to take the place of Holme Pilkington, who had retired.

At the Council's meeting there was a very full agenda. The most important item was a motion by the President, who had now turned his attention to the betterment of the conditions of bells and belfries and the improvement of the relations between ringers and Church authorities. He said that the Exercise had practically come to a deadlock. Ringers had made themselves, chiefly by their own efforts, into a very respectable body; but they could not get Church authorities and the public generally to do their part and recognise them fairly and their art. Why should they not be treated with the same consideration as church choirs? The bells were usually the most costly possession of a church, yet, while organs were kept in good tune and repair, the bells were neglected. He had given a good deal of thought to the subject, and he came to the conclusion that if a return could be got from the secretaries of the various associations throughout the country of the condition of the rings of twelve, ten, and eight bells, and a statement drawn up and laid before the Church authorities, it might open their eyes and shame them into taking action.

Heywood's motion was, of course, carried, and he proceeded further to ask for a committee which consisted of himself, W. T. Cockerill, R. S. Story, F. E. Ward, George Williams, F. E. Dawe, and myself. I thus found myself on a committee at my first meeting, and have not since ceased to be a member of one or another.

The appointment of the committee was really only a concession to form, for the idea was Heywood's and he fully intended the execution to be his also. He drew up a set of questions to be sent to each tower, and asked us to approve it. Of course, there was nothing for us to do but pass it, and after that Heywood took the whole matter into his own hands.

It was by far the best thing to do and he carried the matter through very thoroughly and very efficiently.

Much of it was routine clerical work, and that was performed by one of the people in his employment.

In due time the returns came in and were published weekly in 'The Bell News,' but they were entirely different from what Heywood had expected. So far from showing that the rings of twelve, ten and eight were in a bad condition, the reports stated that they were mostly in good ringing order. Good ringing order is a relative term, and undoubtedly many bells then considered to be in full pealable condition would to-day be regarded as badly in need of rehanging.

But there was not much reason for trying to shame the Church authorities by exposing the state of the bells, if the Council's own return showed that the state was generally satisfactory. So Heywood announced that nothing more would be done in the matter.

He, however, still continued his work in connection with bell towers and hanging. His early knowledge of engineering stood him in good stead, and he was the first to experiment with self-aligning bearings, which he installed in his own tower at Duffield. He took a great interest in the investigations Mr. Edwin H. Lewis made into the stresses and strains exerted by a swinging bell, and the present Towers and Belfries Committee was first appointed at his instance. In connection with the work of this committee he wrote a book on 'Bell Towers and Bell Hangings,' which was intended to be an appeal to architects to consider the uses and needs of bells in designing church towers. It incorporated chapters by the various members of the committee, Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. J. H. B. Hesse, and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, but it was characteristic of Heywood that it was not issued as a Council publication, but under his own name and at his own expense. It appeared in 1914. He took some trouble to get it into the hands of architects, but whether it had any influence with them I cannot say. Probably it had not much, for architects, like lawyers and doctors, are a very close corporation and treat with contemptuous indifference or resentment any attempts by amateurs to teach them their business.

Improvements in the designs of bell hanging are much more likely to be made by and through the bell hangers than through architects, for an architect has to acknowledge, whether he likes it or not, that the bell hanger knows his business better than he does. So far as the steeples are concerned, there is not much chance of the ideal bell tower being built until architects treat towers as places for housing bells which may be made into ornaments; rather than ornaments which may occasionally be used for bells.

At the 1897 meeting the condition of the belfry at Westminster Abbey was mentioned and an attempt was made to get a protest sent to the Dean from the Council; but Heywood was always anxious to avoid anything like interference with individuals, and he in effect forbade the Council to meddle with the matter. After Frederick Thornton had introduced his motion and made his speech, he intervened before it was seconded and nothing more was done.

Thornton had already moved a resolution on another subject which was carried and which throws a light on one of the habits of peal ringers in old days. From the earliest of times men have been ambitious to shine as conductors of peals and have brought very varying

ability and knowledge to the task. Always they were faced with the possibility of missing a bob and the tricks a faulty memory might play. And always some had been tempted to get over the difficulty by having the figures stuck up on the wall near by so they could refer to them when in doubt. Such things were, of course, not advertised, and how far they were customary we have no means of knowing; but as early as 1731, Thomas Melchior, of Norwich, taunted his rival, Edward Crane, with using the trick, and fifty years ago it began to be quite common. As is usual in such cases, a local dispute over a peal rung in Kent brought the matter to a head, and the Council was asked to declare 'that the practice of using visible aids to memory in the conducting of peals is detrimental to the interests of the art.'

The resolution, naturally, was supported, and after being somewhat watered down, was carried; but it is significant that many people defended the practice in a half-hearted and apologetic manner. There was hardly a man to say downright that the custom was a bad one and ought to be stopped. John W. Taylor did not care to see bobs hung up, but his poor head would certainly not carry part ends. H. A. Cockey thought that occasional use did not matter, but 'to use visible aids constantly is, however, most illegal.' G. F. Attree failed to see where the illegality came in. R. C. M. Harvey had the course ends written down when he called his first peal; but would not have the effrontery to ask for more. R. Binns, of Leeds, thought ringers should have some discretion in the matter. And so on.

The resolution the Council did pass was a mild one, but that did not matter. As soon as the question was

brought into full light, the Exercise generally recognised how unfair the practice was, and it very soon died out, or if it survived did so in a hole-and-corner fashion.

The discussion on another resolution which was passed reflects the conservatism of the older members and illustrates the keenness of the rivalry then existing between composers. Several men had been trying to produce peals of Treble Bob Major without either the second or the third in sixth's place at the course end. Mr. Lindoff was the first to succeed; but he did so by beginning his compositions with one or two bobs at Home and at once Nathan Pitstow and Henry Dains (who had also been trying but so far without success) complained that it was not playing the game. They demanded that all peals of Treble Bob should have their Home bobs at the end. Bulwer thought it fit to bring up the matter and, despite protests, the Council decided that there is no valid reason why a peal of Treble Bob should not begin with one or two Homes.

Younger men who see this resolution among the Council's official pronouncements may wonder why it ever was thought worth while to pass such an obvious thing. They find it difficult to realise the strength of old prejudices and habits. Even Jasper Snowdon shared this prejudice. Referring to the long peal of Treble Twelve rung at Norwich in 1783, which was started with two Homes, he remarked that it was probably done to save a muddle out, but he himself would rather run any risks than have recourse to such an expedient. It is strange that so able and so generally unprejudiced a man should not have seen that the Norwich men knew quite well what they were about. Their peal ended with the full plain course, not a bad way to ensure the most effective ringing at the coming home.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

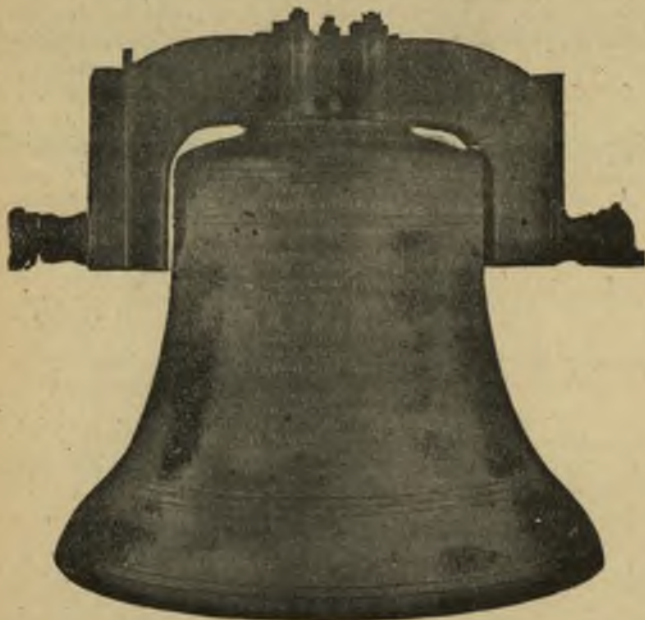
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We and the whole Exercise wish Mr. Edwin H. Lewis many happy returns. To-day is his birthday.

On June 9th, 1850, the first peal in America was rung at Christ Church, Philadelphia, by a band of handbell ringers who were touring America with P. T. Barnham's show. The method was Grandsire Triples and the conductor Henry W. Haley.

The last peal on the old ten bells at St. Michael's, Coventry, was rung on June 9th, 1883.

On June 12th, 1815, a peal of Grandsire Maximus, 5,040 changes, was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, by the St. Martin's Youths.

On June 15th, 1851, the College Youths rang the first peal of Stedman Caters on handbells. The composition, however, was false and the peal was replaced by another by the Cumberlands in 1855.

Fifty years ago to-day seven peals were rung. Four were Grandsire Triples, two Bob Major and one Kent Treble Bob Major. The last was on handbells by the St. Albans Cathedral Society. Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham conducted and Mr. G. W. Cartmel rang 3-4.

We are informed that the bells of St. Albans Abbey have been taken down and put in a place of safety, and those of St. Magnus', London Bridge, are shortly to be taken down.

As advertised in our last issue, Mr. James George is now living at Quinton Hall, Quinton, near Birmingham, where he will be pleased to see any of his ringing friends. He tells us that he is feeling much better and is getting on very nicely with his artificial leg.

Among the bells destroyed or damaged in recent air raids on Central London are several which figure prominently in the history of change ringing. They include the twelve at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; the ten at St. Clement Danes'; and the eights at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, and St. Mary, Bow, Stratford.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

CHURCH DESTROYED IN AIR RAID.

More of the old and mellow buildings of London, it may now be stated, says 'The Times,' have been consumed by fire or blasted by high explosive in recent air raids. Charterhouse and the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, famed the world over for its bells, have suffered severe damage. Little but charred walls remains of the Grey Coat Hospital and Spurgeon's Tabernacle has been destroyed.

Little is left of the church of St. Mary-le-Bow but the great tower and steeple. This bears marks of the intensity of the fire, and the familiar clock in Cheapside is charred. The church had suffered some damage in previous raids, but now the whole of the interior and roof and parts of the walls have gone. The famous Bow bells, however, had previously been dismantled. Like most of the other Wren churches, St. Mary, which was destroyed in the Great Fire, dates back to the reign of William the Conqueror. It is said to be the first church built in England upon arches or bows of stone, hence its name. Wren rebuilt it at greater cost than most of his other churches, and his steeple, second in height only to St. Bride's, is considered to be one of the best balanced of his designs.

St. Mary's, Newington, is now added to the long list of London churches destroyed. It was burnt out, and only the walls remain.

We fear that 'The Times' is inaccurate in saying that Bow bells had been removed to a place of safety before the church was destroyed, but definite information about damaged bells is not easy to get.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

CITY RING TAKEN DOWN.

At the meeting held on Saturday last at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the business was short and mainly routine. Among those present were Mr. J. H. Shepherd, Swindon, who was congratulated by the Master on his 52 years' membership, and Mr. F. W. Budgen, of Brasted.

Greetings were received from Messrs. W. C. Dowding (Birmingham), J. W. Jones (Newport, Mon), E. P. Duffield (Colchester), S. H. Hoare (Watford) and G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Central Council).

The treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) gave more interesting details of damage to towers and bells, and mentioned that another ring of ten in the City were to be lowered for safety.

Mr. W. H. Passmore reported that his nephew, Mr. Herbert Passmore, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, had written to say that he was in good health.

After the treasurer and Mrs. Hughes had been warmly thanked for their kind hospitality, the Master announced that the next meeting would be held on Saturday, June 21st, at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

THE SAFETY OF BELLS.

PRECAUTIONS URGENTLY NEEDED.

The 'Church Times' last week referred to a communication it had received from the College Youths. 'The Ancient Society of College Youths,' it writes, 'is naturally very concerned about the fate of bells in the blitz. "Bells," writes its honorary secretary, "should be lowered to safety, then sandbagged and enclosed; for not only are they very vulnerable to heat and blows, but to loss by theft." In proof of this he cites a recent case of looting. In daylight the Whitechapel bells were nonchalantly broken up where they fell, packed in baskets, and as old metal worth £300 driven away under the eyes of the onlookers.'

A NOTABLE PEAL.

THE FIRST IN FOUR SURPRISE METHODS.

In the history of the ringing Exercise, there are some peals which stand out prominently, not only because they were fine performances in themselves, but because they were milestones in the path of progress, and after they had been achieved, the art was, in a very definite way, something different and wider than it was before. Such were the first peal of Stedman Caters in 1787, the first peal of London Surprise in 1835, the first performance of Thurstan's Four-Part in 1846, and others, not the least among them being the first spliced peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods, which was rung 14 years ago last Wednesday.

The idea of including more than one method in a touch or a peal is an old one, dating back more than a couple of centuries, but little had been done to develop it, and after the falseness of the Crown Bobs had been exposed, nothing was done except for a few performances, each consisting of a number of independent courses and touches in different methods. The most notable of those performances were by Leonard Proctor's band at Bennington, and there are still a few boards in different belfries which record them, but the Exercise in general, and the London men in particular, held that it was illegitimate ringing. Fifty years ago, Harvey Reeves, the Editor of 'The Bell News,' wrote that, though it might be possible to combine two or more methods in a true peal, no real ringer would think of doing so.

It was the introduction of spliced Minor ringing by Law James just before the last war that made men consider whether something of the sort might be possible in Major. The Cambridge University men rang spliced Plain, Double and Little Bob Major on handbells; and that was followed by various combinations, including Spliced Cambridge and Superlative at Whitley Bay in 1924.

Then naturally men began to think of a spliced peal in the four standard Surprise Major methods, but the trouble was to find a true composition. It was produced by Henry Law James, who had the brilliant idea of using two leads of London and one of either Cambridge or Superlative to make up the normal course, with leads of Bristol added in certain places.

At the time, to ring it was generally considered to be too difficult a task, but Mr. A. H. Pulling got together a band, and on May 28th, 1927, an attempt was made at Warnham. The task was found to be not less difficult than had been expected. The first start ended at the second lead-end, the next lasted ten minutes, then there was half an hour's ringing, and at last the bells got away fairly and there seemed a good chance of a peal being scored; but after about three hours, a shift course occurred.

At a second meeting on June 11th the task was completed. The band was G. W. Steere, J. S. Goldsmith, J. A. Cole, W. J. Robinson, O. Sippetts, W. T. Beeson, C. H. Dobbie and A. H. Pulling.

A few weeks later a band of the Middlesex County Association, with William Pye as conductor, rang the peal at Willesden, and they went on to score peals in five and six methods, and eventually completed the series up to twelve, except that they never completed one in two methods. They did have one or two attempts, but each time something happened, and the illness and death of the conductor finally prevented the complete record being made.

When the war broke out spliced ringing in the four standard Surprise methods had become fairly common. It had lost a good deal of its former terrors. Some men even professed to treat it as easy, and to express wonder why people ever thought it difficult. But it was difficult when it was first practised. It is not quite easy to see why it should be so, but it is undoubtedly true that the fact that one band has achieved a task makes it easier for those who come after. The men who now find Spliced Surprise easy do so only because Mr. Pulling's band faced and overcame difficulties 14 years ago.



MR. A. H. PULLING.

PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING RECORDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader in the issue of May 30th raises two very important points—the recording of compositions and the preservation of composers' manuscripts.

One is prompted to ask why all associations do not record the compositions of peals which are rung under their respective auspices. The value of such records cannot be over-estimated, not only could the truth (or otherwise) of any peal be established at any time if challenged, but the record of each performance would then be complete, and would, as Jasper Snowdon put it, 'preserve from oblivion the only particulars of permanent interest connected with the performances they record.'

The Yorkshire Association was, I believe, the first of all societies to insist on the publication of every composition in its records on seven bells and upwards. Jasper Snowdon was adamant on that point at the inception of the association, and the rule has been adhered to rigidly ever since. No peal is accepted for publication unless the calling accompanies the other particulars of the performance. The calling then appears in the annual report unless it has been rung previously by the association, in which case the reference number is given, denoting where the same composition can be found. Thus all compositions rung by the Yorkshire Association have appeared in print in its records at least once.

Some time ago, with the blessings of the committee, I started on the rather lengthy job of proving all the compositions rung by the Yorkshire Association (nearly two thousand of them), and already the value of this research has been realised. The idea is not so much to discredit those who took part in a peal which is found to be false as to purge the records of all false peals, and, by giving a detailed list, to obviate the possibility of a conductor using any of them again.

This research has proved (if such proof is needed) that no composer, however capable, can be entirely trusted not to have made a mistake. During the past two or three months I have found false peals bearing the names of such eminent men as Arthur Knights, Arthur Craven, H. Law James, Charles Henry Hattersley and Tom Lockwood. Who would say that those men were not first rate composers and that a simple mistake by any of them was to be expected? Yet Arthur Knights produced a peal of Grandsire Caters with an entire round block repeated; Arthur Craven has a peal of Treble Bob Major with one course false against three others where the alternative calling in that same course will render the peal true; H. Law James has a peal of Cambridge Royal with two courses internally false against each other given in their entirety; Tom Lockwood makes the mistake of having four calls, the last a Single, at successive lead-ends in Grandsire Caters; and C. H. Hattersley's 'faux pas' occurs in a peal of Stedman Caters, where part of the main body of the peal has already appeared in the opening course.

In fairness to the late Mr. Arthur Craven, I must state that the fault may not be his. The peal mentioned above is a 7,456 of Treble Bob Major, which gives the 30 course-ends in 24 courses. This peal was rung at Eckington on May 18th, 1937, in an abbreviated form (5,088), and was conducted by the late Mr. Arthur Knights; fortunately, the shortened peal is true. The full peal of 24 courses is given in our report as sent in by the conductor, but, and this is why I doubt the accuracy of the figures, the calling does not correspond with the number of changes. I am endeavouring, therefore, to get hold of Mr. Craven's manuscript book so that I can examine his original figures.

This is an example of those cases where the existence of a composer's manuscript is of the utmost importance, and it proves once more the wisdom, if not the necessity, of preserving the work of our composers whenever we can do so. Had the peal which I have just quoted been rung in full, there would have been some doubt as to the truth of what was rung, as both the conductor and the composer are deceased.

The other false peals which I have mentioned are as follows, the index number being the number of the performance in the Yorkshire Association records:—

- No. 699. 5,075 Grandsire Caters, by Tom Lockwood, rung at Leeds, April 2nd, 1893.
- No. 1,700. 5,175 Stedman Caters, by C. H. Hattersley, rung at Halifax, June 22nd, 1907.
- No. 2,250. 5,039 Grandsire Caters, by Arthur Knights, rung at Sheffield, on handbells, June 6th, 1912.
- No. 3,776. 5,040 Cambridge Surprise Royal, by the Rev. H. Law James, rung at Ripon, May 19th, 1934.

As the peal of Cambridge Royal will, no doubt, have been rung by other associations, I append the figures of the peal:—

23456	M	W	H	M	W	H	
52436	—	—	—	36524	—	—	The 6th and 8th leads
34625	—	—	—	23564	—	—	of the 5th course are
52643	—	—	—	62534	—	—	respectively false with
64523	—	—	—	35426	—	—	the 1st and 4th leads of
54326	—	—	—	42356	—	—	the 9th course; and the
23645	—	—	—	34256	—	—	1st and 4th leads of the
42635	—	—	—	23456	—	—	6th course are false with
							the 6th and 8th leads of
							the 8th course.

A question before I close. How many of the associations could claim an unblemished peal list if all their records were checked?

W. BARTON, Peal Secretary, Yorkshire Association.

PEALS WITH 'SILENT' APPARATUS. A COUNCIL MEMBER'S VIEWS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I rather expected to see some official pronouncement in your last issue on the point raised by Mr. Hibbins as to whether 5,000 changes rung on a Seage's apparatus, such as there is in the tower of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, would be recognised by the Central Council as a peal? As the Central Council is not meeting, perhaps none of the officials cared to venture an opinion on what might be a controversial matter.

There seem to me, however, to be certain past practices either tacitly agreed to or openly winked at by the Council which, failing some definite new ruling, would compel the Council to recognise such a peal—shall I add, for what it is worth?

Personally, I think it is a fair analogy to say that such a peal would rank to some extent with a peal on handbells rung 'single-handed,' a type of performance which the Council in 1904 said 'though technically a peal, should be discontinued.' Circumstances, as we know, alter cases. Present conditions are vastly different from those of 1904, and handbell ringing, single-handed, is the only way open to a great many beginners to learn change ringing. Peal ringing in this fashion is not, therefore, so much to be discouraged now as it was when the Council passed its resolution.

Ringing on Seage's or similar apparatus goes, of course, a stage further than handbell ringing pure and simple. The management of a bell is part of the operation, and, assuming that the apparatus is in proper working order, and that accurate striking is to be observed, the added value of the tower bell control is gained, although what is actually heard is, only, in effect, a handbell.

Logically, therefore, it seems to me that, if the Council recognises as technically a peal a single-handed handbell peal on handbells 'retained in hand,' as it was once the fashion to describe it, the Council must accept in the same way a peal on handbells sounded indirectly through the operation of the church bells, which is more difficult than simple handbell ringing. And in the present circumstances such peals also appear to me something which, at least, should not be officially discouraged.

There remains one other point, and that is the Council's resolution of 1895 that 'where practicable, there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.' In recent years, at least, that recommendation has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance. If it were strictly complied with, I would say that any peal rung with an apparatus like Seage's should have a competent umpire, because in so far as the ringing and what happens in the course of it can be known only to those taking part, the two cases are absolutely parallel. But many handbell peals—I am probably right if I say most—have for years been rung and accepted purely on the honour of the ringers who ring it.

That, of course, is as it should be. A 'cooked' peal can be rung on open church bells just as well as on handbells, and, for the little difference such performances would make to the Council's official records, conductors who would knowingly be guilty of such practices are welcome to the 'glory' they can get out of such peals. I feel convinced, however, that so-called peals of this character, either on tower bells or handbells, are and have been few and far between, and if we can trust the honour of a handbell band without an umpire we can trust those who would ring a peal on Seage's apparatus. All I would insist upon, if that is possible, is that the apparatus is in proper working order and that all the bells should strike throughout the peal. If one or more of the bells, through failure of the mechanism, failed to operate, the ringing should stop, just as it should on tower bells if a clapper broke or fell out.

My views may not be the views of other members of the Council, and I should like to see the opinions of some of them expressed in your columns.

'A COUNCIL MEMBER.'

INTERESTING OXFORD EXPERIMENT. An Electrical Difficulty.

Dear Sir,—I have been following, with much interest, the letters in 'The Ringing World,' re silent apparatus for tower bells, and some of us here in Oxford have been carrying out experiments with a system in New College Bell Tower, where the clappers have been removed for silent practice.

This apparatus is, as yet, in an experimental stage and requires much work before it can be said to be satisfactory, but we have found out for ourselves one fact which quite a number of your correspondents have overlooked.

In an editorial on this subject it is stated that any apparatus which does not exactly reproduce the natural timing of the clappers would be useless, but has this any foundation in actual fact? We have tried a rubbing contact fitted to the frame, consisting of two springs which are shorted by a metal plate fixed on the end of the stock just above the centre gudgeon pin, which means that the electrical impulse is received as the bell passes the bottom dead centre of the swing. This gives a near enough even blow both ways.

The effect in the belfry is that the stroke is heard appreciably earlier on both hand and back stroke, but, if the bells are rung by

(Continued in next column.)

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

About seventy members were present at the annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild at Kingsthorpe, near Northampton, on Whit Monday. The Guild service in the church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. L. Couchman, who gave a practical and interesting address. He stressed the importance of teaching ringers to take their place in the belfries after the war, and the need for patience and consideration in dealing with beginners. The collection for the Belfry Repair Fund amounted to £1 12s.

Owing to a breakdown in the arrangements, a sit down tea was not possible, but the Vicar and Mrs. Couchman did the best they could, everyone was supplied with a cup of tea, and Mrs. Powell with her usual thoughtfulness had brought some cakes and sandwiches so that those who could not be notified of the lack of tea were assured of something.

The business meeting took place at the Vicarage. The Master, the Rev. E. S. Powell, presided and was supported by the Rev. A. T. Segger and the Rev. J. H. Marlow (branch presidents), Mrs. Powell, Mr. R. G. Black (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. T. Tebbutt, the Rev. E. V. Fenn, Messrs. W. R. Butcher, H. Baxter, A. Bigley and J. C. Dean (branch secretaries), the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, the Rev. R. H. Palmer, the Rev. E. H. Robertson, Mr. Lathbury, of Cambridge, Mr. F. Barber and a representative gathering from most of the branches. All the officers were re-elected.

The secretary stated that there had been a falling off of subscriptions for last year, which was not accounted for by the number of members serving in the Forces who were excused subscriptions. A resolution was passed that Rule 5, referring to lapsed members, should be adhered to.

Some of the branches were not holding any meetings, but others were making a success of their quarterly meetings, and their subscriptions had not fallen noticeably. As one member said, 'it is good to meet occasionally if only to drink a cup of tea and look at each other; more so when an hour or two can be passed with old friends.'

The Rev. A. T. Segger moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells (silenced), the service, address and the use of the grounds; to the organist and to all those who had in any way assisted in making the meeting a success. This was seconded by Mr. J. C. Dean and carried with applause.

ELHAM, KENT.

A REDISCOVERED PEAL BOARD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have for several years intended to send particulars of a peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Elham in 1772. The peal board was for a considerable time used as a notice board at the church door, but about 1900, when the present Vicarage was rebuilt, the builder (a ringer) found it amongst some rubbish.

Elham, Kent. On Saturday, May 22nd, 1772, was rung for the first time in this steeple a complete peal of 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples in 3 hours and 8 minutes by the following: 1 Jh. Culling, 2 Will Rigden, 3 G. Downe, 4 R. Downe (called the bobs), 5 Richard Foreman, 6 Will Ruck, 7 D. Culling, 8 G. Ladd.

The bells were supplied in 1763 by the Whitechapel Foundry. The steeple and belfry were restored in 1887 and the bells rehung by Warner and Sons in a wooden frame. Up to the present ban on ringing they have been rung for service on Sundays, which reflects credit on the hangers.

ALBERT CASTLE.

High Street, Elham.

(Continued from previous column.)

rope-sight, it is possible to attain fairly consistent striking when one becomes used to hearing the change nearer to pulling off. Another advantage is that the bells can be clappered up and down in peal.

Our main difficulty at present is to get a distinct sound from the handbells in the tower, which are mounted on a wooden frame, and ordinary house electric bells have been adapted as single stroke bells working from dry batteries.

We tried using a mains' transformer for current, but found that the alternating current, which in itself is making and breaking at the rate of 50 times per second, causes a loud hum in the coils of the striking gear of such intensity as to drown the stroke of the bell. Dry battery direct current is, therefore, to be recommended.

Some of your correspondents have mentioned a ball of mercury in a tube as a means of reproducing the clapper strokes: this in theory should work, but in actual practice the mercury splits into small portions and flies in all directions and so is useless.

I have written this description purely as a desire to add a small contribution to what has been for some of your readers a very instructive and interesting debate. I do not claim that our work has yet reached perfection, as those who have tried it will agree, but working broadly on these lines it should be possible to produce a simple apparatus which will reproduce the ringing in the belfry, which is all that ringers want, irrespective of whether the changes are heard at the same time as normally or not.

R. A. POST.

Headington, Oxford.

PEALS RUNG BY THE LATE F. G. WOODISS.

Mr. Frederick G. Woodiss rang in all 149 peals, 11 of which were on handbells. Two were afterwards found to be false in the composition, so the number actually was 147. The following is the list, the peals in hand being shown in brackets:—

Grandsire Triples 14 (3); Grandsire Caters 4 (2); Minor (4 methods) 1; Bob Minor 1; Major 14 (5); Royal 2 (1); Little Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 18; Caters 5; Kent Treble Bob Major 10; Royal 6; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 23; Superlative Surprise Major 9; Cambridge Surprise Major 7; Royal 2; New Cambridge Surprise Major 3; Bristol Surprise Major 2; Royal 1; London Surprise Major 12; Ashted 1; Yorkshire 1; Spliced Cambridge and Superlative 1.

Three were notable peals: A 'Frederick' peal rung at Rochester, Kent, in May, 1933, Kent Treble Bob Royal. A peal of Grandsire Triples at Christ Church, Epsom, August 20th, 1932, for the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. The footnote to the peal reads: 'The first peal rung by a band of altar servers. The band represented eight dioceses and seven counties, and on this occasion and a previous unsuccessful attempt travelled approximately 2,300 miles.'

The third was a peal of Grandsire Caters rung in hand on August 16th, 1911, at the Technical Art School in the Crystal Palace, and was the first peal to be rung in the Palace. It was rung under the auspices of the All Saints' Society, Fulham, and was the 100th peal by that society. It was an achievement, for the public had access to the room in which the peal was rung, and talked and passed comments. A fine example of concentrated effort. His own footnote to the peal is, 'Excellent ringing!' The band were: William A. Woodrow 1-2, A. F. Shepherd 3-4, William Shepherd 5-6, L. Attwater 7-8, F. G. Woodiss 9-10. Conducted by William Shepherd.

Of the 149 peals, 78 were rung for the Surrey Association, 33 for Guildford Diocesan Guild, 22 for the Winchester Diocesan Guild and 16 for other associations.

HUNTING AND OTHER TERMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Surely 'hunting up' and 'hunting down' are the only correct terms? In the one case does not the lip of the bell swing higher and higher until the maximum is reached at 'behind'; and in the other, lower and lower, its journey down terminated at the 'lead'?

I shrewdly suspect 'up' and 'down' are terms evolved from this real motion and retained naturally when pricking or when drawing diagrams of bell-paths.

As Messrs. Trollope and Drake specialise in thrust and parry over terms, here is a problem—childish, perhaps, but not so infantile that it cannot be examined in the light of relative values.

Once on a time I instructed five lads; two were good; three about to begin their individual movements among the other ropes. These three were told to take the front three bells and continue to do nothing but plain hunt from lead to fifth's and back again; the remaining two had the following cycle to perform: when going up, make fourth's and down to lead, hunt up and lie four blows behind. Soon, this simple work was grasped by the others.

Twenty changes—our humble plain course—were easily achieved. We were highly delighted. We called the thing 'Duffers' Doubles.'

Had Hitler permitted we would have tried a 'hundred and twenty' by calling the requisite bobs, these being made by dodging in 3-4 up and down and making seconds.

The gaff is blown! Our plain course was nothing else than two bobs running of Bob Doubles and our 'bobs' the plain work of the same method. Well, sir, what is that plain course and potential 'one hundred and twenty'—'Duffers' or Bob Doubles?

Another poser: If 'Jinks' composes a silent peal of Grandsire Triples, can we call it with equal truth a gigantic plain course of 'Jinks' Triples?

I suppose it all boils down to Albert Einstein's whimsical illustration: 'If I should be guilty of so grave and dangerous an offence as to drop my empty wine bottle from the restaurant car's window while the train is in motion, to me the released body would describe a straight path, but to those at work on the permanent way it would trace a parabola. What then is its real track?'

F. A. YORKE, Major, R.A.

OLD CUSTOMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At Pembridge, Herefordshire, there is a small field, the rent of which is to provide bell ropes whenever required. There is a peal of five bells in the tower, which is detached from the church, tenor 16 cwt. Although war-time restrictions have nearly cut out all peals, 'The Ringing World' is still most interesting reading, especially some of the old rules and customs connected with bells.

The curfew bell was regularly rung at Presteigne, Radnorshire, at 8 p.m. summer and winter till the ban was put on bells last June. The passing bell or death bell was rung in this district (mostly by request), and in the table of fees one shilling was the clerk's fee at Staunton-on-Arrow Church, and at Titley, an adjoining parish, the fee is two shillings. I have rung the bell for many, but did not always get the fee. Wishing the Editor a speedy recovery to health and strength again.

J. C. P.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WORSLEY.

In lovely sunny weather a joint meeting of the Manchester and Bolton Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Worsley on May 31st. The church is set in a very pretty district on the outskirts of Manchester, and though it is so close to an area which has suffered heavily by raids, it was difficult to realise that it was war time.

The clappers of the bells had been secured so there could be some practice, but it was sad to think of the grand ten bells overhead being dumb. Touches of Caters and Royal were rung, but a year without practice has had its effect, and when the time comes for some real ringing there will be a dearth of competent members to handle the bells.

It was decided to hold as many joint meetings as can conveniently be arranged during long hours of daylight. At the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. A. Scott, nominations for officers were discussed, and, owing to the restricted functions through the war, it was decided to nominate those retiring en bloc. Mr. Barnes was asked to continue as auditor for another year, although he wished to retire, as he had served for 20 years and felt he would like a rest. Mr. R. F. Williams, of Manchester, was nominated for two years.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and to the local ringers for the trouble they had gone to to make the meeting a success. The Rector came into the belfry to welcome the ringers. About 25 members attended, among them many ladies.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRENTWOOD.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Brentwood on Saturday, May 24th, and about 20 members were present from Leytonstone, Chelmsford, Springfield, Orsett, Wanstead, Fryerning and the local band. Touches on handbells and on silent tower bells were rung until 4.30 p.m., when the Rev. V. G. Vallance, Vicar of Brentwood, conducted a very interesting service. The party then proceeded to the Church House, where a most excellent tea was waiting, kindly prepared by the wives of the local band.

The business meeting was presided over by the District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, who stated how pleased he was to see Mr. L. Clark and Mr. Runter, of the South-Eastern Division.

For the next place of meeting three towers were proposed, Hornchurch, Dagenham and Loughton, and it was left to the secretary to find out which tower would be available by the end of July. Mr. Geoffrey Stitch, of Brentwood, was elected ringing member.

Reference was made to the account and receipt books, which had not been returned to the secretary. Mr. Clark promised to see the auditor, and hoped they would be returned before the annual general meeting.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. V. G. Ballance, the organist, the local ringers and their wives for the excellent tea provided under the present difficult circumstances. The rest of the evening was spent in various touches on the silent tower bells and on handbells.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD AND SPLICED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although this letter is rather belated, I must thank Mr. C. T. Coles for having written. I have now been able to see the minute book, and I find that the only reference to spliced ringing is in the minutes for the annual meeting at Easter in Ipswich in 1929. A resolution was then passed with one dissentient in these words: 'The splicing of methods is theoretically unsound. But if this departure from strict regularity is allowed, the splicing of extents in five or six bell ringing should be allowed also.'

I cannot remember why this matter arose, nor can I find anyone who remembers it. The minutes say nothing of any discussion at the meeting, but they refer to outside discussion. It looks as though the resolution had something to do with a motion at the forthcoming Central Council meeting.

At any rate, it puts no ban on any kind of ringing. It speaks of the objection to spliced ringing as being theoretical. Which is almost as good as saying that practically—i.e., in actual ringing—there is no objection. Further, it asks for increased facilities (not specified) in splicing five or six bell ringing. Anything more unlike a ban can hardly be imagined.

I was quite right in saying that the Guild has never banned spliced ringing. My memory was a little at fault in saying it had never been mentioned.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

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CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

'TOURS INTO THE UNKNOWN.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—

Oh! Isn't he sweet? My! There's a crooner.
'Sakes'! Turn him off, the quicker the sooner,
All musty 'Tubbs'? No. A glorious 'Ring'!
What a lovely Girl!—(Frowsy old thing).

The above is only another way of setting 'De gustibus,' etc. That old trite saying. For no two of us think absolutely alike, nor do we see, hear or (objectively) smell alike. It is, indeed, one of the great dispensations that this should be so, and we are thankful for it.

Of course, 'Tourist,' in his letter you publish this week, may be doing a bit of 'leg pulling.' We, at a meeting to-day, mostly thought so. He provided, however, a good laugh, and that alone is something to be thankful for at the present time.

But, as once a lecturer upon architecture, I am inclined to look deeper. Such letters are a sign of the times, when the reckless rush in where, from their very knowledge, the more timorous fear to tread. I would recall to 'Tourist' that architecture is the 'mother of the arts.' A living ideal worshipped through the ages by her devotees. Always changing, it reflects To-day, tells us of Yesterday and even hints at our To-morrow. We elders of the World of Building naturally treat the art with great respect (be it Classic, Gothic or whatever it will).

Michael Angelo, Raphael, De Vinci astound us by their mastery of all the arts ('there were giants in those days'). Their follower, Christopher Wren, was of such stuff and, like them, he was many-sided—scientist, astronomer, architect!—the latter thrust upon him in middle age. Unfortunately, he has left us few works out of London, and there we can spare none. No. Not even St. Paul's.

By the way, returning to the original vein, did 'Tourist' mistake that classic pile for a house of legislature?

E. ALEXANDER YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (ret.).

FIRST APPEARANCES SOMETIMES DECEPTIVE.

Dear Sir,—When I first visited London to ring, my feelings about the appearance of London's churches were very much the same as 'Tourist's,' but during the few years I have done some ringing in the Metropolis, I have learned that first appearances are sometimes deceptive.

'Tourist' does not say outright quite what sort of buildings he would have liked the churches of London to be, but I have a suspicion that he favours the typical English church one finds in town and village.

All will agree that the village church, surrounded by green fields, is a picture of beauty, and it will be freely admitted that if St. Martin-in-the-Fields or St. George-the-Martyr were set in similar surroundings they would look hideous. If the position were reversed, however, and the village church or one of our fine old cathedrals were set in the heart of London and surrounded by flats and offices, as St. Martin's and St. George's are, they would look equally ridiculous.

'Tourist' can call London's churches guildhalls, corn exchanges or town halls if he likes, but somehow they fit in with London itself, which I presume is what the architects intended.

No doubt the new churches of London will be designed to suit the rebuilt London, and I anticipate that 'Tourist' will be sadly disappointed if he expects them to be like the village church 'within a hallowed acre.'

I have heard many arguments about London bells by ringers who know them well, but I have never heard anyone describe Bow bells (either old or new) as 'a poor lot.'

I have no doubt that most of London's ringers feel very resentful of the fierce criticism levelled at the towers and bells which have become part of their ringing life, and although I am by no means a London ringer, I can appreciate their feelings. J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford, Kent.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL TOWER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Wars certainly play strange things and bring out some peculiar questions. One such question comes to my mind, after reading in 'The Ringing World' of May 30th that, despite the destruction of Coventry Cathedral, the tower and bells still stand.

Practically everyone knows the story of this tower—how in 1927 it was not supposed to be strong enough to withstand the old bells being rehung and used as a ringing peal. Does not the terrible bombardment Coventry and this Cathedral has recently had to endure go to prove that this supposition was unfounded?

'TEST CASE No. 1.'

While it is true the tower of Coventry Cathedral, like the towers of so many other damaged churches, is still standing, it must be borne in mind that there has, as yet, been no report as to how far it has been damaged.

The famous tower of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, withstood the bombardment which destroyed the church and most of the buildings around it, but it is now stated that it may have to be demolished, as, with the western front, it is left leaning at an angle over Cheap-side.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

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.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Ramsey on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. at the Vicarage. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. A good bus service from Colchester via Mistley. Visitors coming by car must obtain their permits before entering the defence area. — Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, on Saturday, June 14th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea about 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City and Bristol Rural Branches.—A combined meeting of the two Branches will be held at Almondsbury on Sat., June 14th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and meetings to follow at 5 p.m. Darts and handbells will be available for those who wish to show their skill. All heartily welcome. Buses from the centre (Gas Company's premises) at frequent intervals.—R. C. Gifford, Rural Sec., A. M. Tyler, Bristol City Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Grimsby District will be held at Barton-on-Humber on Saturday, June 14th. Eight silent bells available afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Business meeting at 6 o'clock in the Assembly Rooms. Tea cannot be arranged, so please make own arrangements. I hope all members and friends will do their best to attend.—H. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., 394, Wellington Street, Grimsby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 21st, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. Members and friends attending are requested to meet at the Village, Merstham, at 3 p.m. From there it is proposed to walk to Reigate via Gatton Park. Service at Reigate Church at 5 p.m. Following the service, Mr. M. A. Northover has very kindly offered to provide tea and his house and garden will be at the disposal of the association for the purpose of the meeting. Will those who require tea please notify me by Tuesday, the 17th inst.? Don't forget caterers are rationed too! So if you intend to be present please send that card.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) **AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD**.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. Numbers for tea by Thursday, June 19th, please, to B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. —The summer meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock, names to Mr. W. E. Dransfield, 21, Westgate, Almondbury, not later than Tuesday, June 17th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — The annual joint meeting of Southern District, Barnsley and District and Doncaster and District Societies will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea 1s. 6d. each, Warburton's Café, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Those requiring tea **must** notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, nr. Rotherham, not later than June 18th. Hoping for a good attendance.—S. F. Palmer, D. Smith and E. Cooper, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at the George Hotel, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 21st. Committee meeting at 6 p.m. and general meeting at 6.30. Handbells. Subscriptions are now due.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Bergh Apton on Saturday, June 21st. Six silent tower bells available from 2.15 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 4.45 at the Rectory, followed by business meeting. Names for tea as soon as possible to the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, The Rectory, Bergh Apton, Norwich.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.—The annual meeting will be held at Vernon House, Friar Lane, Nottingham, on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available from 2.30 p.m. All ringers invited. Own arrangements for tea.—I. B. Thompson, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held, by kind permission of Miss L. Clapcott, on the lawn at Bradford Peverell, on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering. Kindly notify for tea by Monday, June 16th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual general meeting will be held at Gravesend (D.V.) on Saturday, June 28th. Committee meeting at St. George's Church at 3 p.m. Association service at 4, conducted by the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate). Tea and business meeting at 5 at the Town Hall, by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor, who will preside. Tea (free)

will be provided only for those members who notify me before Tuesday, June 24th, to allow arrangements to be made with the Food Control Committee. Travelling allowance up to 2s. 6d. will be allowed to practising members notifying and attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — A meeting at Shrewsbury will be held on June 28th. Assemble at St. 'Chad's at 3 p.m. Please note change of address.—W. A. Farmer, 70, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury.

BIRTHS.

SIBLEY.—At 77, Caxton Street, Market Harborough, to Vera (née Freeman), wife of H. E. Sibley, R.A.F., late of 26, Addison Road, Coventry, on May 27th, the gift of a son. Both well.

KEY.—To Marion, wife of Staff/Sgt. B. G. Key, R.A.O.C., on June 8th, 1941, at Burton-on-Trent—a daughter.

DEATH.

BIBBY.—On June 3rd, at Chester Royal Infirmary, William, the beloved husband of Elizabeth and father of John Edward, Francis and Norah M. Bibby, of London Road, Frodsham, Cheshire.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

A VARIATION OF T. CARTER'S NO. 11.

Treble the observation.

2314567	S	H	L	Q
3247561			x	9S
2567431	x	x		
4537261	x			
5267341	x	x		
2347651	x	x		
3657421	x	x		
6427531	x	x		
5437621	x			
4627351	x	x		
6357241	x	x		
2764351	x	x		11S
5462731	x	x		
3265471	x	x		
7345261	x	x	x	
6547321	x	x		
3745621			x	
2543761		x	x	
6342571		x	x	
7652341		x	x	x
4257631		x	x	

Last five courses eight times repeated, calling extra 12.13 in second course of 2nd and 7th repetitions (22nd and 47th courses of peal). Round 12th six of 60th course.

First rung, on the back eight, at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on January 15th, 1903, conducted by C. E. Borrett.

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Herbert Drake has missed the point. It is easy to correct what in an ordinary bell we should call quick or slow striking. The difficulty is to reproduce in an apparatus the variations (if there are any) of the rate of striking by a single bell, caused by the greater or less arc in which the bell is swung.

MAURICE CLARKE.

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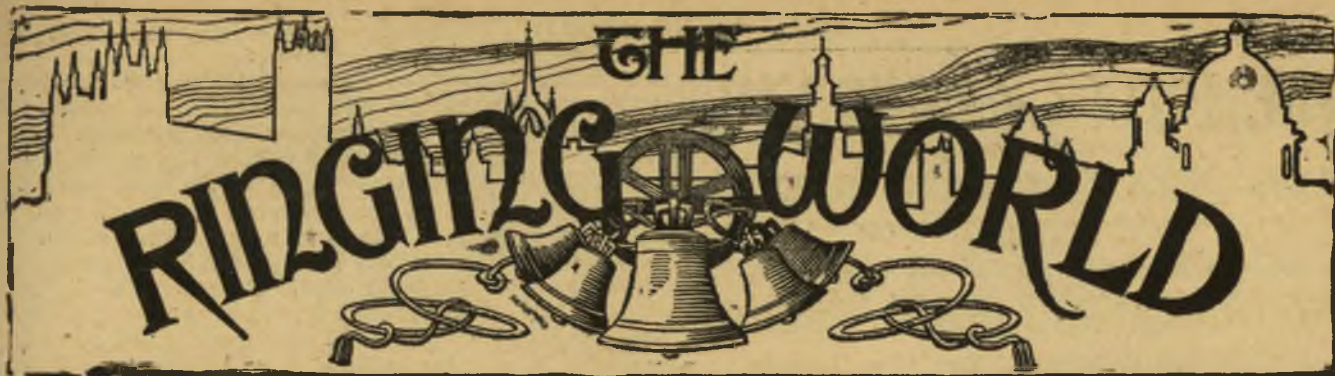
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A YEAR OF THE BAN.

It is just a year since the ban on the ringing of church bells was imposed by the Ministry of Home Security, in order that the use of the bells might be kept exclusively to give warning of air invasion. At the time the regulation was made the attempted invasion of our shores, either from the sea or air or both, seemed to be imminent; the enemy, however, has not yet found it convenient to try conclusions in what would probably prove his final death struggle, but the possibility still hangs over this land, and until the threat disappears the bells for all ordinary purposes must remain silent.

Many others, besides ringers, disliked the ban; they missed the cheering sounds of the bells on Sundays particularly, and they found that the order not only robbed them of a familiar background of generations of parochial life, but seemed unnecessary in the extent of its restrictiveness. No representations, however, even from the highest quarters, have succeeded in getting the ban eased by one iota and it can only be concluded that the Government still believe that the sounding of the church bells will be the most effective call to arms in the case of air borne invasion. No one who knows anything about bells and the ringing of them has this illusion, but it seems fairly obvious that, as long as there is even the remotest possibility of enemy troops landing from the air, so long will the ban remain.

The most remarkable thing about it is still the fact that if and when they hear church bells sounded, the public have no notion what they are to do. We have been told in a recent leaflet recently distributed to every household that when church bells are rung 'it is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question,' and that the ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches. After the recent experiences in Crete the futility of this proceeding, which, be it remembered, may be carried out only 'in accordance with directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's forces or the chief officer of police for the area,' must be blatantly apparent to all but those obsessed with the idea that in these days church bells chimed can be heard far and wide over the countryside, even assuming that the chiming can be done in time to be of the least use to 'the local garrison.'

But why labour the point? As ringers we know how ineffective this alarm will be, both through the delay that must in most cases inevitably happen in sounding it and from the limitation of the area in which it will be audible. All the arguments, which we have from

(Continued on page 290.)

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time to time put forward to show how little worth while
is this complete ban on bells for the purpose visualised
by the makers of the order, remain unchallenged.

What of ringing under the ban? It has received, as
was obvious from the outset must be the case, a tragic
setback. Associations, most of them, have made heroic
efforts to keep their organisation intact, but most of
them have suffered badly. It is not only the demands
of the Services that have depleted their ranks—in the
majority of cases these ringers have been kept upon the
roll—but they have lost heavily by the slipping away of
men who, having no bells to ring, have had their in-
terest sapped both in ringing and in the associations.
Splendid work has been put in by many officials in their
endeavours to keep the members together by organising
periodical meetings. These gatherings have not, of
course, attracted as many ringers as in pre-ban days,
but, where they have been held, they have been, we
think, fully justified; and if they are continued they will
help in the recovery after the war. The longer the ban
lasts the more difficult it will be, but those who are
looking to the future realise that unless some kind of
touch is kept with the towers and the ringers who re-
main, reorganisation later is going to be a long and
formidable business.

Apart from the task which lies before association
officials, however, there is a personal responsibility rest-
ing on all the members. They should feel it a matter of
duty and honour to continue their support of the asso-
ciation to which they are attached. Lack of means in
these days, when there is work for everyone, cannot be
advanced as a reason for backsliding, as it was in the
days of depression. More probably, the large number
of unpaid subscriptions which every association is now
deploring is due to want of thought, and we would urge
all those who wish our art well and who have taken an
interest in ringing in the past to rally in these most
difficult days to the support of their associations, first
by maintaining their subscriptions and secondly by at-
tending, even at some inconvenience, the meetings which
are arranged. At present, it would seem that it is more
than ever the 'stalwarts' who are carrying the load.
To-day we are all trying to share one another's burdens,
let all ringers show their loyalty to their art by helping
to lighten the burden of those who are striving so
valiantly to carry on the ringing associations, so that
the ban will, at least, not be allowed to break down en-
tirely the machinery of the Exercise.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 9, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	HAROLD HOWSON	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 11, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-One Minutes,
IN THE PARISH ROOM,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5160 CHANGES;

Being 43 extents. Tenor size 11 in G.
LEONARD T. SHEASBY 1-2 | GEORGE R. H. SMITH 3-4
CHARLES ROUSE 5-6

Conducted by GEORGE R. H. SMITH.

First peal on handbells by all. First peal as conductor.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 281.)

THE LEGITIMATE METHODS COMMITTEE.

On the Methods Committee much could be written which would be both instructive and entertaining. For many years it was one of the most prominent features of the Council's meetings, it was the focus of strong and keenly contested controversies, it was responsible for the largest number of the Council's publications, and it bore a leading part in the causes which led to the great development and advance in method ringing during recent years. Much of its influence in the latter was indirect, but it was none the less real. Almost all its early activities were occupied with discussions and disputes stubbornly fought out in the Council, in the columns of the ringing papers, by private correspondence, and by personal contact.

Of all dead and dry dust and ashes, none are so dead and dry as the ashes of burnt out controversies. Who now cares anything for the hot and violent things that were said and written fifty or sixty years ago about Home Rule for Ireland? Who reads, or even tries to read any of the hundreds of books on controversial theology whose titles take up so much space in the catalogue of a great library? Yet the issues once were alive and the fires burnt fiercely, nor was the heat altogether dissipated and lost. So it has been in the Exercise. The clever young men of to-day, when they come across any of the old controversies in the pages of 'The Bell News,' or the reports of the early Council meetings, wonder what all the pother was about. To them the answers to the questions in dispute seem so obvious and hardly worth troubling about. Yet it was by means of those discussions and controversies that the life of the Exercise was maintained.

The great mass of ringers, of course, were not interested. They had other matters to think about, and cared for none of those things. They had two words for the few who did care; sometimes they called them 'faddists,' and sometimes they called them 'experts.' Neither was a good name. The few were not faddists to any great extent, and they certainly were not experts. They were a handful of enthusiastic men who were trying to find out something about the truths which lie behind the science of ringing, and who were groping more or less blindly in the dark. Some followed will-o'-the-wisps; some thought their own penny rushlights were the sun; and some lost their ways in the dark. But something was gained and has been added to the common heritage of the Exercise.

The appointment of the committee was one of the results of the attempt by the early leaders of the Council to tidy up things, and to reduce to law and order the chaotic condition in which (as they supposed) the science and art of change ringing had grown up. The urge among many ringers to be known as composers had led them to produce and publish methods of all sorts. It was a pleasant and an easy way of gaining fame; for once the art of pricking changes had been learnt, it was a simple thing to 'compose' methods, and as harmless a diversion as solving cross-word puzzles. When it was done no one was a penny the better or a penny the worse; for in those days the chances of a new method being rung were very remote indeed. If these people had torn up their papers or kept the figures to themselves, nothing could or would

have been said; but they often managed to get them published in 'The Bell News' and thereby claimed to take a place among the men who have really done something for the science of change ringing. That sort of thing offended Heywood and those who thought as he did. He considered it degraded the art and lowered its standards. Something must be done to stop the output of this mass of rubbish and a sharp line must be drawn between what were called 'legitimate' methods and what were called 'illegitimate.' A few years later, in 1903, when he returned to the same theme, the Council passed, at his direction, a resolution declaring that 'in the opinion of the Council the publication of palpably false compositions and worthless methods reflects discredit on their composers.'

To that opinion everybody might have been expected to give an assent; but it did not go very far, since no one would be likely to publish methods if he considered them worthless. How was he to know? And by what standard were other people to judge?

It was to answer these questions that the Legitimate Methods Committee had been appointed. They were expected to lay down a few clear and precise rules which everybody could understand and apply, and so put a stop to the publication of rubbish.

The question was first brought before the Council by Earle Bulwer at the Norwich meeting in 1899. It is, I think, most likely that when he and Heywood discussed the agenda and the subjects to be debated they decided that this was a suitable one to bring forward, and so Bulwer introduced it without more consideration than was necessary to make a good opening statement. Both he and Heywood had pretty clear general ideas of what should be allowed; both knew a good deal about the methods then rung; and neither thought there would be any difficulty in finding the few necessary rules. They did not realise, however, that only the tiniest fraction of possible methods had been examined, and they had not the least suspicion that there might be some really fundamental scientific laws which govern the production of methods.

So when he made his speech and gave what he thought might be the rules for method composition, Bulwer did not put them forward as more than a basis for discussion. His conditions may be read in an article in 'The Ringing World' of January 28th last. They are of interest only as showing the general opinions of leading men at the time.

The subject did not evoke much interest in the Council, and few members took part in the discussion; but Henry Law James introduced what he considered was a really scientific definition of a method, and one round which the required rules could be drawn up. He asked for a committee to deal with the matter. It was duly appointed and consisted of James himself, Henry Dains, John Carter, Arthur Craven, and myself. Bulwer and Heywood were invited to join, but neither was willing to form part of a committee which quite evidently would be dominated largely by Law James. Bulwer, however, reserved his right as secretary of the Council to intervene if he thought fit, and he actually did so.

On paper the committee was a strong one, but its strength was largely illusory. From the beginning, in fact, it hardly existed at all as a committee. One or two members took no part in its work, and the others were quickly resolved into a number of jarring and

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

warring individuals. There never was any co-operation, and it was well there was not; for more good came out of the disputes than would have come out of agreement. It is well to pool your knowledge and experience when your knowledge is real knowledge; but when it is not, it is better to disagree.

John Carter and Arthur Craven took no part in the committee's work and discussion, and retired after some years.

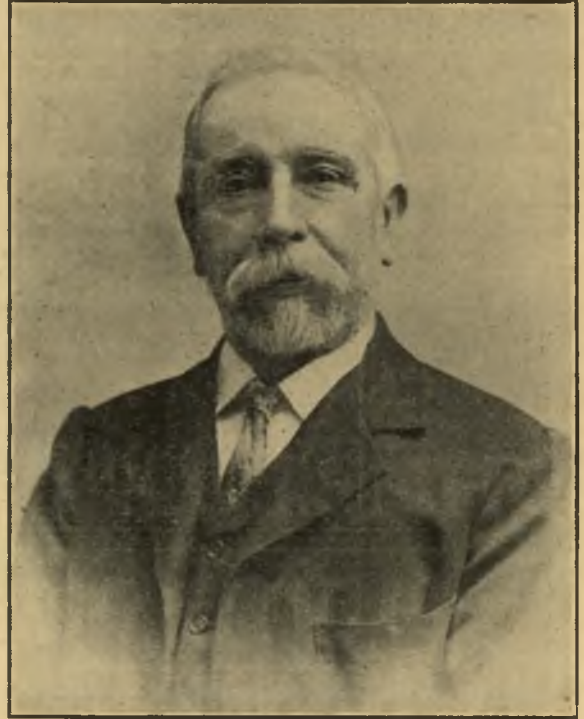
Arthur Craven was a good composer of the second class. He produced many admirable peals, but none of any outstanding merit or value. To-day he is best known as the composer of Surprise Major methods. He devoted much time to working them out, with a great deal of success; but inevitably the best, such as Yorkshire, Pudsey, Rutland, Belgrave, Ealing, and the like, are just those that any competent man is bound to come across, and they have, in fact, been 'composed' by several persons. Craven's gifts and qualifications were not such as to make him of much use for the work of the Methods Committee.

John Carter was a far abler composer than Craven. He made a name which will be remembered as long as change ringing is practised, and it is scarcely necessary to mention the services he rendered to the art. But the brilliant intellectual gifts which enabled him to produce the odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples, and the 'circuits' of Stedman Caters, were not such as would make him useful on a committee. He was like the majority of modern scientists and inventors, an experimental worker, and he was almost inarticulate. He could never explain to others the mental processes by which he achieved his results, and the reason was that he did not know himself. In the technical sense of the word he was not a thinker, and so, though his work was excellent, his opinions were often crude and useless. He did splendid work for the Exercise, but as a member of the Central Council he was a failure.

I have already spoken of Henry Dains and his work on the Peals Collection Committee, but it was in connection with the Methods Committee that I was brought into the closest relationship with him. In dealing with the work these men did for the Council, it is necessary, if I am to write true history, to point out their limitations and shortcomings, and that must create to some extent the impression that I am trying to disparage them. That is not so. I am trying to put on record a true account of the Central Council and its early members. Like human life in general, their work was a fabric woven with wool and web of many colours, dark and light, strength and weakness, knowledge and ignorance, wisdom and foolishness, truth and error were all blended, as they always are in human affairs. There were square pegs in round holes, men who thought they knew and did not know that they did not know, and many more who were sincerely trying with some success and much failure to do something to improve the things belonging to ringing and ringers.

I knew Dains intimately and valued his friendship. I recognised his skill as a ringer and his industry and success as a composer. He was a thoroughly likeable man and a pleasant companion. In abilities and character he was much above the average of his class. His

limitations were due partly to his education, and partly to a natural tendency of his mind. He was born in a remote village in Norfolk and received the very elementary schooling of the village school. He was, of course, not illiterate or anything like it, but he had not the advantages of education that later generations have had. In a general sense that mattered not at all, for he was successful in his trade, and held responsible posi-



THE LATE MR. HENRY DAINS.

tions as clerk of the works on buildings. It did show itself, however, when he came to discuss things with people like Law James. Though he definitely belonged to the older school of London ringers and shared to the full their traditions and prejudices, he was genuinely anxious to range himself on the side of the men who were looking forward. Almost alone among the leading London men he really welcomed the formation of the Council and threw himself wholeheartedly into its work. He was a man of ideas, but by some defect in his mental equipment they almost always remained in a fluid state, and he had really little that was concrete to offer. In his writing and his speeches there were generally the same indefiniteness which made him largely ineffectual. Unlike John Carter, he was a man with whom one could discuss and argue questions, though his limitations were generally obvious. With Carter it was usually impossible to discuss matters. He thought that a thing (say Bob Major Lead Ends) was necessary or it was not; but he could give no good reasons for his opinion. That does not necessarily mean that his opinion was not sound nor based on good reasons.

Henry Dains was for several years an active member of the Methods Committee and took much interest in its proceedings, but his actual contribution to its work was not great.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**FIGHTING FOR EXISTENCE.**

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Kingsley on Saturday, June 7th. Several members and friends were present from Derby, Leek, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Kingsley, Burton-on-Trent, Burslem and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Tea was very kindly prepared for the visitors by the ringers of Kingsley in their homes.

Several touches on handbells were brought round on a very fine peal of handbells, which were a delight to handle.

Such meetings as that at Kingsley will long be remembered by those who attended. If meetings like this can be held during the war, it will help to pave the way to preserving the association.

The hon. secretary (Mr. Andrew Thompson) says, in regard to the continuance of the association during this war, that he would like to appeal to the members, who gave the association so much of their time during much happier days, to try to give a small amount of it now to helping the organisation. He is afraid that, even at the present time, the association is fighting for its existence in the ringing Exercise.

The membership by the end of 1940 was 127, including hon. members, life members and the members serving in H.M. Forces, and only about 8 per cent. of the members are attending the meetings each month. If it were not for a faithful few the association would have to disband, and after the war it would mean many years of hard work to bring the association to the standard of pre-war days.

The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, July 5th, and it will be very encouraging to the officers to have a good attendance.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING.**

About 24 members attended a meeting of the Management Committee of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, held at the Spreadagle Hotel, Gloucester, on Saturday, June 7th. Mr. S. Romans was elected to the chair, as the Master (the Rev. N. E. Hope) was unable to attend owing to the illness of his wife, who had undergone a serious operation the evening before.

It was decided not to hold an annual meeting this year.

It was resolved to purchase 35 units of War Saving Certificates and to invest a further £21 17s. 1d. from the Belfry Repair Fund in the Post Office Savings Bank.

It was reported that the membership of the association had fallen to 334, and that there had been a loss on the year of £11 13s. Branch receipts had been halved and the expenditure reduced by nearly 50 per cent. The committee are anxious to maintain the present membership, low though it may appear to be, so that a useful start

(Continued in next column.)

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**NORTH BUCKS BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 7th, when some 20 members, together with friends from the Bedfordshire Association, attended. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. L. Milne), and the address was given by the chairman of the branch (the Rev. J. P. Taylor, of Hanslope).

Unfortunately, tea could not be arranged and the business meeting followed the service. The chairman presided, supported by the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master of the Guild).

The balance sheet and the hon. secretary's report were adopted, and officers of the branch were re-elected.

Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford and Hanslope were chosen for quarterly meetings and Bletchley again for the annual meeting.

The Deputy Master complimented the branch on the successful way it was being carried on under difficult circumstances, and said he was pleased to see a good attendance at the meeting.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. J. L. Milne for the welcome extended to the branch and to the chairman for his very inspiring address. The organist was also included in the vote.

Methods and selections on handbells concluded the meeting, a very successful one but for one exception. Something was missing; the general secretary, Mr. R. T. Hibbert, owing to lack of travelling facilities, had to forgo his annual visit to North Bucks.

THURSTANS' REVERSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would just like to state that there is no reflection on Mr. Emery for the statement re the peal at Chislehurst. The result of the correspondence has beyond a doubt proved that the composition called was not the One-Part. With best thanks for your indulgence.

H. H.

(Continued from previous column.)

can be made when the ban is lifted. They strongly urge that, after such a long spell of inactivity, great care should be given to peals of bells before any ringing is resumed, and that some of the bad going bells should receive expert attention.

After the meeting some excellent touches on handbells were rung, including spliced methods, and welcome visitors were Messrs. Wilfred Williams, Caleb Fenn and W. Shorter.

Thanks are due to Mr. John Austin for arranging the meeting and to the handbell ringers on the train to Bristol for their well-struck Grandsire Triples. (Only a ticket collector could spoil such ringing, and he did.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A Sunday meeting is to be held by the Western Division of the Sussex Association at Pulborough on the 29th inst. This is a somewhat new departure and the result will be of considerable interest to others outside the immediate district.

The handbell peal of Bob Major, conducted by Mr. Jack Thomas, on June 9th, was rung as a farewell to one of his pupils. Harold Howson, who is joining the Navy, was in the early Grandsire stage when church bell ringing was suspended, and he took up handbell ringing only five months ago. He has since rung five peals, one of Bob Minor, one of Minor in four methods and one in seven methods, and two peals of Bob Major. He has also rung touches in four plain and eight Treble Bob methods, including Cambridge Surprise. We hope Mr. Howson will return safely to make his further mark in the Exercise when peace is restored.

If any of our readers should know of any ringer living in or near Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. C. Chambers, of 16, Merlin Street, Kensington, Johannesburg, will be glad to have his address.

Fifty years ago next Monday a fire broke out in the Loughborough Foundry and destroyed a large part of the works and the bell tower with its eight bells.

On June 16th, 1816, 5,080 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal were rung at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

Jasper Snowdon was born at Ilkley in Yorkshire on June 18th, 1844.

One hundred and eighty-five years ago to-day a peal of Garthings Trebles was rung on the bells of St. Peter-at-Archies, Lincoln, the church which not long ago was pulled down to widen the street. Garthings Trebles was the original peal of Grandsire Triples composed by John Garthorn, of Norwich.

On June 23rd, 1882, the first peal by the Derby and District Association (Grandsire Triples) was rung at St. Alkmund's, Derby. Later on the association became the Midland Counties Association.

The only peal ever rung on a greater number of bells than twelve was one of 5,055 Stedman Sextuples or Thirteen-in on handbells at Birmingham on June 24th, 1922. Mr. Albert Walker conducted.

Sam Thomas, of Sheffield, died on June 24th, 1924, at the age of 53.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 2.

DEATH OF A PUDSEY RINGER.

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The death has occurred, with tragic suddenness, of Mr. James William Baxendale, of Pudsey, Yorks. Although Mr. Baxendale had not enjoyed the best of health for the past few years, his death was altogether unexpected; in fact, he was in the company of some of his brother ringers on the evening prior to his passing away, and then seemed to be quite his usual self.

Mr. Baxendale will long be remembered for his geniality, his outspoken comments and his love of an argument; no company was ever dull if he was there, and he will be sadly missed when ringing starts again.

He was an excellent ringer, a good striker and a good method man. He was one of the original Surprise band at Pudsey. His total of 26 peals is by no means indicative of his abilities, a big proportion were of Surprise Major, and include the first of Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and Pudsey Surprise on the bells of St. Lawrence's, Pudsey, the latter two being the first in the county of Yorkshire.

Mr. Baxendale was always deeply interested in the affairs of the Leeds and District Society and for some years held office as president. His unorthodox but effective way of controlling a meeting was an inspiration; he believed in getting on with things.

The funeral service was held in the Parish Church, Pudsey, and was attended by many of deceased's ringing friends. At the close of the service four members of the Leeds and District Society, Messrs. J. Thackray, P. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler, rang a course of Grandsire Triples in the nave of the church. The interment took place afterwards at Wortley, Leeds.

'RINGING' ON SILENT BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have recently had my first experience of change ringing on 'silent' bells, i.e., without any type of apparatus. Not only did I find it difficult, but also I am certain that it permits intolerably bad striking to go unchecked.

In my opinion, all towers should be fitted with some efficient but simple and easily constructed apparatus, and so long as it is reliable and constant in itself, it matters little if it only approximates to the sounds of an open clapper. Most of the time gained when 'coming in' is saved at the beginning of the stroke, and the end of the preceding one and the amount the bell rises after the strike (whether of the clapper or the apparatus) only concerns the next stroke.

If the apparatus will operate at a distance below the balance (as certain types will) there is no need to 'drive' the bells, which, as was pointed out some time since in an editorial, makes hard work for the tenors. Such an apparatus would, if anything, improve striking, as even greater care would be called for in timing, and would not only provide practice and instruction for new recruits, but also help to keep the band together—a very important result.

Accrington.

R. LEIGH.

CITY OF LONDON CHURCHES.

FIRE EFFECT ON TOWERS.

Safeguarding of Bells.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A note in your last issue draws attention to the fact that the tower of St. Mary-le-Bow is out of upright, with the alarming suggestion that this may necessitate its demolition.

We need not worry unduly about this. The tower was first found to be 'out of plumb' during construction of the Central London Railway nearly forty years ago, and the movement of the tower ceased with the completion of the tunnelling. History says that Wren made use in his foundations of a 'Roman causeway' which he found on the site; presumably this was affected by the removal of soil and water from below. I do not think the lean of the tower (very marked when seen from the west end of Cheapside) has become greater in the intervening years.

I do not doubt the stability of the tower, but feel some apprehension regarding the effect of fire on Bow and some other London towers, particularly St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Clement's. Portland stone does not stand fire very well, and in these towers are remains of much more ancient structures, so it is possible that they have been weakened by the ordeal. However, the ringers will not have much to say as to whether these towers will eventually be suitable for ringing peals equivalent to those we have lost—that is chiefly a matter for the architects to decide.

Regarding Bow bells, I have failed to get authoritative information, but fear the worst, as one or two pieces of a large bell could be seen at the base of the tower after the disaster.

No steps appear to have been taken to safeguard Bow bells, and I am concerned for the safety of another important twelve, viz., Southwark Cathedral, where the bells have been taken down and deposited on the floor in the north and south transepts. There is now nothing between the bells and the stone vaulting over (covered by a massive timber roof). In the event of a 'direct hit,' therefore, the bells will be precious little safer than when they were in the tower. They should be well packed with sandbags, etc., which need not be a costly business. At St. Clement's the bells were lowered to the bottom of the tower, but no further precautions taken, the result being that when the trouble came practically all were broken by the mass of burning debris from above.

I believe the people who dealt with the bells gave advice in both the above cases; it was not, of course, their business to do anything more, but perhaps some of the church authorities resemble the architects mentioned by Mr. Trollope—rather resentful of advice, particularly when it is proffered by the 'small fry' of the ringing Exercise. Perhaps those of us who are able to speak with some authority could make a deeper impression.

I read lately a letter signed 'Tourist' which at least one of your readers seems inclined to take seriously. I don't think any of us need get 'het up' about this gentleman's opinions, his absurd comparisons and the general tone of his letter proclaim that he has but a superficial knowledge of his subject. I expect he has been so busy 'piling up' towers that he has not given himself time to make more than a casual inspection of any church, in London or elsewhere.

Admittedly there are many ugly churches in London, but this is not peculiar to the Metropolis, and even in the dreariest period of church building some fine churches and towers were built. The London standard has never been lower, but has always been a bit above that of the provinces or of Scotland.

Good churches have appeared in London at all times, even in the 1750 (or St. George's, Southwark) period, and if 'Tourist,' under proper guidance, could study some of the best, he might be able to forgive or forget the ugly ones.

The work of Wren and his immediate followers must not be 'lumped in' with anything that followed. It forms a class of its own. It should be remembered that Wren had to rebuild about fifty churches on their ancient confined sites—usually so closely surrounded with other buildings that little of the exterior could be seen. He, therefore, spent the money at his disposal inside the churches, and externally where the architectural detail could be seen, usually in the steeples. At St. Lawrence Jewry practically all the detail is concentrated in the east end, fortunately still intact. I have always doubted whether the timber and lead steeple of this church was actually the work of Wren. Some people agree with me that the tower has greater dignity without it!

The glory of the City churches (apart from towers, organs and bells) is in the highly expert craftsmanship shown chiefly in carved woodwork, elaborate plaster ceilings, etc. Much of the best, alas! is gone, but some no doubt will survive, and it is to be hoped that in those churches which are eventually restored the best features of the originals will be reproduced. There are craftsmen to-day who can carve wood and model plaster as well as the old ones could—but it takes time—and money! Perhaps some influential bodies with the necessary finances at their disposal will interest themselves in the great work of restoration; this is, I understand, very likely to happen in the case of one important City church.

RICHARD F. DEAL.

9, Crosby Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

THE FUTURE OF THE TOWERS.

PREVIOUS PROPOSALS RECALLED.

Several schemes for the future of the City of London churches, says the 'Daily Telegraph,' await the judgment of the special commission appointed by the Bishop of London, Dr. G. F. Fisher, with Lord Merriman as chairman.

One is to leave towers which are not substantially damaged and clear the rest of the sites if restoration is impracticable.

The position is complicated by the necessity for a new plan for the City. This may involve the total disappearance of some historic churches whether they have been bombed or not.

Proposals to take down certain churches and rebuild them in the suburbs, the correspondent gathers, are not likely to be popular. Similar schemes in the past have been strenuously resisted by those anxious that the City should keep as much as possible of its ancient character.

It will be remembered that some years ago a scheme put forward by a committee, appointed by the late Bishop of London, to dispose of the sites of a number of churches, met with great opposition, even from the City Corporation itself.

The Central Council, too, at their meeting in 1920 passed a resolution on the subject, but on the advice of some of the clergy present, limited their representations to the question of towers and bells. They agreed, on the motion of the late Canon Elsee, after amendments to include references to the churches themselves had been defeated, to urge the desirability of preserving all towers in the City in which there are notable rings of bells.

The list of threatened churches at that time included St. Michael's, Cornhill (12 bells); St. Magnus', London Bridge (10); All Hallows', Lombard Street (10), since demolished; St. Dunstan's-in-the-East; St. Dunstan's-in-the-West; St. Botolph's, Aldgate; St. Stephen's, Coleman Street (all containing 8 bells); and St. Vedast's, Foster Lane (6). Eleven other churches were also included. Some of these, of course, have now been destroyed by enemy action.

If the proposal is adopted to leave towers which are not substantially damaged, even though the rest of the site is cleared if restoration is impracticable, ringers will be keen to know what will happen to the bells where these are still intact or are capable of being replated.

City bells have suffered very badly with the churches, and the future in store for some of the notable rings will be watched, not only with interest, but also with anxiety.

DEATH OF REV. W. PENNINGTON-BICKFORD

RECTOR OF ST. CLEMENT DANES.

London ringers will greatly regret to learn of the death on Thursday of last week, at the age of 66, of the Rev. W. Pennington-Bickford, who had been Rector of St. Clement Danes', Strand, for 31 years. The final destruction of his church by enemy action, says 'The Times,' was a tremendous blow, which may well have proved fatal to him, though only a few days before he died he was planning its restoration after the war.

The son of Rear-Admiral James E. Bickford, he was born at Plymouth and educated at Ashburton Grammar School. In a sketch of his career 'The Times' says he began his long connection with St. Clement Danes' in 1895 as a layman, assisting the Rev. J. J. H. S. Pennington, the then Rector, as a voluntary organist. After four years at Clare College, Cambridge, he was ordained to the curacy of St. Clement Danes' in 1905, and was also churchwarden. In 1907 he married the Rector's daughter, Miss Louie Pennington, and added Pennington to his surname by deed poll.

In 1910, when the living fell vacant, he was appointed Rector. To both the Rector and his wife—and it is difficult to separate one from the other—the church was their absorbing interest. They made it also a centre of church and classical music, when the Rector formed an orchestra which gave frequent concerts.

The ancient church, which is of Danish and Saxon origin, was regarded as the parish church of Danes in London.

Oranges and lemons have long been associated in nursery rhyme with St. Clement's, and an annual oranges and lemons service was instituted by the Rector. Members of the Danish community subscribed yearly towards the cost of the fruit, which was handed to little St. Clement Danes' children by little Danish children. The church was also Australia's church in London, and the first Anzac Day commemoration service was held there on April 25th, 1920. Dr. Johnson worshipped in St. Clement Danes', and the Rector instituted a service on the anniversary of his death (December 13th) in 1973, which has since been held annually under the auspices of the Johnson Club. He founded the Johnson Society of London in 1929.

The Rector was chaplain to the London County Association, which, established in 1824 as the St. James' Society at St. James', Clerkenwell, moved its headquarters to St. Clement Danes' in 1839. He frequently attended the annual meetings of the association.

He restored the 'Bells of St. Clement's,' which are known all over the world through the nursery rhyme, and they were opened by Queen Alexandra in 1919. For this occasion Mrs. Bickford wrote a special hymn, which the Rector set to music.

It was at this church in 1919 that the first peal by the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England was rung. Mr. Bickford took a great interest in the performance and arranged an impressive service on the occasion of the dedication of the peal board.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SATISFACTORY FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Late Mr. George Dent's Bequest.

The sixty-second annual meeting of the Essex Association was held at Chelmsford on Saturday, May 31st, when upwards of 45 members attended. Service was held in the Cathedral at 4 p.m., and in the course of his address the Provost (the Very Rev. W. E. R. Morrow) said: 'There will be a lot of work for the bellmakers after the war. When the time comes the bells will be rung with greater fervour than ever before. A great many people miss the message of the bells. Your bells are democratic. They are rung for the King as well as the lowliest in the land. So, ring on, brothers, in spirit, if you cannot ring the material bells. When victory comes you will ring in those years of peace which we hope will follow.'

The Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer Phillips, J.P., presided at the meeting which followed in the Chapter House, and in his report said: 'Owing to the conditions under which we now live, this, the 62nd annual report, is not very encouraging, since the use of tower bells for the practice of our art has been prohibited. However, we still have handbells, and their use is very instructive and should be made more use of than is at present the custom.'

THE YEAR'S STATISTICS.

Members for the year, he stated, showed a decrease of six, there being 65 hon. members, 725 ringing members, and 281 non-resident members, and there are 102 towers in union. District meetings had been held at Earls Colne, Witham, Bocking, Broomfield, Great Baddow, Tendring, Kirby-le-Soken, Ardleigh, All Saints', Colchester, and Epping. The average attendance at all these meetings was 27, but at Epping an excellent attendance of 70 was attained and 20 new members were elected.

The following peals were rung during 1940: Bob Royal 1, Superlative Surprise Major 1, New Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Bob Major 1, Minor in 7 methods 1; on handbells, Bob Royal 1, Bob Major 2, Grandsire Doubles 4; the conductors being F. Lufkin 4, C. W. Woolley 4, P. Green 1, J. A. Bullock 2, J. Bullock 1, U. W. Wildney 1, L. W. Wiffen 1, with one peal of Grandsire Doubles non-conducted. One member rang his first peal and four their first in the method.

The Master regretted to record the death of the following members: George Dent, of Harlow, many years Master of the North-Western District; R. Hutson, of Maldon; G. B. Lucas, of Walthamstow; S. Bingham and G. F. Smith, of Rayleigh; W. Coppin, of Halstead; G. T. Bartram, J.P., of Braintree, an hon. life member; Alfred Howell, of Ipswich, a non-resident member well known for his work in rebanging various peals throughout the county; G. Perry, of Loughton; and J. Corney, of Woodford, who was killed in action in Africa while serving with the R.A.F. shortly after receiving the D.F.M.

The accounts continued to be satisfactory; there had been no grant during the year from the Bell Restoration Fund, which now had a balance of £89 2s. 8d.

Through the generosity of Mr. W. J. Nevard, a board had been erected and consecrated at Great Baddow Church to commemorate a peal of Double Norwich rung half-muffled in memory of the late Mr. C. H. Howard.

The Master concluded by thanking the district masters and secretaries and the general secretary for all their work and the committee for their help.

On the general account there was a balance of £235 13s. 8d., 25 6s. 8d. less than in the previous year. The receipts had been £45 13s. 4d., of which £36 15s. 9d. was from the districts and £8 17s. 7d. from interest. The expenses, which included £7 7s. 1d. transferred to the Bell Restoration Fund, amounted to £51.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the following officers were elected: Master, Dr. P. T. Spencer Phillips, J.P.; secretary and treasurer, Mr. L. J. Clark; peal secretary, Mr. L. W. Wiffen; trustees, Messrs. G. Green, E. J. Runter and H. W. Shadrack; auditors, Messrs. R. C. Heazel and E. J. Butler; Central Council representatives, Messrs. J. Cornford, E. J. Butler and G. R. Pye and Miss H. G. Snowden.

Messrs. W. Spokes (Danbury), R. Sharpington (Galleywood) and J. French (Earls Colne) were elected life members of the association.

INTEREST ON £600 FOR HARLOW RINGERS.

The Hon. Secretary referred to the will of the late Mr. George Dent, of Harlow Common, under which the sum of £600 had been left in trust to pay the income to the ringers of St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Potter Street, Harlow, according to their attendance and punctuality so long as they carried on the art of scientific change ringing at that church, but for no other kind of ringing or chiming whatever. Should the practice of scientific change ringing cease to be carried on at the said church, the income of the fund is to be paid to the Essex Association of Change Ringers.

Mr. Clark said that the £600 had already been paid over to the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance and that the income from the fund would be from £18 to £20 a year. He expressed the hope that the Harlow Common ringers would continue for many years to practise the art, but the association should keep the matter in mind so that if at some future time change ringing should be discontinued at Harlow Common they could see that the income was dealt with in accordance with the late Mr. Dent's wishes.

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF EX-SERGT. J. WILLIAMS.

A WELL-KNOWN GLOUCESTERSHIRE RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of ex-Sergt. Joseph Williams, which took place at his residence, Oak Wood, Newent, Gloucestershire, on Tuesday, June 10th, at the age of 88. He leaves a son and three daughters to mourn their loss, his wife having predeceased him about two years ago after a married life of some 67 years.

Ex-Sergt. Joseph Williams was born at Coln St. Alwyn's, Gloucestershire, in the year 1852. At the age of 18 he joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary, and after serving in different parts of the county went to Newent as sergeant in charge of the Newent Petty Sessional Division in 1891, retaining this position until he retired in 1903, after serving 32 years in the force. On his retirement he was presented by the chairman of the Bench with a testimonial and a purse of £50, which had been subscribed by the townspeople of Newent. Up to the last he was affectionately known to many friends as 'The Sergeant.'



THE LATE MR. J. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams after leaving the police was appointed school attendance officer for the Newent district and held this post for 19 years, retiring at the age of 70.

Although Mr. Williams did not take up ringing until he was 60 years of age, he made rapid progress and soon mastered the standard methods. He rang 125 peals in all, consisting of Triples, Major, Caters and Cinques. His last peal was Bob Major at St. Lawrence's Church, Barnwood, on June 3rd, 1939, the average age of the ringers being 74½ years and Mr. Williams being in his 87th year, a remarkable achievement of which he was very proud. It was no fault of his that he did not ring further peals.

Mr. Williams also took a great interest in tune ringing and was never happier than when with his old friend John Austin manipulating four bells in hand to a tune or sitting back to back and tapping off a course of Grandsire Triples. He was a regular attendant at all district meetings, and his cheery countenance, his erect figure and his happy disposition will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Deep sympathy will be extended to his son and three daughters, one of whom (Mrs. Tyndall) was bereaved by the loss of her husband only a few days before the death of her father.

The funeral service was held at St. Mary's Church, Newent, on Friday, and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. J. K. Burnell). The coffin was met at the entrance to the church by the Vicar and surpliced choir, of which Mr. Williams had been a member for nearly 50 years, a processional hymn being sung as the cortege proceeded to the chancel, where handbells were rung for a few moments. During the service the anthem, 'O rest in the Lord,' was sung, the solo being beautifully rendered by Mr. D. O'Shea, a member of the choir. At the conclusion of the service handbells were rung in the porch as the coffin and mourners passed through, and at the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by J. W. Jones 1-2, S. E. Romans 3-4, J. Austin 5-6, W. H. Harris 7-8.

In addition to the family mourners and friends, there were present representing the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association the Rev. N. Hope, Master; Ross and Hereford, Mr. J. Clark and Mr. W. Poston; Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, Mr. J. W. Jones; South Forest Branch, Lydney, of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, Mr. J. Davis; Ancient Society of Crypt Youths, Messrs. J. Austin, H. Austin, W. H. Harris and S. E. Romans. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the Ancient Society of Crypt Youths, Gloucester.

(Continued from previous column.)

Votes of thanks were passed to the Master and general secretary for their work during the year, to the Provost for allowing the use of the Cathedral and Chapter House, and to Mr. F. R. Frye for his services at the organ.

Following the meeting, 43 members had tea at Cannon's Restaurant. Handbells and eight silent tower bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, June 8th, at 58, Lychgate Lane, 504 Grandsire Triples: Pte. A. J. Adams, R.A.O.C. (conductor) 1-2, A. Ballard 3-4, F. K. Measures 5-6, W. J. Clough 7-8. Rung as a farewell to Pte. Adams after an attempt for a quarter-peal had been lost near the end. Practices are held on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock and on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. at Stedman, 128, Sketchley Road, Burbage.

PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

DIFFICULTIES OF INCLUSION IN ASSOCIATION REPORTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As a general secretary with many years' experience, may I be allowed to add to, and perhaps criticise, the very interesting points brought out in Mr. Barton's letter?

Solely from the point of view of keeping a complete record, the insistence of the Yorkshire Association on publication in the annual reports of all compositions is to be commended. There are occasions when it is very unsatisfactory not to know what composition has been rung in a particular peal. As Mr. Barton states, no composer can be entirely trusted not to make a mistake, and when, as sometimes happens, a false composition is discovered, it is difficult, and perhaps impossible, for associations to be sure whether or not this particular peal has been rung and included in its records.

A few years ago, when the Middlesex Association's rules were revised, a rule was adopted which provides that the composition of any peal rung must be forwarded to the secretary, unless it is apparent from the report of the peal in the ringing Press what the composition actually is. Several associations have a somewhat similar rule, and many endeavour to publish the compositions. But there are difficulties, and it is the realisation of these which doubtless is the reason why the officials of many associations, especially when rules do not cover the point, make no effort to collect the figures of peals rung.

Amongst these difficulties is the question of expense. Annual reports cost a great deal of money, and many associations cannot possibly afford the pages that would be necessary to publish the compositions of even a selection of the peals rung. Thus at once the record is incomplete. Another difficulty is the slackness of conductors, and I think I can speak with experience of this matter. A peal may be rung in the early part of the year covered by the annual report, and unless the official responsible for collecting compositions is continually on the alert, it is quite possible that it is not until several months later that he finds the composition has not been sent to him. On enquiry, the conductor has *forgotten* what composition he called, or has mislaid the figures. That is only one instance of many in connection with the difficulty of collecting compositions.

Another difficulty, although not a very important one, is the question of originality. It requires an expert to decide whether a particular composition is the work of 'B,' or previously of 'A,' and during my several years' experience I have received many rather critical letters on this point.

The greatest difficulty of all, however, is the question of proof. Mr. Barton, at the end of his interesting letter, asks the following question, 'How many associations could claim an unblemished peal list if all their records were checked?' I think the answer is that very few associations have been fortunate enough to avoid ringing false peals. But I would like to put *this* question, 'How many false compositions have been rung a second or a third time, or even on several occasions, through being published in an association report?' I suggest that the answer to this question is an unknown quantity.

It should be remembered that an association report has a wide circulation, and many get into the hands of conductors who are quite likely to use the figures of peals published therein. I wonder how many times the compositions referred to by Mr. Barton have been rung through being published in his association's reports, and rung not only for the Yorkshire Association. Even if the falseness is immediately discovered and pointed out through the ringing Press or through a subsequent report, the figures in many copies of the original still remain uncorrected, and may easily be rung again and again.

The question is not only one of 'keeping a record.' It is also one of seeing that the records are true, before publication. This is a job for an expert, who is not always available. It has, however, during the last few years been tackled by the association of which I am secretary. I am quite aware of the difficulty, but it does appear to me that before an association publishes a composition it should be checked.

Before leaving this matter there is one more thought that comes to my mind. Some years ago I heard a well-known ringer-composer say that it was a great pity that the falseness of the Southwark Cathedral long peal of Stedman Cinques was discovered, and, having heard most of that performance, I felt inclined to agree. There is an old saying, 'Where ignorance is bliss, etc.,' and perhaps this is the answer to Mr. Barton's final question, to which I have already referred. On the other hand, perhaps it is not, so I still feel that associations should face up to this matter, and, whilst making every endeavour to keep their records complete, at the same time see that they are true.

C. T. COLES.

Hon. Sec., Middlesex County Association.

DEATH OF CANON G. H. RIDOUT.

HIS WORK FOR RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Many of our readers, and particularly members of Cambridge University Guild, will regret to hear of the death in Johannesburg on May 5th of Canon G. H. Ridout, at the age of 69 years, after a comparatively short illness, which began with influenza and eventually developed into pneumonia.

Change ringing in South Africa has never flourished. Isolated efforts have been made occasionally in the few places where there are rings of bells to give it a foothold, with only fleeting success, but Canon Ridout, in a city without any peal of bells, continued his efforts to cultivate change ringing on handbells over a long period of years in face of many disappointments and almost insurmountable difficulties.

From time to time he has succeeded in getting a band together and some progress was made, only to see hopes dashed by the departure of some member of the limited little company which he formed. He did, however, succeed in ringing three peals of Bob Minor on handbells at various times in South Africa.

A few years ago he enlisted the interest of two or three mission sisters and a promising advance was made for a time, but was not sustained. More lately the arrival in Johannesburg of Mr. C. Chambers led to a revival of handbell ringing. He came in contact with Canon G. H. and Miss Ridout, and Bob Minor was successfully practised, although Mr. Chambers had previously had little experience of handbells. Since then Canon Ridout, Miss Ridout, Mr. Chambers and his wife have been practising Graudsire Triples, and the death of the leader of the party is a severe blow, which threatens to put an end to the operations, although it is sincerely to be hoped that every effort will be made to carry on.

Canon Ridout was at Selwyn College, Cambridge, in the early nineties of last century and joined Cambridge University Guild, of which he was treasurer in 1893, the year in which the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn was secretary. Canon Ridout had been in South Africa for about thirty years, but he visited England in 1929 and was able to join the members of the Guild in their celebration of its jubilee and to meet many of his old friends of undergraduate days. He had been a regular reader of 'The Ringing World' from the start of this paper, and although he was separated by thousands of miles from the old country, his interest in ringing was as great as if he had lived in England all his life.

DEATH OF A WATH RINGER.

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE BARNESLEY SOCIETY.

The death occurred on May 23rd of Mr. Charles Walsh at the age of 63 years. He was interred in Darfield Churchyard on May 27th.

Mr. Walsh was a native of Darfield and was one of the local ringers for a great number of years. Later, however, he joined the Wath company, with which he did the majority of his method and peal ringing in many Minor methods. He was a member of the Yorkshire Association, which he joined in 1907. He was also a member of the local societies within the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, but he was chiefly associated with the Barnsley and District Society, being one of the first ringers to join when it was founded in 1909.

He was elected vice-president in 1914 and became president in 1920. He rang in all 21 peals and conducted one. He was always at the heavy end, and this was a man's job at Wath on the old six.

Deceased had not been seen in ringing circles for a long time, as he had suffered from an illness nine years ago, since when he had been an inmate of an institution.

At the funeral ringers were present from Rotherham Parish, Wath and Darfield. The only regret was that owing to working hours it was not possible to arrange for handbells to be rung in church.

FIRES AND BELL FRAMES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to A.F.S. asking about iron bell frames in times of fire, may I say that at Bromham, Bedfordshire, the old heavy six were put into an iron frame in 1903. On September 11th, 1906, after practice, a fire was discovered, and before it was put out the tower was gutted. Only the frame and bells remained. The frame was passed as fit and is still in use. The bells were recast, as water had cracked them. We had them in use again in April, 1907.

P. INSKIP.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

TEN AND TWELVE BELL METHODS.

In our last article we said that, generally speaking, Surprise methods are very unsuitable for Royal and Maximus ringing. It is a statement which is pretty certain to be strongly contradicted and especially among those ten and twelve bell ringers whose experience justly entitles them to have an opinion on the matter. They will point to the fact that almost all the development and improvement of ringing on the higher numbers have been in Surprise methods, and they will instance Cambridge and Yorkshire as two which have fully made good their position, and which are likely to advance rather than to recede in popularity.

All that we fully acknowledge. We do not deny the popularity of those methods nor their usefulness; but it may be worth while to consider ten and twelve bell ringing as a whole, and see if the best is really being made of it. In the first place, there is no doubt that the reason why some methods are rung is because of the glamour which belongs to the word Surprise, especially when it is coupled with the name of some method with a great reputation on eight bells. Peals of Superlative and London Surprise Royal have been rung, and in neither case would the method have been looked at if it had borne any other name. Cambridge and Yorkshire Royal have merits of their own not generally shared by the Surprise class.

A method should be judged by how far it provides interesting work for the ringer and at the same time good music for the listener. The test of music is, as we have pointed out, not quite the same for the outside public as it is for the man who is ringing, and this is notably so in the case of Royal and Maximus. Most of the men who ring Cambridge Royal and Maximus are quite satisfied with the music, but we do not think the same satisfaction is felt by the outside listener who is taking notice of the sound of the bells and is not interested in the method.

To obtain the best outside effects from Royal and Maximus, it is essential that a steady beat of the bells should be maintained. In Major a great and pleasing variety of rhythm can be used, but on ten bells, and still less on twelve bells, the ear does not easily adapt itself to complex rhythms. Sir John Stainer, the famous organist and composer, who took a great deal of interest in the ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral, would not allow Treble Twelve to be rung there on Sundays. His ear called for the covering tenor to steady the beat. The music of Cambridge Maximus probably would have disgusted him.

The only way in which a steady beat can be maintained in ten and twelve bell ringing is to keep the natural coursing order practically unbroken. Yorkshire very nearly succeeds in doing it, and that makes it musically much the best of the Surprise methods for the higher numbers. Cambridge keeps the natural coursing order above the treble; but as the bells, hunting down, come to the treble's path, they pass it, one running through and the next making places. This alternate quick and slow makes an entirely different coursing order below the treble, which, though a regular one, does not produce a good musical rhythm. It is similar to what

(Continued in next column.)

THE WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT.

In the fifty-sixth report of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, presented to the annual meeting on Whit Monday, deep regret was expressed at the death of the Rev. G. W. Webb, clerical secretary since 1937. His work for the success of the annual dinners was recalled, but above all he would be best remembered by his Christian example, an infinite capacity for human understanding and a cheerfulness which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The report went on to say that, with all the branch officers re-elected, the committee remains the same as last year, with the exception that the office of clerical secretary had become vacant by death.

As was anticipated, the association income for the year had been considerably reduced, but comparisons had little real value in these days. The balance sheet revealed a loss of 101 in paid-up membership for 1940. 'This,' says the report, 'is not all accounted for by members joining the Forces. Even in normal times far too many members wait for a personal approach by the secretaries before paying the small subscription due to the association. To-day this personal contact is almost impossible—the secretaries themselves are busy men apart from their voluntary work for ringing—and we feel it should not be too much to ask these apathetic members to do their bit towards keeping the association going. That the General Fund shows a credit balance for the year of £3 11s. 7d. is due largely to the number of 1939 subscriptions received early in the year and one numerically strong band having paid for 1941. The Belfry Repairs Fund has increased in value to £59 6s. 6d., and the total worth of the funds to £115 10s. Financially, the association is, of course, in a strong position, but the normal annual expenditure does not allow of any falling off in subscriptions. Our policy should be one of maintaining our balance and conserving our reserves against that period of reconstruction and reorganisation which will follow the cessation of hostilities.

'With the imposition of a complete ban on the ringing of church bells for their normal purposes, all associations and guilds are faced with a position without parallel in the history of bells and bellringing. No one regrets the necessity for this ban more than the ringers themselves, and efforts have been made to induce the authorities to find an alternative warning method of attempted enemy invasion. Much has been written of the use of bells for this purpose, but until our leaders see fit to lift the ban, surely we as loyal subjects should do nothing to hamper them in the war effort. In the meantime, the lack of tower bell ringing removes much of the attraction of meetings, and any activities have to be carried on in a very much modified form. We feel, however, that the branch meetings should be arranged as usual, as far as restrictions and the circumstances existing from time to time will permit—even with the reduced attendances which are insurmountable. The Northern Branch have instituted bi-quarterly meetings, which have had good results, and while their success depends largely on facilities and enthusiasm for handbell ringing, we commend the idea to the other branches. A greater use of handbells and occasional small gatherings of adjoining or isolated towers would do much to keep interest and enthusiasm alive.'

The report, which was signed by Mr. J. D. Johnson, the lay secretary, concluded with congratulations to the Master, Mr. S. T. Holt, upon his recent marriage.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous column.)

happens in Stedman Caters and Cinques, only there the covering tenor redeems the musical situation.

So far as the outside listener is concerned, Kent Treble Bob, and (to a lesser degree) Plain Bob, supply what is needed for ten and twelve bells when the tenor is turned in, but both of them fail to supply the amount of interest in actual ringing which modern skilled hands look for. Are there methods which will give this interest, and at the same time produce the outside musical effect?

Half a century ago Sir Arthur Heywood set himself to answer the question and, as a result, produced his Duffield. He said he was 'bold enough to believe that as in Stedman is found the perfection of odd-bell ringing, so in this new method will be found the most musical and adaptable even-bell system possible of attainment.' So far as the music of ten and twelve bell ringing is concerned his claim was a sound one, yet the method has proved a complete failure. Why? The reason for eight bells no doubt is that it is too monotonous, but Duffield Royal and Maximus have scarcely had a fair chance. They lie outside the line of normal progress.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 21st, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.4, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. Members and friends attending are requested to meet at the **Village, Merstham**, at 3 p.m. From there it is proposed to walk to Reigate via Gatton Park. Service at Reigate Church at 5 p.m. Following the service, Mr. M. A. Northover has very kindly offered to provide tea and his house and garden will be at the disposal of the association for the purpose of the meeting.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (Northern Branch) AND DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Joint meeting at Hagley (D.V.), Saturday, June 21st. Tower bells (8) available for 'silent' practice from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea. Business meeting, handbells and social evening. Reports should be obtained and subscriptions paid at this meeting. — B. C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. —The summer meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, June 21st. An attractive ramble has been arranged for 3 o'clock, starting from Conservative Club (against church). Tea in Parish Room (1s. 8d.) at 5 o'clock. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports now available. All welcome. — Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — The annual joint meeting of Southern District, Barnsley and District and Doncaster and District Societies will be held at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, June 21st. Handbells available, Church House, 2.30 p.m. Tea 1s. 6d. each, Warburton's Café, 5 p.m., followed by business meeting, Church House, 6 p.m. Hoping for a good attendance.—S. F. Palmer, D. Smith and E. Cooper, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Bergh Apton on Saturday, June 21st. Six silent tower bells available from 2.15 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea, 4.45 at the Rectory, followed by business meeting. Names for tea as soon as possible to the Rev. A. St. J. Heard, The Rectory, Bergh Apton, Norwich.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD. — A meeting will be held at Hartfield on Saturday, June 21st. Come along and help support the Guild. Have you thought of that 1941 sub?—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec., 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Tunbridge Wells.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual general meeting will be held at Gravesend (D.V.) on Saturday, June 28th. Committee meeting at St. George's Church at 3 p.m. Association service at 4, conducted by the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate). Tea and business meeting at 5 at the Town Hall, by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor, who will preside. Tea (free) will be provided only for those members who notify me before Tuesday, June 24th, to allow arrangements to be

made with the Food Control Committee. Travelling allowance up to 2s. 6d. will be allowed to practising members notifying and attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting at Shrewsbury will be held on June 28th. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Please note change of address.—W. A. Farmer, 70, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held at Horsell on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., tea at 5 p.m. Owing to catering difficulties, will members let me know by Tuesday, 24th, and, if possible, bring sandwiches to be pooled? The Vicar and his wife will supply tea and other niceties. Everybody welcome, but a p.c., please, will be of great assistance in making the arrangements.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Bushey. —Meeting, Saturday, June 28th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged. Handbells available.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Batley on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells in the tower 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. — H. Lophouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, June 28th. Meet at tower at 4 p.m. It is hoped to have silencers on the bells. Bring your own "eats." Handbells, etc., from 6 p.m. onwards.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Western Division. — A meeting will be held at Pulborough on Sunday, June 29th; tower bells (front six; silent) and handbells from 3.30. The Rector (Rev. E. Frost) has kindly offered to provide tea and buns for those sending names by previous Wednesday to E. Treagus, Acting Hon. Div. Sec., Queen's Lane, Arundel. (Evensong 6.30.)

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —The next meeting will be at Moorside on Saturday, July 5th. Tower bells and handbells available. All ringers and friends welcome. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.) — Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by handbell practice.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

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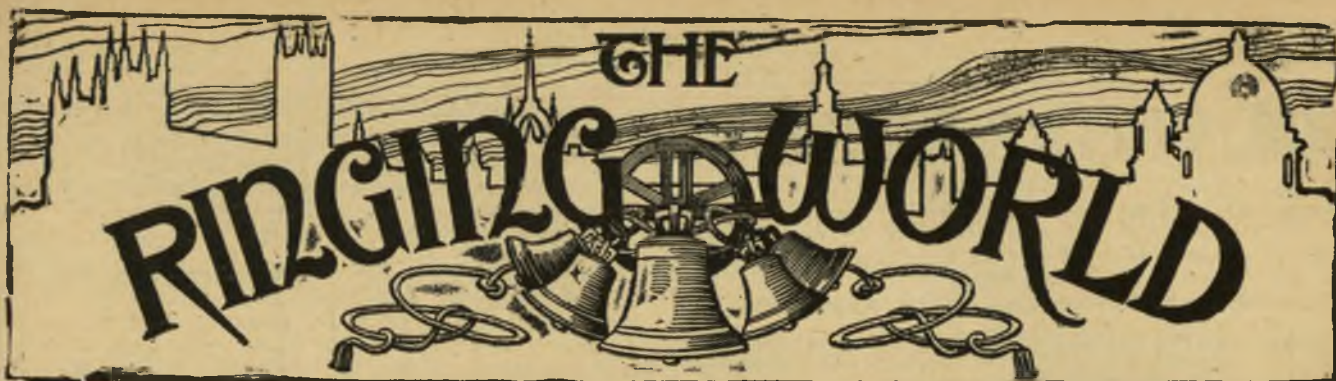
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No. 1,579. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th, 1941.

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BELLS AND WAR RISKS.

The loss of towers and bells, and particularly some of the famous London steeples and their contents, by enemy action is a subject for which no apology is needed if we return to it. It seriously concerns ringers, and it opens up rather disturbing thoughts for the future. In London it is not only the notable city bells that have been lost, but numerous other peals within the area of the Metropolis that have played, in their time, a conspicuous part in the activities of ringers, have gone down in ruin, and the first doubt that arises in the mind is whether many of them will ever be restored. It is almost certain that with the replanning of London a number of the churches, historic though they may have been for various reasons, will disappear. The adoption of the suggestion that towers not substantially damaged should be left, even if the rest of the site is cleared, will depend entirely upon the policy which will be followed by the redesigners of the capital. In view, however, of the attitude which some sections of the Church are known to take, in regard to what they have considered to be redundant churches, it is more than likely that London will be permanently depleted of quite a number of its bells, and it seems quite certain that unless generous financial help is forthcoming, damaged bells will not be replaced in many instances whatever happens to the churches. One reason is that while the Government have undertaken to replace the fabric of churches damaged by raids, it is understood that the fittings, which, of course, include bells and organs, will be the responsibility of the Church. This fact, indeed, is causing a good deal of concern to many church authorities, who are having to find heavy insurance premiums—as much as thirty shillings per cent. up to September next. Such things as bells, therefore, are being, in a number of cases, very much under insured.

These are some of the points which appear to be emerging from the present circumstances, and if the country suffers further and more extensive raiding, as we are warned may be the case, further losses of bells will inevitably be sustained where churches are devastated, unless some prompt action is taken. Following upon Mr. R. F. Deal's letter last week, in which he pointed out the grave risks to bells, even when lowered from the tower, unless they are efficiently protected, a correspondent this week suggests that the Central Council should circularise diocesan authorities calling urgent attention to the steps that should be taken in this matter. If church authorities, particularly in what are regarded as 'safe' areas, like to take the risk

(Continued on page 302.)

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and leave their bells hanging in the tower, that is their responsibility, but we think it is their duty to cover the bells by sufficient insurance. If this is not done and the bells are unfortunately lost, it is more than likely that replacement will fall far short of the present peals. This is a matter about which ringers can use their influence with Church Councils and endeavour to ensure that the bells are adequately covered.

There seems little question, however, that in vulnerable areas other steps should be taken to safeguard the bells, and proper protection would seem possible only if they are removed from their frames. The base of the tower suggests itself as a place as safe as any other for their keeping provided, as has often been pointed out, the bells themselves are sandbagged. Compared with the value of the property involved, this would cost a negligible sum. It is, of course, useless to remove the bells from one place of danger to another, adequate protection must be provided, and these facts ought to be brought home by every possible means to those responsible for their safety. It is strange that in many instances the intrinsic value of bells is entirely unrealised by those in whose care they are placed. If they had something worth a thousand pounds standing in the full view of everybody in the church they would not hesitate to take every step for its security; yet a peal of bells, the least considered of church property, is often worth a thousand pounds or more. The responsibility of the authorities is equally as important where the bells are concerned as in the case, say, of the organ, and we hope that something may be done to induce a more active care of the bells under war risks than is apparent at the present moment.

THE LAST PEAL AT COVENTRY.

WAS IT TRUE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The note about the last peal at Coventry in your 'Belfry Gossip' recently prompts me to ask if the composition rung then was a true one? The figures appeared in 'The Bell News' of August 4th, 1883, page 213, and although by the late Mr. Henry Johnson, I have always understood that, by some singular lapse, the composition was not a true one. I am quite unable to remember the source whence I gathered this impression, but most probably, if I am right about its falseness, it was a note in a subsequent issue of 'The Bell News.' As it may well be called an historic performance, especially so in view of recent events, perhaps one of our composers will say if it is true or not. The figures are below. The 5,021 was rung at Warwick on September 25th, 1869, and the 5,063 at Coventry on June 9th, 1883.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

STEDMAN CATERERS.

By Henry Johnson.

5,021 or 5,063.

123456 4 5 16

512463 *	
514362	2
413562	— 2
312564	— 3
214563	— 3
412365	—
415362	S 3
513462	— 2
312465	— 3
215463	— 3
512364	—

213456	— 2
314256	— 2
416253	— 3
613254	— 3
316254	— S
312456	— 2
214356	— 2
416352	— 3
612354	— 3
216453	—

* Bobs at 2-4-6-8-10-12-16. The 5,021 round by bobs at 1-2-3-5-8. The 5,063 by bobs at 3-6-10-16. Both round at the fifth change.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ALDERSHOT, HANTS.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, May 26, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT 106, LYNCHFORD ROAD, SOUTH FARNBOROUGH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

*HAROLD S. HODDEN 1-2	*PTE. L. J. FOX, P.C.... .. 5-6
SGT. J. FREEMAN, R.A.M.C. 3-4	†MAURICE HODGSON 7-8
†WILLIAM H. VIGGERS... .. 9-10	

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First ten-bell peal 'in hand' and first in the method 'in hand.'

† First ten-bell peal and first in the method. The conductor's first peal of Caters 'in hand' and first peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF REVERSE BOB MAJOR, 5036 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	*EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

NORTHREPPS, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 14, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 14 in E.

F. NOLAN GOLDEN 1-2 | *REV. E. WILLIAM BLYTH... 3-4

CYRIL POOLEY 5-6

Conducted by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First attempt for a peal of Minor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, June 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART (Dexter's Variation). Tenor size 18.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN... .. 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

First handbell peal in the method as conductor.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, June 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER... .. 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, June 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	CLEMENT GLENN 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	LEONARD LUCK 7-8

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2	*EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT... .. 7-8

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 400th peal.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DISTRICT MEETING AT RAMSEY.

On Saturday week, a meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held at Ramsey, and nineteen ringers attended from Harwich, Thorington, Mistley, Ipswich and Dedham. Handbells loaned by the Harwich company, were used from 2.30 until 4.30 p.m., when service was held in church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Norman E. Sturgeon). Owing to catering difficulties, the members had each to bring their own eatables for tea, and whilst these were being consumed the business meeting proceeded in order to enable some members to catch an early bus.

The Master (Mr. G. Waterman) presided, and silence was observed for three departed members, Mr. Woodward, of Harwich, an hon. member, Miss Edith M. Caton, of Mistley, and Mr. A. J. Smith, of Langham, ringing members. The Master paid a high tribute to these members for all they had done to help the association, and it was proposed that the secretary should write to the bereaved relatives conveying the sympathy of the members of the division.

The Rev. Norman E. Sturgeon was elected an hon. member, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Bradfield some time in the middle of June.

Mr. Ellis proposed that the secretary should write to the Editor of 'The Ringing World' conveying their best wishes for a speedy recovery and their thanks for all he had done for the ringing community in general.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar on the motion of the Master for allowing the meeting to be held at Ramsey. He said he believed it was the first of its kind in the history of the village. Mr. Waterman also thanked the Vicar for the service and his address, the organist and his little blower, and the secretary's wife for the tea they had drunk. He also offered a welcome to the visitor from Ipswich (Mr. J. W. Jennings).

The Vicar, in reply, said as a probationer ringer it gave him much pleasure indeed to have the association at Ramsey, and he gave a history of the five bells, which date back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Among those present at the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday were Mr. R. T. Hibbert, of Reading, Mr. W. Hibbert, Mr. C. W. Munday, of Basingstoke, Mr. T. Groombridge, of Chislehurst, Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., of Willesden Green, and Pte. Len Fox. One of the subjects discussed was reconstruction of bellringing after the war.

Special reference was made by the Master to the tragic death of that great friend of London ringers, the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, and the members stood in silence for a few moments as a tribute to his memory.

Four new members were elected: Messrs. Thomas N. Lanaghan, Peter E. M. Kearvell, of Reading, Edgar R. Rapley, of Horsham, and F. Warrington, of Swavesey, Cambs.

After the business handbells were well in evidence, the ringing including touches on the handbells brought by Mr. Taylor, of Watford. The next meeting will be held on July 5th.

WINCHCOMBE ABBEY AND ITS BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—It may be of interest to some ringers, particularly of Warwickshire, to note that the tower of Stoneleigh Church, near Stratford-on-Avon, contains two pre-Reformation bells which originally hung in the tower of the great and powerful Abbey of Winchcombe, Glos. They are inscribed as follows:—

2nd: 'Micheale te Pulsante Wyncheleumbama Fetente Demone tu Libra. (On waist) R. K.'

4th: 'O Kenelme nos Defende ne Maligni Sentiamus.'

This latter bell was recast by Briant 1792. The initials on the 2nd are those of Richard Kyderminster, Abbot of Winchcombe 1488-1525.

These bells were probably cast at Nottingham, circa 1500, by Richard Mellor or his son Robert, and came to Stoneleigh at the Dissolution.

Winchcombe Abbey was founded in 787 by Offa the Great, King of Mercia, as a nunnery, but in 798 Kenwulf changed it into an establishment for 300 Benedictine monks, and in 819 Kenelm, the boy king and saint, was enshrined within its walls. The story of his murder in the woods on the Clent Hills is too well known to be related here.

The Abbey waxed rich and powerful, its abbots reached mitred rank and sat in the House of Lords as Peers of the Realm. Under Richard de Kidderminster (1488-1525) a man noted for his learning, the Abbey flourished 'like another university.' The 'Ordinances' of the Abbey, dating from the 13th century and ending with the last pathetic attempts of Abbot Kidderminster and Abbot Mounslow (1525-1539) to stave off Dissolution, make interesting reading.

The inevitable end came on December 3rd, 1539, when Abbot Mounslow and the monks walked out of their old home. Ruthless destruction followed. The ten bells were sold for £60 to one, William Farmer, the lead was torn from the roofs, stained glass smashed, the priceless library scattered and the buildings torn down. Now only a few grass grown stones mark the site. Thomas Cromwell's men could well write on January 4th, 1540, 'We have despatched Hailes and Winchcombe and will go next to Tewkesbury.'

So passed the 'magnificent' Abbey of Winchcombe.

Harborne.

WILFRED E. BOX.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 292.)

THE LEGITIMATE METHODS COMMITTEE.

HENRY LAW JAMES.

At first the Council did not appoint the conveners of the various committees. Each committee made its own arrangements, but almost always there was one member, who by formal or tacit consent of the rest, or through his own ambition, took the lead. Law James had proposed the appointment of the Methods Committee, and it was only natural that he should assume the duties of its chairman.

I came into very close relationship with him during many years and I had a better opportunity than almost anybody else of knowing and judging the work he did for the Council. For some reasons, which I cannot quite satisfactorily explain, he always reminded me strongly of Mr. Lloyd George. It was not the superficial similarity of names. It was not the common nationality. It was not that their views on politics and religion were alike (for in those things they were very diverse). It was, I think, because they had in common strongly marked characteristics which largely accounted for their successes and failures, strengths and limitations. Both were men of action rather than of intellect. Both were ambitious of leadership. Both had the quality of strongly attracting and strongly repelling those they came into contact with. To both the only thing that mattered was the one which at the moment was engaging their attention.

The stages they played on were vastly different in size and importance, and it seems almost ludicrous to mention together the Peace Conference at Versailles and the Central Council meetings; but human qualities and characteristics do not depend on environment and outward circumstances, and may be very similar in kind though different in intensity.

Henry Law James was born on November 8th, 1868, at Gloucester, where his father was Minor Canon of the Cathedral and Rector of St. Michael's. His interest in bells dated from his early boyhood, and when in 1887 the ring of six at St. Michael's was increased to eight he formed the Society of St. Michael's Juniors, a company which in the following years included several well-known ringers and scored a number of notable peals.

In 1887 James went up to Cambridge, where he was at Caius College. He joined the University Guild, and in 1890 called its first peal—Bob Triples on handbells. Later he rang 5-6 and called the first peal of Double Norwich Major ever rung in hand.

After leaving Cambridge he was for a short while science master at Stamford Grammar School, and then took orders on being appointed curate at St. Martin's, Stamford. In 1898 he became Vicar of Surfleet in Lincolnshire, and there he remained until his death in 1932.

His predecessor at Surfleet was an old and, it would seem, a disappointed man, who during a long incumbency had allowed the church and parish life to fall into decay. The building was in a dilapidated condition, and the fittings were obsolete and inadequate. James was sent there as a young man to bring back life and activity. The conditions were a challenge to him, and he set about his task with thoroughness and enthusiasm. The church was restored and reseated, and a new organ, a new altar, and a chancel screen were provided. The old ring of five bells in the steeple was restored and a

new treble added. Later James himself gave four bells to make what was then the lightest ring of ten in the country.

It was not only the material things of the church that engaged his attention; he was a devoted and hard working parish priest. He very much improved the services and the singing, and introduced a ritual based on pre-Reformation use which, though dignified and impressive up to a point, was really beyond the resources of a small village choir. It was one of James' characteristics, shown in this as well as in his peal ringing, that he often attempted more than he was able to do really well.

Law James speedily made his influence felt among Lincolnshire ringers, not only in his own parish, but throughout the county, and with permanent results. In 1899 he induced the four existing societies to form into one Diocesan Guild, and at Surfleet peals were rung, first of Minor and then of Royal, which have a definite place in the history of the art. Lincoln Cathedral owes its ring of twelve largely to his efforts, and the present advanced state of method ringing in the county is due in no small degree to his influence and example.

The whole Exercise owes a great debt to Law James; for though he was not the first man to think of spliced ringing, he was the first to put it into practice. He arranged and called the first five thousand of Minor with more than one method in each 720, and by composing a peal of Major in the four standard Surprise methods, he made possible the great advance in spliced ringing of recent years.

I have said that Law James was a man of action rather than of intellect. That is true, even though a good deal of his action in ringing matters was in his own study with a fountain pen in his hand. It explains much of his career, his successes, and his failures. So long as he had something to do, whether it was in organising, or in peal ringing, or in working out a composition, his industry and thoroughness served him well and brought him many striking successes. But it was quite different when he attempted to deal with matters which belonged entirely to the realms of thought. He had great ambitions to be a leader of thought in the Exercise, and from time to time brought forward what he believed were new and profound truths. At the time they attracted a good deal of attention and caused a good deal of opposition, but now they are all forgotten. To-day no one remembers, or if he does remember does not care anything about, the Stedman controversy of thirty years ago, or the disputed extensions of Superlative Surprise. The truth is that Law James, though he provoked so many controversies and engaged in so many arguments, was altogether incapable of logical argument. Deductive reasoning is of very little use in the majority of the things of life, but there are rare occasions when nothing else can take its place. Mathematics, for instance, cannot do without it, and it is equally essential in solving some (though not many) of the problems in the science of change ringing. Law James was incapable of deductive reasoning, yet he often claimed to settle dogmatically questions which could not be settled without it. Like so many more people, he reached his conclusions by experiments, by intuition, or by chance, and what he called arguments were only special pleading to induce other people to think as he did. He had taken third class honours in Natural Science at Cambridge, and, as stated above, had been a

teacher of natural science. He claimed that the same processes by which men discover the truths of natural science would enable him to discover all the truths in the science of change ringing. He was wrong.

He had no gifts as a writer and seldom attempted more than short letters, but as a speaker he was effective and convincing. His style was simple and direct, and his transparent sincerity and confidence in himself impressed even those who did not agree with him. In his more controversial speeches, however, he often adopted a style of dogmatic superiority which was intensely irritating to the older people whose opinions he was challenging. This certainly caused some amount of offence, and the opposition to him, shown by men like Heywood and Davies, was not altogether unmixed with personal dislike. He had a habit, when a supposed flaw in his argument was pointed out, of meeting it with some startling statement which sounded like a profound truth used as a crushing rejoinder, but really was only an irrelevance, or at best a half truth. A good example of this occurred at the Council meeting when the Methods Committee was appointed. He had produced his definition of a method and Nathan Pitstow pointed out quite properly that it did not cover Stedman. Instead of saying, as he might quite reasonably have done, that it was not intended to cover Stedman and the few other methods like it, James retorted that Stedman was not a method at all, its author had never called it a method; it was a principle. The fact that he honestly thought he had answered Pitstow illustrates his limitations, and goes a long way towards explaining why, with all his activity, he influenced thought in the Exercise so little.

As the chairman of the Methods Committee, Law

James was not a success. It never occurred to him that his job was to find out to the full what contribution every member had to make, and to combine the knowledge and skill of the men who were supposed to be authorities on the matter in question. He had already prepared his definition and his only anxiety was that it should be adopted first by the committee and then by the Council. He was quite prepared to give explanations, but rather in the style of a schoolmaster instructing his class. There was no need for him to learn anything. He was indeed by no means free from the snobbishness, not uncommon in his class, that divided mankind into those who had been to Oxford or Cambridge and those who had not, and he hardly ever attempted to understand an argument by one who could not write B.A. after his name. He had the greatest contempt for the opinions of the average ringer. He thinks he knows,' he told me, 'but he does not know really.'

It is hardly surprising therefore that he tried to run the Methods Committee as if it was his own personal and private affair, and he almost always spoke in its name without any pretence of consulting the members. All this sounds very bad, but actually it was inevitable in the committee system. Heywood dealt with the committees on which he served in much the same fashion, but there was the important difference between the two men that Heywood's authority was admitted and James' was not.

For years the work of the Methods Committee was mainly a keen fight between James and the other members. I naturally was in the thick of it and found myself in opposition to him on almost every subject. He was often very irritating, for he had a trick of answering

(Continued on page 309.)

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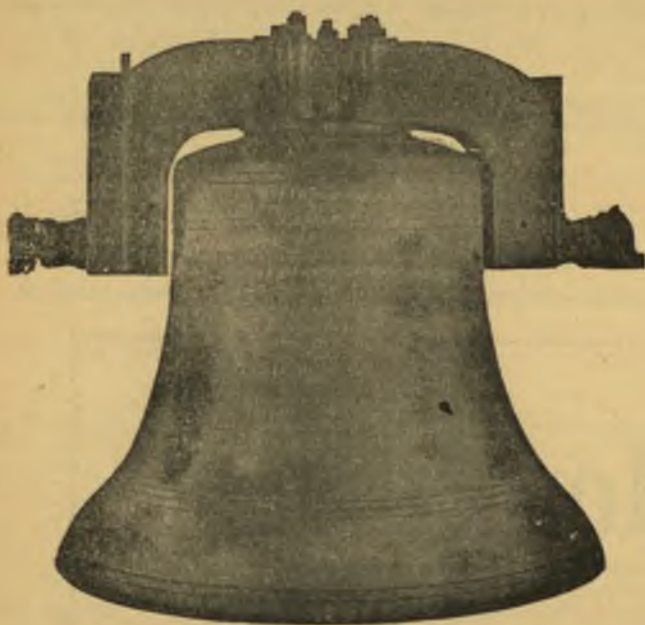
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. Bob Pye, who will be 69 years old next Monday.

Mr. Clement Glenn's many friends will notice with great pleasure that after an interval of more than twenty years his name once more appears in the peal reports. Since the last war Mr. Glenn had been living in France, and he came home in connection with his duties as an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve. He was recently living at Bushey for a short time and so made the acquaintance of the very talented handbell band there. Unfortunately, his stay was short. We are informed that he had not forgotten how to ring Stedman double-handed.

All who appreciate Christopher Wren's genius will regret the loss of the beautiful little Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, which was one of those destroyed in a recent air raid. It was one of the buildings which could be least spared. In the steeple was a bell by Robert Mot which had already been through the fire of 1666 and had survived. What has happened to it now we do not know.

The first peal on the ten bells at St. Mary's, Taunton, was rung on June 25th, 1885. It was one of Stedman Caters and during the ringing two bells shifted and were put right by a single. This led some years later to a controversy and the peal was withdrawn.

Elijah Roberts tapped 5,016 changes of Stedman Caters at Birmingham on June 30th, 1833.

Fifty years ago to-day eight peals were rung. They consisted of Oxford Bob Triples 1, Canterbury Pleasure Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1, and Minor 1.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM BIBBY.

HIS SERVICES TO RINGING AT FRODSHAM.

Cheshire in general and Frodsham in particular have lost through the death of Mr. William Bibby one of its most respected, popular and enthusiastic ringers. He commenced ringing when he was 18 at Frodsham Parish Church, which then had a peal of six bells, call changes and Bob Minor being usually rung. Mr. Bibby had been a member of the Chester Diocesan Guild since its formation in 1887 and was elected a member of the Society of College Youths in 1912.

With the coming to Frodsham of Mr. E. H. Lewis, ringing interest and practice increased in this locality and many peals were scored. The local band, conducted by Mr. Lewis, rang a peal of Bob Minor in 1908. Many peals of Minor were followed by peals of Triples and Major when the trebles were added in 1912.

When, in 1915, Mr. Lewis left, Mr. Bibby was appointed head ringer. His two sons, Mr. J. E. and Mr. Francis Bibby, joined the Frodsham band, and later his daughter, Miss Norah Bibby, became an accomplished ringer. Mr. Bibby was proud that, through encouraging lady ringers, he was able to keep a band together through the last war.

With the arrival of Mr. Edward Jenkins, ringing in the neighbourhood made further advances. Mr. Bibby collected together a local band which passed from peals of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob to Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise. Mr. Bibby's peals numbered 306 in all, in many methods, from Minor to Maximus.

Mr. Bibby always insisted on a high standard of ringing and was ever helpful to learners and beginners, with whom he took much trouble. He was a grand host at meetings and was always pleased to welcome visitors. His bells and ringing chamber were models. His ringers will ever remember not only the depth of his knowledge of ringing matters, but the reverence shown in all his ringing.

Mr. Bibby took part in ringing for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, King Edward's Coronation, King George V. Coronation and Jubilee, King Edward's Accession and King George VI. Coronation.

He was a regular churchworker, had held office twice as churchwarden and was for many years secretary of the Parochial Church Council. He was very proud of the fact that he and his son Francis were the churchwardens of his beloved church for 1941. G. H. R.

NEW TERMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Major Yorke, in his interesting letter, introduces two matters which call for consideration.

First he gives us something which is good for teaching beginners, viz., 20 changes containing two bobs of Bob Doubles. This is certainly better than teaching the plain course of Grandire Doubles by heart, which is what most people really do. It is true they do not intend to teach by heart, and probably do not see what they are doing, for they carefully tell the beginner he must not learn anything by heart. By the way, how else is he to learn anything?

Secondly, what are we to call that variation of a method, by which a bob lead is substituted for a plain lead, and vice versa? My own suggestion would be that it should be called a 'conversion.' Major Yorke's method then would be Converted Bob Doubles. I am not, however, proud of this suggestion, and would welcome something better.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

CITY OF LONDON CHURCHES.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Destroyed in Air Raid.

Of all the loss of churches and bells in the savage air raids on London, none is more regrettable than that of St. George's-in-the-East.

It was only three years ago that the bells were restored after a long silence, and since the church is in a rather unpopular and inaccessible district, they are probably known to few of our readers, but they were a very fine ring of the older style. During one of the raids incendiary bombs fell on the church roof and the whole building was gutted by fire. The tower was completely burnt out and the bells crashed and were destroyed.

In the ninth year of Queen Anne an Act of Parliament was passed which provided for the erection of fifty new churches. It was to be a thankoffering for the great victories won by the Duke of Marlborough over the French. Not all the fifty were actually built, but London owes several of her most famous churches to this Act. Three of them are in the ancient parish of Stepney—Limehouse, Spitalfields



THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

and St. George's—and all three are distinguished by massive and lofty bell towers. St. George's was designed by Hawkesmoor and Gibbs, and is a fine spacious building built regardless of cost. It was consecrated on June 29th, 1729.

No part of London has altered in character more than the surroundings of this church. When it was erected it stood in a good class neighbourhood, now it is in the middle of dockland. As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century the vestry could afford to spend £4,400 on improving the churchyard and an equal sum on beautifying the church and altering the organ, and to vote £500 for stained glass windows.

The bells were a heavy octave with a tenor of 30 cwt., cast in 1751 at Whitechapel by Thomas Lester. The first peal on them was 5,040 changes of Bob Major rung on August 4th, 1752, by the Eastern Scholars and conducted by George Meakins. In the following October, George Patrick called 5,152 of the same method for the Cumberlands and during the next eight years St. George's was a popular belfry with all the leading companies.

In 1753 a new society, which called itself the London Youths, was formed with its headquarters at The Three Goats' Heads in Whitechapel and St. Mary Matfelon and St. George's as its principal practice towers. Both rings have been destroyed in air raids.

The London Youths rang their first peal on January 21st, 1753, at St. George's. The method was Bob Major and a month later they rang one of Bob Triples. Both were conducted by Peter Bailey.

The Cumberlands rang the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells in 1753 and the Eastern Scholars the first of Grandsire Triples. This was probably the first time that Holt's Ten-Part was performed, though George Partrick is usually said to have called it for the first time four months later.

The longest peal on the bells was 6,080 Oxford Treble Bob Major by the College Youths and called by Benjamin Annable, the last he conducted.

The only board in the belfry recorded a peal of Grandsire Triples called by the younger George Gross on March 11th, 1822, in which four fathers and four sons took part.

The sketch of the church is from 'The History of the College Youths.' It was reproduced in 'The Times Literary Supplement' of January 22nd, 1938.

DESTRUCTION OF BELLS AND PEAL BOARDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—So many historic peals of bells have been destroyed by fire in air raids that it is of some satisfaction to read the statement by Mr. A. A. Hughes at a recent meeting of the College Youths that another City ring of ten is being taken down for safety. It is to be hoped that in this case further precautions will be taken to ensure that the fate which overtook the bells at St. Clement Danes' is not repeated.

You recently referred to a paragraph in 'The Times' which stated that the bells at St. Mary-le-Bow had been dismantled. Unfortunately that statement is incorrect. A further letter has appeared in a recent issue of 'The Times' which mentions this subject, and also contains suggestions for minimising the chances of towers being so completely burned out as that of St. Mary-le-Bow. A paragraph in the London 'Evening News' has since stated it is now disclosed that ten of the bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, 'including the tenor bell, which itself weighs 2½ tons, were shattered.'

The destruction of many historic peal boards is greatly to be deplored. Fortunately, the Central Council some time ago collected details of old peal boards, and possibly particulars of those since destroyed are amongst those collected, in which case it should be possible to replace the boards in the event of the churches being restored. Could not the work of replacement be undertaken by ringers, through the Central Council?

I recently paid a visit to the Church of St. George-in-the-East, with which I was very intimately connected many years ago. I was horrified to find that it had been completely burned out. The tower is gutted and many of the bells are cracked and are lying broken in the porch. The structure of the tower still stands, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to so repair it that it will long remain the familiar landmark to users of the River Thames not far away.

May I thank Mr. Deal for his very interesting letter. It is so difficult to get information about London churches and bells; any further contribution from the same source will be welcomed.

C. T. COLES.

FIRES IN CHURCH TOWERS.

THE FATE OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The following letter from Mr. W. A. Forsyth, the well-known London architect, appeared in 'The Times':—

'Fires due to incendiary bombs invariably break out in the roofs of nave or aisles and enter the tower through the belfry louvres or other available openings. Falling timbers ignite the sittings and other woodwork so that a great heat is developed at the floor level. Church towers act as flues when heat enters them in such volume. The usual down draught is overpowered by a terrific upcast of heat and flame, which destroys wood, metal, stone and all else in its course.'

In many recent fires the entire fabric has been destroyed. The risk of total destruction of remaining examples can be avoided if steps are taken to isolate the towers from the body of the buildings. This can be done in a number of ways. A brick vault, for instance, or a concrete floor should be inserted in the tower above the nave level. The usual aperture provided for the passage of the bells should have fireproof trap doors. A similar reinforced concrete floor should be set below the bell frame. Both these insertions will provide additional structural stability in resisting movement from future bell-ringing. At the same time all openings above the church, including those containing the belfry louvres, should be bricked up until the day returns for the ringing of the bells.

Of the churches which have suffered total loss from fire, St. Mary-le-Bow is a typical example. Had the tower been isolated the famous bells would not have been destroyed. Your recent reference indicated that the bells had been previously removed. Unfortunately, that is not the case.'

J. A.
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SAFEGUARDING OF BELLS. CENTRAL COUNCIL SHOULD ADVISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I be among those who will say 'Thank you' to Mr. Richard Deal for his admirable letter in your last issue. As one who admires Wren's towers, I have mixed feelings in regard to his verdict on Bow steeple. It is good to have Mr. Deal's expert view that the 'leaning' of the steeple is not a matter to be unduly worried about, as the tilt which it possesses was adopted long ago.

It is, however, very disturbing to learn that the safety of this and other well-known towers, despite the fact that they have resisted the bombing, may have been seriously jeopardised by fire.

There is one other point in Mr. Deal's letter which deserves not only attention, but further action on somebody's part. I refer to the safety of Southwark Cathedral's fine peal of twelve bells. Cannot the Central Council, through its officers, take some immediate steps to bring the matter raised by Mr. Deal to the notice of the Cathedral authorities?

At the same time, the whole subject is one of urgent importance not only in London but throughout the country, and the Council should lose no time in directing the attention of all diocesan authorities to the need of sandbagging bells when they have been lowered from the towers. The College Youths sent a communication to the 'Church Times' a short time ago, but that does not seem to have been sufficient.

The bishops usually issue a monthly letter to the clergy and people in their respective dioceses, and the easiest way to bring the matter to the notice of clergy and church councils might, perhaps, be through this channel, with the bishops' assistance. This or some other step ought to be taken to bring the matter home to the responsible authorities, and that quickly, for I believe that in quite a number of towns the lowering of the bells from the towers has either been already done or is contemplated. To leave the bells unprotected on the floor of a church where they can be reached by fire or falling masonry is but spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar, for the cost and labour of getting the bells down may well be wasted, to say nothing of the loss of the bells themselves.

What is needed is action, and this is something which the Central Council, as the 'watchdog' of the Exercise, ought to take.

'R.A.F.'

CHURCH DAMAGE.

DIOCESAN COMMITTEES TO SETTLE CLAIMS.

The Church Assembly last week gave general approval to the Diocesan Reorganisation Committees measure, which provides for the appointment of committees to treat with the War Damage Commission.

It was pointed out that the fact that the Commission intended to act through the regional offices made it desirable that there should exist in every diocese a representative committee capable of settling claims by the Church.

There was a good deal of opposition to the measure on the ground that it put autocratic power into the hands of a few persons, and that the proposed committees were not responsible to any specified body. The Bishop of London (Dr. Fisher) said these objections would be met.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL CHURCHES,

A COMPARISON.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am afraid Mr. James E. Bailey's memory must serve him rather badly when he says he has never heard anyone describe Bow bells (either old or new) 'as a poor lot.' I never had the pleasure of hearing the old Bow bells (only the recording), therefore I can only accept the views of those who have, which is generally to the effect that they were good. But I have both read and heard a totally different view expressed of the recast bells in 'The Ringing World.' Drawing upon Mr. Bailey's other points, 'that the typical English church one finds in towns and villages would in his opinion look ridiculous in London,' I beg to differ. In many large towns and cities we have churches built upon street corners 'without a hallowed acre' (St. John's, Leicester, for example), but here no one would ever have cause to ask, 'What's that?' There is no corn exchange appearance about it! In London, this church would look equally the same. The steeple is a typical church steeple and not a resemblance of 'a clock tower.' I have just been studying a picture in to-night's local newspaper of the bombed Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, after a London blitz, and here the same impression is given of the steeple—a mere clock tower like you see on any town hall: nothing to make one think it was a church.

In conclusion, let me remind Mr. Bailey that I am not writing this letter from Leicester and that town is not my home. I mention this because on occasions like these often one hears, 'Well, you're bound to stick up for your own!' I could name scores of churches outside Leicester similar to St. John's, which, no matter where they were built, would be distinguished at first sight. I could also name several in other towns and villages (like those in London) where one would have to get right up to the building and go inside to make sure that it was a church, Daventry for example. These I claim are little better than the modern style of building.

'TOURIST.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION'S SUCCESSFUL SUMMER MEETING.

After a lapse of 15 years since the last visit, the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association were indeed fortunate to be able to hold their summer meeting at Almondbury in the Huddersfield district. This delightful little township, situated on the edge of the Colne Valley, was seen at its best, and the weather could scarcely have been better. Owing to the continued ban on the ringing of tower bells, an attractive ramble had been arranged, and upwards of 30 members and friends climbed to the top of Castle Hill, one of the highest points of the district. The view from the summit was worth all the effort of the ascent, but in spite of longing glances, the doors of the inn remained closed. However, the party found the return journey much easier, and arrived at the school house in good form for the well prepared tea which was awaiting them.

At the tea table the company were joined by the Rev. A. F. Bellman, M.A., who gave the association a hearty welcome to Almondbury. He had been unable to accompany them on their ramble, owing to being engaged on more strenuous duties—the day being one of the church's 'fatigue' days, when the church grounds are planted with the summer flowers. Though the ringing of tower bells was now prohibited, he was proud to see the association was still carrying on its very useful work, so that when the time of victory arrived everyone would be ready to ring the glad tidings all over the countryside.

The business meeting was held in the grounds of the School House, with the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, in the chair. The association's president, Canon Marshall, had unfortunately had to leave before the meeting owing to urgent business.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the main item on the agenda—the 'next meeting'—was discussed at length, and eventually it was decided to endeavour to arrange this at Heptonstall in September.

The secretary, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the local company, and especially to Mr. Dransfield, who had made all the splendid arrangements, pointed out that it was not an easy task to receive a party in these times. Catering was one of the main difficulties, but it had been accomplished splendidly, and the association were really indebted to their good friends for receiving them and preparing for their comfort.

Mr. W. E. Dransfield, in reply, assured the visitors that he had been only too pleased to make the necessary arrangements and would do so again whenever the occasion arose.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund realised 6s. 2d., which was considered very satisfactory.

Mr. Sherwood proposed that a letter expressing regret for his illness and hopes for a speedy recovery be sent to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Editor of 'The Ringing World,' who had done and was doing such a great and valuable work for the Exercise.—This was carried unanimously.

After the meeting handbell ringing was enjoyed in the School House, whilst some sought the beauty of the countryside and others the peacefulness of the bowling green. Altogether it was a most enjoyable meeting.

During the day over 40 members were present from the following towers: Almondbury, Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Earlsheaton, Calverley, Halifax, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Huddersfield, Lindley, Pudsey, Queensbury, and also Mr. V. Jarrett, of Chatham.

ONE BELL, ONE MONTH.

IRISHMAN SENT TO PRISON.

For having rung a bell once at a church in Chadderton, Lancs, an Irishman named James Stewart, a twenty-five-year-old labourer of Oldham, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by the Chadderton magistrates. The charge was brought under the Defence Regulations.

A police inspector said that Stewart was seen by the Rev. Peter Taylor coming down the steps leading from the belfry of the church after Mr. Taylor and others had heard the bell peal once. Stewart's action, said the inspector, might have caused a good deal of work among Civil Defence personnel, in addition to upsetting the morale of the public.

Stewart declared that he went into the church to look round, and he touched the bell without meaning to ring it.

One month for one stroke on a bell seems a pretty heavy sentence, and it does not say much for the morale of the people of Chadderton if one stroke on the church bell might upset it.

We shudder to think what is going to happen to the morale of the Chadderton people if and when the bell is really rung for the purpose for which it is now reserved.

GOOD STRIKING.—It is almost incredible what extremely small portions of time are forced on the observation in change ringing. Assuming a quarter of a second to elapse between the striking of any two bells (which supposition is very near the truth), it will appear that an error of a quarter of that space too quick or too slow would be distinctly felt and heard by an experienced ringer, and hence the sixteenth part of a second becomes an appreciable quantity.—Henry Hubbard.

THE STANDARD METHODS

If ringers can rid themselves of the idea that there is some superfine quality attached to a Surprise method, and can realise that a Plain method may be a very high class and difficult method, they will have at their disposal a group of ten and twelve bell methods which are not only very interesting to ring, but will satisfy all the requirements which are needed for producing outside effects.

A fortnight ago we described Double Coslany Court Major with its three Court shunts in each half lead. We can apply similar constructions to Royal, and there (because we have more scope) we can have a greater variety of methods.

The shunt is made by the bell next in front of the treble in coursing order making a place, crossing the treble's path and immediately making another place.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 0
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7 0 9
2 4 3 6 1 8 5 0 7 9
4 2 6 3 8 1 0 5 9 7

This can be done either at handstroke or at backstroke, and anywhere during the treble's journey from the front to the back (the second half-lead will, of course, have to balance the first half-lead).

If we use backstroke places only, we can have 4ths and 3rds; 6ths and 5ths; and 8ths and 7ths. In addition we can use either or both of the Extremes (2nds at the lead-end and 9ths at the half-lead-end).

It is a simple job to work out the combinations of these, and we shall then have a group of first class Royal methods, interesting to ring, not particularly difficult, and (since the natural coursing order is kept throughout) decidedly musical.

Isleworth B.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 9
4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 9 7
4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 9
6 4 8 2 3 1 0 5 9 7
4 6 2 8 3 0 1 9 5 7
6 4 8 2 0 3 9 1 7 5
6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 1 5
8 6 0 4 9 2 7 3 5 1

6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 5 1
8 6 0 4 9 2 7 3 1 5
8 0 6 9 4 7 2 1 3 5
0 8 9 6 7 4 1 2 5 3
8 0 6 9 7 1 4 5 2 3
0 8 9 6 1 7 5 4 3 2
0 9 8 1 6 7 4 5 2 3
9 0 1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
9 1 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2
1 9 7 0 5 8 3 6 2 4

Farnham B.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 9
4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 9 7
4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 9
6 4 8 2 3 1 5 7 0 9
4 6 2 8 3 5 1 7 9 0
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1 0 9
2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 1 9
4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 9 1

4 6 2 8 3 0 5 9 7 1
6 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 1 7
4 6 2 8 3 0 9 1 5 7
4 2 6 3 8 0 1 9 7 5
2 4 3 6 8 1 0 9 5 7
4 2 6 3 1 8 0 5 9 7
4 6 2 1 3 8 5 0 7 9
6 4 1 2 8 3 0 5 9 7
6 1 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 7
1 6 8 4 0 2 9 3 7 5

1 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2

1 6 4 8 2 0 3 9 5 7

Two things, however, should be noted. When the total number of shunts within the lead is three or a multiple of three, a full course will not be produced; and when a large number of shunts is used the amount of dodging is apt to be excessive. This is particularly so in the case of Double Oxford which is produced by the maxi-

mum number of Court Shunts and Extremes. Double Norwich is produced by 4ths and 3rds and 8ths and 7ths. Sixths and 5ths give a method rung in 1919 at Surfleet and claimed by Law James to be entitled to the name Double Court Royal without any qualification. Perhaps the best of the series is Isleworth Bob Royal which has 6th and 5th and the two Extremes.

A fortnight ago we saw that by adding the handstroke shunt between the two backstroke shunts of Double Norwich we can produce Double Coslany, a far more difficult method to ring. Similarly in these Royal methods, wherever there are two backstroke shunts made together, we can insert a handstroke shunt and produce a ten bell method which, while maintaining the natural coursing order and the musical qualities, will tax the skill of the most expert band. Just before the war broke out an attempt for a peal in one of them by a first class band had been arranged. Whether they would have been successful is by no means certain.

On twelve bells similar constructions will give similar methods. There, because the scope is greater, the number of possible methods is larger. Double Norwich is the only one which has been rung so far and appended are two other excellent methods.

Plain Maximus Methods.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T E	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T E
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 0 7 T 9 E	2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 0 E T
4 2 6 1 8 3 0 5 T 7 E 9	4 2 3 1 5 7 6 9 8 E 0 T
4 6 2 8 1 3 5 0 7 T 9 E	2 4 3 5 1 7 9 6 E 8 T 0
6 4 8 2 3 1 0 5 T 7 E 9	2 3 4 5 7 1 6 9 8 E 0 T
4 6 2 8 3 0 1 T 5 E 7 9	3 2 5 4 7 6 1 8 9 0 E T
6 4 8 2 0 3 T 1 E 5 9 7	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 0 9 T E
6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 1 5 7 9	2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 1 9 T E
8 6 0 4 T 2 E 3 5 1 9 7	4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 9 1 T E
6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 1 7	2 4 3 6 5 8 7 0 9 T 1 E
8 6 0 4 T 2 E 3 9 5 7 1	4 2 6 3 8 5 0 7 T 9 E 1

8 0 6 T 4 E 2 9 3 7 5 1	4 6 2 8 3 0 5 T 7 E 9 1
0 8 T 6 E 4 9 2 7 3 1 5	6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 1 9
8 0 6 T 4 E 2 9 7 1 3 5	4 6 2 8 3 0 5 T E 1 7 9
0 8 T 6 E 4 9 2 1 7 5 3	6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 1 E 9 7
0 T 8 E 6 9 4 1 2 7 3 5	6 8 4 0 2 T 3 1 5 E 7 9
T 0 E 8 9 6 1 4 7 2 5 3	8 6 0 4 T 2 1 3 E 5 9 7
0 T 8 E 9 1 6 7 4 5 2 3	6 8 4 0 T 1 2 E 3 9 5 7
T 0 E 8 1 9 7 6 5 4 3 2	6 4 8 0 1 T E 2 9 3 7 5
T E 0 1 8 9 6 7 4 5 2 3	4 6 8 1 0 T 2 E 3 9 5 7
E T 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	6 4 1 8 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 7
E 1 T 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2	6 1 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 9
1 E 9 T 7 0 5 8 3 6 2 4	1 6 8 4 0 2 T 3 E 5 9 7

1 E T 9 0 7 8 5 6 3 4 2 1 6 4 8 2 0 3 T 5 E 7 9

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 305.)

some carefully thought out argument by scrawling the word 'rubbish' across the page almost before he had read it. This difference of opinion did not prevent a large amount of very real friendship between us. I spent many holidays and week-ends at Surfleet and he came and stayed with me at Ealing. In the long run I benefited greatly by these controversies. They compelled me to go very thoroughly into the fundamental problems of the science of ringing and whatever merit there may be in any of the articles I have written for 'The Ringing World' and elsewhere is almost entirely due to my struggles with Law James.

CONTRARY MOTION.

REV. H. DRAKE'S REPLY TO MR. TROLLOPE.

Oh, no, Mr. Trollope, I will not walk into *that* parlour! No doubt you would like me to say that something is hunting backward, in order that (whatever it was) you could say that it was not.

Besides, I have taken up the line that I do not know what it is. Nor does anyone else. Least of all does Mr. Trollope himself! If he did he would never have made his famous reply at Liverpool, 'Hunting backward is—er—hunting backward,' thus exposing himself, and all of us, to so much ridicule.

I did not make any of the errors of which he speaks, nor did I even write what he says I did on two occasions.

Thus I said nothing about an odd number of places being made on an even number of bells. I said that one way of inverting the order of rows was by making an odd number of places, and I referred to the six on three bells. (Three, by the way, is not an even number.) After writing out the usual six changes, go on writing out changes, but make the treble lead a third time. You will then get, of course, the same rows as before, but in the inverse order. This proves what I said: You have an odd number of places made (in this case the treble has led three times). Therefore, the rows have been inverted. This is all I meant, and there is no error.

Incidentally, the first of these sixes is called quick and the other slow. Therefore, if that is all that is wanted, we have already got the terms to describe it.

Nor did I ever say that it was 'impossible for one bell to be hunting forward at the same time others are hunting backward.' How could I? Neither I nor anyone else knows what these words mean. I was speaking of inversion, and I said that all the bells in the piece of ringing that was inverted were affected.

However, this gives an opportunity for yet another definition of these wonderful terms. Change ringing is caused, it seems, by one bell hunting forward, while 'others' hunt backward. What the remaining bells do is not stated. Perhaps they just look on at the wonderful gyrations of 'one' and 'others.'

Here we have a fifth definition, or is it a sixth? Well, it does not matter, they are all inconsistent with one another, and not one can be made to apply to Stedman.

Mr. Trollope says that some of my arguments are beside the point. Are they? Well, this is the point. We do not understand these absurd terms, and we do not intend them to be used. If we cannot ring changes without being made fools of in this ridiculous way, we will give up ringing. But that will never be.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

HERBERT DRAKE.

DEFINITIONS INDIFFERENTLY EXPRESSED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The duel between Mr. Trollope and Rev. H. Drake is interesting and may do something to settle for the future the accuracy or otherwise of the terms 'forward' and 'backward' as applied to hunting. But haven't these words come into comparatively recent use through their application by some individual (I care not whom) who, at the moment he thought of them, used them because he could think of nothing better?

Ringing has been sprinkled through the ages with many terms which might have been better expressed. They have often been applied by people who have had little sense of the value of words, and have grown into recognition simply because no one bothered to challenge them, if, that is, they were ever thought worth disputing.

I have read words used by composers, who not so long since dominated the scene, which were obviously by no means the best that could have been selected for what it was intended to imply. Without casting any reflection upon them, it was doubtless due to the limits of their education, but the Exercise was given and accepted terms which might have been more aptly expressed. It was worse still, of course, in the more distant days when, for instance, the same word was sometimes used with different meanings.

Whether the terms 'forward' and 'backward' hunting are good definitions may be a matter of opinion, but by those who need to use them they are by now well understood. The man in the street, or, rather, the ringer at the rope-end, doesn't care two hoots about these particular terms and won't until it becomes the practice—which I personally hope it never will—of conductors to give orders to erring ringers, 'Hunt forward' or 'Hunt backward,' instead of 'Go up' or 'Go down.' Wouldn't there be some fun if the conductor called out imperiously, 'Hunt backward' to a ringer who was floundering about in the middle and didn't know whether he was coming or going?

But, of course, people who compose, invent, manufacture, produce, quarry, mine or otherwise turn out methods, singly or in the mass, must have some means of describing the virtues or failings of their offspring (if I am not mixing the metaphor), and to me 'forward' and 'backward,' to indicate which way the bells are coursing, are just as good, or bad, as any other words, because I can't tell when I look at the figures of any method more complicated than, say, Plain Bob or Double Norwich, which way the bells are hunting; and as to whether the 3rd in Grandsire and the 3rd in London are hunting forward or backward when they start, I'm beaten to a frazzle. But in any case it doesn't much matter.

T. F. THOMAS.

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.

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KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The 61st annual general meeting will be held at Gravesend (D.V.) on Saturday, June 28th. Committee meeting at St. George's Church at 3 p.m. Association service at 4, conducted by the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate). Tea and business meeting at 5 at the Town Hall, by kind permission of His Worship the Mayor, will preside. Travelling allowance up to 2s. 6d. will be allowed to practising members notifying and attending.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting at Shrewsbury will be held on June 28th. Assemble at St. Chad's at 3 p.m. Please note change of address.—W. A. Farmer, 70, Oakfield Road, Shrewsbury.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held at Horsell on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., tea at 5 p.m. Visitors bring their own sandwiches to be pooled. The Vicar and his wife will supply tea and other niceties. Everybody welcome.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thomas Ditton, Surrey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Meeting, Saturday, June 28th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged. Handbells available.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Batley on Saturday, June 28th. Handbells in the tower 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, June 28th. Meet at tower at 4 p.m. It is hoped to have silencers on the bells. Bring your own "eats." Handbells, etc., from 6 p.m. onwards.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Pulborough on Sunday, June 29th; tower bells (front six; silent) and handbells from 3.30. The Rector (Rev. E. Frost) has kindly offered to provide tea and buns for those sending names by previous Wednesday to E. Treagus, Acting Hon. Div. Sec., Queen's Lane, Arundel. (Evensong 6.30.)

LADIES' GUILD.—Members are reminded that the subscription for 1941-42 becomes due on July 1st. To save district secretaries having to make personal application, will members please forward this direct as early as possible? Many members have not yet paid the current year's subscription. Please send this before June 30th.—Edith K. Fletcher, Hon. Sec., 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—The next meeting will be at Moorside on Saturday, July 5th. Tower bells and handbells available. All ringers and friends welcome. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.) — Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by handbell practice.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. —

The next meeting will be held at Stone on Saturday, July 5th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Will those who are staying to tea kindly notify Mr. A. Rowley, 120a, Church Street, Stone, Staffs, on or before Monday, June 30th. No card, no tea.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.

—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, July 5th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.15, at Swan Hotel, meeting and handbells after. Those requiring tea must notify by Tuesday, July 1st.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, July 5th. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Bring sandwiches and sugar. — Peter Crook and John H. Ridyard, Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—

A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Maldon, on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Will all those requiring tea please let me know by Tuesday, July 8th, so that the essential arrangement may be made? — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—

The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Please inform Mr. G. Horner, 91, Clifton Green, York, by Thursday, July 10th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea.

It is essential that all intending to be present should notify the secretary not later than Wednesday, July 9th, to make the necessary arrangements for tea.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton

District. — This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern

Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meet-

ing at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual busi-

ness meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — Victor A. Jarrett (late

Chatham) is now living at 14, Rothwell Mount, Halifax. He would be pleased to get into touch with Halifax ringers.

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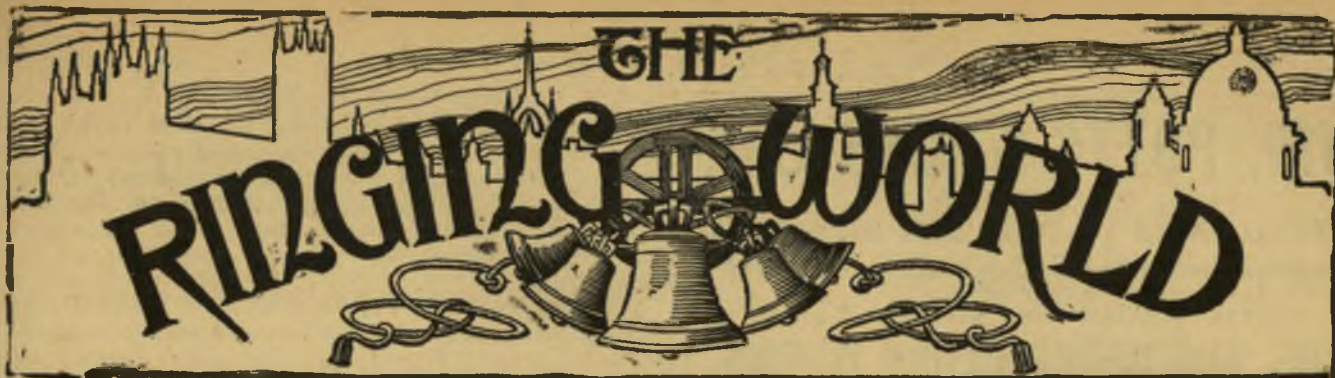
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PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

Recent letters in 'The Ringing World' have revealed some of the difficulties which have been apparent to association officials, and some other people, for a long time in regard to peal compositions. It is not necessary to go over again all the ground covered by Mr. W. Barton and Mr. C. T. Coles, but there is one direction in which we feel the Exercise has been lacking in foresight, and that is in fixing some means by which peal compositions, whenever rung, can be accurately identified. Compositions like Parker's Twelve-Part or Thurstans' Four-Part identify themselves, and so does a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major 'composed by C. Middleton,' but the number of peals in which the identity of the composition is thus conclusively established is very small. The vast majority remain absolutely unidentifiable to all but the conductor.

Hitherto the general practice, when the report of a peal is published, has been to give the name of the composer. That in itself, as experience has frequently shown, is not necessarily a guarantee of the truth of the composition, and it is far from being sufficient to identify it, either to the public who read the report at the time, or later on to anyone who may be officially interested in it. After a lapse of time many conductors are unable to say what particular composition they called, unless they have special reason for remembering it. In days gone by the publication of the name of the composer may have been sufficient—it was all that interested those who read the peal report, but in these more advanced times, when the knowledge of composition, like that of ringing itself, has remarkably extended and ringers are more critical, what matters most is not the name of the composer, but the figures of the composition that has been rung. Quite a number of people now take an interest in these things, and some means of identifying all compositions would be an undoubted advantage. The late Mr. Arthur Knights adopted the very simple plan of numbering his compositions and such a helpful system might very well be followed by all composers; then, in case of any future question arising, it would be but little trouble to identify the figures of any peal performance.

It may be said by some people that it is too late to adopt such a scheme at this stage because of the difficulty of collecting and indexing the compositions of men now dead and gone. We agree that this offers something of a problem, but we are not sure that it is beyond all possibility to index the peals of old composers which are still rung. Among the composers who are now with us, however, the scheme should be quite feasible. We

(Continued on page 314.)

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don't know what Mr. Lindoff will say to this with the many thousands of peal compositions which he has got—those of London Surprise Major alone, we believe, run into six figures—but we imagine that a man who can evolve plans for the production of such a vast number of peals could fairly readily find some simple way of indexing them.

A scheme, undertaken at this date, is, of course, bound to have many gaps in it, and it would almost certainly take a long while to complete, even to the extent that completion is possible, but if the living composers would begin to use a numerical system of identification, such as Mr. Knights employed, conductors would gradually come to use the information when recording the peals they call. There will doubtless be objections to such a scheme, chiefly on the ground of the task of getting it under way so that it may be put to practical use, but with the help of the composers—and there are not a large number whose output can be described as prolific—we believe the difficulties can be overcome. The details are matters that can be worked out later when ringing comes once again into its own and happier days are with us. There is no reason, however, why in the meantime association officials and other ringers who are interested in the matter should not give it serious thought.

It is not suggested, of course, that such a scheme is any solution of the situation created by the unwitting ringing of false compositions, some of which, as Mr. Barton's work is now revealing, are coming to light after the lapse of years. Neither does it surmount the difficulties pointed out by Mr. Coles that crop up when, before the falseness is discovered, the figures are published in an association report or circulated by any other means. Once the figures have got abroad they cannot be overtaken, and we have no doubt that in the past false peals, withdrawn by the authors, have sometimes been called by conductors in complete ignorance. This side of the problem is truly a difficult one, but a system of identification such as we have suggested would enable all such peals to be traced, even years later, because once a composition has been given an index number, the identification would be attached to every report of its performance.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, June 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE COURT MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	*FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

The annual meeting of the Society of Sherwood Youths was held on June 21st at Vernon House, Nottingham. Naturally, owing to prevailing conditions, numbers were small, and the 'campanological flights' were not very high, but in spite of difficulties those present had a very enjoyable time. Visitors were present from Burton, Derby and Leicester.

The chief business of the afternoon was the passing of accounts and the election of officers. These may both be considered satisfactory, as the officers were all re-elected, and the treasurer reported an increase of 9s. 4d. on the previous balance.

It was decided to hold another meeting in a month's time at the same place, due notice of which will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

NOVEL 'SILENT APPARATUS.'**BUCKS RINGERS' EXPERIMENT.**

The Central Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held its annual meeting in the parish of North Marston on Saturday, June 14th. The ringers began to assemble at the Parish Church at 2.30 p.m., and the bells (tongue-tied, alas!) were soon set going to Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor and Double Court.

A novel experiment was tried with a new form of 'silent apparatus.' Each ringer was provided with a partner armed with a handbell, who struck his bell as the man with the rope pulled off at hand and back stroke. A six-score of Doubles was rung in this way, but the Oxford Guild does not contemplate worrying the Central Council to sanction the ringing of peals by this method.

The bells of North Marston are a very musical ring of six, the old five having been recast and a treble added by Mears and Stainbank in 1926. The present tenor is 13 cwt. 2 qr. 27 lb. in F.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of the parish (the Rev. G. R. Robertson), who also gave a helpful address on the duties of bellringers in time of war. Twenty-eight members and guests sat down to a tea which would have horrified Lord Woolton, so lavish was the butter and so varied and numerous the sandwiches and cakes.

The annual business meeting which followed was under the chairmanship of the Rev. George Dixon (Rector of Waddesdon and Rural Dean). He was supported by Mr. Frank Gibbard, secretary of the branch, and by the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Deputy Master of the Guild.

The secretary made his report on the affairs of the branch during the past year, and read the statement of accounts, which showed a satisfactory balance.

The officers were all re-elected, with a vote of thanks to them for their able services in the past.

PRESENTATION TO REV. C. E. WIGG.

During the course of the meeting a presentation of candlesticks and table cruets was made to the Deputy Master as a token of the good wishes of the branch on the occasion of his recent marriage.—The Rev. C. E. Wigg replied, thanking the members for what was a totally unexpected and delightful gift.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of North Marston for his kindly welcome to the ringers, and to the members of the Mothers' Union who had provided such an excellent tea.

After the conclusion of the business meeting the members were greatly entertained by a lecture on the bells of the Oxford Diocese, given by Mr. F. Sharpe, of Launton. The lecture was profusely illustrated with lantern slides, and Mr. Sharpe kept his audience amused with anecdotes drawn from his long experience as a practical ringer. Commenting on the fact that some members of the public do not relish the sound of protracted ringing as much as the ringers themselves, he related how a certain bellringer in an Oxfordshire village was taken to task by one of the parishioners for the appalling noise that he had his fellows had made during the ringing of a long peal. 'It's your ears that are wrong, not our bells,' replied the ringer. 'You can't expect a person with ears shaped like the devil's to appreciate the sound of church bells.'

BOB DOUBLES.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Is it really necessary to find some other name for Bob Doubles when the bobbed leads are uncalled and the plain leads are termed 'bobs'? The suggestion of the Rev. Herbert Drake seems to me superfluous, for bobbed leads (whether called 'plain' or not) do not get you far without the use also of plain leads (whether called bobs or not).

Let us look at the method as we know it for the sake of simplicity of understanding. Two bobbed leads bring the bells round. Alternate bobbed and plain leads run to 60 changes only. Bobbed leads followed by two plain leads 'won't go'; it turns up false. Bobbed leads followed by three plain leads is, therefore, the only arrangement that will produce the extent, and that (whether you reverse the terms 'bob' and 'plain' or not) is just Bob Doubles—the Bob Doubles that have been known all down the ages.

By the way, I had a recollection of ringing, years ago, a peal of Minor which included College Single and Oxford Bob, and that, before starting, we were told that a plain lead of one was the bob lead in the other. I have tried to find out if my memory is correct by comparing College Single in an old edition of 'Standard Methods' with Oxford Bob in the latest C.C. Collection. Whether we rang the method as I have said, or whether I am mistaken, I cannot now say for certain, but I find that, while a plain lead of College Single (not the reverse method which appears in the Collection) is exactly the same as a bob lead of Oxford Bob, the College Single, with 4th's place made at the treble's lead, appears to require 6th's place at the bob; and it may be that that is what we rang. But, in any event, the case is not quite the same as that of the Bob Doubles.

OWD BOB.**SURREY ASSOCIATION.****PLEASANT MEETING AT REIGATE.**

In perfect summer weather a meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Reigate on Saturday, June 21st. About 40 members and friends attended, and it proved a very enjoyable gathering. Preceding the meeting, about half the company had a very attractive walk from Merstham to the top of Reigate Hill, where the excellent weather revealed the scenery at its best, and one of the finest views in the south-east of England was a fitting reward for those who made the climb. The walkers then proceeded by way of Wray Lane, where the overhanging foliage of the great trees afforded welcome shade, to Wray Common, and thence to the fine old Parish Church of Reigate.

Here the service was being held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Talbot, and attended by members who had not undertaken the ramble.

The Vicar extended a hearty welcome to the association, and those present will agree with his remarks that the church was the coolest spot which they had visited that day. In his address he deprecated a spirit of pessimism which he had observed amongst some of his fellow-men to-day, and disagreed absolutely with the belief that the failure of Christianity was responsible for the present state of affairs. Christianity can only fail after it has been properly tried, he said. The trouble was that it had not been properly tried, and it was, therefore, our duty to work for a practical Christianity which would apply to our whole existence.

After the service, the party adjourned to the very fine garden of Mr. Northover, who very kindly provided the tea. In the desirable shade of some lime trees a very welcome and enjoyable meal was held, after which Mr. Northover invited all present to make use of the grounds, and a walk round the various paths proved most interesting. After the meal was completed, the members expressed hearty appreciation of Mr. Northover's hospitality, and, in reply, he said that he would again like to welcome the association next year, provided the food question raised no difficulties.

No business was transacted, but those present stood a few moments in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Fred Woodriss.

The heat did not incite further activity, and members were content to talk over old times and other matters until the party finally dispersed about 8.30 p.m.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT AT MONKEN HADLEY.**

Twenty-one ringers and friends, representing six affiliated towers, attended the North and East District meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at Monken Hadley on Saturday, June 14th. Handbell ringing took place in the ringing chamber of St. Mary's Church, and a short service was held, at which the Rector (the Rev. G. Richardson) officiated.

A welcome was extended to the association before an address by the Rector, who was glad to know that, despite present restrictions and the transfer of some ringers to other occupations, the art of ringing was still being maintained. The address was based on three thoughts—disappointment in the thought that restrictions prohibited the sound of church bells; satisfaction in the fact that handbell ringing was permissible under certain conditions, and that it was the accepted substitute for tower-bell ringing; hope in the future when we shall all be able to return to our cherished and mysterious art of campanology.

The business meeting was held in the church and was of short duration, Mr. J. A. Trollope (vice-president) acting as chairman. Those present stood for a few seconds in silence as a mark of respect to a deceased member, the late Mr. E. F. Pike.

Arrangements were being made for the next district meeting to be held at Stanmore.

The meeting expressed pleasure in the knowledge that Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, editor of 'The Ringing World,' had returned home from hospital, and was making continued and satisfactory progress towards complete recovery.

Thanks were accorded to the Rector, organist and Mr. H. S. Arbin, captain of the local band, for their parts towards the success of the meeting.

More handbell ringing then took place until teatime, which was unavoidably later than advertised, but was worth waiting for. It was noticed that an unofficial Youth Movement had been created in the presence (at any rate at the tea table) of Master Peter Coles and Graham Lock, who may, by their pedigree, in a few years' time be commencing their ringing careers by starting off with Spliced Surprise and learning the intricacies of Grandsire and Stedman when they acquire the fruit of experience. The company dispersed after teatime, though this was a slow operation, as there was so much to talk about.

CROFT, LEICS.—On June 2nd, the thirteenth anniversary of the dedication of the bells, the usual peal was replaced by a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on handbells: John H. Bailes 1-2, C. H. Wehh (conductor) 3-4, W. A. Wood (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 5-6.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 309.)

THE METHODS REPORT.

Soon after the appointment of the Methods Committee Law James sent round a draft of a proposed report. It was practically identical with the definition of a method he had brought forward at Norwich. The actual wording is now lost, but the original definition was as follows. A method is an arrangement of place-making and dodging upon an odd number of bells working about one or more trebles in one plain or treble bob hunt, so that at each treble lead-end the treble or trebles occupy a different position among the working bells; coming between each pair in turn; and provided also that the working bells are at each lead-end in their proper coursing order.

It was not the statement on methods that people were asking for, and it was very doubtful if it would be understood by ordinary ringers. It was therefore received very coldly by the members of the committee, and after some discussion, I submitted an alternative draft based on Bulwer's suggested rules. This was generally approved, but naturally James would not agree, and in the course of the discussion, the draft with its comments and criticisms got lost in the post or in some other way.

That really was a fortunate thing, for the draft was a poor affair and, if presented to the Council and adopted, would have done no good.

I had by this time begun to see that there was more truth behind James' ideas than people at first thought. A long and keen controversy sprang up which spread beyond the committee and was waged partly by correspondence and partly in the columns of 'The Bell News.' After some years I drew up a statement of what I thought had been fairly generally agreed on by those most competent to express an opinion, and I sent it in the form of a letter to 'The Bell News.' Bulwer warmly approved of it and suggested that it should be used as the report. The other members agreed, and Law James consented on condition that his amended definitions of a plain lead, a bob lead, and a single lead were included. I added some explanatory notes, and the whole was presented to the Council and adopted, five years after the committee had been first appointed.

The report was printed in the Council's Rules and Decisions, and still stands as the official statement on a method. Looking at it now in the light of greatly increased knowledge, I do not think it is anything like so good a statement on methods as could be made; but it served its purpose and it set the standard for methods which the Exercise has accepted. Some of its less important statements are rather open to question, but it finally decided the three main points which had been keenly debated, and on which the Exercise had been strongly divided. First it ruled that no bell may lie more than two consecutive blows in any position. That meant that methods like Bob Triples and Grandsire Major, which had for many years a measure of popularity among ringers, were no longer to be allowed; and that things like Treble Bob Triples and Caters, and Stedman Major were put beyond the pale. It did not, however, forbid certain seven bell methods (not triple changes throughout) with six working bells, which some of the older men such as Davies, and probably Heywood, would have ruled out, and which were not covered by James' original definition.

Treble Bob Triples and Stedman Major had always been looked on as more or less freaks, but Bob Triples for many years was a standard method, and Grandsire on even numbers was by some considered to be equal to Plain Bob. The Clavis claims that on twelve bells it is much superior. Bob Triples does not, perhaps, deserve the hard things which were said against it; the objections to it were largely academic, and no harm would have been done if it had remained in practice; but a logical line had to be drawn and Bob Triples was on the wrong side of it.

The second important ruling of the Method Report was that each lead in a method must be symmetrical. Every place made in the first half lead must be balanced by a complementary place made in the second half lead. This was strongly challenged by some people, who saw in it no more than a mere fad, an attempt to make a method 'look pretty on paper.' The criticism gained most of its strength and point from Union Triples which is not symmetrical, and was therefore ruled out. Union Triples had enjoyed a certain amount of revived popularity in the previous few years among peal ringers, and among a number of very clever composers like A. B. Carpenter, C. D. P. Davies and John Carter, who found in it a large scope for the exercise of their skill and ingenuity. It is probable that its popularity among practical ringers would in any case have been short lived.

The discovery by J. J. Parker of the falseness of Yorkshire Court Minor, due to its lack of symmetry, did something towards changing men's opinion, and the increasing interest taken in new Surprise and Treble Bob methods, with their problems of internal falseness, did more.

The keenest controversy centred round the third rule, that which said that a method must have what are called Bob Major Lead Ends. It was, and is, easy to criticise this rule. It was, and is, easy to recognise its value. But it is extraordinarily difficult to give any reasons for it which will satisfy anyone who is not himself convinced of its necessity. It led to the greatest amount of controversy and the keenest of arguments, but most of it was very poor stuff.

The strongest point in favour of these rules, and the thing which really led to their being accepted by the Exercise, is that they are really inherent in the nature of change ringing. They were not new things, though people thought they were, and Heywood was 'patiently amused at the earnest endeavours to shackle composition into conformity with quite arbitrary and wholly questionably axiomatic rules.' Others roundly declared that the Methods Committee was trying to dictate to ringers as to what they should ring, and they resented the dictation strongly. But these rules had been more or less observed by the Exercise throughout the ages, and consciously so, for the most part, by the best composers. At any rate, only those methods which kept them had proved of abiding value.

Apart from the three rules there is nothing much of permanent value in the Method Report. The definitions of a plain lead, a bob lead, and a single lead, and the definitions of a single method, a reverse method, a double method and a compound method have just sufficient amount of truth in them to obscure the whole truth; and the statement on the succession of the nature of the rows is a concession (quite unnecessary) to an opinion held at the time by leading men, but on insufficient grounds. The Methods Report was a halfway house be-

tween the merely opportunist code of rules asked for by Heywood and Bulwer and a really scientific explanation of methods. The latter, however, was not possible at the time, and it is doubtful if it is even now.

With all its defects and limitations the report served its purpose well enough, and it prepared the ground for the great expansion of Major methods. Controversy died down or was turned to other matters. But to that there was one exception. C. D. P. Davies had taken no part in the arguments, for they were outside his particular subjects. But one day in the year 1911 he visited John Carter to see his ringing machine, and he worked out and took with him a new Major method which he thought was typical of what a good Major method should be. It is sufficient to say that in the first lead of the plain course 8-2 dodge behind, with the 7th on the lead, and the lead end is 3462857. Afterwards he was told that it did not meet the requirements of the Methods Report, and it seems that some contemptuous remarks by Law James about it and about Union Triples came to his ears.—That stung him into an almost fierce antagonism not unmingled with personal feeling, and he set himself to the task of removing the Methods Report from the Council's decisions. At the London meeting in 1912 he brought the matter up, but was soundly beaten, for though he was genuinely working for what he thought were the best interests of the art and science of change ringing, his zeal was greater than his knowledge of this particular matter.

He had to wait until a new Council came into being, and then in 1915 in another attack, he made the longest speech ever delivered to the Council. Excessive wordiness was always his greatest defect, but on this occasion

he spoke for an hour and forty minutes. The meeting, of course, was thoroughly sick and tired of the subject long before he had finished. James was not present, and I, as representing the Methods Committee, sat still and did not interrupt. It was a great test of Heywood's chairmanship, and it did not stand it very well. Davies was the secretary of the Council, and Heywood doubtless felt a difficulty in pulling him up. He let him go on and on, and then when at last he did finish, he got up, closed the debate and directed the Council to pass Davies' resolution. I had no intention of making the tactical mistake of prolonging the debate in such circumstances, but I did feel aggrieved that a resolution, which in effect reversed all the work we had done during so many years, should have been passed without giving me the opportunity of even entering a protest. Of course, the resolution was a dead letter, but Heywood should either have rigorously curtailed Davies' speech, or seen that the matter was held over. There was some excuse for Davies. He was so thoroughly in earnest that he did not realise how long he had been speaking.

A little later on he went to the trouble and expense of publishing a pamphlet of twenty-four closely printed pages, in which he attempted to justify his opposition to the Methods Committee and to give his own views on the matter.

One thing I think was made clear by these dead and now almost forgotten disputes. A dictum by an authority, or a formal resolution by the Central Council, passes almost unnoticed and has little effect; but a controversial statement, hotly challenged, stimulates interest, and by inducing people to think for themselves, helps progress in no small degree.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Members of the N.U.T.S. will be pleased to learn that Miss Edna Bedford, who is doing three years' training at King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor, has been successful in passing the State preliminary examination in general nursing.

The hon. secretary of the Kent County Association (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) and his family are to be congratulated upon escaping serious injury from enemy action. Raiders were recently over the area in which they live, and a bomb landed on a building about 15 yards from their residence. Mr. Mitchell, his wife and daughter were blown down the stairs by the blast, but happily sustained no broken bones, although they were bruised and shaken.

In our issue of May 30th we gave an account of the successive long lengths of Treble Bob Major. Mr. E. R. Martin points out that we mentioned all the composers except Mr. E. Timbrell, who was the first to beat Day's 16,608. Mr. Timbrell's performance was a very fine one, and we are sorry we did not mention it. He is still living at Chipping, near Preston.

The Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang the first peal on the twelve bells at Exeter Cathedral on July 5th, 1924. The method was Stedman Cinques, and the conductor was Mr. Albert Walker.

On July 2nd, 1886, the Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on handbells. John Carter rang 3-4 and called the bobs. Mr. Tom Miller, who happily is still with us, rang 5-6. Three years earlier he had taken part in the first peal on Coventry bells, which afterwards proved to be false.

The first peal at All Saints', Poplar, was rung on July 3rd, 1823. These bells have so far escaped destruction at enemy hands.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

WHO WILL RING THE BELLS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—One of the reasons why Mr. Churchill, in newspaper pictures, always seems to wear the 'Sphinx's inscrutable smile' must be the enigma he and his Government have set us ringers by banning the ringing of church bells. As your 'leader' admits this week, questions have been asked for a whole year now as to:—

(a) Who is to ring the bells in case of invasion?

(b) What are they going to ring?

(c) How are the ringers, if unqualified, going to manage it?

First let us realise how these things will not be done.

(a) The ringers will not be change ringers, whether members of the Home Guard, the A.F.S. or any other defence force.

(b) The method will not be Double Court, Grandsire Triples or Norwich Caters.

(c) The striking will be by no means what it should. On the contrary:—

(a) The ringers will be German parachutists.

(b) The method will be 'Hitler Surprise.'

(c) The ringing and striking will be most unorthodox.

In support of theory (a), the Germans have accompanied their occupation of various countries with the ringing of church bells, the most notable instance being Vienna.

In support of theory (b), the Germans will not have the time or the amenities to learn the standard methods.

In support of (c), the Germans have done nothing orthodox in this war yet.

In the light of the above, let us re-read the Government's injunction as set out in your 'leader,' and we shall see that the ringing of any bells when the invasion begins will show us exactly where the Germans are. And that, surely, is what we shall want to know.

Perhaps our Government have been a bit cleverer in the matter than we thought.

A. TROTMAN.

LONDON CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Tourist' has apparently made up his mind quite definitely that London's churches are nothing like churches, and that is that.

It is a great pity he did not reply to the letters from Mr. R. F. Deal and Mr. E. A. Young, instead of confining his reply entirely to my poor effort at defending London's churches.

That 'Tourist' is entitled to his opinion no one will deny, but whether his experience of 900 churches entitles him to condemn with one sweep the work of a master of 250 years ago is quite another matter.

J. E. BAILEY

20, Swaisland Road,
Dartford, Kent.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.**ANNUAL MEETING AT WOLVERHAMPTON.****Many Unpaid Subscriptions.**

The annual meeting of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society was held at the George Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, June 21st, when the following towers were represented: Bradley, Brewood, Cannock, Codsall, Cosely, Darlaston, Penn, Stafford, Tettenhall, Trysull, Walsall, West Bromwich (All Saints'), Willenhall and Wolverhampton (St. Peter's). Two welcome visitors were Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key and Lance-Corpl. James Fernley, of Norbury. Mr. T. Benton, of Cannock, attended on the 50th anniversary of his election as a member.

Mr. Robert Pickering presided at the meeting at which the committee's report was read and accepted. After some discussion, it was agreed that, in order to save paper, it should be produced on a single sheet. The accounts, presented by the treasurer (the Rev. C. H. Barker), showed a balance of £33 6s. 8d. on the right side. But it was pointed out that, while a majority of the members had paid their subscriptions, there were many who had not done so, and it was hoped they would do their duty in order to keep the ship afloat.

Three new members had been enrolled during the year. The officers were re-elected en bloc. The committee recommended that the next meeting should be held at Codsall, and the suggestion was adopted. It will take place towards the end of August or early in September, whichever is most suitable to those concerned.

A vote of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year was moved by Mr. A. E. Reed and carried unanimously. Handbells were then brought into use, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung slowly (in lieu of half-muffled ringing) as a last token of respect to the late John Perry, by old friends of his: R. Pickering 1-2, Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key 3-4, H. Knight 5-6, and B. Horton 7-8.

Miss Merle Barker (daughter of the hon. treasurer), gold medalist for elocution, delighted the company with several items of clever acting.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The last annual meeting was held at Wolverhampton in August, and was well attended. At the conclusion of the business transaction handbells were brought into use, and various touches were completed. St. Peter's (Wolverhampton) handbell quartette also played a variety of tunes. Meetings during the winter were abandoned on account of the black-out and the difficulty in transport. In April of this year a meeting was held at Wolverhampton, when a goodly number of members attended and which proved to be a social success.

No peals have been rung during the period under review, but now is an opportunity for practice on handbells, with the outlook for attempts for peals in the future. It is nevertheless realised that difficulties arise as to meeting for practice on account of so many members engaged on war work, both on munition production, A.R.P. work and for fire watching, etc. Twelve months have passed since tower bells were allowed to be used, and it is hoped that when the great day arrives for them to ring out the joyful news of victory members will be found at the rope-end ready to do their duty.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.**SOME QUESTIONS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—What has happened to the Central Council—is it still alive? I admit I have not read of its death, but I ask the question because no one has heard anything officially about it for nearly, if not quite, two years, and we are now reading from week to week an interesting 'obituary' notice of this august body.

Seriously, however, ought not some kind of action to be taken to continue the Council's existence? The affiliated associations ought to be instructed as to their future action, if their membership is to be maintained, and as an association official I and, no doubt, every secretary and treasurer will be glad to know whether in these years, when no meetings are being held, associations are expected to pay their affiliation fees. If they have to do so, is it to be on the basis of the last elected number of representatives, although some associations have lost a lot of members and perhaps are not now qualified to send as many delegates?

If the Council is still functioning, what about the hon. members elected in 1937 and 1938 for three years? Without some kind of covering action by the Council or the Standing Committee, which they have not yet taken, surely these are no longer members? And they include the president!

If the officials want to keep interest in the Council alive, why do we not occasionally get some communication from them? This silence points to complete inactivity. Associations are doing their best to keep their members interested: why can't the Council through the officers try to do the same? What about publishing the peals analysis for last year for a start?

OBSERVER.**A TRIPLE MEETING.****THREE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS UNITE.****Quick Business.**

The annual joint meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association, the Barnsley and District Society and the Doncaster and District Society was held at Wath on Saturday, June 21st, when the following towers were represented: Arksey, Bolsterstone, Doncaster Parish, Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Pudsey, Rotherham Parish, Sandal, Sprotborough, Sheffield (Cathedral and St. Marie's), and the local company. Handbells were rung in the Church House during the afternoon until 5 p.m., when the company adjourned for tea at Warburton's Cafe. The business meeting of the three societies took place in the Church House, and the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans, presided over them all. No time was wasted in long speeches, and the whole of the business was disposed of in about 25 minutes.

The Vicar said how pleased he was to meet the ringers and to welcome them to Wath and to know that they were keeping together. He said it was something new to have a gathering of ringers in his parish, as he had not been at Wath long, and this was the first parish he had had with a peal of bells. He looked forward to the time when he could hear the tower bells ring.

Mr. G. Lewis, vice-president, Yorks Association, offered the best thanks to the Vicar for the use of Church House, for presiding at the meeting and for the welcome he had given, and to the local company for all the arrangements they had made. This was seconded by Mr. E. Brookes, Barnsley District president, supported by Mr. Staveley, Doncaster Society, and carried with applause.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Barnsley and District Society at Penistone on Saturday, July 19th, and the next Doncaster Societies' meeting at Arksey on Saturday, July 26th.

At the opening of the business meeting the members stood in silence to the memory of Mr. C. Walsh, a ringer of the local band, and a course of Bob Minor was rung to his memory by: H. Chant 1-2, A. Nash 3-4, A. Gill 5-6, on behalf of the Barnsley Society.

Very good use was made of the handbells, both in the afternoon and evening, methods ranging from Minor to Maximus as follows: Minor, Plain and Treble Bob, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Little Bob Major, Plain, Little and Double Bob Major Spliced, Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Bob Royal, Grandsire Cinques, and Bob Maximus, and also a course of 'Clinker' Bob Minor.

A thirst among some of the ringers developed by the heat of the day had to be satisfied, and then, after a short social chat, a happy and successful meeting came to an end.

THE LATE REV. W. PENNINGTON-BICKFORD.**FUNERAL SERVICE AT ST. CLEMENT'S.**

The funeral service of the late Rector of St. Clement Danes' was held on June 22nd among the ruins of the church he had served so devotedly for 37 years, one of them as churchwarden, five as curate, and the rest as Rector.

The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Bishop of Kensington, who gave a most impressive address. A notable feature were hymns written by Mrs. Pennington-Bickford, and set to music by the deceased Rector. Before and after the service rounds on ten handbells were rung and after the opening anthem a course of Grandsire Triples was rung. The ringers who took part, and who represented the Ancient Society of College Youths and the London County Association, were E. Fenn, H. Langdon, A. A. Hughes, H. Miles, A. D. Barker, R. F. Deal, G. N. Price, T. Groombridge, jun., and J. E. Lewis Cockey.

One of the wreaths was from the London County Association, 'in fond memory of our hon. chaplain.' It was in their colours, red and blue.

DORSET VILLAGE TRIBUTE.

The late Rector of St. Clement Danes' and Mrs. Pennington-Bickford were no strangers to the Dorset village of Kington Magna, where the Rev. F. L. Edwards, hon. secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, is Rector.

On Monday, June 23rd, a simple tribute was paid to the memory of one justly held in honour among ringers. The Union Jack flew at half-mast over the Rectory, and at 1 p.m. a group of boys played 'The Bells of St. Clement's' in the church on handbells, while the ancient 'Requiem Æternam' was recited by the Rector, the Rev. F. L. Edwards. Melodies composed by Mr. Pennington-Bickford were also played on the organ and handbells at evensong on the previous Sunday and the Feast of St. John-the-Baptist.

MRS. PENNINGTON-BICKFORD'S THANKS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am to-day in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Pennington-Bickford, in which she says, referring to the memorial service at St. Clement Danes', 'Will you please thank all the ringers for me and express my deep gratitude.'

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PRESENTATION TO MR. NOLAN GOLDEN.

A most successful meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Bergh Apton on Saturday, June 21st. Members were present from Attleborough, Aylsham, Beccles, Mulbarton, Norwich (St. Peter Mancroft), St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Norton, Redenhall, Great Yarmouth, and the local tower. Various methods were practised during the afternoon on the six bells, with clappers tied. The good 'go' of the bells was commented on, this being partly due to the fact that one, and often two, practices are held regularly each week, in spite of the ban. Handbells were also rung.

The Rector (the Rev. A. St. J. Heard) preached at the service, and later a tea reminiscent of the 'Golden' age of the association (when Nolan was general secretary and England was at peace) was taken on the Rectory lawn.



MR. NOLAN GOLDEN.

At the business meeting which followed, Mr. F. B. Freestone (who was thought to be almost the only person remaining in Bergh Apton not yet a member of the association) was elected a member.

In the much regretted but unavoidable absence of the president of the association (Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, of Yarmouth), Mr. W. L. Duffield, chairman of the South Norfolk Branch, presented to Mr. F. Nolan Golden a silver bell inkstand, as a token of thanks from the association for all he has done as general secretary since 1937. Mr. Duffield recalled that for a number of years before becoming general secretary, Mr. Golden had been successively secretary of the South Norfolk and North Norfolk Branches. He hoped Mr. Golden would soon be with them again, when the war is over and the R.A.F. (which has unfortunately recognised Mr. Golden's brilliance) is able to release him. Meanwhile they gave this gift as a token of thanks for what he had done for the association, both as a brilliant ringer and as a most energetic worker.

Mr. Golden expressed his thanks for the gift, and for the warm friendship and support which members of the association had given him. He recalled a similar occasion when, at the great crisis of his life, in 1936, members had expressed their sympathy with him in a most practical way.

The new general secretary and treasurer (the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow) added some words of explanation. Referring to the difficulty of making such a presentation generally known, so that all would have an opportunity to subscribe, at such a time as this, he said that the balance left after paying for the inkstand would be presented to Mr. Golden in the form of War Savings certificates. He presented Mr. Golden with £2 15s. worth there and then, and said that

(Continued on page 322.)

MR. DRAKE AND BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I did not set a trap for Mr. Drake. I asked him a plain and straightforward question to find out definitely whether he knows what people are referring to when they speak of 'backward hunting.' He says he does not know, and that confession shows he is not competent to express an opinion on whether the term is a correct one or not. He further says that no one else knows (which is not true); and that I know least of all (which is both untrue and rude).

I did not invent the expression 'backward hunting.' It came into use spontaneously years ago, among the people who had occasion to speak of a definite feature in ringing for which there is no more convenient and natural name. Backward hunting is a real thing. As far back as 1667, Richard Duckworth, in the 'Tintinnologia,' drew attention to the difference between forward and backward hunting, though he did not use those actual terms.

The word 'backward' is used with the same precise and limited meaning as is used by Henry Hubbard in his 'Campanologia,' 1876; C. A. W. Troyte in his 'Change Ringing,' 1869; Woolmore Wigram in his 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' 1871; Jasper Snowdon in 'Ropesight,' 1879; H. Earle Bulwer in 'The Glossary,' 1903; Ernest Morris in 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' 1937; and E. S. and M. Powell in 'The Ringers' Handbook.'

The 'Clavis' (1788), in its somewhat pompous style, uses the word 'retrograde,' which is only the latinised form of backward moving. Shipway (1816) copied the 'Clavis,' and so did Benjamin Thackrah in 'The Art of Ringing,' 1852, and William Banister in 'The Art and Science of Change Ringing,' 1874.

Three random quotations will illustrate the meaning of the word. 'Dodging is nothing more than making a retrograde motion, or moving a place backward.'—Henry Hubbard.

'In effect a dodge is one step of backward hunting.'—E. S. Powell. 'A dodge is nothing on earth but hunting backwards.'—Henry Law James at Liverpool, 1931.

Backward hunting is not an expression one uses or needs to use in actual ringing, but that does not prove that it is not a useful and necessary term in other circumstances. In all my experience I have never heard a conductor tell a ringer during a peal to complete a Q Set; but 'Q Set' is a good and proper ringing term. The opinions given in your last issue by Mr. T. F. Thomas (whoever he may be) are merely beside the point.

The modern use of the expression backward hunting is illustrated not only by its employment in the articles on Standard Methods, but by a quotation from a recent letter by Mr. C. W. Woolley to 'The Ringing World' (February 14th, 1941). He writes that 'Bristol, which has a rich mixture of snaps, leads right and wrong, and forward and backward ringing, is one of the finest of methods.'

The word which Mr. Drake tells us is absurd and ridiculous has been used by almost everyone who has written about change ringing. Mr. Drake says that the men who use the expression 'backward hunting' have brought ridicule on change ringing. He is quite mistaken. The people who laughed, laughed at him, not at the term.

He has referred more than once to the Central Council meeting at Liverpool and to what I said there, which, characteristically, he has misquoted. What happened was this. He moved a resolution asking the Council to disapprove of the term 'backward hunting.' Law James tried (but in vain) to explain to him what it meant. When it came to my turn I said that every ringer knows what hunting is, and backward hunting is simply hunting backwards. The members of the Council (all except Mr. Drake) saw my point and laughed. Even the reporters, who, poor souls, were wondering what to make of a Central Council debate—even they felt that a joke of sorts was knocking about, and so next morning the citizens of Liverpool read all about the incident in their newspapers.

'We do not understand these absurd terms,' writes Mr. Drake, 'and we do not intend them to be used. If we cannot ring changes without being made fools of in this ridiculous way, we will give up ringing.' That is splendid. It is good to know that, though he was laughed out of court at Liverpool, he has still authority and power enough to forbid us to use the terms we think proper. But, after all, the heroics are rather forced and unreal. The expression 'backward hunting' does not really concern him, for no one uses it who has not advanced to some extent from the elementary stages of practical and theoretical ringing, and the only person who in this matter can make a fool of Mr. Drake is Mr. Drake himself.

Ealing.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

HUNTS AND HUNTING.

The history of the origin and growth of the words we use, what they once meant, and how they have gained their present meaning, is a fascinating study. It is one of the chief means of tracing the development of human life and thought, to it have been devoted much study and learning, and about it many books have been written.

In this matter, as in several others, the Ringing Exercise reproduces, on its small scale, the features of the general life around. We, too, have our special words and terms, come down to us from the past, words which grew up to meet some particular needs, and which have often developed as ideas have expanded. They are so familiar, and they serve their purposes so well, that we never stop to think where they came from, nor why they have their present meanings; yet a study of them may give us a great deal of insight into the minds of the ringers of old time, and tell us much about the development of the art and science of change ringing. Why, for instance, do we call the worsted part of a bell rope the 'sallie'? Why is the act of writing down changes termed 'pricking'? What history lies behind the use of the word 'scroof,' so familiar to London ringers?

Not much has, as yet, been done towards the study of our terms, and to those who do make the attempt, it presents some pitfalls. What seems the obvious explanation is not always the real one. Most people, when they come across the word 'belfry,' would naturally associate it with the word 'bell.' That seems to have been in the mind of the compiler of the Glossary, and to have led him to define a belfry as 'the part of the tower in which the bells are placed'; but etymologically a belfry has nothing whatever to do with bells. The word originally meant a pent house and then a watch tower.

When once we realise that the fundamental idea which produced change ringing was that of movement, it is not, however, difficult to understand why most of the terms were adopted. But there is one of them, as familiar as any, which, when we stop to consider it, makes us wonder how it ever came into use. 'Hunt' and 'Hunting'—the words are common and in every day speech, but what has the thing they signify to do with bells and bell ringing? 'Hunt' is an Anglo-Saxon word which has been used in this country for a thousand years, and all along with the same meaning. It signifies 'to go in pursuit of wild animals,' and though the meaning has expanded somewhat, there is always the idea of the pursuit of something. Nothing could well be further from the objects of change ringing.

We can without difficulty see why the early ringers used the words 'dodge,' or 'lead,' or 'bob.' They imply, and very largely describe, different sorts of movement. 'Hunting' also implies movement, but in its ordinary use it requires some object to be hunted. Now we say that a ringer dodges, or we say that a bell dodges; but we never say that a ringer dodges a bell. We say that a ringer hunts, or a bell hunts; and we do say sometimes that a ringer hunts a bell. The expression is a very old one, handed down from the earliest times, and though its meaning has somewhat altered, it

lets a flood of light into what was in the minds of the men who first developed change ringing.

How during the great days of Queen Elizabeth's reign the art of change ringing managed to grow up in the belfries of towns and villages we do not know. We can speculate, and we can make guesses more or less accurate; but we have no contemporary information. But we do possess a book written just when the general characteristics of the art had been fixed and its future development determined. That book was by a man who had a clear grasp of his subject, and complete command of words to express his meaning. In the 'Tintinnalogia,' Richard Duckworth gives us a description of ringing in the middle years of the seventeenth century just at the time when modern method ringing had become possible. It was possible because an earlier stage of development had been gone through. This early stage passed on to later years almost everything out of which our present day ringing was directly developed, but there was one very important difference. Instead of every man in the band having an equal share in the method and being always on the move, most of them had to remain just where they were, and only to alter their positions when they were directed to do so by the man who controlled the ringing and who probably was what we should now call the conductor. He moved the bells about one at a time much as a chess player moves the pieces on the board. One at a time; for though no bell can move unless another makes way for it, the position of the second bell, relative to the rest, remained the same.

One point is worth noting. Nowadays we associate hunting with a continuous path in which a step is made at every change, but originally a bell might make a step in hunting and then have to wait for a number of changes (it might be as many as thirty on six bells) before it made the next step. The exact equivalent of this in modern ringing is the dodging in Plain Bob where each of the working bells takes one step backwards and then waits for a whole lead before it takes the next backward step. When the course is finished all the dodges together make one continuous backward path.

Superficially this ringing was like modern stoney, which indeed is the debased and degenerate survival of it, but with the important and vital distinction that the early movement was made according to scientific rules and with full regard to truth of changes.

When the conductor moved a bell by successive steps through the others up from the front to the back, or down from the back to the front, he was said to hunt the bell, and then by a transition, natural in English speech and inevitable in the circumstances, the bell which was moved or hunted was said itself to move or hunt. Not till later was the man who rang it said to hunt.

We have said that the hunting was done at the direction of a conductor. That seems to have been so in the ordinary bands, but the more skilful companies had no conductor and each man had to look out for himself.

But why did the old ringers use the particular word 'hunt'? That we cannot say. There seems to have been no corresponding use in ordinary speech, but these men had an instinct for finding distinctive and suitable terms. Perhaps there was some idea in their minds similar to that which makes men talk about 'pursuing'

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DEATH OF MR. JOHN PERRY.**WELL-KNOWN STAFFORDSHIRE RINGER.**

The death is announced of Mr. John Perry, of Brewood, which took place on June 17th, after an illness of three months caused by a seizure. The funeral was at Brewood on the 20th.

The deceased had been a prominent member of the Stafford Archdeaconry Society since 1900, and for the greater part of that period he was a member of the committee.

When he took over the control of the tower and bells of SS. Mary and Chad's Church, Brewood, he immediately set about training a band of young men in the art of change ringing. Up to then 'Churchyard Bob' had been the rule. He encountered many obstacles, but persevered until he got a band round him that could ring Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major, and Double Norwich.

As is often the case in a village, one or another of the band left the district, with the result that his teaching capabilities were frequently tested. He, however, succeeded in conducting a peal of Grandsire Triples rung by the local Sunday service ringers.

He rang 200 peals for the Archdeaconry of Stafford Society, including Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Triples, Caters and Cinques, Plain Bob Minor, Major and Royal, Cambridge Minor and Major, New Cambridge Major and Superlative Surprise. He took part in a strictly uncondemned peal of Stedman Triples and one of Stedman Caters in hand. He conducted peals of Grandsire and Erin Triples, Stedman Doubles (on handbells), Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Plain Bob Minor and Major.

An outstanding performance was on February 3rd, 1902, when a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on handbells by John Perry, who rang 1-2-3 and conducted, and Thomas Perry, who rang 4-5-6. The conductor had the treble in his right hand and 2-3 in his left. His brother had 4-5 in his right hand and the tenor in his left. Mr. Perry was a painter and decorator by trade, but was better known as clerk, for 14 years, to the Brewood Parish Council, clerk and sexton of the Parish Church, secretary to the Dole Trustees, secretary of the 'Royal Exchange' lodge, Ancient Order of Oddfellows and the Jubilee Hall Community Council. He was for many years secretary of the now defunct Brewood Horticultural Society.

At a meeting of the Cannock Rural Council, on Tuesday, the chairman (Mr. W. E. Hawthorne) referred to the death that morning of Mr. John Perry, of The Lowlands, Brewood, and it was agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent to his widow. The chairman and other members spoke highly of the keenness of Mr. Perry in his work and of his interest in the village.

He leaves a widow and daughter to mourn their loss.

WEDDING OF SURREY RINGER.**PTE. R. V. FULLER AND MISS MARY FRY.**

The wedding took place at Farnham Parish Church on Saturday, June 14th, of Miss Mary Fry, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Fry, of Farnham, and Mr. Richard Victor Fuller, Army Dental Corps, youngest son of Mrs. R. Fuller, of Walworth. The Rev. T. F. Griffith officiated, and Mr. G. C. Macklin, at the organ, accompanied the hymns, 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,' and 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us.' The bride was given away by her father. She wore a gown of ivory figured satin, with a short train cut in one with the skirt. There were three bridesmaids, Miss E. Fry (sister of the bride) and the Misses Josie and Peggy Green. The bridegroom is a well-known ringer in the Guildford area, having started ringing at Reigate and continued later at Aldershot, Farnham and district.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

(Continued from page 320.)

'the fund for more certificates would remain open for the benefit of those who had not yet had the opportunity to subscribe.

Members of the association should note that the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow's address is 52, The Close, Norwich.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Rector for the use of the bells and for his address at the service, also for providing a bus free from Norwich for members' convenience, and for wishing to give the tea (though the visitors wouldn't hear of receiving it all for nothing, and promptly subscribed 1s. each for church expenses); also to the organist and organ blower, those who had arranged the tea, and those who had saved up materials for it.

It was announced that Mr. Arthur J. E. Smalls, of Norwich, serving in His Majesty's Forces, was reported missing.

It was decided to hold the next meeting, if possible, at Diss on September 13th.

After the business meeting, members rang handbells, played howls, and inspected the Rector's lovely garden, which all agreed had been the setting of one of the most delightful meetings of the association for some time.

NOTICES.

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.**

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.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m., by kind invitation of the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes. Handbell ringing and a good adjournment spot afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.

—The next meeting will be at Moorside on Saturday, July 5th. Tower bells and handbells available. All ringers and friends welcome. Business meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, 30, Grafton Street, Moorside, Oldham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.) — Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th, at headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by handbell practice.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.

—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, July 5th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5.15, at Swan Hotel, meeting and handbells after.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester and Bolton Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, July 5th. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Bring sandwiches and sugar. — Peter Crook and John H. Ridyard, Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—

A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Maldon, on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Will all those requiring tea please let me know by Tuesday, July 8th, so that the essential arrangement may be made? — H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—

The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Please inform Mr. G. Horner, 91, Clifton Green, York, by Thursday, July 10th. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for. — H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea. It is essential that all intending to be present should notify the secretary not later than Wednesday, July 9th, to make the necessary arrangements for tea.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Corby on Saturday, July 12th. Service at 6 p.m. No tea. Handbells before and after service. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell, nr. Kettering.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch.—Meeting at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School on Saturday, July 12th, 6 p.m. onwards. Handbells available.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Anstey on July 12th. Bells (8, silent) will be available from 3 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., will be provided for those who notify Mr. A. Disney, 11, Dalby Road, Anstey, by Tuesday, July 8th. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, South Croydon, on Saturday, July 12th. Eight bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. until black-out. Also handbells. Service 4.30. Tea to follow for all notifying Miss Pat Terry, 110, Brighton Road, South Croydon, by Wednesday, July 9th. All welcome, but please remember—if you don't send in your name you will get no tea.—Ivy R. Housden, Dis. Sec., 25, Southbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, July 12th. Tower will be open from 3 p.m. Handbells will be available, also front 8 (silent). Meeting at 5 p.m. Tea will be arranged for those who send word of their intention to be present. A good attendance is requested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The July monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, July 12th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow at 4.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. — This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those intending to be present kindly notify me not later than Monday, July 14th.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

JOINT MEETING AT HAGLEY TEA IN THE PARK.

The joint meeting of the Dudley and Districts Guild and the Northern Branch of the Worcester Association, at Hagley on June 21st, was held in glorious weather and was well attended. The church bells were available for silent practice, and good use was made of the handbells. Tea was served in the beautiful park surrounding the church.

The Ringing Master of the Dudley Guild, Mr. C. H. Woodberry, presided over the quarterly meeting of that society. Another joint meeting was arranged for September 20th at Clent.

Thanks were given to Mr. E. M. Ashford, scoutmaster, of Hagley, and the Scouts, and to the Misses Parkes for serving the tea. Altogether it was a most successful meeting.

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from page 321.)

a course or a path. The term was a good one. Think how much feebler it would have been if they had used the more obvious word 'move.'

We have said that this hunting was done according to scientific rule. Not only was it so, but the system then worked out formed the plan on which all later composition was based, for a very long time. It is not obsolete to-day, though our modern composers usually work by natural courses and 'Q' sets.

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FRIDAY, JULY 11th, 1941.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

It has been most unfortunate that the jubilee year of the Central Council has had to be passed over without a gathering of the members to celebrate the event. In normal times we can imagine the proceedings of the Council might have been made noteworthy by some sort of special commemoration, but anything of the kind has been out of the question in this second year of the war. There has, however, been a widespread interest in the series of articles which Mr. J. A. Trollope has been writing for our columns and which has given us something far more than a mere record of history of the Council. It has taken us behind the scenes, as it were, and we have had word pictures of some of the men who helped to make the Council. On this subject Mr. Trollope can speak with the authority of one who has been a member since the very early days and has been in close contact with the moving spirits of the Council through the intervening years. It is fortunate that the Exercise in these days, when quite a new generation of ringers has grown up since the Council first came into being, has an historian who can put on record, not only facts obtainable from the printed reports, but can clothe these bare bones with the flesh drawn from personal knowledge. The publication of these articles may be the only thing which will mark the Council's jubilee, but it is a not insignificant contribution to the history of the Exercise which future ringers will be glad to have.

The questions about the Central Council which were put in the letter by 'Observer' in our last issue were not without point and those on the twin subjects of the affiliation fees and the maintenance of membership by the associations are really pertinent. The Standing Committee would do well to issue an official statement as to the action which should be taken by associations before the time, next year, when in ordinary circumstances a new Council should meet in London. Unless it is to fill a vacancy for a shorter time, members are elected for three years, and the period of office of the existing Council will expire before the next meeting. Under the rules all affiliated associations have to elect their representatives in time to notify the secretary of their appointment at least one month prior to the triennial meeting in London, the next of which is due in 1942. Presumably these elections must take place during the present Council year, or will there be a tacit understanding that where associations fail to do this their existing representatives will remain members? The rules do not provide for such a contingency as now arises, and it would appear that the safest thing for all associations to

(Continued on page 328.)

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do is to elect their representatives as usual at their forth-
coming annual meetings.

This leads to the further point, on which the Standing
Committee ought, we think, to give some guidance.
Many associations have had a loss of membership which
in some cases may affect their representation; associa-
tions which before the war had just sufficient members to
enable them to elect a certain number of representatives
may find themselves with only sufficient strength to en-
title them to a lesser number. Are the special circum-
stances of the times to be taken into account and the
associations allowed to elect the number who now repre-
sent them, in the hope later on, when ringing is again
permitted, membership will return to its former propor-
tions, or must the associations adhere strictly to the rules
and elect only the number of representatives to which
they are entitled at the time?

The question of the honorary members is also one
upon which some decision should be given. Speaking
strictly again, the term of office of members elected in
1937 and 1938 has expired and unless a meeting is held
next year all the rest of the honorary members also re-
tire. It is true that they can all be re-elected the first
time the Council meets, but it would be better if the
position were put upon a proper basis, otherwise the
Council might conceivably be left without some of its
most important officers. We realise the difficulties which
confront the Standing Committee in this matter, but on
all the subjects which we have mentioned guidance would
be welcome. Quite a number of associations are, we
believe, still in doubt whether or not they should con-
tinue to pay their affiliation fees so that on this, too, a
clear decision ought to be given. If the fees are to be
collected, associations whose funds are diminishing on
account of the present situation will not be pleased if
later they are called on for two or three years' arrears.
They ought to know now where they stand.

THE LAST PEAL AT COVENTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. C. E. Borrett's interesting letter
in a recent 'Ringing World,' re the peal of Stedman Caters rung
at St. Michael's, Coventry, I should like to point out that, although
this peal is true as a 5,021, it is false as a 5,063. If the figures are
examined, it will be found that changes in the 13th six of the 40th
tittum course, repeat with changes in the 11th six of the coming-
round course. The figures of the actual sizes are as follows:—

40th tittum course.	Coming-round course.
13th six from course-end 24356.	11th six.
825376419	258376419
285734691	528734691
258376419	582376419
528734691	852734691
582376419	825376419
852734691	285734691

It would be interesting, if it could be ascertained whether the
5,063 was really Henry Johnson's work, or whether it was a varia-
tion of the 5,021 by some other person. The late Henry Johnson
was a brilliant Stedman composer, and it is very difficult to imagine
that he would make a mistake of this kind.

CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

327, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.6.

Letters from Mr. W. Barton, of Bradford, and from Mr. Harry
Miles, of Kensington, subsequent to the above, point out the same
facts

The peal rung at Coventry on June 9th, 1883, was the 5,063. The
figures were published in 'The Bell News' of the following August
4th, and apparently the falseness was soon afterwards pointed out.

The peal in both its forms was undoubtedly the composition of
Henry Johnson, and was published over his name, but even the best
of men make mistakes. Henry Bastable was the conductor, and no
doubt received the figures from Johnson, who himself took part in
the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Monday, June 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.***A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;**

*MRS. J. THOMAS	...	...	1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	...	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	...	...	3-4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER	...	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* 100th peal, also first peal of Kent Major 'in hand.'

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Thursday, July 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,**At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,***A PEAL OF RICHMOND BOB MAJOR, 5104 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	...	1-2	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	...	...	3-4	*FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	...	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, July 5th, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,**At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,***A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	...	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	...	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	...	...	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT	...	7-8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

BACKWARD HUNTING.

'ORIGIN OF THE EXPRESSION.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—I wonder how many people know the origin of the expression,
Hunting backwards.

It was in the early eighties, I believe, when the Oxford men were starting to practise London. One day Charlie Hounslow set his bell and, when the others remonstrated, he said, 'I have rung forward all my life, and I'm not going to start ringing backward now.'

To understand the expression, one must first understand what hunting means. Here is a hunting course on four bells, and every bell in it is hunting and never doing anything else:—

1234

2143

2413

4231

4321

3412

3142

1324

1234

If you start off:—

1234

1324

they will all be hunting backwards.

E. BANKES JAMES.

(Continued from next column.)

stairs and negotiate several hair-raising passages, and you will find the bells 110ft. up.

'St. J.; key of church (which is locked) is wrapped in paper and buried in gravel in angle of south-west buttress of south aisle.'

'St. H.; bottom of tower forms a mortuary, usually tenanted, as mortality in the hospital is high. Rope will be found in a dark and damp corner, usually sally resting on a coffin (or two), which may be empty—or not. You must shut yourself in, owing to black-out.'

'St. M.; tower must be climbed by perpendicular ladder. Board locked on to ladder must first be unlocked with key, which is kept at neighbouring post office.'

It would be nice if someone would send the above description to the person who thought of the ban on ringing; and nicer still if each night he were to dream of himself visiting the above churches and being compelled to go through with the job in each church.

A. G. G. T.

IN CASE OF INVASION.

A POSER.

Trials of a General Secretary.

Becoming general secretary of an association can be no joke at any time, especially if—as with so many folk to-day—one's rapid promotion results from the war. Such an officer to-day seems to have some very odd jobs to do. This one had his equanimity disturbed the other day by the message, 'There's a constable waiting to see you outside the Cathedral, sir.'

What had he done? Had he walked in his sleep one night in the ringing chamber at Mncrft, where he regularly sleeps nowadays, and tried his skill at raising 41 cwt. unaided? Had he crossed the traffic lights once too often? A multitude of rules, regulations, instructions, compulsions, and the like, evaded, flashed through his mind. Was the Cathedral to be dragged down into the dirt with headlines in the papers? What could he do now? A miserable existence might be possible for some time, hiding in the miles of secret passages in the Cathedral, but that was not to be thought of. Better face the law.

But the law was nothing more terrifying than the foreman of one of the local towers, who has become a policeman, as he can't ring any more now. His message, however, caused much head scratching on the part of both bearer and recipient.

The Chief Constable wants to know how to ring all the bells in the city in the event of an invasion. If he thinks he has only to press an ecclesiastical button and they will all ring, he is going to be disillusioned. If we think we are going to give him all the information he wants, quickly, we are going to be disillusioned, too. For there are fifty churches in this ancient city (thirty-three of which are mediæval, forming, with the Cathedral, a unique collection of churches of this date), and nearly all of them possess bells.

A BUSY MORNING.

Quickly a list of churches and incumbents was got together. While the constable spends the rest of the morning getting a police car to use in the afternoon, the general secretary spends the morning phoning those incumbents who may be more difficult than others to reach by car. It proved an interesting psychological experiment, putting exactly the same questions to a number of different persons: 'How many bells have you available for ringing now? Where is the key of the church, if same is locked? and/or where is the key of ringing chamber? Are ropes in order? . . . Police want to know.'

Some were slick at answering, some slack, some verbose. 'Oh yes, I have two churches, you know, one old and one new. The new one has a little bell, you know, like a school; we haven't a tower, you know (yes, I know all right, I've taken services there); I've locked the vestry and hidden the rope, but I'll put it back again (all this thrice repeated, with slight variations). Yes, and my old church. Well, that has two bells, only they are different. I mean, you might pull for some time and they wouldn't sound at all. You see, you have to learn how to do it. You have to hold a coloured thing. . . . You see, these bells are the sort that make a noise more like Big Ben. I mean, they are bigger than the other one' (thrice repeated, with variations).

'Yes,' I comment, '5 cwt. and 7 cwt.'

'Oh, I forgot; I'm talking to an expert' (well, it's nice to be described like that, occasionally).

And another, 'Oh, no one can ring my bell except me. You see, I've hidden the rope among the organ pipes to stop people pulling it' (bad for the organ if there's an invasion, I comment).

Then in the afternoon a nice little tour at the country's expense. By about 10 p.m. we have contacted nearly all of the 50 churches (not bad going, considering this was Ascension Day, and I had services, of an average length of 55 minutes each at 7, 8, 10, 5 and 8 p.m.).

HOW TO RING THE BELLS.

Our report must have meant much scratching of constabulary heads. Read some extracts: 'St. P.M.; 13 bells. Should be rung by a change ringer, if possible. One sleeps in the church every night. Tenor weighs 41 cwt.' (Horrors! How many Austin sevens or prisoners or handcuffs, or whatever terms Chief Constables think in, go to make that weight?)

'St. G.; key of tower in verger's box in right-hand back pew. Fifty-two stairs to ringing chamber.' (Horrors! What a trial to the eyes, and the heart, in the dark!)

'St. M.; key at neighbouring iron works, with fire watchers.' The Cathedral: go upstairs in north transept (what's that?), umpteenth door on left leads to the triforium (what's that?) of the presbytery (query as before). Chiming apparatus to be found here. Ropes must be at correct tension or 15th century bells will crack or not sound at all. Of the two people who can work the apparatus decently, one will be ringing the bell at the top of this list, the other is shipbuilding in Sndrld. If you can't work the apparatus and want to hit the bells, you must climb three sets of
(Continued in previous column.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 317.)

CLASSIFICATION.

With the adoption of the Methods Report, the committee had completed the work for which it was appointed and it asked to be discharged. But it was kept in being to settle the further question of classification, which at the time was considered of some considerable importance. On the one hand, there was that desire to tidy up everything, which I have referred to, and, on the other hand, there was generally in the Exercise a somewhat vague and indefinite feeling that the comparative value and merit of peal performances could be assessed if methods were properly divided into classes.

Everybody agreed that it was more meritorious to ring a peal of Treble Bob Major than a peal of Plain Bob Major; that a peal in a Double Method (which in effect meant Double Norwich) was more meritorious than a peal in a Single Method (which meant Grandsire Triples and Bob Major); and that a peal in a Surprise Method was most meritorious of all. The matter was discussed by the Council at several meetings, and between 1897 and 1900 a schedule of points for peals was formally adopted. All Plain Methods were given one point for each bell—Triples 7, Major 8, Caters 9, and so on. Double Methods had 16 points for Major, 18 for Royal and 20 for Maximus, with the exception that Double Norwich secured 28 points for Royal and 32 for Maximus. Stedman Triples and Caters each had 24 points, and Cinques 28 points. Treble Bob Major had 12 points, Royal 14, and Maximus 16. Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major each had 30 points; and London and Bristol Surprise Major each 50.

This schedule is interesting as showing the comparative merits attached to peals by the best opinion in the Exercise forty or fifty years ago. Few would agree with it to-day and its anomalies are easy to point out. The men who said it is half as hard again to ring a peal of Stedman Triples as it is to ring a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, had for the most part never even heard the latter, nor did they show much practical knowledge when they rated Stedman Cinques only four points higher than Stedman Caters. Still less did they know about the many methods they casually lumped together as 'All Plain Methods' or as 'Treble Bob Methods.' In the end the scheme broke down, and after some years, points for peals were dropped; but while it lasted it added weight to the call for a proper classification of methods.

The first serious attempt was made by Earle Bulwer in 'The Glossary.' It was a failure, as we have seen, because his definition of a Surprise method excluded London, but it was bound to fail because neither he nor anyone else knew enough about methods in the bulk to realise what were the difficulties in the way. Everybody assumed without much thought that methods can be grouped into mutually exclusive classes, and that the titles and sub-titles which ringers through the ages have given to them were an attempt at such classification. Actually methods have got their names in a variety of quite different ways, and no system of classification is possible which will grade methods according to their characteristics and difficulty.

The task given to the Methods Committee was therefore an impossible one, and, of course, they failed,

though it seemed at first they had succeeded. I have pointed out elsewhere how the definition of a Surprise method, clever as it was, has proved a complete mistake and I need say no more about it now. There was also in the classification misreading and falsification of history. Court Bob originally was the name of a particular six-bell method, the same we now call Double Court Bob Minor. Norwich Court Bob and London Court Bob were what the men in the two cities respectively thought was the same method applied to eight bells. They spoke simply of Court Bob Major. There was no warrant for applying the word Court to dozens of methods which have no connection with Court Minor.

The word "Bob" was used in the first instance as roughly the equivalent of our word 'method.' It was a mistake to confine it to those which have second's place at the lead end. The sub-title "Surprise" was used to indicate the kind of method that was rung, but it was bad history to use the words 'Delight,' 'Pleasure' and 'Exercise,' in the same way. London Scholars' Pleasure and College Exercise meant that the words say—methods in which the London Scholars took pleasure and the College Youths exercised themselves—but College Bob IV. Delight and Evening Star Delight are really absurd.

I took little or no part in the preparation of the Report on Classification, but I agreed with its conclusions; I spoke and wrote in support of it; and I must bear my share of the responsibility for the mistakes.

In 1907 at the Exeter meeting the committee's definition of a Surprise method was sharply challenged by William Snowdon. He was at the time engaged in revising his brother's 'Standard Methods,' and he was trying to find a better selection of Minor methods. Especially he wanted to include 'seven Surprise Minor Methods of as true a Surprise character as repeated researches point to as possible.' For this reason he drew up a definition of a Surprise method which naturally differed from that of the Methods Committee, for while theirs was based on comprehension, his was based on exclusion.

This is his definition. It served his purpose well enough, but when we consider it as a general definition we can see how inferior it is to the one adopted, faulty as that may be. 'A Surprise Method has a Treble Bob hunt and demands the following places: (a) Places with the treble before and behind; (b) when she dodges; (c) when she moves from one dodging place to another. Further, these places shall cause at least four bells—taking a Minor example—to divide the work in front, there being no Slow Work. No bell shall be detained in the middle for a whole lead. At least four bells to take part in the work behind between the visits of the treble.'

The seven Surprise Minor methods he picked for 'Standard Methods' on those lines make an excellent selection, and when recently I entirely re-wrote the book, I saw no reason to alter it.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

JUNE MEETING AT BATLEY.

The society's June meeting was held on June 28th at Batley. Handbells were rung before the business meeting, which was held in the tower. The president (Mr. J. P. Harvey) was chairman, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Drighlington, Liversedge and the local company.

A vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. J. W. Baxendale was passed by the members standing in silence.

Thanks were given to the curate-in-charge and the local company on the proposition of Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. F. Hodgson.

The next meeting is to be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**SUNDAY MEETING AT PULBOROUGH.**

With the kind co-operation of church officials and the local ringers, the meeting at Pulborough on Sunday, June 29th, of the Western Division of the Sussex Association attracted some 17 ringers from Arundel, Billingshurst, Chichester, Lewes, Liss (Hants), Lyminster, Storrington, West Grinstead and the local band.

Those arriving early lost no time in selecting an ideal spot in a meadow adjoining the churchyard, where two sets of handbells were soon ringing to various methods. The tower was later visited, and here rounds and methods to Cambridge were practised under the strange conditions of silent ringing.

Tea was the next item, in which direction Mr. Stilwell and his lady helpers scored an outstanding success, with no evidence of war-time rationing. Two new members were elected at a brief business interlude before the service.

A large percentage of those present during the afternoon attended evensong, preceded by the ringing of handbells around the font. In the opening words of his sermon, the curate (the Rev. Mr. Jennings) mentioned that 'a short while ago you were listening to the ringing of handbells by members of the Sussex Association of Change Ringers, whom we have been pleased to welcome this afternoon. They have given you some of their music; they would, no doubt, have liked to ring the whole peal, but this must be kept in readiness for a call to defence. Before long we pray that the bells may soon be ringing the call to thanksgiving.' He recalled his visit to the Croydon Bell Foundry and described the various processes of casting and tuning, particularly noting the care taken to make the bells ring out, 'like the call of God, clear and true.' Continuing, he dwelt on the several calls of the bells, and concluded with the call to challenge.

Another visit was made to the tower for further 'ringing.' Judging by the persistent requests for more meetings, the efforts of those taking part in the arrangements were not in vain. The meeting came to an end at about nine o'clock.

BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We read a lot to-day of what the Government intend to do after the war. They will pay for damage to furniture and houses and will replace the fabric of churches. I suppose all this money will come from the pockets of the long-suffering taxpayer. Surely it is time the German people were made to realise that those who damage should pay? They should be told that, after this war, those who backed up the cry, 'Guns before butter,' will be made to listen to other cries, among them being 'Churches and bells before butter.'

C. A. LEVETT.

Slough.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD PERFORMANCE.**

At the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday, the Master presided and was supported by the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer and other members, including Mr. R. F. Deal, Mr. Herbert Langdon, Mr. William Passmore, Mr. Harry Miles, Mr. F. Collins and Mr. J. Cripps. The Master welcomed Mr. McDougal, of Hornchurch, and Mr. J. A. Trollope, of Ealing, and another welcome figure was Gunner Herbert Thompson. Greetings were received from Mr. E. H. Lewis and Mr. H. Northover, of Reigate.

A letter from Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wycombe, was read. Mr. Wilkins stated that he was made a College Youth in 1879.

'Among the three or four hundred peals I have rung,' continued the writer, 'the following is one I consider unique. It was a peal of Grandsire Major at All Saints' Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, somewhere about 1890. I was foreman of the belfry, and the band of College Youths included F. G. Newman, Edward Rogers, E. F. Strange (who conducted it after he and Newman had tossed a coin), J. M. Hayes, Sam Hayes, H. Rogers, A. W. Garraway and myself, who rang the tenor. The last three were local men.'

'To me it was notable because I came up from repairing a pump at the Clergy House down a well 80ft. deep and within 100ft. of the tower straight up to the steeple to ring. I don't know if either of those London men are living, but Mr. E. F. Strange, I believe, was connected with a museum at Kensington.'

The sympathy of the meeting was expressed with Mr. E. A. Young, who was suffering from a severe chill and unable to be present.

PEALS AT COVENTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The record mentioned by Mr. Borrett brings to my mind the following extract I took from 'The Leicester Journal' of February 24th, 1809:—

'On Sunday evening, the 12th instant, was rung by the Society of Coventry Youths at St. Michael's, Coventry, a complete peal of Grandsire Caters, containing 5,219 changes, in three hours and 58 minutes. The above peal being the full extent of changes that can be obtained with only four bells behind the 9th and tenor together. On Tuesday, the Coventry Youths rang a new peal called the Valentine, containing 5,075 changes, in three hours and 51 minutes.'

Can any reader tell us what the 'Valentine' peal was? Would it be an ordinary peal of Grandsire specially rung for St. Valentine's Day?

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

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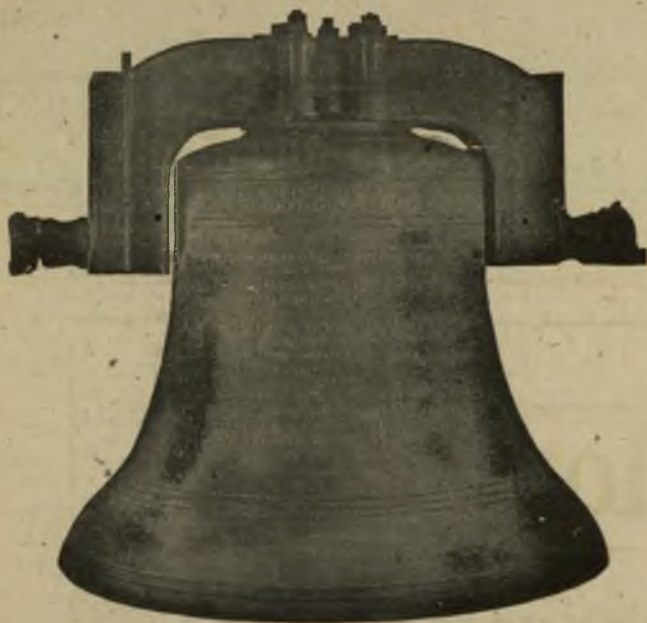
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. William J. Nevard's many friends will be glad to know that he is now fairly well after his recent illness. He has, however, experienced a fresh and severe misfortune. His house has been burnt and much of its contents destroyed in addition to his workshop and all his tools. He is now living at Hare View, Thorington. He will have the sympathy of the whole Exercise.

Messrs. G. and F. Cope, of Nottingham, have in hand a new striking clock for Everton Church, Bawtry. They have also recently completed the renovation of the old clock in Market Deeping Church, Lincolnshire, made in 1765, and have just received the order for overhauling the church clock at Crowle, Worcester.

On July 6th, 1832, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Giles' in that city, the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major. The method has had a fair amount of practice, but its excessive dodging prevents it being really popular.

John Holt sat in the belfry of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and called from manuscript the Original when it was rung for the first time on July 7th, 1751.

William Sottanstill, of Sowerby, was born on July 9th, 1800. He was the author of a book on change ringing for which not much good can be said. Sottanstill composed some good peals of Treble Bob Major.

Carter's Odd Bob peal of Stedman Triples was rung non-conducted by the College Youths on handbells on July 10th, 1917. A very fine performance.

Mr. W. H. Barber called the first peal of Erin Caters at North Shields on July 12th, 1909.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. One was seven 720's of Minor at Hadley in Middlesex, the first peal on the bells; the other was Kent Treble Bob Major at Foxearth in Essex. Mr. W. J. Nevard rang the fifth.

BELLS AS INVASION WARNING.

SIRENS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED.

The Government are considering representations from a number of areas that the proposed church bells warning of invasion should be varied or supplemented by other methods.

'The Evening News' states that one suggestion under consideration is that sirens should be used, giving a five-minutes long signal.

Since the decision—taken last June—to reserve church bells for invasion warning, a number of bells have been dismantled and removed to places of safety, and more than 1,000 churches have been destroyed in raids.

In some districts people are outside the range of hearing church bells however loudly they might ring.

An official announcement is expected shortly.

The leaflet giving instructions to the public in the event of invasion gives the present official statement on the subject:—

What does it mean when the church bells are rung? It is a warning to the local garrison that troops have been seen landing from the air in the neighbourhood of the church in question. Church bells will *not* be rung all over the country as a general warning that invasion has taken place. The ringing of church bells in one place will not be taken up in neighbouring churches.

Many people, and some newspapers, evidently still think that church bells will be used as an invasion warning to the general public, but it is clear that there never was any such intention. The only people who are concerned are the military authorities; the general public must take no notice whatever. We should not be surprised, however, if the military authorities now realise what has been evident all along to ringers, that church bells would be a very inefficient means of giving warning in the case of the landing by parachute or other air-borne invaders.

ALLEGED LOOTING OF CHURCH BELLS.

MAN CHARGED AT BRISTOL.

The bells of a Bristol church destroyed by enemy action were the subject of a charge at Bristol Police Court on July 4th.

The bells, which belonged to St. Mary-le-Port, were valued at £750, and Edward Richard Pearce (60) was accused of receiving them at some date between March 25th and June 19th.

The owners of the bells were said to be St. Mary-le-Port Church Lands Charity.

Pearce was remanded for a week and was granted bail on his own surety of £100, and a second surety of £100.

Asking for the £200 sureties, Insp. Stiles, of the C.I.D., said that there might be another charge preferred against Pearce, and that he had, since the receiving charge had been preferred, left his business address and gone to Worcester.

Mr. G. D. Wansbrough (for Pearce) asked that at least part of a sum of over £100 belonging to him, and now in the possession of the police, should be released for his use.

Insp. Stiles said that the bells had been sold, and Pearce received a substantial sum in connection with the transaction. Whether this sum formed part of the money in the possession of the police he could not say.

Insp. Stiles asked the magistrates to allow Pearce sufficient of his money for his defence, but that the remainder should remain with the police. This was granted.

The bells at St. Mary-le-Port were a ring of eight with a tenor of 19 cwt.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT GRAVESEND.

Insurance of Church Bells.

It proved a wise decision to postpone the annual general meeting until the longer days, as at Gravesend on Saturday, June 28th, nearly eighty put in an appearance for the 61st annual meeting of the Kent County Association, and in spite of no bells being available, a very pleasant and happy time was spent.

The presence of youth, so noticeable at these meetings as a rule, was very limited—they have other work on hand, and are scattered all over the country and in the East doing their part to help speed the time when we can have the bells ringing again.

The committee met at Church House at 3 p.m. to consider various matters, and at 4 o'clock the whole assembly met in St. George's Church for the association service.

The Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate) welcomed the members, congratulated them on the splendid attendance, and expressed the sincere hope that they would soon be called to their belfries to ring the victory peal.

An address was given by Canon G. C. E. Ryley, of Rochester Cathedral, who is a member of the committee. He also read the lesson. Mr. F. E. Fletcher was organist.

A collection for the Benevolent Fund amounted to £1 5s. 7d.

After tea had been served at the Town Hall, the company was warmly welcomed to Gravesend by the Mayor (Councillor R. T. Lester, J.P.).

Everyone regretted, he said, that in the present circumstances they did not hear the church bells. He missed them very much and hoped the time was not far distant when the ringers would recommence what he from personal experiment regarded as hard work.

Thanks were expressed to the Mayor for the loan of the Town Hall.

The business meeting was held in the Council Chamber, the Mayor's chair being occupied by the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley, supported by Messrs G. H. Cross, G. H. Spice, T. Groombridge, jun., E. Barnett and F. M. Mitchell (hon. secretary).

EFFECTS OF THE BAN.

The past year, said the annual report, was one unparalleled in history, as, owing to war restrictions, all ringing has ceased. For generations the bells have been rung in cities, towns and hamlets declaring the message to all, 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all men,' and it is lamentable to think that all this has been changed, and the whole of the ringing fraternity deprived of following their art through the avarice of one man.

In spite of the bells being silent, the work of the association must go on, so that we shall all be ready when peace and victory come to take a stand in our accustomed places in the belfry. Many faces, alas, and perhaps towers, will be missed when that time comes, but we would urge all members that remain to meet whenever possible for friendly discourse and handbell ringing. One thing we would stress is that all in charge of the bells should see that they are not neglected and are kept in ringing order.

As is generally known, church bells will be rung in any area if and when enemy troops might land, but no information has been issued as to who will do the ringing. In the hands of the incompetent much damage can be done to the bells, a fact well known to all ringers, but perhaps unknown to the authorities. Many attempts have been made to have the ban lifted on Sunday ringing, but we are sorry to say with negative results.

During the past nine months the affairs of the association as regards meetings have been suspended in the various districts, and some of the secretaries have come in for criticism for not arranging meetings. On the occasions when this was tried, results were very discouraging, the attendances being very poor, and it is small wonder that the interest lagged. When one is apt to criticise the secretary, let us remember he is not working for one or two individuals, but for the whole district and association, and poor response is not conducive to encouragement in his efforts. It is up to us all to keep the interest alive in our own particular tower and district. All of us are, in our spare time, doing our part to help beat 'the mad dog of Europe,' and when that is done there is no doubt we shall get into working order again, and we pray God that will come soon.

The postponement of the annual general meeting of the association, usually held at Easter, until to-day was undoubtedly a wise decision, as this enables members coming from a distance to travel in daylight. Thirty-two towers are represented, and the attendance is greater than it might have been had the meeting been held earlier.

Many members have joined H.M. Forces, and it is hoped a full list can be obtained for future reference. Very few names have so far been forwarded. To all, in whatever capacity they are serving, we wish 'godspeed and a safe return.'

ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP.

The war and the discontinuance of ringing has naturally affected the towers in union and the number of ringers. All serving members are retained on the books, with non-payment of subscriptions, so it is a matter of encouragement to report that subscriptions were received from 638 members. Honorary members totalled 33.

We have lost many members by death and to the relations of all we offer our sympathy. The following lost their lives through enemy action: Mrs. Hay (Chilham), hon. member; Messrs. G. R. Ambrose

(Milton-next-Gravesend) and H. Trinder (Walmer), practising members; and Mr. S. H. Wood (Bristol) and A. E. Bacon (King's Lynn), non-resident life members. The following have also been called to higher service: Mrs. Taylor (Boxley), the Rev. Canon E. F. Campbell-Ward (Swanscombe), Mr. H. G. Dunn, hon. members; Messrs. R. Goldup (Ashford), E. Slingsby and F. Giles (Sturry), S. G. Twyman (St. Lawrence), E. Kendall (Wingham), R. Morgan (Darford), J. L. Harris (Rochester), C. Goodburn (Milton-next-Gravesend), E. J. Botten (Sittingbourne), F. Sharp (Marden), J. Shorter (Bearsted), E. F. Pike (Brookley), G. F. Lovelock (St. Mary Cray), and H. Reeve (Tonbridge, missing from Dunkirk), practising members; Messrs. G. Copnell (Newport), A. Bowell (Ipswich), G. Dent (Harlow), G. B. Lucas (Walthamstow), A. J. Pankhurst (Eastbourne), non-resident life members.

The annual general meeting was held at Maidstone on Easter Monday and 100 attended, which, considering the prevailing conditions, showed that the interest in the association was still alive. At the time the ringing of bells was not banned, which attracted more than might otherwise have attended. Very few district meetings were held, and those held before the ban were fairly well attended.

We regret that Mr. A. Richardson, who succeeded Mr. Latter as Tonbridge district secretary, has resigned from that position, and we are pleased to record his services rendered to the district and association. No successor has so far been appointed. Here is an opportunity for a volunteer to carry on the work.

A course of instruction was carried out at Boughton, but we fear that the ban on ringing has nullified the effort.

SATISFACTORY FINANCE.

Ten peals were rung during the year, six on tower bells and four in hand. The peal of outstanding merit was in four spliced Surprise methods at Crayford. Congratulations are offered to the Misses Richardson on ringing a quarter-peal on handbells during a raid, and to the Spice family on ringing a 'family quarter.'

The amount so far subscribed to the Helmore Memorial Fund is £1 9s. 6d., and this has been deposited in the Benevolent Fund account for the time being.

The income on the general account has dropped by £37, and the expenditure decreased correspondingly. On the year's working there is an increased balance in hand to £72 9s. 10d. One grant of £5 had been paid from the Belfry Repairs Fund to Bethersden, where the treble had been recast and the whole rehung with new fittings. The income more than met that amount, and the fund shows an increased balance, viz., £158 7s. 6d. The income in the Benevolent Fund amounted to £27 1s. 5d., and as no applications for assistance during the year were received, the balance was increased by that amount to £35 1s. 10½d. With invested funds and various balances, the total worth of the association now stands at £1,047 1s. 1d., an increase of £37 0s. 7d. on the previous year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The balance sheets, which revealed the healthy condition of the association, were presented by the hon. auditor, Mr. G. H. Cross, and unanimously adopted.

The president, vice-presidents and committee were re-elected.

The hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) explained at length the whole position as regards the investments, and said that their interests were well safeguarded, but he and some of the other members thought they should be even more strongly so. The committee had discussed the subject earlier in the day, and they recommended that all the investments should be in the name of 'the treasurer for the time being' and three trustees elected to govern the funds, the power delegated to the two signees to remain as at present.

On the proposition of Mr. E. A. G. Allen (Rochester), seconded by Mr. H. Hoskins (Greenwich), it was unanimously decided to adopt this course and that the hon. secretary and treasurer take immediate steps to carry this out.

Mr. F. White (Tunbridge Wells) and Mr. W. J. Jeffries (Petts Wood) were unanimously re-elected, and Mr. G. H. Spice (Sittingbourne) was elected the third trustee.

The Chairman said he knew they could not do better than re-elect their present hon. secretary. They all knew the interest he took in the association.

Replying, Mr. Mitchell said he did not know whether this was lucky or unlucky—his 13th year as hon. secretary. He considered it lucky, because if Jerry had been a few yards nearer three weeks ago they would have been electing a new secretary that day. He would still do his best for the association.

INSURANCE OF CHURCH BELLS.

A long discussion took place on the insurance of church bells. Many members spoke of the measures being taken in their own particular towers. The general opinion of the members was that the restoration of bells damaged or lost through enemy action was a matter for the Government, and the following resolution was proposed by Mr. E. Barnett, seconded by Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., and unanimously agreed:—

'That the Kent County Association of Change Ringers is of the opinion that as the Government has ordered church bells to be rung in any area where enemy troops may land, churches become military objectives, and the association considers that in the event of any damage being done to bells through enemy action the expense of restoring the same should be met by the Government.'

(Continued on next page.)

A COUNTRY COUNCIL MEETING. VILLAGE CRITICS VENT THEIR GRIEVANCES.

From a Special Correspondent.

The following report has been sent to us, and as it is beyond editing, we present it exactly as it has reached us, except for the headings.

As there be no Central Council meeting this year what we could read about in our 'Ringing World' and talk about at our meetings, some of the ringers down this way thought it would be a good thing to have our own Council meeting. Us can't talk so well as some of those as get sent to Central Council—leastwise, not so well as it reads in the paper, all prim and proper like, but there's some chaps down about here as fancies themselves a bit when it comes to talking—Jim Blobs, for instance, goes to the Oddfellows' meetings—and they thought us could have some debates on things the Council has done and hasn't done during all these fifty years they've tried to tell we ringers what us ought to do and what us ought not to do in the belfry.

So we held our meeting Whit Monday; a County Council some of 'em called it, because there was ringers from all over our county—from four or five towers, that is, as well as ours. We didn't invite you, Mr. Editor, because for one thing we knew you was ill and we didn't advertise it neither, because we didn't want a lot of outsiders who might want to have all the say. But the meeting asked me to send an account to the paper, thinking as it would be interesting to others, which I have tried my best to do, although I can't take down speeches in that 'ere pothooks and hangers stuff that proper reporters use. Praps it was just as well, but it makes my report a bit sketchy like. Actually us talked about a lot more things than I am putting down here. I've missed 'em out partly because I don't think they matter anyhow, but mostly because now we are short-handed everywhere in the village I ain't got time. In fact, that's the reason this report is a bit late.

A GRIEVANCE.

For instance, it's no good walloping dead horses, so what was the good of raking up about the cheap railway fares that the Central Council got took away from us years ago. Tom Topper has always had a grudge against the Council for that, because these cheap tickets got stopped in the days when he was courting and it cost him another fourpence a week afterwards to go and see his gal. He had cause to grumble, I suppose, because apparently she wasn't worth it. Anyway, he didn't marry that one, and it ain't so certain the one he has got would have been worth it either.

Then Fred Foreman wanted to introduce the subject of free beer for ringers when they ring on great occasions, the same as he had read used to be given to 'em in the old days, but I told him he shouldn't talk about it in public, as it wasn't a edifying subject for ringers to discuss. But there I'm getting a bit before the story.

Well, as I said, we had the meeting on Whit Monday and held it in our village, which we often call Mud-under-Foot, although that's not its proper name, as you know, Mr. Editor. The landlord of the Hollytree let us use one of his rooms free, we ringers having always been pretty good customers. Those who got to the meeting before three o'clock were able to make suitable preparations, because drinks ain't rationed yet. The others had to start dry and it made a difference, I can tell you, to how much they talked. I was one of those that got there early.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

When we started the meeting they elected me president (it sounds better than chairman, I told 'em), and as soon as it was decided I should write the report for the paper they thought it was best to make me secretary as well, because there was no need for two people to go messing about with the writing.

Then ole Sam Sink proposed that I should be treasurer. He said it would be quite safe, because there wasn't going to be any funds unless we paid into a 'kitty' for beer afterwards, and I shouldn't hold that money anyway, as it was nothing to do with the meeting.

So, having elected the officers, we proceeded to business and as they all sat quiet at first, like a lot of stuffed dummies, I asked Sam Sink to lead off. Sam was one of them that had got to the Hollytree real early, and didn't Sam lead off when I give him the chance!

Sam's never been in favour of the Central Council. When they've elected our association delegates every now and again, he's always said 'twas a waste of money and just to give 'em a holiday, but in the presence of so many of the nobs, parsons and suchlike, Sam's never been able to say all he thought, not till Whit Monday, and then, when he got going he said all he thought and a deal more besides. A lot of what he said couldn't be writ here, but he had his old grievance out first. What he wanted to know was what the Central Council had done for him or his tower? And then why couldn't he ring what he liked and call it what he liked? His father and grandfather before him had rung what they liked and what was good enough for them was good enough for him. Why shouldn't he ring Violet and Woodbine and Merchant's Return, and even the old Eight and Forty if he wanted to? These 'ere Council people wanted to stop him doing that, so as he should ring a lot of new fangled things what he didn't want to ring and didn't intend to ring. He wouldn't be ordered about by any Council, he said, danged if he would. And the Council never did do any good anyway, leastwise not to him or his tower.

This wasn't all he said by any manner of means; he talked about other things as well that don't matter much, but this is enough to show how Sam feels about the Central Council. He wanted to propose that we shouldn't have anything to do with all these new methods what some committee of the Council had been getting out and wasting their time on for years past, but George Adams, he's a young chap from next village, he ups and says if our meeting was to do that us would be as bad as the Council trying to tell other people what they should do and what they shouldn't do. If he wanted to ring one of these new methods nothing Sam Sink proposed would stop him.

George is a spry chap and he got this one in on Sam because Sam always found some sort of excuse never to let him have the bells at Little Tiddlecombe—that's where Sam's boss of the tower—for a peal. Sam says he don't believe in these boys riding roughshod over the old 'uns. He believes in keeping 'em in their place.

ANOTHER GRIEVANCE.

Well, when we'd settled Sam's hash, Bill Nokes said he'd got a grievance against the Council—not our Council, but the one that jaunted all over the country and never seemed to do nothing except talk. This war, he said, had showed how neglectful they'd been. They'd let the government stop the bells altogether for one thing. Instead of getting up and stopping the government stopping the bells and making asses of themselves by saying that only a policeman or a soldier could ring the bells and hang themselves in the doing of it, they sat down and said nothing. Then there was that there committee what thought they knew all about towers and bells. They couldn't have known very much, Bill said, otherwise they'd have had all the towers lined with that fireproof asworstus stuff and have put it all round the bell frames to stop 'em being burnt when these hincendery fire bombs set light to the churches.

I chipped in here and says, 'Don't talk silly, Bill,' only a bit stronger. I told him there weren't enough of that asworstus stuff, as he called it, to go round, even if the Committee had got enough money to buy it all, and I didn't think they was rich men—at least not very rich—and it was certain the Council couldn't buy it. If they did it would come back on the associations and that was on the likes of him and me, and I asked him whether, with a wife and five kids, he could afford it?

With that Bill and me started arguing, not because of the Committee, but because I had told him not to talk silly. (Actually it wasn't just that what I said to him.)

Then, while we was arguing rather loud, we heard the landlord open the front door. Sam Sink slipped out to see what the right time was, and didn't come back. Fred Foreman whispered to George Adams and they went out to see if the front door really was open, and they didn't come back either. Then we heard the jingle of glasses and Tom Smithers and two or three of the others went to look for George and Fred. And they didn't come back.

By this time I thought we hadn't got what I think they call a 'koram,' and so I ruled Bill out of order and said it was no good going on with the meeting. I was thirsty myself and I was sure he was, so I asked him to come and have one. And he did.

I have just remembered we didn't decide where us would meet next year.

KENT ASSOCIATION (Continued from page 331.)

The hon. secretary was directed to forward copies of the resolution to the president (the Archbishop of Canterbury), the Bishops, Archdeacons and Members of Parliament of the County of Kent.

Mr. E. Barnett proposed that Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., who had now completed 50 years' membership of the association, should be made an honorary life member. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Groombridge, in returning thanks, said that he had held office of some description during nearly the whole of that period.

The Chairman proposed that thanks be extended to the Mayor of Gravesend for the use of the hall, to the Rector (Canon H. T. Southgate) and the organist (Mr. Fletcher) for his services.

The hon. secretary and treasurer was thanked for his services during the past year on the proposition of Mr. G. H. Cross, seconded by Mr. Allen.

Mr. W. Spice proposed and Mr. T. Saunders seconded that their best thanks be given to Canon Ryley for his excellent address at the service and his able conduct as chairman.

This was passed in Kentish style.

Canon Ryley said he felt honoured in presiding, as this was the first time in his life he had occupied a mayoral chair.

This concluded a very happy and harmonious war-time gathering, the Mayor remarking later on the large attendance and said it showed the keenness of the members in attending in such numbers in spite of there being no attraction in the way of ringing.

An hour's handbell ringing was afterwards enjoyed in the hall, many members taking part.

May next year's meeting be held in peace was the wish of all.

BRISTOL.—On Tuesday, June 17th, in St. James' vestry, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, 756 Grandsire Triples (from Holt's Original): Thomas S. Harris 1-2, A. M. Tyler 3-4, R. G. Bryant 5-6, D. G. Clift (conductor) 7-8.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

THE PLAIN CHANGES.

According to our best authority, changes were first rung in England during the first decade of the seventeenth century. For at least two hundred years there had been many peals of three and five bells in town and village all over the country, all hung for ringing, and all very extensively used, not only for Church and civic matters, but for pleasure and recreation. But, says Richard Duckworth, writing in 1667, 'within these fifty or sixty years last past, changes were not known or thought possible to be rang. Then were invented the Sixes.'

The Sixes, he tells us, are 'the very ground of a six-score.' They are, and they are more, for they are the 'very ground' of all our modern method ringing and peal composition, the germ from which the whole art has grown.

At first sight we might think that there is nothing much in the Sixes and little to be learnt from them, yet the way in which they were originally rung definitely fixed the development of the art and science of change ringing and ultimately gave us all our modern methods. All the bells in a six actually work in the same manner, but the ancients did not ring it so: 'Every bell hunts in the six changes,' says Duckworth, 'yet 'tis commonly rang by observing a Hunt and two Extream Bells. The name of Hunt is properly given to it because of its continual motion up and down among the other bells, which motion is called Hunting, and the other two are called Extream Bells, because when the Hunt is either before or behind them, that is at the extream or utmost place, there is a change then to be made between them called an Extream Change.'

Between the Sixes rung in this fashion and a modern peal of Spliced Surprise there is a continuous logical development, the first step of which was the Plain Changes.

In the early development of changes it was inevitable that there should be a good deal of experimenting. Duckworth gives two or three examples, 'which,' he says, 'though rejected in these days, yet in former times were much in use, which for antiquity sake I here set down.' In one of them, the Twenty All Over each bell is in turn hunted up from the front to the back, beginning with the treble and ending with the tenor. It illustrates in its simplest form the idea of a hunt, that is one moving bell passing through other bells which remain passive. Duckworth says that this peal was rejected in his time (1667), but it survived at Framlingham in Suffolk, and probably in other places, down almost to living memory.

The disadvantage of these early 'peals' was that, though they did not contain repetitions, they only produced short lengths, and an elaborate system of hunts was evolved which is almost the most perfect method of producing the extent of the changes on any number of bells that it is possible to get. By these Plain Changes, as they were called, the true extent of the changes on a million bells or a hundred million could be had as certainly as the extent on five or six.

The system is as follows. One bell (usually the treble, but it might be any other) was continually hunted up and

down from front to back and from back to front. It was called the Whole Hunt. Each time the Whole Hunt was leading or lying in front and behind a second bell called the Half Hunt was hunted one step. When the Whole Hunt and Half Hunt were together in the front or behind a third bell called the Quarter Hunt was hunted a step. And so on until all the bells but three had become hunts and they go the six.

Duckworth tells us that on six bells 'the 720 Plain Changes are to be rang or set down one thousand four hundred and forty several ways by altering the whole hunt, half hunt, quarter hunt, and extreme bells, but the course of each is the same.' He understood the truth that a peal can be the same thing though it exists in many forms.

Plain Changes had not long reached their full development before they were superseded by Cross Peals, in which instead of one bell only moving in a change, the movement is shared by all the bells. It made a vast difference in practical ringing, but the same system of hunts was used. Indeed, in varying ways hunts form the basis of the construction of nearly all peals and methods, for a hunt is not just a bell which has a simple and continuously repeated path; but is one which has a cyclical movement through the coursing order of other bells. The slow work bell in Kent Treble Bob is a hunt.

The Plain Changes.

1 2 3 4 5 6	2 3 4 5 6 1	3 4 5 6 2 1
2 1 3 4 5 6	3 2 4 5 6 1	4 3 5 6 2 1
2 3 1 4 5 6		
2 3 4 1 5 6	1 3 2 4 5 6	1 2 4 3 5 6
2 3 4 5 1 6	1 3 4 2 5 6	1 2 4 5 3 6
2 3 4 5 6 1		
3 2 4 5 6 1	3 4 2 5 6 1	4 5 3 6 2 1
3 2 4 5 1 6	3 4 5 2 6 1	4 5 6 3 2 1
3 2 4 1 5 6	1 3 4 5 2 6	1 4 5 6 3 2
3 2 1 4 5 6	1 3 4 5 6 2	1 4 5 6 2 3
3 1 2 4 5 6		
1 3 2 4 5 6	3 4 5 6 2 1	etc.
1 3 4 2 5 6	4 3 5 6 2 1	
	1 4 3 5 6 2	
	1 4 3 5 2 6	
	4 3 5 2 6 1	
	4 3 2 5 6 1	
	1 4 3 2 5 6	
	1 4 2 3 5 6	
	4 2 3 5 6 1	
	2 4 3 5 6 1	
	1 2 4 3 5 6	
	1 2 4 5 3 6	

Notice how the treble is made the Whole Hunt, the second the Half Hunt and the third the Quarter Hunt.

SWINDON.—On Saturday, June 28th, at 6, York Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 35 minutes: Ivor Bell 1-2, Malcolm Melville 3-4, and David Bell 5. The ringer of 5 is eight years and one month old, and is now the proud possessor of a blister on his finger.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**PLEASANT GATHERING ON THE LAWN.**

On Saturday, June 21st, the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild held its summer meeting in glorious June weather in ideal surroundings on the Cottage Lawns, Bradford Peverell, by kind permission of Miss Clapcott.

The village is well off the main road, and some of the members arrived at 2.30 to practise on the handbells. Games such as bowls, croquet and darts were also indulged in. During the afternoon a good company of handbell ringers arrived, and Grandsire Triples were put on for the learners.

In the lovely surroundings under the beech trees everyone forgot there was a war on.

A course of Grandsire was rung in the church before the Guild office, which was conducted by the Rev. A. F. Godley, assisted by the chairman of the branch, Canon A. W. Markby. A full ladies' choir led the singing. The Vicar gave the members a very warm welcome and a well-thought-out address. The members then adjourned to the lawns, where tea was awaiting them, for Miss Clapcott and her friends had got over the ration difficulty all right. The chairman presided, and thirty-six members and friends were present. Canon Markby thanked the donor and friends for the kind hospitality, the Rev. A. F. Godley for arranging the service, the organist and the choir. He also gave the members one of his noted addresses, which was received with acclamation. The Rev. R. P. Farrow agreed with the chairman, and said they gave their active hon. secretary thanks for making the arrangements and sending out such a pressing invitation. He hoped they would continue to keep the spirit of the Guild alive. Although he had to cycle a good few miles on a hot summer day, he could not resist coming. The Rev. A. F. Godley returned thanks, and said he was glad the secretary was keeping the flag flying.

One new associate was enrolled.

The Rev. A. F. and Mrs. Godley (both ringers) invited the Guild to the Rectory gardens at Stratton in August. They were heartily thanked for their kindness.

After the meeting, the hon secretary had six children numbered, and illustrated some details in change ringing by going through two courses of Bob Minor, a demonstration which was quite enjoyed, and especially by the children themselves, some picking out their own places. Handbell ringing and games continued until the sun was dipping down in the north-west. It was in every way a very happy gathering. Miss J. C. Chick, a good handbell ringer, who started her ringing career in the branch, cycled from Bournemouth in the heat of the day, altogether with the return journey riding 60 miles. The following towers were represented: Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, St. Peter's, Fordington, Frampton, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Sydling, East Lulworth, Bournemouth and Wyke Regis.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**PLEASANT MEETING AT HAGLEY.**

A very successful quarterly meeting was held at Hagley on June 21st, when the Northern Branch was joined by the Dudley and District Guild. Excellent weather favoured the event, and 68 members and visitors turned up to enjoy a few hours among the many beauty spots adjacent to the church.

The eight bells were available for 'silent' practice and were kept busy during the afternoon and evening. The methods ranged from Grandsire and Stedman Triples to London Surprise and provided far greater variety than many had been able to enjoy since the ban. Down in the park surrounding the church the handbells were also kept busy to Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters.

Owing to a last minute difficulty the Rector was unable to be present and the usual service was dispensed with.

A plentiful tea was served picnic fashion by the Misses Parkes and the Hagley Boy Scouts, who received great praise and a hearty vote of thanks for the excellence of their arrangements.

A short business meeting followed, presided over by the Branch Master, Mr. John Lloyd, supported by Messrs. William Short, John Bass and Charles Woodberry, of the Branch Committee. Mr. F. Colelough, of Bilston, was elected a member, and it was decided to hold the next three meetings as follows (D.V.): Belbroughton, July 19th; Chaddesley Corbett, August 23rd; and Clent (quarterly meeting), September 20th. A vote of thanks to the Misses Parkes, Mr. E. M. Ashford, Scoutmaster, and his Scouts brought the meeting to a close, and a move was then made to the tower by some, for the handbells by others, while the remainder availed themselves of the opportunity to explore the beautiful park, so delightfully situated upon the lower slopes of the Clent Hills, until all felt the time had come to adjourn to a popular local rendezvous, where the handbells, reminiscences and refreshment rounded off the best meeting since the outbreak of war.

Members were present from the following towers: Aston, Belbroughton, Bilston, Birmingham, Brierley Hill, Clent, Coseley, Coventry, Cradley, Dudley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Smethwick, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Wolverley and Wombourne, and the members were very pleased to welcome Aircraftman Hunt, R.A.F., of Reading, at present stationed somewhere in the Midlands.

NOTICES.

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.**

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.

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

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The summer meeting will be held at York on Saturday, July 12th, when handbells will be available at the Minster from 2.30 p.m. Evensong in the Minster at 4 o'clock. Tea at Eastgate Café at 5 o'clock, 2s. each. Business meeting after tea. Annual reports available. A good attendance is hoped for.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division. —A meeting of this division will be held at Halstead on Saturday, July 12th. Handbells will be available in church from 2.30 onwards. Service at 4.30, followed by tea. — Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Anstey on July 12th. Bells (8, silent) will be available from 3 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, South Croydon, on Saturday, July 12th. Eight bells (silent) available from 3 p.m. until black-out. Also handbells. Service 4.30. — Ivy R. Housden, Dis. Sec., 25, Southbourne Avenue, Wanstead, E.11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church tower on Saturday, July 12th. Tower will be open from 3 p.m. Handbells will be available, also front 8 (silent). Meeting at 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The July monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, July 12th. Handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow at 4.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District. —The meeting arranged for July 12th at Maldon has had to be cancelled owing to circumstances beyond our control.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District. —This district will hold its next meeting at Ticknall on Sunday, July 13th. Handbell ringing at 2.15 p.m. Service 2.45 p.m. Refreshments in Welfare Hall at 4.15, followed by short business meeting. Tea and cake provided, but will members please take their own sandwiches and sugar? Derby District members and friends cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held in the Parish Church Hall, Ulverston, on Saturday, July 19th. Service in church at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., meeting after tea. Names for tea to N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston, by July 16th.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, where the meeting will be held, ONLY to those who notify the hostess by July 12th. Please be particular on this point. Handbells available. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes. — S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. I will try to arrange tea for those who notify me by Monday, July 14th. — K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those intending to be present kindly notify me not later than Monday, July 14th.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Penistone on Saturday, July 19th.

A room will be reserved at Bridge Hotel. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m., followed by handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. E. Brookes, Hall Lane, Hoylandswaine, nr. Sheffield, not later than July 16th. All are welcome. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice at Belbroughton (D.V.) Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Woodhouse Eaves on Saturday, July 19th. Handbells at church from 3 p.m. Other arrangements as usual. Mr. H. G. Haynes, 31, Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, is trying to arrange tea for any who notify him by Wednesday previous. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea at the Carlton Café, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 o'clock. All those requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Thursday, July 24th. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED, set of 9 to 12; any key.—Write, W. J. Chester, Hales Hall, Market Drayton, Salop.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW.**THE DESTROYED RING OF TWELVE.**

Recently the 'Star' had the following paragraph on Bow bells. The statement that they will be lighter should be received with reserve, for obviously many things in reconstruction will depend on circumstances which cannot now be foreseen.

'When Bow bells ring again their tone will not be the same. The bells will be smaller.

'Some of them were broken when they crashed from the church tower in Cheapside after a recent City "blitz."

'Pieces of them are scattered at the foot of the tower. These are to be salvaged and kept until the bells can be recast.

'Two of the treble bells, caught up in the tower-girders, are intact.'

'Bow Church itself will have to be rebuilt. The tower, though intact, will need a good deal of repair.'

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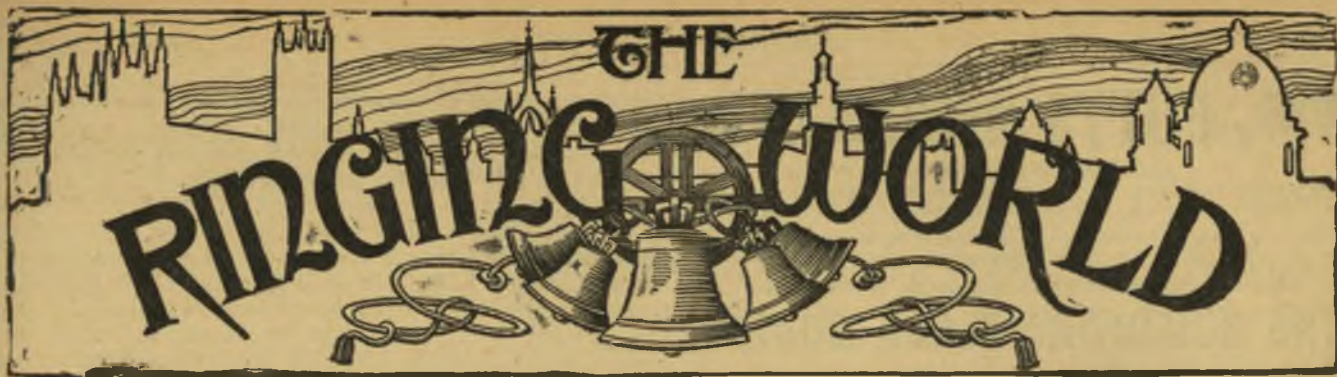
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THE INSURANCE OF BELLS.

A resolution of considerable interest was passed at the recent annual meeting of the Kent County Association, which discussed the liability for the replacement of bells damaged or destroyed by enemy action. The motion put forward the view that, as the Government had ordered church bells to be rung in any area where enemy troops may land from the air, churches had become military objectives, and therefore any damage arising from the war should be made good by the Government. Copies of the resolution are to be sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops, Archdeacons and members of Parliament in the county of Kent. By this means it will be brought to the notice of those who can make themselves heard in the councils of State, and an even wider influence might be exerted if other associations would follow upon the same lines.

There is a great deal to be said in favour of such action. As far as is at present known, the Government have undertaken only to restore the fabric of such churches as may be damaged by the enemy, leaving the churches to cover by insurance the loss of the furnishing and other contents, which, of course, includes the bells. This may, for the most part, be an equitable arrangement, but the bells are on a different footing. They are reserved for a military purpose, as no other kind of church property is reserved, and as they have, so to speak, been acquired by the military, their replacement should be the responsibility of the Government if it happens that they suffer at enemy hands. If the restoration of the fabric of the church, in the event of damage, is to be the business of the nation, the bells, which to all intents and purposes are temporarily military property, ought also to be a charge on national funds. We hope, therefore, that other associations will take the matter up with their Bishops and Members of Parliament.

Until the Government undertakes this responsibility, however, ringers in their respective parishes should make every effort to secure the proper insurance of the bells. There is increasing evidence that in many parishes a totally inadequate sum is provided for their replacement. We know of one instance where a ring of twelve bells has been included in a policy at £200. It is true that the insurance rates are high, and that the parish in question is not a wealthy one, but to value the bells at such a figure is farcical; the amount will hardly provide one decent sized bell at the price which is likely to rule after the war. We have heard of other cases almost on a par with this, and in every parish where there is a ring of bells it should be the business of ringers not only to in-

(Continued on page 338.)

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quire into what has been done but to make the strongest representations to secure adequate insurance against a total loss, for it must not be forgotten that partial damage will only be paid for proportionately.

Another point to be borne in mind, and one which is of no little importance, is that, if eventually the Government can be persuaded to take over the restoration of enemy damaged bells, it is more than likely that they will limit their liability to the amount for which the bells are now covered by insurance, and they would be justified in basing the compensation upon a church's own valuation of its property. Whether or not the Government takes over the responsibility of the bells, however, it is the business of church authorities to see that they are forthwith sufficiently covered by insurance. It is easy to say that, taken by and large, the risk of damage to churches in all but target areas is small. Fortunately it is, but events have proved that even the most isolated places suffer with the rest, and incendiary bombs, blindly scattered by an enemy aircraft, may do almost irreparable damage. Bells are among the things that can be replaced, but that will not happen, at any rate in full degree, in those parishes where the church authorities have failed to include an adequate sum in their insurance policy. It is different, of course, where the bells have been dismantled and removed to a place of safety; in such cases it is logical to minimise the risk, but instances of this kind are comparatively rare. How many rings of bells have been damaged or destroyed we do not know, but there are still thousands of peals hanging *in situ* in the towers of this country. It is the duty of the church authorities to see that they are adequately insured, and ringers should do their utmost to see that this is done, because, as we have said, even if the Government does eventually take over the liability, it is almost certain to be on the basis of the current insured value.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 7, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, one each of Single and Double Court, Reverse Bob and Double Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 1-2 | *JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5-6

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal of Minor in seven methods. First peal on handbells by the ringer of 3-4, who was elected a member of the association before starting.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, July 11th, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6

*JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 7-8

Composed by W. S. COURT. Conducted by CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY.

* First handbell peal of Major.

A 'MINOR' SUCCESS.

At 43, Grendon Gardens, Wembley Park, Middlesex, on Sunday evening, June 29th, a 'Minor' success was achieved by the following who rang 720 Bob Minor in 20 minutes: R. G. Spears (first 720 'in hand') 1-2, R. W. Darvill (first 720 'in hand') 3-4, E. B. Hartley (first 720 'in hand' as conductor) 5-6.

'THE GOOD OLD DAYS.' MORE REMINISCENCES.

Peal Attempts Recalled.

Like most ringers, I have had to live in the past for a full year, and occasionally there occur to me some episodes which may be interesting both to those who shared them to recall, to remind them of happier days, and interesting perhaps to others as well.

I wonder if Jim Davis remembers the occasion at St. Magnus the Martyr when no steeplekeeper came to let us in, so Jim went to the churchwarden, who kept the public-house opposite, to see whether he had a key to the tower. He had not, but did we think we could pick the lock? We thought that would be possible, and one of the band, who came from North Shields, disappeared down a nearby alley, returning very soon with a crowbar. That peal was rung, but the steeplekeeper's reactions are not known, for afterwards we all had urgent business elsewhere.

Jim may remember, too, an attempt at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row. There the gas was turned off at the main, and as the evenings were drawing in we wasted some time endeavouring the find where to turn it on. This being unavailing, we started for the peal. It grew darker and darker until all that could be seen through a kind of cage in the tower was the white shirt sleeves of the ringers opposite. This made little difference in Double Norwich and we duly reached the last course. Success was in sight—then someone missed his sally, and another peal joined the great majority.

In those days the only hope of completing a peal at Leeds in Kent was by a liberal application of lard and castor oil beforehand. This was not always easy to do, as the steeplekeeper viewed such proceedings with deep suspicion so that it was customary for some of the band to take him down to the 'George' while the work was in progress.

A PEAL INTERLUDE.

On one occasion I was assisting Jim and Fred Holden with the greasing when the latter called over, 'If the old so and so could see us now he would have a fit.'

Then came a voice from the doorway, 'Yes, the old so and so is looking at you.' We had not been quick enough.

One Bank Holiday we were ringing a peal of Stedman Caters at Maidstone, where the ninth was particularly bad going.

At that time there was living in Maidstone a formerly very prominent ringer who offered to come up to relieve Jim for a short time if necessary. He arrived about half-way through the peal, and as it was a warm morning and Jim, to quote his own words, 'didn't believe in killing himself,' gave over his rope and went down, Jack Cheesman saying as he passed, 'Don't be away long.'

Now the ringing was good, so what was more natural than that he should go a short distance away to listen. He found an ideal spot where, by good fortune, refreshment was also to be obtained, and so lingered awhile. Then in came a man evidently rather displeased with life, for said he, 'What they can see in kicking up that blank blank row since seven o'clock this morning I don't know.'

Jim, therefore, considered it wise to return, and it was as well he did, for although he had been away for three courses only, his deputy was on the point of collapse. However, the peal was duly rung and we saw no more of our eleventh man, but he left a rather large bill for us to settle at the 'Globe' for beer which he had consumed.

When Jim Bennett was a sergeant-major in the Marines he arranged many peals at Chatham, where the church adjoins the barracks.

We came down after one of these and were met outside by a marine, who enquired for the head ringer. We felt that here was a situation that required diplomatic treatment and said that we were all visitors, but would pass any message on. He gave us the message, 'The Adjutant presents his compliments and asks if you will let him know when the next competition takes place.'

LOCKED IN A CATHEDRAL.

Diplomacy was in evidence, too, after a peal at Quex Park. It was customary after these events for the band to be shown round the museum at the house. Then the question would normally be asked, 'And what do you think of our little bells?' which normally brought some complimentary reply. But on one occasion Joe Sykes was there, and he answered, 'They are the finest peal of twelve I have ever heard for their weight.' (Surfleet in those days was a peal of ten.)

A few years ago we rang a peal at Canterbury Cathedral. One of the local ringers was supposed to let us out after the peal—the Cathedral by that time being closed. However, he did not arrive and our train went without us. There was another—the last—an hour later, but as time went on our prospects of catching it grew less and less. It looked like spending the night in the Cathedral, but meanwhile someone had groped his way down the nave to the main door, and by knocking and rattling attracted the attention of the watchman on Christ's Gate, who informed the verges. We just caught our train, but three of the band were unable to get farther than London that night.

About twenty years ago our bells were rehung, and when they were to be rededicated the then Rector insisted that he should be the first to sound them after the dedicatory prayers, after which we were to ring a short touch. In vain did we try to explain that if he were

(Continued in next column.)

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD. CONTINUITY OF MEETINGS.

The Vacant Mastership.

A quarterly meeting of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Guild's headquarters, The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street. As all visiting ringers to Birmingham well know, the Guild's meeting room is ideal both from the business point of view and the social side which usually follows. But on a Saturday afternoon in perfect July weather much pleasanter places in the lovely countryside around Birmingham would have been preferred, such as, for instance, Solihull, Knowle, Hampton-in-Arden or Sutton Coldfield.

In normal times it would have been at one of these places that the meeting would have taken place and the bells would have pealed out over hill and dale. Later, tea, consisting of boiled ham and roast beef with green salad and all sorts of cakes, would have been partaken of, and, after further ringing, in all probability a convivial hour would have been enjoyed in the local hostelry before returning home. But these are not normal times, and so the meeting was in Birmingham, and The Tamworth Arms had to be specially opened for the purpose, otherwise it would have remained closed, for all forms of refreshment had been entirely sold out. In spite of this, however, and the fact that there was no ringing on the tower bells, quite a good number attended the meeting, including several visitors from Coventry, Cheltenham, etc.

The short business meeting was presided over by the Ringing Master, Mr. Frank Haynes. Apologies were announced from Cdr. A. Paddon Smith, Mr. Albert Walker and Mr. E. T. Allaway.

The election of a new Master to succeed the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett was discussed, and it was proposed by the chairman that this be left over until the annual meeting in January next.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. G. F. Swann suggested that the office of Master should be more or less on similar lines to that existing in the College Youths Society.

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

There were no new members proposed, but before the party dispersed one of the visitors expressed a desire to be proposed at the next meeting.

A suggestion that the next quarterly meeting be dispensed with did not meet with favour, and Mr. G. F. Swann proposed that this be held as usual on the first Saturday in October at a tower within easy reach of the city, and that, if possible, a tea be arranged.

This was seconded by Mr. A. Morris and supported by Mr. G. E. Fearn, who also made the point that it would be a pity to break the continuity of the quarterly meetings.

The Chairman also supported the resolution and stated that the present meeting proved the usefulness of these gatherings. He took the opportunity of thanking the visitors, Messrs. W. Williams and W. Yeend, of Cheltenham, H. E. Sibley, C. H. Webb and son, from Stoke-in-Coventry, for their presence.

Mr. John Jagger reported that he had visited Mr. James George at Quinton Hall during the past week. He was not very well, as he was suffering from the effects of a fall. He, however, wished to be remembered to all his old friends of the St. Martin's Guild.

The secretary (Mr. T. H. Reeves) announced that, with the approval of the officers of the Guild, Mr. Walker had removed to a place of safety in the country all the old peal books and records belonging to the Guild, and had made arrangements that by due notice these could be inspected if required. This action was approved and Mr. Walker thanked for his services.

This concluded the business. The handbells were then brought into service and several good touches were brought round, in which the visitors took part. Messrs. C. H. Webb and his son, with Mr. E. Mansell, delighted the company with their tune ringing.

'THE GOOD OLD DAYS.'

(Continued from previous column.)

to sound the bell it would have to be down, whereas when we rang it must be up. We found a solution. At that time the belfry was open to the church with a low iron screen for protection, the opening being covered by curtains. To the ironwork we tied an old rope, the end hanging down into the church. And at the appropriate moment the Rector tugged the rope, someone pulled the treble off for a couple of whole pulls; and then off we went into rounds. Thus everyone was satisfied.

The fact that the belfry was open to the church was not, however, always a blessing. Once we had rung over two hours for a peal of Norfolk, when the treble ringer suddenly set his bell, to the astonishment of the rest of the band. The reason? Well, during the peal someone was effecting repairs in the church and making quite a lot of noise, and the treble ringer thought one particularly loud bang was the conductor calling 'Stand.' I do not remember what was said to the workman, but at all events the latter never completed the job. He went straight to the Rector, drew his wages and disappeared.

E. B.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 328.)

THE COLLECTION OF MINOR METHODS.

In 1907 the Methods Committee issued the first 'Collection of Doubles, Minor and Triples Methods.' On the whole, that book has had a greater influence on the development of the art of change ringing than any other publication of modern times. It directly led to the expansion of six bell ringing, it made spliced ringing possible, and it indirectly led to the great advance in the Major methods. Nominally the work of the committee, it actually was entirely the work of Law James, and it reflects his characteristics both in its good qualities and its many deficiencies. The idea of publishing an exhaustive collection of all the Minor methods which conform to the new standards was his. He was not the first man to think of working them out by using a pre-arranged system of places; the possibility of doing so had been mentioned long before by Heywood, but he was the first to turn a rather casual suggestion to practical use. Now that it is done it seems the obvious thing to do, but it was by no means obvious then, nor is it any serious reproach that other people discovered he had omitted a group of half a dozen methods. His proof reading, too, was excellent (if it was his) and there is not a single typographical mistake in the book.

But, beyond working out and arranging the methods, Law James had very little idea of what a good collection should be. He sent the figures to Davies to be printed without any preface or introduction, and had to supply one at the last minute.

I have said that the book was solely his work. Indeed, he made no pretence of consulting the committee, and several features both of commission and omission gave a good deal of offence. He was at the time interested in a particular extension of Superlative Major to Royal and Maximus, and, carrying out the idea, he introduced a mongrel six-bell method which he named Superlative Minor. That called forth a strong protest from John Carter, who threatened to refuse to allow the book to go forth with his name on the title page. In pursuance of another idea James excluded Reverse Bob.

Nothing was said about the proper bobs and singles to be used, and no compositions were given.

The methods were published without names except in the case of those which had already appeared in standard text books. In several instances the naming of these latter was inaccurate and occasionally perverse. It was, for instance, merely provoking unnecessary hostility to label new variations College Single and Canterbury Pleasure just for the sake of telling the people who rang the old variations that they were wrong.

Why the bulk of the methods were not named I do not know. It may have been that it never occurred to James that they needed names, or it may have been a deliberate act on his part. The committee had no say in the matter. Had it been thoroughly discussed the Exercise might have been saved a good deal of trouble, inconvenience, and misunderstanding which lasted down to quite recent years. Perhaps it was as well that he did not attempt to do the naming, for his taste in such matters was not a very sound one. He tried to justify the omission afterwards by the assertion that the Exercise recognised the exclusive right of the band who first rang a method to give it a name. No such right exists

or ever has existed. Any band or any person can call anything what he pleases, but he cannot compel anyone else to accept his names. The names of methods have been given in a variety of ways, as the names of other things have been given, and there is no rule but that of convenience and common sense.

To support his opinion James appealed to a passage in Jasper Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' where, on the authority of the 'Clavis,' he says that, when the Union Scholars had rung the first peal of Treble Bob Major in 1718, 'in accordance with a custom prevailing at the time the Society called the method after their own name—Union Treble Bob—as they considered themselves entitled to do by reason of their being the first company who accomplished a peal in the method.'

There can hardly have been a 'custom' in this matter for it was the only peal which, so far, had been rung in any method other than Grandsire and Plain Bob.

The actual words in the 'Clavis' are as follows: 'It is remarkable that when a new system is first broached, and several companies are contending for the first peal, the successful champions generally claim the privilege of giving it a name.' The authors did not, however, accept the claim, for they go on to say, 'Allowing every set or body of men that merit which is their due, we may venture to affirm that whoever was in possession of a lead of treble bob on six could certainly be at no loss or find much difficulty in producing that on eight, ten or twelve bells.'

The number of instances in early days where companies gave new names to methods after they had rung the first peal is actually very small, and the names have as a rule not been accepted by the Exercise generally.

Oxford Treble Bob Major was for a long time usually called Union Bob in London, but less frequently so in the country. The Cumberland Youths were the society who most claimed the supposed right. They rang Real Double Bob Major and called it Cumberland Bob, and Real Double Grandsire Cinques and called it Cumberland Cinques. Grandsire Major and Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, they also called after their own name; but in all cases the Exercise declined to accept their naming.

A better reason for leaving the Minor methods unnamed was that it would be an inducement to bands to practise them if the first to ring a 720 could call it what they pleased. That did some good, but in the event the plan of leaving the methods unnamed was proved to be a mistake.

So far as the 'Collections of Methods' are concerned there is only one thing that really matters, and that is the general convenience of the Exercise. The only use of a name is for purposes of identification. If it is necessary at all it is necessary in a book. The inconvenience and trouble directly caused by the omission of the names from the first Minor collection were so great that the committee decided that they would never again be responsible for a similar thing and when the 'Collection of Plain Major Methods' appeared names were supplied. It was received with general approval, or at least without the slightest adverse criticism.

HUGHENDEN.—On Tuesday, June 24th, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 40 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Pte. R. Biggs (first quarter-peal in the method on handbells) 3-4. Miss D. R. Fletcher 5-6, R. Lee 7-8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal arranged for Pte. R. Biggs, who was home on leave.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. THE INSURANCE OF BELLS.

A meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Stone on Saturday week, when 25 ringers and friends from Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Stone and Newcastle-under-Lyme sat down to tea at the Falcon Hotel.

Although little time was given to handbell ringing, the meeting was very enjoyable. A vote of thanks to the Rector (the Rev. H. Lee) and the ringers for the very great welcome they had given to the visitors, and to Mr. H. Proctor, of the Falcon Hotel (also a ringer of Stone) for the use of rooms was proposed by Mr. C. H. Page and seconded by Mr. A. D. Steel.

The hon. secretary said that there was a balance in hand of 4s. 1d. from the fourth annual dinner. This was very satisfactory, as only 23 attended.

The secretary asked all towers in the association to let him know whether their church councils were insuring the bells against enemy action. In case they are not, he intends to write to their town councils to ask if they would do so, since the bells are closely attached to their civic functions.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

DEATH OF A VICE-PRESIDENT.

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held in the Church Room, Hartfield, on Saturday, June 21st, when members attended from Hartfield, Coleman's Hatch, Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst, Uckfield and Wadhurst. Mr. A. Ryman presided over the business meeting, and referred to the Guild's great loss in the death of the Rev. H. A. James, Rector of Hartfield. He was, said the chairman, one of the Guild's most enthusiastic vice-presidents. He always took great interest in their activities and made all ringers welcome when they visited Hartfield.

The secretary (Mr. C. A. Bassett) was instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mrs. James. It was also unanimously decided that a donation of one guinea be made to the fund being raised to provide an annuity for Mrs. James.

The question of future meetings was discussed. The secretary said that he thought it was time members in the western part of the Guild's area had a meeting arranged for them. Balcombe was therefore selected, the meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. It was also decided to try and fit in another meeting, probably at Wadhurst, before the end of August.

This concluded the business, and the rest of the time available was pleasantly spent in handbell ringing.

WEDDING OF BERGH APTON RINGER.

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12th, at Rockland St. Mary's Church, of Miss Winifred Ethel Jordan and Mr. Herbert Charles Boggis, of Bergh Apton, Norfolk. The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, Rector of Bergh Apton, officiated, assisted by the Rev. G. Dawson, Rector of Rockland St. Mary.

The Bergh Apton ringers rang touches on the handbells in church and afterwards at the reception in the Village Hall.

As the bride and bridegroom left the church six of the bridegroom's lady pupils formed a guard of honour with handbells. Mr. Boggis has been leader of the Bergh Apton company since its formation in 1935, and it is largely due to his efforts and patience that Bergh Apton now has 21 members in the Norwich Diocesan Association.

Among the many presents was a suitably engraved silver bell inkstand from the Bergh Apton ringers. It was greatly regretted that the members serving with the Forces were unable to be present.

EARLY MEMORIES.

A VILLAGE CURFEW.

I was strolling through the meadows one summer evening in a real glimmering landscape when the last rowing boats were returning to their hired mooring places and the pleasure steamer was gliding down the river on its last daily trip, when in the quietness of that evening a bell sounded out from the village church which nestled among the trees on the rising ground. For ten minutes it spoke and then ceased. The curfew, I thought, and after the clock struck eight first one and then each of the other bells rang out for a minute or so and stopped. Then they all spoke out together, slowly, yet steadily, they seemed to strike, and clearly too. I counted them—six bells—and I observed there was a pause in the striking which seemed to give some effect. (How one does hate to hear bells leading without making the proper pause at hand stroke.)

I listened intently and was attracted by the changing order of their striking. 213465 was different to 123456: then 124365 was again different; and again they changed to 214365. The next change, I thought, must be made in some manner, but I could not follow it further; it was too much after the third change for me to pick up, but I still listened to the repeated permutations.

Since then I have rung in peals from Minor to Maximus and in methods up to London Surprise. I have rung with the best ringers in the country. I have even called peals; but my mind goes back to that village church where I saw the cattle grazing and where the countryman plodded his way home after his daily toil. And in the waning twilight those bells spoke messages which are more impressed on my memory than all the elaborate methods I have rung in. H. D.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We were pleased to notice lately that the damage caused by air raids to Wren's beautiful little church of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, though large, is not so bad as we feared at first. Repairs are being done and it is hoped that services can be resumed in the not far distant future. The bell in the steeple, which survived the great fire of 1666, is, we understand, safe.

The meeting of the Sherwood Youths, which had been arranged for July 26th at Vernon House, Friar Lane, Nottingham, has been postponed.

One of the earliest peals of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Leeds in Yorkshire on July 15th, 1830. It was then called New Treble Bob Royal. The first peal in the method had been rung some years before at Leeds in Kent.

The opening peal on the twelve bells at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, was rung by the College Youths on July 18th, 1798. An account of this appeared some months ago in our columns.

Next Sunday is the twenty-ninth anniversary of a performance which, though it was only Grandsire Triples, was one of the milestones in the history of the Exercise. On July 20th, 1912, eight ladies rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, Poplar. The conductor was, of course, Mrs. Fletcher, Miss Edith K. Parker she was then. The Ladies' Guild was not founded until the following October.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, one Stedman Triples, one Stedman Caters, and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE LADD.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL AT PINCHBECK.

It has been decided to provide in the Lincolnshire church of Pinchbeck, with which he was connected all his life, a memorial to the late Mr. George Ladd. Committees of the Pinchbeck Parish Church Council and the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild have jointly decided to furnish the side altar of Pinchbeck Church with brass altar furniture (cross, candlesticks and vases) and to place a mural bell metal tablet in the tower. Not only was Mr. Ladd secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch for 30 years, but had a large circle of ringing friends throughout the Lincoln Guild, of which he was one of the foundation members. His friends will be glad of the opportunity of providing a permanent memorial to one who did so much for ringing in the county and diocese. They should send their contributions either to Mr. Rupert Richardson (Master of the Guild), Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding, or Mr. Allen Richardson (hon. secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch), Glen Side, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

Mr. Ladd died suddenly on October 31st last, at the age of 74 years. He was born in Pinchbeck and had lived there all his life. He had been a ringer for 55 years and churchwarden for 20 years. 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 was formed. During the 30 years that he so faithfully filled the office of secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Guild he did not miss a single meeting. He was one of the prime movers in securing the augmentation of Pinchbeck bells from six to eight and was captain of Pinchbeck band for nearly 40 years.

ISAAC GEORGE SHADE.

To-morrow is the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Isaac George Shade, who met his death in a tragic manner by being knocked down by a motor-car in the Blackheath Road on his way home from a ringing practice at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on July 19th, 1926.

Isaac Shade was one of the best known ringers of his day, and at the time of his death had rung more peals than anyone else except William Pye. His total, 1,450, has since been exceeded by Messrs. George R. Pye, George Williams and Frank Bennett.

Isaac Shade's peal list was remarkable not only for quantity but for quality too. For many years he was one of the band which centred round the leadership of William Pye, and he stood in many of the outstanding performances of that great ringer. Among them were the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1909, the 15,072 Double Norwich Major at Erith in 1899, and the 15,264 Bristol Surprise at Hornchurch in 1912. Of his peals, 276 were Superlative Surprise Major, 133 London Surprise Major, 237 Stedman Triples, 88 Bristol Surprise Major and the same number of Stedman Cinques.

He was one of those rare men to whom change ringing was more than a hobby or a recreation. It was the one passion of his life without which he could scarcely have existed. For many years he belonged to the band at St. Alphage's, the Parish Church of Greenwich, where his father had been a ringer before him. The service of the two covered a period not much short of a century. St. Alphage's is one of the churches which have been practically destroyed in the air raids on London.

Isaac George Shade was 75 years old when he was killed.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS.

Ladies in Membership.

The academic year which has just ended, although the second of the war, and the first of a total ban on tower-bell ringing, has been one of the most successful yet experienced by the O.U.S.C.R. The reason for this is that up to last June, unlike the Cambridge University Guild, the society concentrated on tower-bell ringing. Now few men are at a university for more than three years (and then only for half each year), and there are so many distractions at Oxford that unless a member was very keen, or a ringer before coming up, it took the full three years before he was much good. Consequently, except for a few peak periods, the society was rarely able to manage more than Grandsire Doubles. With the imposition of the ban, the society had, perforce, to turn to handbells, which it had before used only for teaching the rudiments of change ringing, and progress has been far more rapid in this direction.

Last October, about four active old members were still up, but of these, only one was a double-handed handbell ringer. Recruits were obtained and practices started; in these early stages, the assistance of Miss Cross, who has always been ready to help, and who has entertained members of the society on many occasions, and of Gerry Bromley, a past member and a blind ringer, was invaluable. Gradually a system of teaching was evolved, the main principle of which is to make the beginner ring two handbells almost from the start. This system has been very successful; for instance, one beginner rang a course of Bob Major on 1-2 after only five practices, and understood what she was doing.

Some idea of the work done may be gleaned from the following facts. During the year, twenty to thirty undergraduates in all have been members at various times, and all of these could at least ring 1-2 or 7-8 to courses of Grandsire Triples; many of these have dropped out, as always happens with would-be ringers, but at least they now know something about the Exercise. Some 15 of these advanced far enough to ring 1-2 or 7-8 to Bob Major, and at the end of the year the O.U.S.C.R. included seven reasonably competent handbell ringers among its members. The general level of performance is shown by the fact that several well-struck courses of Grandsire Cinques have been rung.

Permission was obtained for the removal of the clappers at New College, at the beginning of the year, and all recruits have been taught to handle a bell. No great stress has been laid on silent tower-bell ringing, however, as it was considered that extensive practice would probably do more harm than good, as far as ringing on open bells was concerned. The city ringers have practised on these bells, and the O.U.S.C.R., Oxford Society and the local branch of the Diocesan Guild are jointly bearing the cost of an electric striking apparatus, now being experimented with.

For the last three Sundays of the summer term, handbells were rung before evensong at St. Mary's, the University Church. Plain courses of Grandsire Caters on a heavy ten in fairly slow time were brought round, and the effect on the congregation is perhaps indicated by the fact that the organist gave up his voluntary on one occasion, so that there might be more ringing. The O.U.S.C.R. has lost no opportunity of interesting laymen in change ringing, several lectures on campanology having been given to various other societies in the university.

The salient point of the society's policy has thus been to introduce as many people as possible to the art of change ringing, and very good work has certainly been done in this direction. For this reason opportunities for intensive practice by a single band with a view to peal attempts have been strictly limited. Nevertheless, several such attempts have been made, the most successful being one for Bob Minor, which came to grief in the fifth 720. Two quarter-peals of Grandsire Doubles were scored and have been reported in 'The Ringing World.' Also, a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung at New College on Tuesday, June 24th, by W. L. B. Leese 1-2, Miss G. Mossop (first quarter-peal) 3-4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5-6, Miss W. Laws 7-8. Miss Laws and Miss Mossop knew nothing whatever about ringing before last October.

War conditions permitting, next year should be even more successful. Unfortunately, four of the best ringers will no longer be up, but with the nucleus left and the experience which has been gained, it is expected that another strong band will be built up. J. E. S.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. J. E. Bailey says I have apparently made up my mind quite definitely that London churches are nothing like churches. And by quoting comparisons (which even Mr. Bailey himself does not attempt to dispute) I consider I have sufficiently substantiated my remarks. I rather suspect that Mr. Bailey is moved more by sentimentalism than he is by fundamental facts. Would he or Mr. Young like to write and tell me that any one of the London churches I have referred to (or the Parish Church, Daventry, which is like them) is equal to that of, say, Melton Mowbray or Whiston in Northants? These are just humble village and town churches, but whose design is typical of a true English church, and I again repeat there is no town hall or corn exchange appearance about them; they are designs to be admired and to be copied for the future. 'TOURIST.'

FIRES IN CHURCH TOWERS.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following has been sent to 'The Times,' but was crowded out:—

As a ringer, my advice has been asked about the letter which Mr. W. A. Forsyth wrote to you, and you may perhaps allow me to supplement it.

Most of his suggestions are costly and could be undertaken by few churches in war time, but there is a good deal which we can do now that will cost only a few shillings, or even nothing at all.

He suggests a brick vault or concrete floor above the nave level. But this could easily be by-passed by the flames, if a door in the tower stairs happened to have been left open. It would cost nothing to see that every door is always kept locked. The keys should be in a bunch in the lowest door, so that anyone could go up at once in case of need. The tower itself should be kept locked from the church.

It may cost a few shillings to make all doors fit closely and to glaze the small stair windows; these should be protected by wire netting outside and a sandbag inside. All small openings and windows in the tower itself may be closed in the same way.

We now come to the great difficulty—the large windows at the top of the tower. If these can be bricked up inside the louvres, it should be done, and this will be a permanent improvement. For it has been found that a small opening high up, and exactly the same on each of the four sides, is quite sufficient, and, indeed, gives an improvement to the sound of the bells. This opening can be left at the top of each of the windows, and for the present filled with a sandbag.

If, however, these windows cannot be bricked up, sheets of asbestos, or even of some kind of roofing felt, may be nailed on the louvres to stop the draught.

Unless the tower has been cleaned this year, it should at once be cleaned from top to bottom. This ought to be done every spring before birds begin to build their nests. Examination should then be made to see that all holes are still effectually closed, and that all wire netting is sound. This should be the strongest procurable.

It is remarkable how many inflammable things will be found stored away for years in towers. At the present time there are in different towers to my knowledge heaps of old hassocks, old cassocks, books, papers, broken seats, odd boards and many similar hoarded rubbish dumps.

Some towers I know of are full of birds' nests. Others, especially small towers and fleches, act as traps for the birds, and have many of their dead bodies. It is difficult to credit the amount of dried sticks a pair of jackdaws will bring into a tower in a few days. This will make a trail of tinder that would cause the building to be a fiery furnace in a very few minutes.

Whatever work is done to the tower it should be remembered that the tower is there to hold the bell or bells, and that the ring of bells is probably the most costly article in the church. Although the bottom of the tower is probably the strongest place in the church, the bells should not be taken down unless they can be well sandbagged or otherwise really protected: they are very easily cracked. In St. Clement Danes' the historic peal was lowered to the floor at a cost of £200. This alone was no protection, and many of the bells have been broken to pieces by the falling masonry. Had the money been spent on isolating the tower, both it and the bells would probably now be saved; while the fire in the church might have been kept more under control. In Coventry Cathedral, in spite of the raging inferno in the rest of the building, the tower was untouched, and the clock continued striking. Here the tower is connected with the rest of the structure by two small wooden doors, at the ground and high up; but these were kept shut and no fire reached the tower.

Besides old rubbish, inflammable stores are sometimes kept in the tower. It is quite usual to find the supply of burning oil kept under the stairs, together with brushes, dusters and many other old cloths. Nothing could be better arranged to turn a small fire into a disastrous one. In some towers I have to clamber over the coals to reach a short ladder to the ringing chamber. I have pointed out to several incumbents that a small expenditure would make the excellent stone stairs available, but nothing has been done. The first thing that anyone called in to advise should insist on is that all oil and fuel should be kept outside the church as soon as possible, and until then it should be kept as far from the tower as may be.

Ufford Rectory.

HERBERT DRAKE.

THE LONG PEAL AT MOTTRAM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice you refer in your paper to the long peal, 16,800 changes of Kent Treble Bob, rung at Mottram in 1906. The performance was challenged at the time on the grounds that the conductor missed a bob, that the bells were fired for twenty minutes without stopping, that the first course end of the fourth part never came up and that the peal was called from manuscript.

The conductor denied the missed bob and the firing, but admitted that he had a slip of paper with an occasional course end on, 'not for assistance,' but to assure himself that all was right.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

COMPOSITION WITH FULL COURSES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is rather late to refer to your editorial on spliced peals in the issue dated June 6th, but I have been busy with the possibilities of the two-part plan. This effort has resulted in a peal with two full courses each of the four standard Surprise Major methods. In fact, two more courses of London seem possible, but with these included, I have been unable to get more than 4,992 changes. Perhaps one of our younger composers may do better.

So far my work has shown that the fifth method is indispensable. The value of Rutland in this connection is because of the difference from London in its relation to the other three methods. Its first and seventh leads not only do not repeat with either of the same leads of London, but while these leads of London may be false against other methods, those with the same course-head in Rutland are often true. Then sufficient true first and seventh leads of London or Rutland may be there, with the full courses, to complete a peal. I have not yet found, in any case, that enough of these two leads of London only remain true to join up full courses.

Then, if it be impossible to obtain a peal in the four standard methods alone, proof seems to be out of the question. The falseness between the methods, say, London against the other three, is far from constant, and the varied number of changes of each method which would fulfil the condition further complicate the matter. It seems to me that a satisfactory proof of the non-existence of such a peal cannot be set out. And it may be said further that the production of such a peal is likely to be the only proof of its possibility.

In thanking Messrs. Turner and Pitman for their congratulatory letters, I hope they will succeed in their efforts in this direction.

One of my correspondents says that the greater portion of my peals are made up of three lead courses, which is true. It may be thought that I have not acknowledged my indebtedness to the discoverer of that plan. The fact is that the late H. Law James sent his first peal on the plan to me to check his figures. At the time I paid tribute to his genius, and up to now have not found any way of including full courses of the four methods in a peal without the aid of his discovery.

I enclose the two-part peal and hope you can publish it. The two further full courses which it may be possible to include as London are headed by 52643 and 62534. JOSEPH W. PARKER.

THE PEAL.

A peal of Spliced Surprise Major in five methods, 5,120 changes, with two full courses each of London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. Each course-head is followed by leads of the various methods shown by letters on the right. L for London, B for Bristol, C for Cambridge, S for Superlative and R for Rutland. Where X is shown the lead may be rung as Cambridge or Superlative. Where no figure precedes the letter one lead is implied. The calling on the left produces the next course-head.

M	W	H	23456	L	X	R
—	—	—	42356	L	C	R
—	—	—	53624	L	C	L
—	—	—	25634	R	S	R
—	—	—	63254	L	X	R
—	—	—	26354	7C		
—	—	—	32654	R	X	R
—	—	—	45623	L	C	L
—	—	—	24653	L	X	L
—	—	—	36452	L	X	L
—	—	—	43652	7B	3S	
—	—	—	65432	L	X	L
—	—	—	24536	L	S	L
—	—	—	63542	3S	C	R
—	—	—	53246	R	X	R
—	—	—	42635	L	S	L
—	—	—	62534	L	C	L
—	—	—	52436	L	X	L
—	—	—	63425	7L		
—	—	—	26435	L	C	R
—	—	—	43265	L	C	L
—	—	—	24365			

Repeated.

Contains 1,984 changes of London, 704 of Rutland, 448 of Bristol and 1,984 of Cambridge and Superlative.

CONVERSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear. It was not so much the method as the process that I was thinking of. Maybe the two are not so very distinct. If the process (of exchanging bob and plain leads) is to be called conversion, the method will be 'converted.' This would apply to all suitable methods, and not, as 'Owd Bob' seems to imply, to Plain Bob only.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FAMOUS RING TO BE TAKEN DOWN.

Before the meeting of the Lancashire Association at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday last, touches were rung on the front eight tower bells and on handbells. The tea was at the Prince Cafe. The meeting was presided over by the Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. D. Railton, who extended a very hearty welcome to the visitors and particularly to the members of His Majesty's Forces. Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, was elected an hon. life member of the association. Several letters were read by the hon. secretary, those of chief interest being from the Archdeacon of Liverpool, the Rev. D. N. Spafford, the Rev. G. T. Weston and the Rev. D. P. Roberts.

The nominations for the association's officers were as follows: Vice-president, P. W. Cave; ringing secretary, T. Wilson; hon. treasurer, C. I. Davies; auditors, A. Barnes and E. C. Birkett; Central Council representatives, P. Crook, G. R. Newton, W. H. Shuker and T. B. Worsley. Branch officers were elected as follows: Bell adviser, J. Martin; Ringing Master, L. L. Gray; representative on committee, T. S. Horridge; branch secretary, G. R. Newton.

Two places were proposed for the next meeting, Huyton and St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and, on being put to the vote, St. Nicholas' was chosen, the date being fixed for August 16th.

As a token of respect to the late Mr. W. Bibby, of Frodsham, the meeting stood in silence.

Ringers were present from Standish, Southport, Wallasey, Rochdale, Milnrow, Oxtol, Bebington, Chester, Accrington, Sefton, Tettenhall and St. Nicholas', Liverpool. The members of H.M. Forces were Lieut. L. W. Purdom, Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key and Staff-Sergt. W. Kennedy.

The Rector stated that St. Nicholas' bells would shortly be taken down and sent to a place of safety. He acknowledged his indebtedness to the Bishop and the Archdeacon of Liverpool for their efforts in making it possible.

A sum of £2 17s. 6d., the result of a collection organised by the local company, was given to the church restoration fund. Thus ended a meeting well worth while.

CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.

MR. FREDERICK SHARPE'S NEW BOOK.

As will be seen from an advertisement in our notice columns, the fourth part of Mr. Frederick Sharpe's 'Church Bells of Berkshire' has been published and is now on sale.

It is a continuation of the parts already published and carries on the detailed account of the bells in the different parishes from Earley to Grove, covering 20 churches. These contain one ring of eight, four of six and one of five. Seven churches have two bells, and six have one; two churches have tubular bells.

The tubular bells of Earley St. Peter have a somewhat interesting history. Made by Harringtons, of Coventry, about 1887, they hung in the belfry of the College Anglais at Douai in France until 1903, when, owing to anti-clerical legislation, the community had to leave the country and came to England, where the new Douai Abbey has been built at Woolhampton, near Newbury. The tubes were not rehung, and after lying idle for some time, were bought in 1919 by the Vicar of Earley to supplement the one bell in his tower.

The makers of these tubes used to advertise them as 'richer in tone and decidedly more musical than ordinary bells,' and the comparatively low cost attracted a number of church authorities. Sets will be found here and there up and down the country, but we believe they have not been made for a number of years.

None of the rings is well known to ringers, and not many have any exceptional archaeological interest, but of the tenor at Fawley Mr. Sharpe remarks that it is an exceptionally interesting early fifteenth century bell from the Wokingham foundry. The tuning is of especial interest to campanologists, and this example from the Wokingham foundry would have delighted writers such as the late Canon Simpson. The bell is fairly long waisted, with the hum note approximately an octave below the strike note and a minor third as the chief harmonic. Those who prefer the 'old standard' tuning to mediæval or 'Simpson' tuning will note with satisfaction that the owners of the Wokingham foundry changed their style later in the fifteenth century to the flat seventh hum note and major third harmonic; and, therefore, the change was a matter of choice, and not due to mechanical reasons resulting from the introduction of change ringing in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as it is so often stated to be. Numerous fifteenth century bells exist to prove this claim.

The illustrations include a most interesting photograph of an original sixteenth century half wheel and sketches of four different types of baldricks showing the changes in the way clappers were hung in bells from mediæval times to the nineteenth century.

To the compilation of such a work as Mr. Sharpe's, an immense amount of time, skill and learning must be devoted, and everyone who is interested in bell archæology should not fail to secure a copy.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Wednesday, June 25th, at Stedman, Sketchley Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Jordon (first quarter-peal 'in hand') 1-2, A. Ballard (first of Grandsire 'in hand') 3-4, F. Measures (conductor) (first quarter-peal of Triples with an inside pair) 5-6, W. Clough (first quarter-peal of Triples 'in hand') 7-8.

THE STANDARD METHODS**STEDMAN AND SOME OTHERS.**

The system of hunts was explored and thoroughly worked out on mathematical and scientific lines in the Plain Changes, and when Cross Peals were introduced in which all the bells shared the movement, it still dominated composition. It could hardly have done otherwise for, however they are produced, all changes other than the Hunting Courses, must contain hunts in some form or other.

The early composers used hunts consciously and deliberately. The idea so familiar to us of treating a method as a plain course which can be extended by bobs at the will of the conductor, did not appear at first. At the beginning each touch was a complete peal in itself, and what we now call plain leads and bobbed leads were equally parts of the 'peal.' Grandsire Doubles, for instance, was what we now know as the old six-score, and Grandsire Bob Minor what we now know as the standard 720 of Bob Minor. Each was a system of hunts. Old Doubles and Trebles and Doubles on six bells were particular extents of what we now call Plain Bob.

It was inevitable, therefore, that when men began to develop methods they should do so round the whole hunt, and that is how we get our familiar style of method with a Plain or Treble Bob treble and working bells. No other plan could have been devised which would have served its purpose nearly so well.

But though the old composers deliberately used hunts and fully recognised their value, they did at times try to break away from them and to compose 'peals' in which every bell 'has a course alike.' They did not find it an easy job, and when Fabian Stedman produced his Principle he was considered, and not without reason, to have accomplished a notable achievement.

From the first, Stedman Doubles had a great reputation, and seems to have been practised extensively by the more skilful bands, but on the higher numbers the method was slow to receive recognition, except by the Norwich Scholars, and it was not until after the famous visit of the ancient Society of College Youths to the East Anglian capital in 1785 that Stedman Caters and Cinques became the most esteemed method in London, from whence it was taken to Birmingham and eventually to the rest of the country.

During the nineteenth century Stedman enjoyed a reputation on the whole greater than any other method, odd or even, and it still is one of the most popular. Yet to some extent it has proved a dead end. It has not led to any developments. It is not unlikely that the very small progress that has been made in odd bell methods compared with even bell methods is directly due to the popularity of Stedman.

In view of the great reputation enjoyed by Stedman, it was inevitable that men should try to find some method which would be its equivalent for even-bell ringing. All such attempts have failed, but it is worth while having a look at one or two of them.

The first we know of is Shipway's attempt to adapt the method directly to Major and Royal. The difficulty was, of course, that on eight or ten bells there is an odd number of bells above the Slow, so that when they pair off to do the double dodging one is left over. It could lie for six blows behind, but that would be deplorable, so Ship-

way got over the difficulty rather well by making each bell lie for three blows in fourths as it goes in and out of the Slow.

STEDMAN MAJOR.

12345678
21346587
23145678

32416587
23415678
24316587
42361857
43268175
34261857

43628175
46321857
64328175
63482715
36487251
34682715

43867251

The effect is that the double dodging behind does not coincide with the Sixes in front, but that is no great matter. As we do not now allow a bell to lie for more than two blows in any one position, Stedman Major cannot be admitted as a method, and, in addition, the alternate quick and slow works break up the natural coursing order and make any decent music impossible. On odd numbers of bells we get a similar effect on the coursing order, but there the covering tenor redeems the situation.

Shipway gave nearly all the methods in his book with their reverse and double variations. In addition to Stedman Major and Royal he gave Reverse and Double Stedman Major and Royal. The double variations are curious and interesting.

DOUBLE STEDMAN.

Major.	Royal.
12345678	1234567890
21435768	2143576980
12453786	1245367908
14257368	1425639780
41275638	4126593870
42157683	4215639807
24175863	2416593087
42715836	4261539078
47251386	4625193708
74253168	6425917380
72435186	6249571308
27453816	2645917038
24735861	2469571083
42375681	4296517803

It will be seen that all the bells do the full quick and slow works both in front and behind, except the fifth, which never gets away from 4-5.

If there were no necessity to pay any attention to music these would be interesting methods to ring, but for practical purposes they are hopeless. Shipway did not tell us how he proposed to make bobs in the double

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

variations, and did not attempt to give any touches or peals, and probably they have never been rung even to plain courses, but the Birmingham men rang peals of the single variation of both Major and Royal and a 720 of Minor. We do not suppose anybody wants to ring another.

Stedman on even numbers is obviously a makeshift, and Shipway tried to get what would be the equivalent for Major and Royal rather than the direct extension. He called it by his own name.

SHIPWAY MAJOR.

12345678
21436587

12463857
14268375
41623857
46128375
64213857
62418375
26143857
21648375

12684735
21867453
28164735
82617453
86214735
68127453
61824735
16287453

61278543

This method is chiefly interesting as showing how unsuitable Stedman is for adaptation to even numbers of bells. It has never been practised except that in 1900 one peal of it was rung at Kidderminster, more as a curiosity than anything else.

BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather sorry to see the letter from Mr. C. A. Levett in last week's 'Ringing World,' and I hope it does not represent the ideas of many people.

Let us be quite sure about the matter. Whether we win the war or lose it (and I am quite certain we are going to win it), but however it goes we shall not be able to make the Germans pay for the damage they have done. We tried to do so after the last war and the result was disastrous. An enormous bill was sent them, and in the end England and America had to lend them more money than they paid in reparation.

It is not a case of being soft-hearted. The truth is that there is no means by which a nation can extract great wealth from another nation without doing itself irreparable harm; unless perhaps it turns them into a nation of slaves with a permanent army of occupation. Such a thing, for us at any rate, is out of the question. X.

BRISTOL SURPRISE.

THE PROBLEM OF EXTENSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' of July 6th, 1934, there is a letter from the Rev. E. Banks James regarding Bristol Major, Royal and Maximus, together with an example of a block of eight changes of Bristol Major and one lead of Bristol Maximus, arranged by the late Arthur Craven.

An examination of the front four bell work in 1234 shows that Bristol is composed of three blocks of eight changes each:—

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
1234	1234	1234
2143	2143	1324
1234	2413	3142
2143	4231	3412
2413	2413	4321
4231	2143	3412
2413	1234	3142
4231	1324	1324

The first eight rows are composed of number one and two; the second eight is composed of number three and one, which brings the treble to eighth place completing the whole method. The third block is composed of number two and one, and the fourth block is composed of number one and three, which completes one lead and repeated seven times completes a plain course.

We must note the order of the bells leading from one to the sixteenth change; the second part is the reverse of the first part bringing the treble back to lead. We must also note the order of the places made at each row.

All this ground work is necessary to enable us to extend the method to Royal and Maximus. The Bristol Surprise Royal arranged by the late Arthur Craven in 1922 does not keep the blocks of eight changes intact.

In Royal, Mr. Craven uses No. 2 block for the work in 5-6-7-8 for the first eight rows, but in the second block the 7 and 4, and 9 and 2 cross over at the 6th and 8th row, which is certainly not Bristol. The 3rd block is even worse, where 2 and 9, 7 and 4, and 5 and 6 cross over.

In Maximus, the 8th row in the first block in 5-6-7-8 should be 5768, not 6587. That block should be No. 2, with the last row retaining the 5th in 5th place. In the 2nd block 5 and 6, and 8 and 9 cross over and the composition of all three blocks are not Bristol.

To extend the method to Royal, the four bell work in front remains the same, and for the places in 5-6-7 and 8 we have the three blocks of eight changes each. Using No. 2, and then No. 1, for the first 16 rows, brings up the row 678109, and the first row of the 3rd block brings up 5870-19.

We now require four rows to the half-way change with the treble in 10th place, and we must choose a block that does not make any places between the 4th and 5th rows, or repeat over the bell in 4th place:—

4th place bell	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
6	5870	5870	5870
3	8507	8507	5780
3	5870	8057	7508
2	8507	0875	7058
3	8057	0785	0785

No. 1 make places in 1 and 4, 8507, 8057; No. 2, 8 and 8 repeats over 3 and 3 in the front work, leaving No. 3, which we find is correct: this brings up the row—6432-7058—91. The work now reverses from the half-way line, bringing up the row 4623-0785—91. The 9th remains with the treble, which is usual in many Surprise methods, and at the treble lead, second's place is made.

To extend the method to Maximus we can use three blocks in full:—
No. 1, No. 2 and No. 1 for the first 8 rows
No. 3, No. 1 and No. 2 for the next 8 rows
No. 2, No. 3 and No. 1 for the next 8 rows
which bring the treble to 12th place.

For the next two rows, owing to the full lead of the 2nd in front, we must reverse with a full lead of the 3rd, which causes the 11th to remain with the treble in 11-12, the same as in the Royal, and at the treble lead second's place is made.

E. WEATHERBY.

4511, South Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.C.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held in the Parish Church Hall, Ulverston, on Saturday, July 19th. Service in church at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m., meeting after tea.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division. — A meeting will be held on Saturday, July 19th, by kind invitation of Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill. Ringers welcome at 2.30. Nearest station, Wivelsfield, five minutes.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting at Cambridge on Saturday, July 19th. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Service 4.30.—K. Willers, Gen. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual business meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m., on Saturday, July 19th. A service will be held at St. Aldate's Church at 4.30 p.m., at which a collection will be taken for the Guild Restoration Fund. It has been found impossible to arrange for any communal tea, owing to rationing difficulties. Day tickets are issued at a cheap rate from all stations L.M.S. and G.W.R. to Oxford. It is hoped to get a representative gathering of members to meet, and show that the Guild is still alive in despite of the troublous times in which we are living. — Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Comberton on Saturday, July 19th. Short service in Church at 5.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. The Schoolroom will be available from 4.30 p.m. and after the meeting for distribution of reports, payment of subscriptions, etc.—J. E. Newman, Branch Sec., Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD. — Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Budleigh on Saturday, July 19th. Tower bells (6) available for silent practice from 3 p.m., also handbells. Service at 4.30 p.m. Light refreshments at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Woodhouse Eaves on Saturday, July 19th. Handbells at

church from 3 p.m. Other arrangements as usual. — A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Tea at the Carlton Café, 1s. 3d. each, at 5 o'clock. All those requiring tea must let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know by Thursday, July 24th. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Sapcote on July 26th. Bells (silent) at 3.30 p.m. No tea. Handbells during evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m. Tea will be arranged for those who notify Mr. W. Feather, 41, Craghill Road, Thackley, by Thursday, July 24th.—H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—A 'silent' practice meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday, July 26th. Bells ready at 2.30. A cordial invitation is extended to all ringers who are at liberty to renew their acquaintance with this tower. We regret that we cannot provide the usual repast, but will endeavour to supply tea if you can bring along your own sandwiches.—F. G. Bradley, Chief Ringer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch. — A meeting will be held at Henley on Saturday, July 26th. Handbell ringing in the Chantry House, adjoining the church, from 3.30 p.m. Own arrangements must be made for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, July 26th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.—A practice will be held at St. James' Church on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells (6, with silent apparatus) available from 2.30 p.m. Also sets of handbells. All welcome.—R. Leigh, Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—A joint meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, August 4th. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30, to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Eight bells (silent) and handbells available at Leatherhead belfry from 3 p.m. and after tea. Names for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Wednesday, July 30th. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

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THE WISDOM OF SECOND THOUGHTS

Ringers, and particularly those who have entered the Exercise since this paper came into existence, will read with interest the article appearing this week in the Central Council series. It reveals the attitude of those who, at that time, 'governed' the Exercise towards 'The Ringing World' when it was, so to speak, an infant in swaddling clothes. It was a robust child and was already showing signs of ousting the then decrepit 'Bell News,' which came to an end not so very long afterwards. The question at issue at that meeting of the Council thirty years ago was whether the central body should give the new paper the same official recognition as was given to the one which, at that period, was providing the Exercise with very indifferent service. Perhaps it was partly misunderstanding, or it may have been personal feeling, which led to the motion being sidetracked; at this distance of time it does not matter, but the then hon. secretary (the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies), with greater vision than was shown by the president and others, saved the situation for the Council by acting on his own initiative during the succeeding year and putting the two papers on an equal footing in his official treatment of them. Similarly the members of the Analysis Committee, who at the meeting threatened to resign if called upon to make up the analysis for two papers, also realised that, if their tables were to have any value, the new journal could not be ignored for, as events proved, it published many more peal reports than its rival. Thus, when it came to the next meeting of the Council there was a complete *volte face*, and 'The Ringing World,' which had more than justified its existence, was welcomed with open arms, and those who had saved the Council from a serious tactical blunder were thanked—not because they had saved the Council, but because they had served the Exercise by the wisdom which came of second thoughts.

It will answer no useful purpose to discuss now what might have happened had the secretary and the Analysis Committee taken their cue from the action, or, if you prefer, the inaction, of the Council, but without any boastfulness we think we can claim that but for the support which has been given to it by 'The Ringing World,' the Council might well have ceased to exist. There were factors in the years which followed that might easily have led to the collapse of the Council. 'The Bell News' failed and went out of publication; there was, rightly or wrongly, a strong current of opinion among the general body of ringers that the Council was a kind of mutual admiration society that served no practical purpose, and then came the war that put an end to its activities for

(Continued on page 350.)

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nearly three years. Nothing but the help of a ringing paper could have restored its fortunes; and this support the Council received from 'The Ringing World,' which has always held that the best interests of the art and the prosperity of the Exercise need the backing of a central and authoritative body, not to manage its affairs, but to guide its activities into right channels and focus its opinions. 'The Ringing World' has endeavoured, not without success, to mould opinion with regard to the Council. Its efforts, we make bold to say, have led to a broader representation of all classes of ringers, and to a progressive attitude towards all those things which intimately concern ringing. During the thirty years that have elapsed since the meeting at Leicester, which Mr. J. A. Trollope this week describes, much has been accomplished, and while this journal has consistently stressed the important part which the Council must play in the organisation of the Exercise, it has also been among the Council's severest critics when criticism appeared to be necessary. When the time comes for the Council to function again it will be found that our policy has not changed. A central body is necessary to the effective life and activity of the Exercise. That life and activity can be made all the more useful when it comes under the refreshing influence of honest criticism.

BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.

MAKE THE GERMANS PAY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—If Mr. X could take a vote of all the ordinary people in Britain he would find a great majority to agree with Mr. Lovett and make the Germans pay.

He says the reason we cannot do it is not because we are soft-hearted, but that is the real reason. If the boot was on the other foot, would the Germans let us off paying? No. Slaves or not, we should have to pay. X had better not rely on them being soft-hearted, because they are not. Does he remember how the late Lord Northcliffe always said from the start of the last war we should win the war and lose the peace. The Hun would come with tears and howl he could not pay, and what was the result? The present war. They could not pay their just debts, yet they could start building up their huge military equipment.

It may surprise him to hear I was told by a member of our own battery in Belgium, who knew the Germans thoroughly, before even the last push of the last war started, two things—one we would never fight on the Rhine, they would agree to any terms sooner than have that or their towns damaged, as they never had been hurt by war and would not have it; the second that it would be all right while the troops were in occupation, but as soon as they were gone the Hun would start building his army up again. One certainty was that they would not pay.

Mr. X makes the same mistake as some of our leaders; they judge the Germans by their own standards. But they are right outside any human race. Has he ever been to a ringers' meeting even in peace time and heard men boasting what they would do when they got into the capital of some country?

To end on a pleasant subject, could not Rupert write of some of his early trips round the Lincoln fens?

A. H. PULLING.

CONVERSION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Is there any real 'conversion' of the method, whatever it may be, whether Plain Bob or anything else, if we like to delude ourselves into saying that a plain lead is a bob lead, and that a bob lead is a plain lead? It isn't like 'reversal,' applied in cases where, for instance, the 2nd's place when treble leads is transferred to 5th's when the treble is behind. It is simply substituting (and quite wrongly I contend) one description for another. It seems to me that instead of 'conversion' it is only confusion. It doesn't convert the method: if it converts anything it only converts, in my opinion, the terms which are used to describe the particular form of lead.

If it really does convert the method, which Mr. Drake says will happen in the process of changing bob and plain leads, then Mr. Drake's converted method will be ruled out of court, because they will contravene the new well recognised rules for methods laid down by the Central Council. They will not, for example, have Plain Bob lead heads in the plain course, and few, if any, methods would enable all the working bells to do all the work of the method in the plain course.

But this apart, is it worth while adding complications by introducing unwanted terms? Some day we may want the word 'conversion' for a far more important purpose.

'OWD BOB.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)*On Tuesday, July 8, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,*

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ST. JOHN'S-ON-THE-WALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS S. HARRIS	1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER	5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

First peal 'in hand' by all. First peal of Triples as conductor.
First peal rung by the Guild.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, July 13, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,*

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

EDITH K. FLETCHER	1-2	*EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	3-4	*ERNEST C. S. TURNER	7-8
GEORGE W. FLETCHER 9-10			

Composed by W. BOOTH. Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY

* First handbell peal of Treble Bob Royal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 15, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF AVALON COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW	7-8

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

The first peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF LAVENHAM COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	3-4	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	7-8

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

The first peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, July 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,*

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	1-2	*EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER	3-4	EDWIN BARNETT	7-8

Composed and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* 50th peal together.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

MEETING AT CROYDON.

A most enjoyable meeting of the Central District of the Ladies' Guild was held on Saturday, July 12th, at St. Peter's, South Croydon. At this church there is an enthusiastic band of ladies who are practising double-handed handbell ringing and tower-bell ringing, under the leadership of Mr. Wills. Eight of the bells are tied, and during the afternoon and evening touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, as well as courses of London and Cambridge Surprise.

A short service was held, conducted by the curate-in-charge, the Rev. G. H. Golding. Tea followed—and what a tea for war time! Mrs. Deal, the vice-president, thanked all who had helped to make the meeting a success, especially Miss P. Terry and Mr. Wills, who had made all the arrangements, and the ladies who prepared tea.

Eight new members were elected and the vice-president welcomed them to the Guild and wished them success in their endeavours to be prepared when the bells again peal out.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

SAFETY OF THE SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

The Master, Mr. Ernest Fenn, presided at the meeting of the College Youths last Saturday, supported by the hon. secretary, Mr. Alfred B. Peck, and the treasurer, Mr. A. A. Hughes, and among those present were Messrs. H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, E. Murrell, H. Miles, J. A. G. Prior, R. Stannard and F. Collins. The Master also said how pleased they were to see Mr. W. Claydon, of Reigate, Mr. Charles H. Kippin, of Beddington, Mr. Frank Darby, of Carshalton, Mr. J. W. Chapman, of Streatham, and Mr. E. A. Young, now happily recovered from his recent indisposition. A very old member and welcome visitor was Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wycombe.

Mention was made of the society's property now in the crypt of St. Paul's. In answer to enquiries, Mr. Hughes said it had been handed over to the Cathedral authorities, and an inventory had been made and a receipt given by them. It was now in the strong room with the rest of the Cathedral property. Unless the whole building was destroyed, it may be regarded as quite safe against any air raid or other enemy action.

Mr. Young called attention to the bust of Mr. W. T. Cockerill and the bookcase placed in the belfry as a memorial to him. The belfry could be regarded as a reasonably safe place, but it might be well to move the case from the centre of the room to the archway leading to the stairs.

Other speakers spoke about safeguarding the bust, and it was decided to take steps to do what was possible.

Handbell ringing followed and the usual hour or two of social intercourse. Some of the members who had come up from the suburbs then paid a visit to the ruins of some of the City churches, and that despite the heavy rain.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NEW LADY MEMBERS.

The first Sunday meeting of the Burton District was held at Ticknall on July 13th and was attended by upwards of twenty members from Burton (St. Paul's), Netherseale, Overseale, Melbourne, Derby and the local company. The members were pleased to welcome Lance-Corpl. Wilfred G. Wilson, of Ealing, at present stationed in the county of Derby.

Handbells in the church were kept busy before the Sunday School anniversary service, at which the members attended.

After the service tea was served in the Welfare Hall, for which thanks are especially due to Mr., Mrs. and Miss Marriott.

A short business meeting followed, over which the Vicar (the Rev. J. G. Pope) presided. He welcomed the members to Ticknall and thanked them for the handbell selections before the service.

Two Ticknall lady ringers, Miss May Soar and Miss Kathleen Connel, were elected members of the association. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Measham on Saturday, August 16th.

The secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding, and, in reply, the latter spoke of the enforced silence of the tower bells. He said it was the sacrifice ringers were making in the war effort, but he trusted that happier days would soon be here and the bells ring out loudly their message of peace.

Methods and selections on handbells concluded the meeting, which was well worth while.

FORWARD OR BACKWARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of July 11th the Rev. E. Banks James gives us the origin of the expression 'backward hunting,' which is interesting, but then proceeds to give an illustration of what is meant by the term, which seems to be quite wrong.

Surely the science of change ringing is a number of bells 'changing their positions in the order of striking.' This science, like others, has natural laws. Three of these are that (a) a bell may change position with the bell that has followed it, (b) with the bell that has preceded it, and (c) may retain its position in the order of striking.

It may be argued that if (a) is a forward move, then (b) must be backward; however, it is generally accepted that hunting only, as illustrated by Mr. James, is all forward movement. Then, so long as its meaning is understood, the expression 'backward hunting' may be used for any retrograde step or steps interrupting the forward movement.

I know Mr. James' brilliance in matters of change ringing and thus fail to understand his present contention. When bells are translated to figures for scientific purposes, all figures and rows have equal value. Whatever movement, touch or peal starts from 1234, exactly the same may start from 3421, or any other row, odd or even. Then the figures given by Mr. James, with the addition of two appropriate rows to the second set, are 1 and 2 following:—

(1)	(2)	(3)
3142	2143	4132
1324	1234	1423
1234	1324	1243
2143	3142	2134

The third set is added to relieve any confusion of the mind, caused by the second set having the same rows as the first, in backward order. It can be seen that the movement of the bells is exactly the same in every set, yet Mr. James says that in the first they are hunting, but in the second are hunting backwards. This does not seem right to me!

JOSEPH W. PARKER.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 340.)

THE COUNCIL AND 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

A glance back through the years conjures up memories of many Central Council meetings held in different places and under diverse conditions. Some of the meetings were more successful than others, and some of the places were more interesting; but, as a whole, the memories are most pleasant ones. Occasionally, of course, there were incidents which might better have been otherwise, but they were surprisingly few, and in only one case did the meeting leave a general feeling of failure. That was the session at Leicester in 1911.

For that there were several reasons. The meeting was generally a very dull one; the social conditions were defective; and there was one short and sharp incident of a very unpleasant nature.

In the days before the Great War the territorial associations had not yet formed the excellent custom of providing entertainment for the members, outside the actual meeting, but naturally during the week-end, when so many friends and acquaintances were gathered together from all parts of the country, there was much pleasant intercourse, and as much ringing as could be had. All that was easier in smaller towns, where the visitors necessarily stayed nearer to each other than in large towns like Leicester, where they were more or less lost in the crowd, and in the absence of an appointed headquarters had less chance of running across each other. Heywood always entertained a number of leading members, usually at the principal hotel in the place, but as Leicester is no great distance from his home at Duffield, in that year he invited them there, and nothing was seen of them except at the actual meeting. Other members, too, were staying outside the town, and John W. Taylor, who was the natural leader of the local people, came backwards and forwards from Loughborough nine miles away. A certain amount of peal ringing makes a very pleasant addition to the amenities of a Council meeting, but a lot of it can easily split the visitors into a number of separate and unrelated parties, and that happened to a great extent at Leicester. There were four bands who attempted peals in the neighbourhood. One, which included George and Ernest Pye and Bertram Prewett, rang four peals of Cambridge, Superlative and Stedman; another band, with Mr. Frank Bennett as conductor, rang one out of four arranged; another rang Double Norwich at Southwell Minster, with Law James as conductor. This band was made up of H. S. T. Richardson, H. Law James, A. T. Beeston, E. H. Lewis, J. W. Parker, Joseph Griffin, William Storey and C. W. O. Jenkyn. The fourth band included Miss Edith Parker (as she then was) and her father. None of the men in these peals met together until the morning of the meeting.

After the Council's meeting nearly all the members went straight out of the town, and there were less than a dozen at the social gathering in the evening. Those dozen did not include any of the men who were usually considered as the most prominent members of the Council.

Apart from the peals, there was little or no ringing at Leicester, and I did not hear a single bell in the town during the whole time.

The meeting, as I have said, was a very dull one. The principal debate was about a scheme which was presented by a committee who had been appointed to revise the table of points for peals which the Council at that time officially recognised. The committee included several eminent ringers, and the formula they drew up was a clever one, but, though the majority of the members believed in a rather lukewarm fashion that points for peals were a good thing, the details bored them.

That and the exceptionally hot weather may have had something to do with the shortness of temper which was shown when the last item on the agenda was reached. It concerned the relationship of 'The Ringing World' to the Central Council.

'The Ringing World' had been founded three months before. For about thirty years the ringers' newspaper had been 'The Bell News,' which, taking the whole of the time together, had served the interests of the Exercise well. But the merits of the paper had consisted almost entirely in two things; it provided a record of the peals that were rung, and it supplied a medium by which ringers could communicate their ideas to their fellows. A large number of excellent articles had been written for it from time to time, which still make its pages interesting reading. Harvey Reeves, the editor, had been a ringer and something of a composer, but he had long since ceased to take any interest in ringing matters. He was quite unknown personally, and he printed just what was sent to him. Then he died, and the people who succeeded him knew still less about ringing.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there was a growing feeling among ringers that a new and better paper was urgently needed. Two attempts had already been made, and both had been failures. When 'The Ringing World' first appeared in 1911, it was received with enthusiasm by some, and with goodwill by the majority, tempered by the fear lest the rivals should kill each other, and the attempt to give the Exercise two papers should result in it having none at all.

If the new paper was to prove its worth it must have a fair chance and equal treatment by the Council. To this end, notice was given of a resolution to be submitted at the Leicester meeting, which proposed 'that the Central Council give to "The Ringing World" recognition equal to that accorded to "The Bell News" for the publication of official reports and communications, and that any peals published exclusively in "The Ringing World" shall be counted in the Central Council's analysis.'

I do not know who was responsible for the drafting of this motion, but it was sent to the secretary signed by Mr. James Parker. He could not, however, move it and handed it over to Mr. Frank Bennett. Mr. Bennett had to return home before the meeting, and in his turn handed it over to me. I willingly undertook it, because I had no personal feeling other than the general good of the Exercise, and thought the resolution would have been adopted without question and without discussion. If I had any bias, it was in favour of 'The Bell News,' for, though I recognised its failures and shortcomings, I was a frequent contributor to its pages and, in fact, wrote the general summary of the meeting for it.

To my surprise, the resolution was opposed with much heat, first by the members of the Analysis Committee, who thought it would mean extra work for them, and then by the President. Heywood spoke hotly and with

passion. He roundly declared that if the resolution were passed he would refuse to work it. In effect he told the Council to choose between himself and 'The Ringing World.' The situation began to look very ugly. I, of course, never thought of withdrawing; most of the members were in favour of the resolution, but were bewildered at the turn things had taken. Ultimately the 'previous question' was moved and carried, but only by about twelve votes to six, the majority sitting still and doing nothing.

It is not easy to account for Heywood's action, but undoubtedly it was partly due to his misunderstanding the word 'reports' in the resolution. The reports which were asked to be sent to 'The Ringing World' were the reports of committees, but he took it as meaning the reports of the debates. For a long time he had written up the reports of the meetings which appeared in 'The Bell News' from the very imperfect notes made by Benjamin Keeble. He thought he would have to do the job twice over, and he flatly refused. Actually, of course, the Editor of 'The Ringing World' is a skilled reporter and needed no such thing.

But probably Heywood's real, if unconscious, grievance was that he had not been consulted on the matter. He had been so accustomed to control everything connected with the Council that he resented any action affecting it which had not had his approval. And he genuinely did fear that the advent of the new paper would mean that both it and the old one would become bankrupt and the Exercise left with none. It was suggested that he was influenced by the fact that he had helped 'The Bell News' financially, and would lose his money; but such a thing is not in the least likely. He

was above such a motive. It was rather wounded pride than fear of financial loss that made him lose his temper.

It was a lame and impotent conclusion, and I made up my mind it should not end there. Heywood's action was universally condemned in the Exercise, and Davies, as secretary, very wisely acted as if the resolution had been passed. Next year at the London meeting I moved 'that this Council, in extending its hearty welcome to "The Ringing World," has heard with satisfaction from the hon. secretary that he has from the first appearance of the paper sent for publication in its columns all essential official notices and reports of the Council, and notes with pleasure that the analysis of peals for the past year has been compiled from and appeared in identical terms in both ringing papers alike.' It was passed without opposition.

In the interval a good deal of pressure was put on me not to do anything which would appear to reflect on Heywood, and just before the meeting one prominent man came and begged me not to make a scene. I never had any intention of referring to Heywood's action in any way, but I had a fixed intention not to give way one inch on the original question.

The whole incident was a rather ridiculous one, and probably did far more good to 'The Ringing World' than it did harm. It is important in the history of the Council, for it formed the definite division between the earlier days when the Council was kept in leading strings by Heywood, who guided and controlled it in every way, and the later days when the control and influence passed into the hands of the younger generation (different in class and education from the earlier ringers), who now form the backbone of the Exercise.

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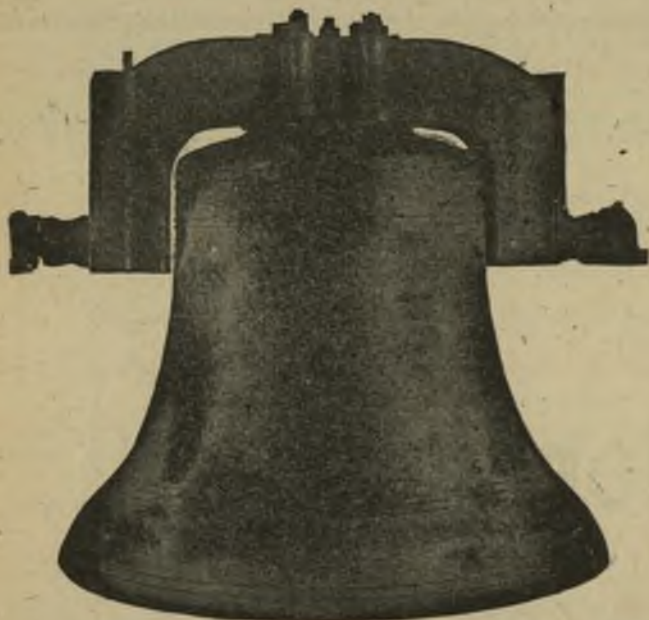
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A walk through the City of London leaves many vivid and unforgettable impressions, and not the least is that of the striking and unexpected views one gets of familiar towers and steeples seen from new and unfamiliar aspects across the ruins of destroyed buildings.

As one walks along Eastcheap suddenly a gaping hole in the houses reveals Wren's tower and spire of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. There it stands amid the ruins of the church and the warehouses which but lately almost entirely hid it, and it is now fully revealed for the thing of beauty it is. From top to bottom it has been gutted by fire. Not a floor is left, only the bare shell of stone, which, however, does not appear to be seriously damaged. On the ground beneath are several of the bells, some smashed, but one or two, we hope, still sound.

Our latest information is that the bells of St. John's, Waterloo Road, are undamaged. The church was almost destroyed by a high explosive bomb in an early raid, but the fire did not reach the tower.

The bells of another destroyed London church, St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, appear also to be all right, but it is difficult to find definite information.

Handbell peals in two new methods, and a couple of other handbell peals thrown in, is not a bad record for one week in these war times. But we fear that the splendid Bushey handbell performances will not continue very much longer. Still, while the sun shines perhaps a little more hay will be made.

A further grant of probate, in respect of settled land, valued at £427,145, has been issued in the estate of Major Percy Horace Gordon Powell-Cotton, Quex Park, Thanet, the late owner of Quex Park with its tower and twelve bells, who left unsettled estate already valued at £94,153, making a total of £521,298.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. One was Grandsire Triples, one Kent Treble Bob Major and one Stedman Triples. The last was on the heavy eight at Merton College, Oxford. Two men were at the tenor, and Washbrook, who conducted, rang the seventh.

On July 21st, 1923, a band of the Chester Diocesan Guild rang at Over 17,280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in ten hours. Mr. Robert Sperring conducted and Mr. James H. Riding rang the tenor. The composition was by Mr. J. W. Parker and the peal is the record for the method, but four years later 17,824 changes of Oxford, composed by Mr. T. B. Worsley, were rung at Heptonstall.

On St. James' Day, July 25th, 1889, eight members of the St. James' Society each named James rang at St. James', Clerkenwell, a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, 6,000 changes, at St. Giles', Norwich, on July 26th, 1832.

On the same date in 1872 the bells of Waterford were opened, and next day the College Youths rang the first peal—Grandsire Triples—in Ireland.

James W. Washbrook, perhaps the greatest all-round ringer who has ever lived, was born on July 27th, 1864.

SCROOF.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Where *did* the word 'scroof' come from? Can someone tell us? Your contributor, writing in the article on 'Standard Methods' on July 4th, asked 'What history lies behind the use of the word, so familiar to London ringers?' I believe 'scroof' has long been in the vocabulary of ringers, but only in London. It will be interesting to know its origin and its early use in the Exercise.

'INQUIRER.'

HANDBELL RINGING.

WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can you please furnish me with any information regarding the use of handbells? At the meeting at Halstead recently the Vicar wondered whether history was repeating itself. The ringers' jar which we have in our belfry was made in the time of the Reformation when the ringing of church bells was forbidden, and the Vicar inquired whether handbells were rung at this time.

If we can be furnished with any information regarding dates and uses of handbells at this time we should be grateful.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

BELL HANGING 220 YEARS AGO

The 'Western Flying Post' of July 14th, 1760, had the following advertisement:—

There is lately Hung to Sally and set going by John Bush, Bell-Hanger of Chew-Stoke near Bristol in the County of Somerset, a large Peal of Six Bells in the Town of Yeovil in the said County; The Tenor consisting of near 50 cwt; they are allowed to be the largest Peal of Six that is in the Country, and required before new Hung 22 or 23 Men to ring the Six Bells; but since they are hung by the said Bush the same has been rung for several Hours by 7 Men only and 50 3 or 4 different Peals of Changes; Consisting of 120 Grandsire Changes in each Peal.

N.B.—The said Bush has work'd in the Business upwards of 30 Years, and is thought to be a very experienced Man, and will be ready to serve any Parish, if required.

NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR. A FAMOUS CHURCH ARCHITECT.

By RICHARD F. DEAL.

The destruction by enemy action of a fine church in the east of London—St. George's—brings to our notice the name of the remarkable man who was responsible for the design of this and of four other London churches of the same character.

The influence of Sir Christopher Wren is seen to greater or less degree in the work of many who followed him, but he appears to have handed down his art by personal instruction to very few. His only outstanding pupil was Nicholas Hawksmoor, of whom we are told that he entered Wren's household as 'scholar and domestic clerk' at the age of 18. It is not known whether Wren undertook to impart to the young man any other art than that of architecture—he was, of course, a master of other branches of learning—but we may assume that he would direct his pupil's talents into the channel in which



CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

his assistance would eventually be of the greatest value, for Wren at that time must have had a vast amount of work in hand, including designs for the rebuilding of St. Paul's and about fifty churches in and about the City.

Wren was repaid by the devotion and assistance of his former pupil, who was associated with him in all his most important work for a period of 30 years.

The churches designed by Hawksmoor are St. Mary Woolnoth, City; St. Anne's, Limehouse; Christ Church, Spitalfields; St. George's, Bloomsbury, and St. George's-in-the-East, of which only the walls remain. In some cases he was more fortunate in his sites than was his master, and usually was not hampered by considerations of economy. His style is heavier and less fanciful than that of Wren—he obtained his effect by contrasting big masses of plain stonework with bold projections and deeply recessed openings.

St. Mary Woolnoth is considered by some to be his best work. This is a small church, square on plan, and its designer made the best of a confined site. Internally it is lofty and of fine proportions, and

the twelve Corinthian columns are well arranged. In this and in the other churches named there is much excellent woodwork and some carving, though generally not of such a high order as that in the Wren churches. By the way, we must divest ourselves of the idea that all the carved wood in the churches of the Wren period is the work of Grinling Gibbons—there is probably enough in St. Paul's alone to have kept that industrious man occupied for the whole of his working life!

In my opinion Hawksmoor's style appears at its best in the west front of Limehouse Church. The porch with its detail on a big scale, and the great tower rising proudly above the mean buildings about it, form a grand picture when seen either from the Thames or at close quarters. Some artists have ably recorded it.

Spitalfields is probably the largest of these churches and internally is very good. Here there are no galleries except at the west end. The church is of great height and has a fine plaster ceiling, deeply coffered, and arched over the aisles, making an effective contrast with the plain walls and shafts of the columns below. The west front of Spitalfields is impressive, having a portico of unusual design. The tower is given the appearance of great breadth by buttress-like projections at each side, which add greatly to its strength.

The grouping of the massive tower and four-domed turrets at St. George's is picturesque. Hawksmoor was not so fortunate at Bloomsbury, though here he made good use of his site. This church has a fine portico of orthodox design and was one of the first London churches in which this feature was introduced. The tower is rather insignificant, though strongly built. Its designer was criticised and the parishioners ridiculed for terminating the steeple with a statue of King George I. as expressed in the following lines:—

'The King of Great Britain was reckoned before,
The head of the Church, by all Protestant people;
His Bloomsbury subjects have made him still more,
For with them he now is the head of the steeple.'

It is recorded that the statue was given by an 'eminent parishioner and vestryman,' so it is unlikely that the architect was responsible for this absurdity.

Hawksmoor held several important offices, in some of which he succeeded Wren. He was clerk of works at Greenwich Hospital, deputy surveyor of Chelsea College (or Hospital), 'surveyor of Westminster Abbey and of all new churches. At Westminster he assisted Wren in the completion of the western towers. He was associated with another famous man, Vanbrugh, in the erection of the Palace of Blenheim, Oxfordshire, and carried out work at All Souls' and Queen's Colleges, Oxford. He designed machinery for restoring to the Perpendicular the west front of Beverley Minster.

Hawksmoor died on March 25th, 1736, aged 75. The churches briefly described are not all well known to ringers. St. George's-in-the-East had a fine eight which unfortunately perished with the church, as already noted in these columns. Spitalfields has eight bells, which replaced a peal of twelve lost many years ago by fire, of which accounts have also appeared. Limehouse and St. Mary Woolnoth each have three bells.

We can admire these churches, not for any romantic beauty such as we find in mediæval buildings, but for their skilful planning and sometimes stately proportions, and for the excellence of their construction. We can also with advantage study the wood and plaster work found in them, all no doubt originating in the brain of the architect, though in his day the individuality of the craftsman would find more scope than has been allowed in later years. We may hope that St. George's will rise again from its ashes, and that its companion churches will be spared and freed from various disfigurements necessitated by 'A.R.P.' to preserve for many years a phase of church architecture which is typically English.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT YORK MINSTER.

The summer meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at York on Saturday, July 12th, and was attended by over 20 ringers from Headingley (St. Michael's), Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Ripon, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

Choral evensong was attended in the Minster, prior to which handbell ringing took place in the belfry.

Tea was served in the Feasegate Cafe and was followed by the business meeting. Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president, was in the chair, and he began by asking those present to stand in silence in memory of Dr. Bate, Dean of York, who had recently passed away.

A vote of thanks to the Minster authorities for permission to hold the meeting was proposed by Mr. F. Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sherwood, and was responded to by the Ven. Archdeacon England, who gave the association a most hearty welcome to York, saying that he hoped very soon the bells of the Minster would be ringing out once again for peace and victory.

The Archdeacon had to leave early, as he had another meeting to attend, this being the fourth meeting he had attended during the day.

A vote of thanks to the Minster ringers for the excellent arrangements was passed, and Mr. Earnshaw responded, welcoming those present.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Selby in September. Further handbell ringing took place till 8 o'clock, which ended a very happy meeting on a really hot summer day.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST AIR RAIDS.

The committee set up by the Bishop of London to deal with war damage to the City churches has issued a memorandum on the work it has so far accomplished.

The committee, states the memorandum, has devoted much time both to safeguarding, so far as possible, the contents of churches hitherto undamaged and to carrying out first-aid repairs and salvage when churches have suffered from enemy action.

It is out of the question that any attempt should be made at present to decide which churches ought ultimately to be reconstructed, but the committee has endeavoured to ensure that first-aid repairs and protection shall be given where any substantial remains of the church have survived, so as to keep the way open for reconstruction should it be desired to take this course. This has involved considerable cost, and has inevitably in some places proved useless owing to the results of subsequent bombs—a risk which cannot be avoided.

As soon as the committee was constituted a tentative list of typical examples of woodwork, monuments, fonts, bells and other furniture was formed, and the objects were removed from the churches to places of greater safety or were protected in situ. Sometimes it was possible to construct brick chambers in the bases of the towers (the great strength of which architecturally has been amply proved), and church fittings placed in such chambers have survived widespread damage done to the church itself.

In other churches the furniture has been removed out of London or to crypts in the London area. In this way the committee set out to preserve at any rate a representative selection of such woodwork and other fittings; a course which was subsequently recommended by the president of the Society of Antiquaries.

Later the list was extended and other works of art, including some of considerable size like the screens in St. Peter upon Cornhill and St. Margaret Lothbury and the clock of St. Magnus the Martyr, have been successfully removed; and this work will be continued wherever practicable.

Altogether several thousand pounds have been expended from church funds on the City churches alone. Some of this expenditure will ultimately be repaid under the provisions of the War Damage Act, but there will be no repayment of the large sums expended in the precautionary work.

The following City churches have been destroyed or so badly damaged that they cannot be used for divine service: All Hallows', Barking; Christ Church, Newgate Street; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Andrew Wardrobe; SS. Anne and Agnes'; St. Bride's; St. Dunstan-in-the-East; St. Giles', Cripplegate; St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Magnus-the-Martyr; St. Mary Abchurch; St. Mary Aldermanbury; St. Mary-le-Bow; St. Mildred's, Bread Street; St. Nicholas', Cole Abbey; St. Olave's, Hart Street; St. Stephen's, Coleman Street; St. Stephen's, Walbrook, and St. Vedast's, Foster Lane.

Three rings of twelve bells and six of eight are known to have been destroyed.

INSURANCE OF BELLS.

A STRICTLY UTILITARIAN POLICY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your arguments and inferences on this subject are perfectly correct, but there is one point not mentioned hitherto which has to be taken into account. It is this:—

The Government has taken on the responsibility for the repair of the fabric of all bombed churches and church schools, etc. It is the considered opinion of many people that when rebuilding has to be taken in hand the Government will only pay the cost of a building adequate (and no more) for holding a reasonable number of worshippers. It does not follow that a church which has previously had a tower with a ring of bells will have a tower provided again. In other words, the policy will be strictly utilitarian, and will in some districts certainly be contingent upon the real need for a rebuilt church on the same site.

As you remark, the insurance rates are high, 30s. per £100 for six months only. If extended at the same rate this will be £3 per cent. per annum. The plan adopted (by official advice) as the basis of insurance is: What is the minimum sum necessary to provide chairs, a reading desk, some books, church plate and the barest necessities to refurbish a church which has been completely destroyed?

It is only too well known that the great majority of church congregations have the utmost difficulty even now in making financial ends meet, especially in poor districts in towns and small country villages. These latter often have large and beautiful churches. The official form for insurance definitely classes insurable objects as follows: (a) Organ; (b) bells; (c) other furniture (under certain limitations). The present scheme is only valid till September 30th next, but it is presumed that it will be extended for six months at a time on the same terms. I am certain that wherever the money for the adequate insurance of organs and bells is provided—money, not only 'strongest representations,'—church authorities will gladly take out the required policies.

(Rev.) A. M. SAMSON.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SUGGESTED REVISION OF SERVICE FORM.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association took place at Halstead on July 12th, when twelve ringers attended from six parishes, viz., Halstead, Greenstead Green, Earls Colne, Braintree, Bocking and Dunmow.

Handbells were rung in church before the service, which was conducted by Canon T. H. Curling (Vicar), assisted by the Rev. R. Poston (assistant priest), with Mr. I. T. Chapman, A.R.C.O., at the organ. The service took place in the chancel of the church, and the Vicar, in the course of his address, spoke of the fellowship amongst the ringers. He hoped the time would not be far distant when the bells would ring again for victory.

Tea was partaken of in the new Congregational Schoolroom, and was ably served by Mrs. A. Snowden.

The business meeting followed, with the District Master (Mr. H. W. Smith) in the chair. It was proposed by Mr. H. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. L. W. Wiffen, that the secretary try and arrange the next meeting at Braintree some time in October.

A discussion followed upon the association's form of service. Mr. L. W. Wiffen said it was a matter he had wanted to discuss for some time. The Psalms were not pointed, and the hymn tunes were in too high a key and needed a great deal of effort in singing. Mr. Wiffen went on to say that he had enjoyed the service which had taken place in the afternoon, the Vicar had rightly chosen some different hymns from A. and M., and the ringers had had the privilege of using the psalters in the chancel.

Mr. I. T. Chapman explained all that was needed to put the service as it was wanted.

It was decided to bring forward the suggestion kindly offered by the organist at the next committee meeting.

The District Master proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place at Halstead, and also for his excellent address, and to the organist for his services. The service, he said, had been enjoyed by all, as they were very fortunate in having an organist able to transpose the tunes into a lower key.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to see the association carrying on in spite of all the difficulties that prevailed at the present time.

The ringers then adjourned to the Vicar's lawn for further handbell ringing. Methods rung included Grandsire Caters, Kent Treble Bob Major, Bob Major and Grandsire Triples.

Donations were gratefully received from Mrs. T. Ray and Mr. H. S. Martin towards expenses for tea.

BRISTOL'S NEW GUILD.

HANDBELL RINGERS' ACTIVITY.

In order to maintain the interest of as many ringers as possible and to cultivate handbell ringing, a Guild has been formed in Bristol for the promotion of handbell ringing alone.

The Guild was formed under the title of 'The Bristol Guild of Handbell Ringers,' its activities being governed by a set of 15 rules compiled by the founders. The office of Master of the Guild is held by Mr. Donald G. Clift, former Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, and that of secretary by Mr. Albert M. Tyler, present secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association. Other ringers who helped in its formation include Mr. Thomas S. Harris, present chairman of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and Mr. Royston G. Bryant, member of the Executive Committee and Bristol Rural Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association.

A certificate of membership is being prepared, and it is intended to issue these certificates to all members for a nominal fee when completed.

The present standard of the ringing includes Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Stedman Triples, the former being almost at peal-ringing standard with some members.

A suggestion that a model bell frame should be constructed and made the property of the Guild is receiving direct attention, and it is hoped to see this completed before the end of the year. The tenor is expected to weigh about 2 lb.

The Guild has been holding regular practices since its formation in November, but the departure of Mr. S. H. Riches, of St. Werburgh's, to the Forces gave a temporary setback to the progress that these practices were making.

The next business meeting will be held during August, the announcement of which will be made at a later date. Ringers wishing to attend these practices will be gladly welcomed, and details of membership, etc., may be obtained from the secretary, whose address is 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

Thanks are extended to ringers from Bath and Cheltenham who have been able to help and to enjoy some of the handbell ringing.

As will be seen elsewhere, the Guild has scored its first peal, the hon. secretary having called Parker's Twelve-Part.

BOB MAJOR LEAD ENDS.—Imperial was much practised in the City of Norwich in the latter part of the last century (the 18th). Although full of work, its formation is not such as to excite admiration owing to the tenors being so much apart, and the change of the treble lead not being legitimate as will be observed by comparing it with other methods.—Henry Hubbard, 1845.

THE STANDARD METHODS

DUFFIELD.

In the spring of the year 1887 Sir Arthur Heywood sent to 'The Bell News' a series of articles which he afterwards published in book form. In these he reviewed the state of Royal and Maximus ringing as it then existed, and went on to recommend a new method which he had worked out, and named Duffield after the village where he lived. His remarks are valuable and can be read to-day, half a century later, with interest, allowance having been made for the passage of the years.

I am desirous (writes Heywood) of directing attention to the present state of the art in regard to ten and twelve-bell ringing. Eight-bell ringing has for many years received a large share of notice in the more advanced methods, until at the present time there are several bands and very many individual ringers who can tap away in peals of Double Norwich and Superlative with as much ease and certainty as in Treble Bob. But when we turn to ten and twelve bells the same progress is by no means apparent: in fact, the proportion of peals of Royal and Maximus to those of Major is much less than it was in the last century. Doubtless one reason is because the advance in Major ringing has been chiefly effected by country companies, who, being confined to eight bells, have concentrated thereon their energies. Again the unprecedented and deserved popularity of Stedman Caters and Cinques, so infinitely more interesting and convenient to ring than long and monotonous courses of Treble Bob, has perhaps kept town companies from turning their tenors in so frequently as formerly.

But the question arises: Why has ringing on ten and twelve bells been confined to Treble Bob? I make the statement under correction, but I believe it to be a fact that for seventy years no peal of Royal or Maximus had been rung in any other method, except perhaps an odd peal of Plain Bob, until the somewhat discreditable spell was lately broken by the energy of the Ipswich Society, whose peals of Double Norwich Royal indicate the possibility of Double Norwich Maximus in the near future, a performance which, if achieved, will place that company on a pedestal of fame not second to the Norwich of the past.

The question admits of an answer in the extreme difficulty of attempting new methods where there are a large number of ringers, and where, consequently, the practices of a special band would entail temporary exclusion on the rest. It may be argued that Plain Bob was learnt and rung in several variations, and subsequently Treble Bob; then why not other methods? The reply to this is that all these were methods which could be equally well practised on eight bells, and of which the extension to ten and twelve involved no material alteration in the work; that is, to say, that anyone who could ring them on eight could ring them equally well on higher numbers when accustomed to the extra ropes. The rapid rise of Stedman from five to eleven bells was doubtless due to this valuable property.

Now of the finer Major methods—except Double Oxford, where the length of dodging would be excessive—none can be extended to Royal or Maximus without entailing alterations in the work so extensive as to leave the original hardly recognisable in its new form. Such a case is that of Double Norwich, in which the relation of Major to Royal and Maximus is so slight as to make

them to all intents and purposes different methods. The same applies to Superlative which, though extended to ten bells by Shipway, has been little practised. The difficulties in the way of learning such methods with a band of so many as ten ringers appear too great to justify any hope that more than an occasional attempt will be made in this direction. The impediment seems absurd, but it none the less exists, and, taken together with historical evidence, clearly points to the inference that no further general advance in ten and twelve-bell ringing can be expected until some more musical and interesting method than Treble Bob makes its appearance which, in addition to being fairly easily learnt, shall be capable of extension from Major to Royal and Maximus without any radical change in the work.

Before proceeding farther, let us glance briefly at the musical properties of the ten and twelve-bell methods now existing. Plain Bob we may dismiss as having had its day and no longer possessing any special attraction. Treble Bob, at present in general use, is in many ways very defective, as has been pretty clearly stated by greater authorities than myself. The endless making of second's place in front, together with the wide and frequent parting of the heavy bells, causes the music to be, except near the course ends, very unsatisfactory.

With respect to Double Norwich Royal and Maximus, the music cannot for a moment be compared with that of Double Norwich Major, for while the latter is one of the most perfect of methods, the former, in which the beautiful double dodging is entirely done away, have little more to recommend them than that they keep the tenors well together—a most important point, however, for with ten and twelve bells the effectiveness of the beat is largely dependent on the regular and equidistant positions of the heavy ones. On these grounds Superlative Royal, in which they are mercilessly knocked about, stands at once condemned. Double Oxford on the higher numbers would not be pleasing for, as the bells in front and behind dodge till the treble parts them, what are only five-pull dodges in Major would be extended to seven and nine-pull dodges in Royal and Maximus; a length tedious alike to hand and ear.

Other ten-bell methods there are, but their virtues are few and their faults many, and there is no likelihood of their ever being practised. Shipway's principle alone remains to be noticed. It has four-bell work in front and triple dodging in all other places, the bells going in alternately quick and slow as in Stedman. Here, one would think, is just the desired method, as with simply the extra places to dodge in, it runs the same on all even numbers. Unfortunately the alternating quick and slow work parts the tenors so widely that, except at the course-ends, there is no regularity in the music, and there is the further objection that the slow work is complicated and the continuous triple dodging tedious.

We arrive, therefore, at the conclusion, not only that there is no ten or twelve-bell method in existence that can be said to produce the best of music, but also that of such methods as there are none but Plain Bob and Treble Bob are suitable for general practice—Grandsire I altogether ignore as being on even numbers a bastard system—and that therefore, as has been already stated, no general advance can be anticipated in the direction indicated until some more harmonious method than these

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

is found which shall be equally capable of extension from Major to Royal and Maximus.

The required method must be:—

1. Capable of being practised on eight bells and of extension to ten and twelve without material alteration in the work.
2. Regular in its work, keeping the heavy bells well together, more especially when they come behind.
3. Not too lengthy in the course, thus admitting of handy touches.
4. Arranged to have as much double dodging as possible for the sake of the music.

With regard to this last condition, it is generally admitted that double dodging is the finest movement in change ringing. It brings out the full force of a musical position, but yet stops short of monotony, and occurs continually in every one of the more harmonious systems on seven and eight bells. For this reason no ten or twelve-bell method could without it be considered as entitled to a first rank.

From this point, Heywood goes on to discuss the different lines on which the required method might be formed, and ultimately arrived at Duffield as the only satisfactory solution of the problem. He worked it out on eight bells, and says that on pricking the course the method will be found to possess the following extraordinary list of qualities:—

1. One false course-end only against the whole plain course so long as 7-8 are kept together, and none so long as 6-7-8 are kept together even if singles are used. If the 6th is moved and singles are used, only two extra false course-ends occur.
2. Perfect in construction, quadruple and triple changes alternating with each other.
3. The tenors well together, except in the four-bell work, where the brief parting brings up the identical music for which Superlative is renowned.
4. Capable of producing an endless variety of peals in which the 6th may be kept at home throughout.
5. Very convenient for short touches.
6. Avoiding any difficulty as to who shall ring the treble in a peal, all the bells working alike.
7. Easily learnt by a good band and capable of extension to ten and twelve bells by simply dodging in the extra places as in Stedman, thus making the ringing of Royal and Maximus a mere question of opportunity.
8. Producing quickly recurring course-ends with the 7th and all the bells about it dodging in the home position.

Sir Arthur Heywood had no small reason to think he had solved the problem he set out to tackle, and if Duffield has not turned out to be what he expected, one of the chief reasons is that it has never had a fair trial on ten and twelve bells. The method which actually did provide the means by which ringers broke away from the monotony of Treble Bob was Cambridge. In some respects Cambridge is the method Heywood was searching for, but had he known of its capacity for extension it is pretty certain he would have rejected it, for he had little good to say of it as a Major method.

SURFLEET, Lincs.—At Glyn Garth on July 11th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: Mrs. R. Richardson 1-2, R. Richardson (conductor) 3-4, J. S. Goldsmith 5-6.

NOTICES.

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.

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.

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

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th. Service in church at 4 o'clock. Business meeting after tea. One very important item is to elect a new district secretary. Subscriptions for 1941 can be paid at this meeting. — T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood, Kent.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Sapcote on July 26th. Bells (silent) at 3.30 p.m. No tea. Handbells during evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, July 26th. Handbells in the tower from 3 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—A 'silent' practice meeting will be held at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday, July 26th. Bells ready at 2.30. A cordial invitation is extended to all ringers who are at liberty to renew their acquaintance with this tower. We regret that we cannot provide the usual repast, but will endeavour to supply tea if you can bring along your own sandwiches.—F. G. Bradley, Chief Ringer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Henley on Saturday, July 26th. Handbell ringing in the Chantry House, adjoining the church, from 3.30 p.m. Own arrangements must be made for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Branch Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, July 26th. Handbells from 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.—A practice will be held at St. James' Church on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells (6, with silent apparatus) available from 2.30 p.m. Also sets of handbells. All welcome.—R. Leigh, Newstead, Willows Lane, Accrington.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—A garden meeting will be held at The Chantry, Madeira Road, Bournemouth, by kind invitation of the Rev. R. L. C. Newhouse, on July 26th, at 2.30 p.m. Handbells, social and ringing chatter. Service in St. Peter's 5.30. Tea 6 p.m., and more handbells if desired. If wet meet at St. Peter's Hall.—Arthur V. Davis.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Arksey on Saturday, July 26th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea can be provided for those who notify me. Owing to rationing we cannot provide sugar.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—A meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, July 26th. Tower bells with Seage apparatus from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.30. Please notify me for tea.—C. H. Lathey, Hon. Sec., Malmaison, Bradpole, Bridport.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday August 2nd, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, August 2nd, also handbells. Please notify Mr. L. Bywater, 12, Newtown, Henlow, Beds, if requiring tea. Should like to meet our old friends. All will be welcomed.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held in the belfry at Balcombe on Saturday, August 2nd. Handbells and ringing on six silent tower bells. Mr. A. Laker, 4, Barnfield Cottages, Balcombe, will try and arrange a cup for tea for those who notify him by July 31st. Preliminary notice.—Joint meeting with Sussex County and Hawkhurst Guild at Wadhurst, August 19th. Details later.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—A joint meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, August 4th. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30, to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Eight bells (silent) and handbells available at Leatherhead belfry from 3 p.m. and after tea. Names for tea to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Wednesday, July 30th. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow, for which names must be sent to me by Tuesday, the 5th. By kind invitation of the Rector, the gardens will be open as usual.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ravensthorpe on Saturday, August 9th. Bells (5, silent) will be available from 3.30 p.m. Tea will be provided, but will members please bring their own sandwiches and sugar. Bus leaves Northampton (Derngate) at 3 p.m.—H. H. Shives, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. De-

tails regarding tea in next week's issue. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th. Place and other details announced next week. Please notify me of any business to be placed upon the agenda. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec. Temporary address: 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

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SILENT RINGERS SHOULD KEEP SILENT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am afraid that when we ringers speak of 'ringing the bells silent,' and association secretaries send reports of such activities at their meetings to the local Press (as many do), far too many are apt to forget one thing—that working behind the scenes is a body arming to the teeth whose aim it is, not to silence the bells for the duration, but for all time if they can.

Every action and every scrap of information which favours their policy is likely to be made into propaganda by them for the post-war years. This 'silent ringing' is just the kind of thing that this body is looking for, and ringers should take a warning that unless we go very carefully about this business we may have it thrown at us after the war—'ringers got their pleasure during the war without annoyance to anyone, therefore there should be nothing to prevent them doing the same now.'

I happen to know from personal experience that those who favour this view have considerable influence on certain sections of the Press, and can it be that their influence has already extended to parts of the ecclesiastical authorities, and to the Ministry of Home Security? This latter question, I contend, is not free from doubt.

The Ministry of Home Security at the commencement of the war put out a circular, 'Don't use careless talk which may give away vital secrets to the enemy.' The ringing fraternity should make this motto their own, since it is the only thing of any value offered to them by the said Ministry.

Ringers need now to form themselves into a 'Home Guard' of their own; after the war may be too late and find this 'enemy' too firmly established with consequences which may be regrettable to the Exercise and all those other lovers of bells. 'ANTI-SILENT.'

SILENT APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Was there any missing of the point on my part? I asked a question—which, by the way, Mr. Post again asks—and I gave one example; Mr. Maurice Clarke gives another.

May I endorse as fully as possible what you say in your leader of June 13th, that what we have really to avoid is the lowering of the standard of striking by the use of such apparatus.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

HERBERT DRAKE.

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The success of the annual meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, at which neither dinner, nor tea, nor bells were available for the members, only plenty of rain, speaks volumes for the keenness which still remains among many ringers for the art which they cannot now practise. When one takes into account the war-time claims on the time of almost everyone, and the difficulties of transport in these days, an attendance of sixty from fourteen of the fifteen branches which are spread over three counties, is more than gratifying, it is almost amazing, and well may the Master (Canon Coleridge) have expressed his delight at having such a gathering to preside over. The meeting was worth while in other respects, for motions were discussed and adopted which will bring to the notice of all the incumbents in the diocese who possess rings of bells in their churches the importance of giving them proper attention, so that they may be maintained in efficient condition while they remain un-rung; and also that they should be fully insured against war-time loss. Further, representations are to be made urging that the Government should be responsible for the restoration or replacement of bells damaged or destroyed by enemy action.

The importance of these matters has been constantly emphasised by 'The Ringing World,' and we are glad to see that associations like the Kent and the Oxford Guild are taking the matter up with determination. What is also needed is the backing of the Church authorities, and it would be a good thing if the Bishops, either through the Diocesan Conferences or the Diocesan Advisory Committees, could be induced to show a little more interest in the subject of the restoration of damaged bells. In seeking this, ringers are not actuated by selfish motives. Let us admit that we are anxious that, as soon as may be after the war, we want to see all the bells in action again, but there is another aspect of the question. We repeat that very few Church officials stop to realise how valuable a piece of Church property a ring of bells is. In a great number of churches the bells are the most valuable thing in the building, but there is evidence that in many quarters they fall very low on the list in the estimation of those responsible for their safe keeping.

The Government a year ago made bells an instrument of war. Churches have proved to be among the most vulnerable of buildings in air attacks; and if this latter point is admitted, as it seems to be by the Government's undertaking to restore the buildings, the bells, which they are retaining for their own use, ought also to be their responsibility. This, however, can only be brought home

(Continued on page 382.)

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to the appropriate departments by a united effort, in which the Church ought to share. The decision of the Oxford Guild to send a copy of their resolution to the Bishop and the Archdeacons of the diocese is a step in the right direction. Incidentally, in connection with the protection of bells from damage, it is not uninteresting to note that at Mayfield, in Sussex, it has been thought better to take the bells down than to insure them, and seven of the eight have been distributed among various residents on the ground that it is better to scatter them rather than store them in one place. This, if one ignores the legal aspect of the dispersal of Church property, seems to us a very sensible action, for, unless bells are well protected, merely to lower them to the base of the tower has proved of little use if fire should rage through the building.

Another matter of importance which the Oxford Guild discussed was the maintenance of bells left in the towers. Nothing more surely leads to neglect than disuse. In scores of belfries rings of bells have received no attention whatever since the ban fell, and yet, if the fittings are to be saved from deterioration and the bells are to be ready for use when the ban is lifted, it is essential that they should receive periodical overhaul. The Oxford Guild is to call the attention of incumbents to the essential things which should be done in the belfry as pointed out in an article by the head of the Whitechapel Foundry which was published in 'The Ringing World' just over a year ago. Briefly it is very necessary regularly to test all bolts in the fittings and framework, particularly where beams and headstocks are of timber; bearings of all kinds should be kept well lubricated to keep them free from rust, and all ironwork should be painted before it begins to rust. We hope the advice will be acted upon by the clergy; in any case ringers who are left, not only in the diocese of Oxford but elsewhere, should have sufficient interest in the bells to secure the performance of such tasks as prudence dictates should be carried out in the towers. It is they who will probably regret most any neglect that now creeps in. Nowhere more than in the belfry does the old adage apply of 'a stitch in time saves nine.' For want of a little systematic attention many a peal of bells has gone to rack and ruin, and the result has been an ultimate cost, perhaps, of hundreds of pounds. Let this not happen during the war-time silence. The turn of a spanner, a spot of grease, a coat of paint now may save a costly overhaul in the future, to say nothing of heartburning and disappointment to the ringers when the great day comes.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

VISIT TO IDLE.

The Leeds and District Society's July meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church, Idle, on Saturday. Handbells were rung in the Church Schools from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., when tea, which had been supplied by members of the local band, in spite of food rationing, was enjoyed by all present.

At the business meeting after tea the president was in the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Farnborough (Hants), Shipley and the local company. The president referred to the death of Mr. F. W. Dixon, of Guiseley, and it was agreed that the secretary should send to Mr. William Dixon a message of sympathy and condolence. The members stood in silence as a tribute.

One new member was elected, viz., Miss E. Briggs, of Idle.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens of Idle for allowing the meeting to be held in the Schoolroom and to the local company (especially Mr. W. Feather) for the other arrangements was proposed by Mr. E. J. Taylor and seconded by Mr. S. Helliwell. Mr. Tom Hill acknowledged the vote of thanks and said he hoped that when the society next visited the tower the bells would be open for ringing.

The next meeting is due to be held at East Ardsley on Saturday, August 30th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LONDON.

**THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.***On Sunday, July 20, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,*

AT 21, STONARD ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN	7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by J. THOMAS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. W. J. Bowden.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Friday, July 25, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,*

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF HIGHBURY BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	7-8

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

The first peal in the method.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.*On Saturday, July 26, 1941, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,*

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

*† JAMES S. WEBB	1-2	† JOHN E. SPICE	3-4
† WILLIAM SPICE	5-6		

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First handbell peal and first attempt. † First peal of Doubles.

† First handbell peal, and at 80 years of age. First peal as conductor.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.*On Sunday, July 27, 1941, in Two Hours and One Minute,*

AT 9, PATRICE ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

BERNARD BROWN	1-2	RALPH NARBOROUGH	3-4
* KENNETH J. GRATION	5-6		

Conducted by BERNARD BROWN.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Ernest Morris, general secretary of the Midland Counties Association.

GARDEN MEETING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

A very successful garden meeting was held in Bournemouth at the residence of the Rev. R. L. C. Newhouse on Saturday last, when upwards of twenty ringers and friends met on the lawns and listened to or indulged in handbell ringing. A very welcome visitor was Mr. John Jagger from Birmingham, who was in Bournemouth for a few days and took the opportunity to meet friends from the Salisbury Guild and the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

The company attended evensong at St. Peter's at 5.30 and were addressed by the Rev. F. A. Sanders, who will shortly be instituted to the living at East Meon. The Vicar, Canon Hedley Burrows, had been prevented from attending the service, but managed to get back to St. Peter's in time to see the ringers before they left the church.

After tea, Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Arthur Davis for arranging the meeting and expressed the pleasure it gave him to feel a continuity was being maintained against the time when the ringers could once again ring the tower bells.

Mr. George Preston seconded the motion, which was carried, and Mr. Davis, in response, suggested that the gratitude of them all was really due to the Vicar of St. Peter's, who so kindly gave the handbell ringers a room for weekly practice and was always ready to help, and also to the Revs. C. A. Phillips and R. L. C. Newhouse, who had made the organisation of the meeting that day so easy. He promised to convey the thanks of the party to those gentlemen. Handbell practice takes place every week at St. Peter's Hall (Tuesdays from 6.30 to 9.30), and all ringers are welcome.

Ringers were present from Poole, Christchurch, Bournemouth (St. Peter's and St. John's) and Hampreston. Mr. W. Cheater cycled from Ringwood 15 miles away.

The Rev. C. A. Phillips offered to entertain the ringers at his house at the next meeting, to be arranged some time in September.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**PRESENTATION TO BRANCH SECRETARY.**

The chief item of interest at the annual meeting of the Furness and Lake District Branch of the Lancashire Association was a presentation to the secretary, Mr. N. M. Newby on the occasion of his wedding.

The meeting was held at Ulverston and was presided over by the Rector, the Rev. Stuart Rimmer. After service in the lovely side chapel of the church and tea in the Parish Room, the chairman made the presentation. It took the form of furnishings for his house and an engraved silver bell inkstand.

In an appropriate speech, the chairman gave Mr. Newby the best wishes of the assembled company for his future happiness. Mr. Burles also spoke of his popularity and said that ringers from all over Lancashire and beyond had desired to associate themselves with the gift.

Mr. Newby suitably responded, sounding an optimistic note in his ideas of when ringing will start again.

Mr. Barrett from Dorset was a visitor. Handbells were tried, but everybody was out of practice, even the one-handers.

Mr. Burles was elected as Ringing Master for the ensuing year.

MEETING AT WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.

The first meeting by the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association since the ban took place at Whittle-le-Woods on Saturday and was very successful from all points of view, considering the present conditions, for though the number present was not large, those who used to attend as well as those who did manage to attend are mostly engaged on war-time work.

Among those present were the Rev. A. Scott, president of the association, Mr. T. B. Worsley, Mr. J. Grounds, two members of the Forces, Mr. E. K. Lewis, of Marple, and Mr. R. Crampion, of Bantstead, as well as members from six or seven of the branch towers.

The tower was open from 2.30 till about 8 o'clock, with a short interval for refreshments. The visitors mostly brought their own rations, and tea was provided by the Vicar and handed round by Mr. Bradley and his daughters.

During the day touches of Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire and courses of Superlative and Cambridge Surprise were brought round on the tower bells, while touches and courses of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Oxford were rung on the handbells. All things considered, those present overcame the enforced ringing conditions fairly well.

As there was no business meeting, the secretary would like to thank on behalf of those present the local authorities for the arrangements.

STANDARD METHODS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The writer on the above subject, in referring to Shipway Major, points out that it has been little practised in the past and that only one peal has been rung and that at Kidderminster in 1900. Our mutual friend, Mr. W. H. Barber, tells me he was practising with that band, but had to leave before the peal was eventually rung.

However, when he came north to Newcastle-on-Tyne a few years later he set our men going to practise this interesting method, and a peal of 5,002 changes was scored at All Saints', Gosforth, Newcastle, on January 1st, 1908, composed by Gabriel Lindoff and conducted by W. H. Barber.

The same composition was rung again at Gateshead (St. Mary's) on April 27th, 1908, but since then it has been little practised by the Durham and Newcastle Association.

He, Mr. Barber, has heard of another peal being rung, but cannot remember when and where. However, it turned out to be a false composition. Perhaps Gay Lindoff can enlighten us on this point.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**'SILENT' PRACTICE ON ST. JOHN'S BELLS.**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at the headquarters of the branch, the Haymarket Hotel, on Saturday, July 12th. Once again visitors from Cheltenham, Swindon and Taunton were very welcome, and with their assistance some well-struck courses on handbells were heard before tea.

The business meeting was mainly routine in character but the chairman was pleased to be able to inform members that the peal of six at St. John's Church were now available for silent practices and that weekly gatherings had commenced on Wednesdays and were meeting with great success. At least six recruits were making very satisfactory progress, and method ringing now included Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles and attempts at Kent. With continued support it is expected that two practices will be held to meet the need of various ringers besides handbell practice that are held by the newly-formed Guild for handbell ringing.

The secretary (Mr. A. M. Tyler) announced that the association accounts were being sent to members, together with other circulars and announcements.

The date of the next meeting was given as August 16th.

Some of those present then adjourned to St. John's, while others continued with handbell ringing until 6 p.m.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 353.)

W. H. THOMPSON.

The list of the members' of the Central Council contains the names of several men who, though they took no great part in the active work of the Council, have earned honourable places in the history of the Exercise. Some were mainly distinguished as practical ringers; some were men who had made good positions in other walks of life, and by their presence added to the dignity and prestige of the Council; and a few were men who, though not themselves ringers, had by their writings served in no small degree the interests of ringing.

Of these latter the two most distinguished were Dr. J. J. Raven and W. H. Thompson. Thompson's connection with the Exercise is something of an enigma. Until the year 1886, he was totally unknown to ringers even by name. Then he published a little book which not only definitely settled the problem that for a century and a half had, more than any other, puzzled the best brains in the Exercise, but also has indirectly influenced composition to a greater extent than any book of modern times. He still continued to be for ringers little more than a name for, though he was made a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, his membership was purely an honorary one, and though he was elected an honorary member of the Central Council in 1892, and remained a member until 1913, he attended but one meeting. His personal contact with ringers seems to have been confined to some correspondence with one or two leading men like C. D. P. Davies, William Snowdon and Sir Arthur Heywood. Naturally there are but few details of his career to be told.

William Henry Thompson was born some time about 1845. He was educated at Cambridge, where he was a scholar of Gonville and Caius College, and where he proceeded M.A. in 1869. Afterwards he was in the Bengal Civil Service. He published his 'Note on Grandsire Triples' in December, 1886. He assisted Heywood in his 'Investigations into Stedman Triples.' In 1893 he published 'A Diagram of a System of Peals of Union Triples,' and he made similar investigations into Grandsire Triples, which were incorporated in the second edition of 'Grandsire,' published in 1905. He wrote one or two letters to 'The Bell News,' the last about 1910, and after that his name disappears from ringing records; but we learn from the Cambridge University Calendar that he was still alive in June, 1938, when he must have attained to a very venerable old age.

Thompson was never a ringer, and when he wrote his famous book it is quite evident that he knew little or nothing about change ringing and nothing about composition in general. The problem had been brought to his notice: Is it or is it not possible by means of plain leads and common bob leads only to form a complete peal of 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples? He was told just enough about Grandsire Triples and plain leads and common bobs to understand what the problem was, and that was all that was necessary for his purpose.

It has never been stated how he came across this problem. It may be no more than a coincidence, but during the time he was in India there was another Cambridge man in the Bengal Civil Service, somewhat senior to himself, who was keenly interested in bells and bell-

ringing. Frederick W. J. Rees learnt to ring when he was at school at Shrewsbury, he maintained his love of the art through all the twenty-five years he was in the East, and he resumed his ringing when he came home. He was interested in the history of the art, but not much in composition, and was just the sort of man who would have been likely to give Thompson the bare facts of the problem without saying anything about composition. Thompson, who was essentially a mathematician, would find the problem after his own heart. But all this is only conjecture.

For his immediate purpose Thompson's ignorance of ringing matters was a help rather than a hindrance. It freed the problem from all side issues and enabled him to tackle it without any prepossessions. What hampers men usually in solving problems in ringing matters is that they know so much about collateral things that they are unable to isolate the essential problem.

It is interesting in this connection to compare Thompson's little book with C. D. P. Davies' many and long articles on the same subject. But then Davies was trying to compose a peal and was exploring every available means to that end.

Thompson's pamphlet consists of only seventeen pages. The problem is stated, the conditions are set down, and the conclusion is reached in a few firm and logical steps. The whole is exceedingly clear and convincing. But while it is clear and convincing, the book is written throughout in the idiom of a mathematician. Thompson knew nothing of ringers' modes of thought or ways of expressing them, and they on their part knew as little about his; and so to the average ringer his book is not much more intelligible than if it had been written in French or Latin.

We may imagine an average intelligent ringer opening the book. He is not an expert in composition, and, like the vast mass of men, has had no mathematical training. This is the first sentence he reads: 'A row of the first n natural numbers arranged in ascending order of magnitude is said by bellringers to be "in-course." A row of the same n natural numbers in any other order is said to be "in-course" or "out-of-course," according as such order is producible from or, which comes to the same thing, reducible to ascending order of magnitude by an even or odd number of single transpositions of number with number.' Having read so far, our reader would, as likely as not, shut the book and put it aside as beyond him.

If we were to translate the above into ringer's language we could put it thus: Rounds is the fundamental row and is in-course. Any other row is in-course or out-of-course according as it can be produced from rounds or (which comes to the same thing) rounds can be produced from it by transposing an even or an odd number of pairs of bells.

That sounds so very much simpler and easier, but while the average ringer can understand my translation and can make nothing of Thompson's statement, an ordinary mathematician would readily understand Thompson's, but the other would convey nothing to him.

It is the same throughout, and the book must be translated into what is almost another language before the ringer realises how simple and yet how conclusive the argument is.

Thompson used very few terms familiar to the ringers of his time. He introduced several, some of which have been permanently adopted. The word 'change' never

occurs in the body of the book; instead, we have 'permutation,' and 'row,' both words being used with their ordinary common meaning. 'Change' and 'permutation' have the same meaning, but, while a mathematician would naturally use the second because it is to him the more precise and definite, a ringer would naturally use the first because it means to him a special form of permutation. Thompson's use of the word 'row' has made it for ringers a technical term, with a limited meaning. There is among some people a tendency to use it as synonymous with 'change.' That is wrong.

From Thompson we also get the very useful 'P Block' and 'B Block,' and especially 'Q Set.' He not only uses the conventional signs of algebra in a way unfamiliar to ringers, but he uses expressions which might even mislead if we did not understand how he uses them. When he says that a lead end, say 672534, is hobbled, he does not mean, as a ringer would, that it is brought up by a bob, but that the lead end which follows it is brought up by a bob. In a similar way he calls a Q Set the five lead ends in which the same bell is in fifths and the others in the same coursing order; not, as we should, the five lead ends with the same bell Before.

These things show that Thompson's 'Note' is not an easy book for a casual reader, and, in fact, the great effect it had on thought in the Exercise was not direct, but through the very few who first understood it and then handed its conclusions on.

I have said that the 'Note on Grandsire' influenced composition to a greater extent than any other book of modern times. Of that there cannot be any doubt, but it is as well to make sure what changes it actually did bring about. Davies says in 'Grandsire': 'While former

writers have treated the subject after the manner of Euclid, Thompson has resorted to arithmetic and algebra, the more modern and handier rivals of Euclid's system.' That is quite wrong and misses the whole point. Thompson did indeed use the methods of algebra, but the methods of older men were not those of Euclid. Euclid's system was to assume that one or two very elementary statements were true and on them to build up a vast and complicated structure of abstract truth entirely by means of formal logic. Change ringing and geometry are sciences which, in their essence, are very similar, and it would be possible to do for the fundamental truths of change ringing what Euclid did for the fundamental truths of geometry, but it would need a man with most exceptional mental powers, and such a one has not yet appeared in the Exercise.

The old composers worked by the means that mankind has all along used to find out truth—by experiment aided to a greater or less degree by deductive reasoning. That is how scientists work to-day. The old composers were not trained men, and their deductive reasoning was almost entirely subconscious. Later men, including Davies himself, used it more deliberately. Thompson introduced no new thing here, but he did by his example illustrate how a problem should first be set down clearly, free from side issues and then worked out logically. It should be noted that an essential link in his argument is a table drawn up by an experimental process.

He also showed how useful formulas and conventional signs can be to a peal composer just as they are to an algebraist. They may be useful when explaining to other people, but they are more likely to mystify the ordinary reader.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We should like to remind our readers that much as we should like to do everything to bring members of the Services into touch with the ringers of the districts where they are stationed, we are not able to publish the addresses of any soldier or airman.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Arthur Panther, of Wath-on-Dearne, formerly treasurer and afterwards hon. secretary of the Barnsley and District Society, who passed away on July 21st at the age of 64 years.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Emery will be sorry to hear he has had to go into hospital for an internal trouble. Those wishing to write to him should address Dewey Ward, The Cottage Hospital, Bromley, Kent. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Christopher Woolley has received instructions to report to a R.F.A. depot somewhere in Wales, and this will, we fear, mean the break-up of the handbell band which has lately been doing so well at Bushey. A peal in another new method was a fitting climax to the extraordinary successes of the last few weeks.

Mr. J. E. Spice, who took part in four or five of the performances, would like to thank Mr. Woolley and the others for the peals they arranged for him while he was staying in Hertfordshire.

We are pleased to see that Miss O. Hairs has been elected a member of the Sussex County Association and has begun double-handed ringing. It was to her mother, then Miss Elsie Bennett, that Sir Arthur Heywood paid a very striking tribute on her handbell ringing. Miss Hairs' father and grandfather, Mr. Frank Bennett, are, of course, well known to almost all ringers.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. James George that he has now quite recovered from the fall he had recently. He had a bad fall and seriously hurt his back, but fortunately he is now all right again.

The destruction of some of Wren's churches has proved the great architect's frequent use of existing wall and foundations in his rebuilding after the Great Fire of London. This had long been suspected.

William Cooter, for many years one of the most prominent of London ringers, died on July 28th, 1912, at the age of 87.

Fifty years ago yesterday F. E. Robinson rang the seventh at Duffield to a peal of London Surprise. A. P. Heywood conducted from the third, and it was the first time a parson had rung a peal in the method.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. They were Grandsire Triples 2, Stedman Triples 1, and Kent Treble Bob Major 1.

WAR DAMAGED CHURCHES.

Last week in the House of Lords the Bishop of London moved a resolution for the presentation of the Diocesan Reorganisation Committee's Measure, 1941, which places on diocesan committees to be set up the responsibility of the restoration and reorganisation of damaged churches.

The motion was carried after the Bishop had pointed out that before the war there were too many separate parishes and too many churches. Where there had been destruction, he thought, there must be consideration of the areas as a whole and a considered policy adopted before rebuilding was begun.

In the House of Commons on the same day it was agreed that the Measure should be presented for the Royal Assent.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

THE BUILDING GOES ON.

Another notable stage in the growth of Liverpool Cathedral was reached on Sunday, when the old and new sections were used together for the first time, the temporary wall which so long divided them having been removed, and it was at last possible to appreciate the full grandeur of the interior. Although appropriate ceremony could not mark this conclusion of 16 years of unremitting labour, it is heartening that this creative work of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott should go on and this noble shrine of the Christian faith should continue to grow in beauty and dignity.

The great central space is now at last finished and the choir assumes its proper relative position in the architect's design. The central space measures 186ft. by 87ft. at its greatest width, with an area of just over 15,000 square feet. This may be compared with the area under the dome of St. Paul's, approximately 10,000, and the similar feature at St. Peter's, Rome, not quite 15,000 square feet.

Equally noteworthy is the height of the under-tower vault, 176ft. This is 60ft. higher than the choir vault, 74ft. higher than the nave of Westminster Abbey, the highest mediæval vault in England, and only 6ft. less than the Nelson column. The vault is octagonal, with four long and four short sides, the culminating point being a circular belltrap. Light there is in plenty from the triple lancets on either side, which, with the rose windows above them, are filled with brilliantly translucent stained glass. The lightness of the under-tower is one of its most striking features, though for the present, with many windows in the older portion boarded up because of enemy action, the choir appears unduly dark.

Above the new section rises the massive tower slowly nearing completion, which will hold the heavy ring of twelve bells already cast and the great bourdon bell of 14 tons. The frame is already in position.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Action on Care of Silent Bells.

Despite war-time conditions, some 60 members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, representing fourteen out of the fifteen branches, assembled in Oxford on Saturday week for the annual general meeting. Although, as our correspondent puts it, there was 'no dinner, no tea, no ringing, but plenty of rain,' the gathering was nevertheless an enjoyable one, bringing many old friends together again, and it was made noteworthy by a presentation to the Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Wigg to mark their marriage and as a token of the members' appreciation of Mr. Wigg's work as Deputy Master.

The meeting was held in the Chapter House at Christ Church in the afternoon, the Master (the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge) presiding. He was supported by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rev. C. E. Wigg (Deputy Master), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) and the general secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert). Letters of apology were received from several members, the difficulties of transport or the stress of war work being the reasons given for non-attendance.

The Annual Report of the Guild, printed before the annual meeting on Saturday week, was of necessity but a skeleton of its former self and covered only eleven printed pages, which included four pages devoted to the peals rung before the ban fell on church bellringing in 1941.

OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The Master (the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge), in his report to the members, said: 'With so little to report at a time when all ringing of bells is prohibited—when means of locomotion are most unreliable or even non-existent—when lighting restrictions hinder movements and paper restricted, all we can do as a Guild is to carry on as best we may, looking to officials of branches and foremen of towers to do all they can in the difficulties which beset them. In this time of stress and upheaval we look to those who in the past have done so much for the welfare of the Guild, with deep thankfulness for their work and with certain assurance that their work will be continued so far as may be possible—that when 'this tyranny is overpast,' our bells may once more ring out in peals of victory, joy and peace.'

The Deputy Master (the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg) reported that during the first six months of the year 1940 the Guild maintained a considerable measure of activity, having regard to circumstances. Several peals were rung, and Sunday ringing and practices were kept going as far as possible. Even since the ban on open ringing came into force in June, the Guild had not lapsed entirely into a state of quiescence. Meetings had been held and a limited amount of ringing, both on handbells and silent tower bells, had been carried out.

A feature of especial interest and encouragement, he continued, 'has been the keen activity of the Oxford University Society, now happily restored once more to affiliation with the Guild. In co-operation with the City ringers, the undergraduates are holding regular meetings at New College, where the clappers have been removed from the bells, and really good progress is being made, both in tower and handbell ringing.'

'I have,' he added, 'personally attended seven annual and five quarterly branch meetings during the year. The restricted petrol allowance unfortunately prevented me from attending several other meetings in more distant parts of the Guild's territory, and this was naturally a source of great regret to me. Since this report will find its way to many towers which I cannot hope to visit for the present, I take this opportunity of sending my warmest greetings to all Guild members with the sincere hope that the time may soon come when the restoration of peace shall bring with it the renewal of old friendships and the happiness of normal Guild activities.'

THE GUILD'S FINANCES.

The secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert) said in his report: 'The year 1940 finished in a very sad way, as far as the activities of our Guild are concerned, and it is no real comfort to know that all other guilds and associations are in the same predicament. So far our branches have held meetings whenever possible which keeps the social life of members alive. I was able to attend ten branch annual meetings and found a good spirit maintained everywhere, although one missed a great many of the younger men.'

'We have decided not to print names of members serving in H.M. Forces until we can get a full list in a full report; so I beg all tower foremen and branch secretaries to do their utmost to keep this list up to date. The names of units or corps should also be recorded. A list printed to the end of 1940 would be useless, as men are leaving towers now in greater numbers. We must take our membership as being the same as at the end of 1939, although our branch secretaries will not be able to collect subscriptions from a great many towers. I do beg, however, that as many as possible will retain their membership in a proper manner, and so help the Guild to get "on its legs" again as soon as a start can be made.'

A few peals were rung in the first few months of 1940, and we hope that some members in various parts of the diocese may become

proficient enough to ring handbell peals in the future. No band would regret their efforts if once they became proficient. I conclude with good wishes to all and may God grant us a happy and successful future with many more happy meetings in Berks, Bucks and Oxon.'

The general account of the Guild showed receipts amounting to £68 14s. 11d., including £21 1s. 3d. from arrears of 1939 subscriptions, £46 13s. 6d. from subscriptions for 1940 and £1 0s. 2d. from the sale of annual reports. The total expenditure was £100 11s. 8d., but this included £29 9s. 1d. transferred to the Restoration Fund. The balance at the end of the year was £49 1s. 8d., as against £80 18s. 5d. at the commencement. The reserve fund now has a balance of £76 3s. 8d., and the restoration fund a balance of £117 19s. 1d.

In his report the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. D. Barker) pointed out that the general funds of the Guild amount to £243 4s. 5d., of which £117 19s. 1d. is in the Restoration Fund. Several branches have again failed to send in their contributions before the accounts were closed. It should be remembered that this reduces the amount of interest in the Restoration Fund in the following year, also, as the bank balance is at a minimum, branch contributions are vitally necessary at the proper date.

On the advice of the Savings Bank, £50 was invested in 3½ per cent. War Loan, so that all the Guild's assets are in the same kind of stock, which makes it easier to dispose of them should the necessity arise.

The officers were re-elected en bloc and were thanked by the meeting for good work done under difficult conditions.

The four representatives of the Central Council were also re-elected to serve again if and when the Council meet.

The recommendation from the General Committee that the annual festival or business meeting in 1942 shall be held at Oxford was ratified, and another recommendation asking all tower foremen to keep a correct list of members serving in H.M. Forces and to keep their branch secretaries informed of such names with a view of printing a full list when hostilities cease, was agreed to.

It was decided to print the annual report in abridged form if hostilities have not ceased.

The election of 17 new members was confirmed.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. C. E. WIGG.

The Deputy Master (the Rev. C. E. Wigg), who had taken to himself a wife earlier in the year, was presented with a cheque subscribed by the Guild as a wedding present. The gift was handed to him, with a few happy sentences, by the Bishop of Dorchester.

Owing to the abnormal times, Mr. and Mrs. Wigg had been asked to get something to suit themselves, and their choice was a grandfather clock with chimes. The Bishop, on behalf of the Guild, wished them a long and happy life and hoped Mr. Wigg would long continue his activities for the good of the Guild.

The Deputy Master thanked the members of the Guild throughout the diocese for their beautiful present, and said that as the clock was too big to bring to Oxford for inspection, a photograph of it, with the inscription plate, would be handed round.

Under 'Any other business,' the Master submitted a motion for debate and, he hoped, approval, to be sent to the diocesan authorities asking their support, viz.: 'That in view of the fact that the Government has taken over control of the church towers and the ringing of the bells in our diocese during the duration of war, the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers is of opinion that any damage done to the bells or their fittings by enemy action should be made good by the Government up to their full value.'

The Master drew attention to the fact that in the event of a church being destroyed by enemy action, the Government would pay most of the cost of rebuilding, but not for the restoration of the bells, which, he urged, should be fully insured.

After discussion, the motion was carried and the hope expressed that the Lord Bishop of Oxford and the three Archdeacons would give it their utmost support.

PRESERVATION OF THE BELLS.

Capt. Poyntz asked if the Guild could not do something to ensure that the rings of bells in the diocese should be carefully looked after whilst hanging silent, so as to be ringable when the time came for them to ring again. He proposed that a copy of a letter printed in 'The Ringing World' some time ago from the pen of Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, should be sent to all incumbents whose churches possess a ring of bells, asking them to see that suggestions in the letter are carried out. This was emphatically supported by Messrs. F. Sharpe, J. H. Shepherd, A. D. Barker, A. H. Webb and other experienced ringers, who realise that machinery deteriorates as much or more by neglect than by wear.

A clerical member asked what the military were going to do in the event of invasion if the bells cannot be rung? 'It is a matter,' he said, 'which should be referred to the Central Council, whose duty it should be to take the matter up with the War Office.'

Capt. Poyntz's proposal was adopted and the meeting was brought to a close with the Blessing, pronounced by the Bishop of Dorchester, who, having another engagement, had then to leave.

The members afterwards went over to St. Aldate's Parish Church, where the Guild service was conducted by the Master, and the Rector (the Rev. F. S. Cragg) gave the Guild a most sincere welcome and a very fine 'chat' from the pulpit.

BELLS BEFORE BUTTER.

CAN WE MAKE THE GERMANS PAY?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with Mr. Pulling that a great majority of ordinary people would try to make the Germans pay. I understand and fully sympathise with their feeling. Lately I walked through the City of London past the scarred walls of the great cathedral and the ruins of so many beautiful churches, and the familiar words of the psalm would keep ringing in my ears, 'Remember the children of Edom, O Lord, in the day of Jerusalem, how they said, Down with it, down with it, even to the ground. O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed, happy shall he be that rewardeth thee as thou has served us. Blessed shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.'

It is a natural feeling and to some extent a right one, but the point is not whether we ought to make the Germans pay, but whether we can make them pay without doing irreparable injury to ourselves.

When the war is over and the victory won, it will be possible to form some estimate of what it has cost us in damage and expenditure. What the amount will be I do not know, but let us say £20,000,000,000, which is not an extravagant estimate. We can send a bill in to Germany and demand payment, but how would they pay it? In gold? There is not so much gold in the world, certainly not so much in Germany. If there were and we could get it all, what good would it do us? We could put it in the vaults of the Bank of England, which would not help us much; or put it into circulation as money. That would mean inflation, the calamity we most dread. If not gold, what else? Raw materials? Germany has not a lot of raw materials we want. What there is is mainly coal and iron. We could make them dig coal and bring it here, so that our wharves and railway sidings were glutted with it. And as a result our own pits would have to close down and our miners go without wages.

The only other thing is manufactured goods. We could take over all the factories in Germany and make them work for us. That would mean the ruin of our manufacturers and our people on the dole.

But, says Mr. Pulling, if we should lose the war the Germans would make us pay. It is quite true they would try to do so, and it is also true that they have a much better chance than we of succeeding. For while they have very little we want even at a gift, we have a tremendous lot they badly covet—colonies, and coaling stations, and raw material, and ships, and empire and the rest. They would strip us of all those things and perhaps benefit by so doing. We can't treat them in the same way, try we never so much.

But what Mr. Pulling feels is that it is not right the Germans should have committed this enormous wickedness and brought this misery on the world, and in the end not suffer for it. He need not worry. They will pay all right, though not in the way he wants. They will pay in blood, and agony, and degradation, and the deterioration of national and individual character. Whatever happens they will have a bitter cup to drain to the dregs. But we shall have to rebuild our churches and replace our bells ourselves. 'X.'

HANDBELL RINGING.

WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

It is possible to give a reasonably definite answer to Miss Hilda Snowden's enquiry about handbells. At the time of the Reformation (a period which roughly covers a century) the ringing of church bells was not forbidden. Towards the end of King Henry's reign an injunction was issued forbidding the quasi-liturgical ringing during the processions before High Mass, and several not altogether successful attempts were made over a long period to suppress 'superstitious' ringing at funerals and on the eves of saints' days. But ringing for personal, civic and national purposes, and more especially for 'pleasure' (i.e., sport), greatly increased and there probably was more bellringing in Queen Elizabeth's reign than has ever been before or since. Later, during the Commonwealth there was no cessation.

Handbells were used by the Church from the earliest days. In mediæval times they were used as sacring bells, at funerals, and when for any reason a priest carried the consecrated elements. These handbells figure largely in the inventories of 1552. They were single bells and practically all of them were sold for scrap metal in the reign of King Edward VI. Of the thousands in use in England in the year 1550 hardly one survives.

In the South Kensington Museum there is a case of ancient handbells collected by H. T. Ellacombe.

Handbells tuned in sets to the major scale have been used by ringers since the beginning of the eighteenth century. The first definite mention is in 1730.

These handbells did not originate with anything connected with the Church. Most likely they were originally converted sheep bells. The first sets were cup bells and one or two sets of them still survive from the 18th century. Some of the members of the Central Council rang changes on one of these sets in Mr. E. H. Lewis' garden two years ago.

The occasional use of handbells in church before the service, though rare, has not been unknown during the last fifty years.

Miss Snowden says that the ringers' jar in Halstead belfry dates from the time of the Reformation. Is there any authentic information of when this jar was made? It is more than likely that ringers' jugs were in use as early as the sixteenth century, but it is very doubtful if any of the earthenware jugs still existing are as old.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHERN DIVISIONAL MEETING AT WIVELSFIELD.

On Saturday, July 19th, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, a meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex Association was held at their residence at Wivelsfield, when a representative body of ringers was present from Shoreham, West Grinstead, Henfield, Lewes, Balcombe and the Brighton towers. Mr. C. Tyler, one of the few remaining foundation members of the association, whose membership dates from 1885, was also present and brought with him his own peal of handbells.

During the afternoon the bells were well employed in a variety of methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Major and Stedman Caters, while in the evening a well-struck course of Stedman Cinquses was brought round. For those ringers and friends who were not too well advanced in handbell ringing—and for the overflow crowds who were awaiting their turn in the ringing room—darts were available. The results of the games provided an interesting sidelight on the activities of some ringers during the black-out evenings, if the remarks of the losers are to be believed.

Tea was provided by Mrs. Hairs, who made an excellent hostess, to whom the partakers of her hospitality are deeply grateful. By general assent it was the best meal ever set before a divisional meeting, not excluding peace time, and even the appetites of some 24 who sat down were not equal to the task of clearing the board. The meal was served in the garden, and as the siren refrained from its dismal wail the illusion of pre-war conditions was complete.

Rain, which had been threatening all the afternoon, began in earnest just as tea finished and drove the business meeting indoors. Mrs. Hairs took the chair. One new member was elected, Miss O. Hairs, who has learnt to ring double-handed before mastering a tower bell. This is a result of the ban on tower-bell ringing, and we must expect it to become more common as a method of starting new ringers. Mrs. Hairs, as Miss Elsie Bennett, scored quite a number of handbell peals before accomplishing one in the tower. The quick progress of the new member was a matter for remark, and it would seem to be a fresh instance of heredity in ringing.

It was proposed that another meeting should be held at Southover, Lewes, on September 6th.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the hostess for the accommodation and hospitality provided, and, in reply, Mrs. Hairs thanked the ringers for their good response to the invitation, and hoped that she had been able to do something to keep the interest in ringing alive in these difficult times.

PARISHIONERS TAKE CARE OF BELLS.

REMOVAL BETTER THAN INSURANCE.

In the parish of Mayfield, Sussex, the bells of St. Dunstan's Church have been taken down and separately placed in the care of local residents. In informing us of this, Mr. W. Kitchenside writes:—

In view of the leading article in 'The Ringing World' of June 27th last on the care of church bells, the following may be of some interest to you. The Finance Committee of the Parochial Church Council of St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, Sussex, have decided to have the eight bells taken down for the duration of the war rather than insure them. It was felt that insurance would not be able to replace them if damaged by enemy action. They will be replaced after the war. The work of taking down the bells was undertaken by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, with the help of a local firm of builders. The bells are distributed amongst local residents of the parish with the exception of the tenor, which is being left in the churchyard.

Here are the inscriptions on the bells:—

- 1.—Treble.—Glory to God in the Highest. Taylor, Loughborough. 1913.
- 2.—On Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men. Taylor, 1913.
- 3.—The Gift of John Baker, Esq., J. W. Fecit. 1724.
- 4.—R.F., J.M., C.H. John Waylett made me, 1724.
- 5.—T.G., 1602.
- 6.—Brianus Eldridge me fecit. W.W., R.W., 1629.
- 7.—Cast by John Warner and Sons, London, 1898. Mr. John Sands, John Merchant (CH. Wardens). Peter Baker, D.D., Vicar. R. Phelps made me 1712. Recast 1898. J. H. R. Kirby, Vicar. E. Coppard, J. B. Powell, CH. Wardens.

Tenor.—Brianus Eldridge me fecit. R.W. 1630. Gloria Deo in Excelsis.

The two trebles were added in 1913 to make up the octave as a memorial to the Rev. J. H. R. Kirby, for over 15 years Vicar of Mayfield. There is some doubt as to who cast the fifth bell. In some old books concerning the history of church bells, etc., the founder's name is given as Thomas Giles, in others as Thomas Gilbert. I have never been able to find out which is correct.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

"SCROOF."

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I spent some time and trouble trying to find out the origin of the word 'scroof,' and, without being dogmatic, I give the following as the most likely explanation.

'Scroof' is a word which has been used among London ringers for a very long time, probably for more than a century and a half. It does not seem to have been known in the provinces, and in London I have only once found it in writing. That was in the Cumberlands' name book, where a number of men are described as the 'Islington Scroof.'

The word meant the paid band which was attached to a particular belfry. To-day it is practically confined to the paid band at St. Paul's Cathedral. It has survived solely among the College Youths, but it never has been used by that society in any of its official statements. It has, in fact, almost always been treated as a slang word; men talked of the 'scroof' in much the same way as they talked of 'stone,' meaning call-changes.

It would seem that originally the word was used as a term of contempt and it is not hard to explain why. The different words which ringers use were not invented out of nothing. Originally they were words in common speech used in their common sense. Only gradually did they acquire special and local meanings. I have consulted the authorities and the only word from which 'scroof' can have come is the common old English word 'scruff,' a term of contempt which has barely reached the level of a literary word, but which for centuries has been used in different forms in common speech among the ordinary people. Among other things it meant a 'rabble' or 'a set of persons of indifferent character.' Even to-day people sometimes talk about a 'scruffy lot.'

But why should such a term have been applied to a band of ringers? To answer that we must turn back to the conditions of the London Exercise in the eighteenth century. The character of the ringers was extraordinarily varied. At the top there was the small, exclusive Society of College Youths, and at the bottom a number of low class men who had little or no interest or knowledge of the art of change ringing, but who hung round the belfries in the hope of picking up something out of the paid ringing. Both Osborn and Ellacombe have told us something about them in the early nineteenth century.

We can be sure that the College Youths looked on these men with contempt, and we know from the incident at York in 1789 that they resented the idea of being thought to belong to the same class. So they contemptuously called them 'scroof.'

It is not at all unusual that a name originally given in contempt should by degrees become respectable. The word 'stone,' once contemptuous slang, is now a good technical term. In the case of 'scroof' the change was helped by the changing social conditions of the ringers. The high class exclusive College Youths disappeared. The lower class men who took their places improved in character and status. When St. Paul's bells were hung and an official band formed out of the best members of the College Youths, paid ringing was put (at any rate in that one instance) on a far higher level. The 'scroof' were now the pick of the society. But the old term survived, though not without something of its old character as slang. J. A. T.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION.

Dear Sir,—'Inquirer' raises one of the several closely related questions as to the origins and meanings of those, obviously, very old words used by the men who built up our art.

Mr. Trollope recently referred to the extraordinarily good work done by the Rev. Earl Bulwer in writing the 'Glossary.' But I see that he left the above word out, also several other of our ancient words, though he gives 'Exercise,' 'Caters' and 'Cinques' and also 'soller.'

In regard to the word scroof, I feel sure that it is derived from 'scroll.' We find such variants as escroll and scroie. It is allied to roll, volume and book. Hence a man 'enrolled' was naturally on the esroie, and, in an illiterate age, soon was on the 'scroof.'

The Northern dialects habitually dropped the 'l.' (They do to-day.) E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Italian Villa, Elstree Hill, Bromley, Kent.

THE LOOTED BELLS OF BRISTOL.

DEATH SENTENCES THREATENED.

Mr. Justice Charles declared, during a trial for looting, at Winchester Assizes last week: 'One of these days I myself or one of my brothers will exercise our undoubted right and pass a sentence of death for looting.'

Edward Richard Pearce and Gilbert Lovell were charged with stealing nine bells from a bomb-damaged church at Bristol, and were each sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. Each said he wished to appeal.

Some of the bells were stated to have been cast in 1749, and one, a sanctus bell, dated from 1623. When the church was damaged the bells fell from the tower, and later it was found that they had been removed.

According to the prosecution Pearce was found to be selling bell metal, and Lovell was seen breaking up the bells with a hammer.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MR. ERNEST MORRIS' DISCOVERY.

A meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Anstey on July 12th in beautiful summer weather.

The bells were rung silent during the afternoon to a variety of methods, including Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Cambridge and London Major, and, in spite of the handicap, the ringing was much enjoyed by all.

At 5.30 p.m. the members, 29 in number, adjourned to a nearby cafe and partook of a tea which was highly satisfactory under the present circumstances.

A room had been taken at a local hotel and after tea a meeting was held there. A violent thunderstorm raged throughout the whole of the meeting, and at times it was difficult to hear the speakers. About half-way through the meeting the lights fused and the meeting was carried on in semi-darkness.

In the absence of the local chairman, Mr. E. Morris was elected to the chair. He spoke of an article which he had very recently found in 'The Leicester Journal' of September 27th, 1782. It was as follows: 'On Thursday last was rung at Anstey in this county, upon five bells, 5,280 Grandsire Bobs, in three hours ten minutes.' There was no mention of the names of the ringers, but this was the earliest record of a peal of Doubles in the county.

The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, who included Miss Thompson, hon. treasurer of the association, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Salter, of Nottingham, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bagworth, of London, and ringers from Copt Oak and Great Dalby.

Some discussion then took place as to future meetings, and eventually it was decided to hold two more meetings this year. Mr. W. Clarke proposed and Mr. J. Grant seconded that the first meeting be held at Countesthorpe. This was carried unanimously.

It was agreed to hold the second meeting at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on October 4th. This was proposed by Mr. A. Disney, seconded by Mr. G. Morris and carried unanimously.

In closing the meeting, the chairman spoke with regret of the recent death of the wife of Mr. George Straw, a member of the Leicester Cathedral ringers and of the M.C.A. It was decided that the district secretary should write a letter of condolence on behalf of the ringers of the Leicester District, and it was the wish of the meeting that Mr. E. Morris should write on behalf of the M.C.A.

During the rest of the evening there was some handbell ringing and the company in general enjoyed themselves.

When the time came to say good night the rain had ceased and another enjoyable day had come to a close.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on Saturday, July 26th, and was attended by 20 members from Brasted, Leigh, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, East Peckham and Shipbourne. Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood, was also present. In the absence of the Vicar, who sent an apology, the curate conducted the service and gave a very interesting address upon the secret service of life and his experiences years ago as a ringer.

At 5 p.m. tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, after which the business meeting followed, with Mr. W. Latter in the chair. The first item was to elect a new district secretary, and Mr. D. Findlay proposed and Mr. E. J. Ladd seconded that as the year was well advanced, Mr. T. Saunders should act as secretary until the annual meeting of the district in October. This was agreed to.

It was decided that the annual meeting should be held at Tonbridge on the first Saturday in October, and a by-meeting at Sevenoaks on the first Saturday in September.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar, the organist, to Mr. J. Medhurst and Mr. T. Saunders for arranging the meeting, and to Mr. W. Latter for taking the chair.

During the afternoon and after the meeting several touches on handbells were rung by some of the members and were enjoyed by all.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT PENISTONE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Penistone on July 19th, when members were present from Earlsheaton, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Wath and the local company.

A room was reserved at the Bridge Hotel, where handbells were rung in the afternoon until 5 p.m., when a splendid tea was served, which was much appreciated by all.

The business meeting followed, with the president, Mr. E. Brookes, in the chair. The members stood in silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. O. Greathead, of Conisbrough, who had passed away on July 13th at the age of 53.

The business was soon disposed of, and after a vote of thanks to the local company for the arrangements and the tea there was more handbell ringing. Some of the ringers tried their skill at a 'game of cricket' on the dart board, with the result that the 'old crocks' beat the 'young uns.'

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, August 9th.

THE STANDARD METHODS

FORWARD.

When Sir Arthur Heywood published Duffield he certainly had good reason for thinking he had found not merely a new standard method but one which would be for even bellringing what Stedman is for odd. Yet Duffield from the very first proved a complete failure.

The reason usually given is that the method is too monotonous. That is true, to a very great extent, on eight bells, and monotony was, and is, a sufficient reason for the method not being extensively practised. But it is a fact that Duffield has never had a fair chance. Most of the people who talk about its monotony have never rung it, and only repeat what others have said.

As a Major method there is not a great deal to be said for it, but as Royal and Maximus (for which, as we remember, Heywood specially designed it) there is a lot to be said. For short touches at practice or service ringing it is better than almost every other ten and twelve-bell method in use, and it deserves much more attention than it has received, though we doubt if it will ever receive it.

The reason is that it lies outside the main stream of the development of the art. From the first, change ringing has progressed in a definite way from Plain Bob and Grandsire through Treble Bob to Double Norwich, and on to Surprise. Stedman, it is true, lies outside, but Stedman has often proved a dead end.

Ringers are an exceptionally conservative lot, partly because of the nature of their art, and partly because they remain in active service for so long. It is nothing much for a man to be a ringer for thirty or forty or more years, and at the end he is not so very different from what he was at the beginning.

There is, therefore, not much to be gained by considering the claims of other methods similar to Duffield to rank as standard methods. A large number of them have appeared from time to time, all more or less imitations of Duffield, and some which have tried to correct supposed defects in it. But we may be sure that Heywood had thoroughly explored the whole ground and that he selected the best.

There is, however, one which has had a certain amount of practice and deserves a short notice. This is Forward. Forward is usually said to be John Carter's method, and it is his in the sense that he first introduced it to the Exercise and called the first peal of it, but it is the simplest form of a group of methods which must be obvious to anyone who gives any thought to method construction.

The general plan of these methods is this. The division heads and ends are the rows of the Plain hunting course. Between them is inserted a backward hunting course on a part of the bells and the rest dodge.

12345678	12345678
	34
	43
21436587	21436587
24163857	24163857

In Forward the inserted backward hunting course is on two bells which is 12

12

21

21, and this is put in 3-4, all the other bells dodging in pairs.

So far as construction goes, Forward can be had on any number of bells, and the inserted hunting course can be in 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 or anywhere else; but a little experimenting will soon show that some of these variations give features which we do not allow in practical ringing. For instance—

1234567	12345678
2134657	12436587
1243567	21345678
2143657	21436587
2416375	24163857

Similarly we shall find that if the backward hunting course is on three bells it must be put in the front three or the last three positions, and is only suitable for odd numbers unless there are two of it.

1234567	12345678
2143657	21436587
124	124 578
142	142 758
412	412 785
421	421 875
2416375	24163857
4261735	42618375

These are Erin Triples and a double variation adapted to eight bells.

With the backward hunting course on four bells we get what Henry Dains called Barnsbury Major:—

12345678
3546
5364
5634
6543
6453
4635
21436587
24163857

The plan can in theory be extended indefinitely on the higher numbers, but the extensions are of no practical value.

Further variations can be had by increasing the number of two-bell hunting courses thus:—

12345678
3465
4365
3456
4356
21436587
24163857

Anyone can amuse himself by working out other combinations and so producing other methods. There seems no reason why some of them should not be rung, but they are not likely to appeal to ringers. Forward itself was supposed to have all the good musical qualities of Treble Bob with none of its defects. In practice it is found to be intolerably monotonous, both to ring and to listen to. It is not nearly the equal of Duffield, but as a Royal method is not altogether without some good qualities.

NOTICES.

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.**

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.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday August 2nd, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, August 2nd, also handbells. All will be welcomed.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held in the belfry at Balcombe on Saturday, August 2nd. Handbells and ringing on six silent tower bells.—Joint meeting with Sussex County and Hawkhurst Guild at Wadhurst, August 19th. Details later.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION (North-Western District) AND GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District).—A joint meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Monday, August 4th. Ringers may meet at Boxhill S.R. station at 3.30, to ramble through Norbury Park to Leatherhead. Service in Leatherhead Church at 5 p.m. Tea at the Duke's Head at 5.30 p.m. Eight bells (silent) and handbells available at Leatherhead belfry from 3 p.m. and after tea. All ringers heartily welcome.—G. W. Massey and A. H. Smith, Dis. Hon. Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow, for which names must be sent to me by Tuesday, the 5th. By kind invitation of the Rector, the gardens will be open as usual.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. Details regarding tea in next week's issue. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Willingham-by-Stow on Saturday, August 9th. Service 4 p.m. Business

meeting 6 p.m. Entertainment and light refreshment will be provided for those who inform Rev. S. Malkinson, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, by the Thursday previous. Usual war-time ringing arrangements.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by usual business meeting and handbell practice. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, August 7th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. All those requiring tea kindly let me know not later than August 6th. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and Hawkhurst and District Guilds will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, August 16th. Six silent bells and handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, by August 13th. All ringers and friends welcome.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at reasonable prices for members notifying me not later than Tuesday, August 12th. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tedburn St. Mary Rectory on August 16th, at 3 p.m. Service in the church 4.30. Tea 5.15 only to those who notify me by August 9th. Bus leaves Exeter 2.45, returning 7.23. Handbells available.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall. Numbers not later than Tuesday, August 19th.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th, 1941.

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SHOULD PUBLICITY CEASE?

There are, no doubt, divergent views on the question, raised by our correspondent, 'Anti-Silent,' a fortnight ago and supported this week by another writer, as to whether ringers should keep silent over their 'silent' bells. These correspondents, to put it briefly, contend that it is likely to be a disservice to ringing to let the public know that practice is now carried out on 'dumb' bells, in case it adds to the armoury of those who, when the war is over, will want the ban on bells continued. We are among those who believe that tactful publicity is helpful to ringing, and, while there is no point in saying anything which may encourage the folk whose deep-rooted objection to bells leads them to declare bells at all times to be a nuisance, let us remember that these people are nearly always in a small minority in any area. Usually they are people who reside in close proximity to a church, and all they are concerned with is the noise, as they deem it to be, which emanates from the tower near which they live. Their objection is seldom against bells in general as they affect other people, but to the particular bells which annoy them.

These people make themselves appear to be an important section of the public, because they are actively vocal in their opposition; but the fact remains that, in the mass, the people of this country like to hear the bells and, if given the opportunity, would not allow them to be silenced in peace time. They love the bells, and one of the things which they have most regretted in the life of this England during the last twelve months has been the absence of church bells on Sunday. It is quite certain also that they are looking forward to hearing the bells once more when victory and peace are proclaimed. It seems unnecessary, therefore, in preparing to greet that day, that ringers should in any way hide the fact that they are now endeavouring to keep themselves in practice, even though they are driven to the shift of having to use for the time being bells which are clapperless. There is, we feel, no general risk that reasonable people will want to put an end to ringing just because, during the ban, ringers have found a means, unsatisfying though it be, of following the pursuit to which they are so much attached.

Nevertheless, there are certain towers about the country which are not all they should be in the modulation of sound. No one knows better than the ringers themselves how overpowering some peals of bells are when heard near the tower, and we have constantly advocated that in such instances every effort should be made to remove any possible cause of annoyance. Such towers exist still,

(Continued on page 374.) •

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although the bells now are silent. There can, of course, be no opportunity at present of any constructional work which will remedy the trouble, but for the sake of ringing in these towers in the future the needs should not be lost sight of by those who will return to the belfry later on. To suggest, however, that if ringers make public the fact that they are at present using silent bells, they are providing the army of 'anti-noise' with material for a campaign later on, is to take a pessimistic view of the situation, which we think is hardly justified. There will always be, as there always have been, opponents of church bells who will not lose any opportunity of ventilating their objections, but they can always be met successfully, if those in authority will exercise firmness and tact and the ringers use discretion on the occasions when they ring and the amount of ringing which they do. At the same time it will be well to be wary later on of any attempt by the 'antis' to stifle ringing by an outcry far beyond their numerical strength and in which they may try to mislead any weak-kneed clergy or church councils by a volume of complaint out of all proportion to the real truth.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 28, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,
At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 42 extents, 10 callings.

*PHILIP REED	...	...	1-2	RALPH NARBOROUGH	...	3-4
BERNARD BROWN	...	...	...	...	...	5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Ernest Morris.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 1, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*DENNIS W. S. SMOOT	...	1-2	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON	...	5-6
JACK S. ROBERTS	...	3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	...	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First peal, aged 14 (except for one handbell to a peal of Doubles). Rung in honour of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Mary to Swindon on this day.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWARD COWPERTHWAITHE	...	1-2	L/CPL. C. K. LEWIS, R.A.P.C.	...	5-6
CYRIL CROSSTHWAITHE	...	3-4	*PTE. J. H. CRAMPION, R.A.S.C.	...	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal 'in hand.'

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, August 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*GEORGE A. FLEMING	...	1-2	CHARLES J. SEDGLEY	...	5-6
GEORGE E. SYMONDS	...	3-4	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN	...	7-8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY

Witness—William P. Garrett.

* First peal on handbells. First peal on handbells as conductor.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 365.)

WILLIAM HENRY THOMPSON.

The solution of the Grandsire problem was an interesting event in the development of composition; but, in itself, of no very great importance. Ringers had already satisfied themselves that a peal with common bobs only was not possible, if only for the reason that no one, not even the cleverest, had been able to achieve it, just as now we are convinced that a similar peal of Stedman Triples is not possible, though we have no mathematical proof.

Thompson's real contribution to the science of change ringing was that he showed the supreme importance of Q Sets in composition. He did not discover them. They were known to John Reeves, to Shipway, and, we may assume, to John Holt. But, while those great composers knew of them, their methods of working did not enable them to grasp their full significance. Nor for that matter did Thompson's, beyond the purposes of the immediate problem he was engaged upon. But his use of them in Grandsire Triples showed other people how to use them in all methods, and that altered their outlook on the whole science.

Davies and Heywood and Bulwer, who took the theory of Q Sets from Thompson, did not go on and investigate their real nature and relationship to the fundamentals of change ringing. If they had it might have saved a lot of controversy and explained among other things what Bob Major leads ends really are.

W. H. Thompson's claim to fame in the story of the Exercise rests on his "Note on Grandsire Triples." If he had written no more than that, his place would still have been secure. But he went on further and applied himself to other problems. He was naturally attracted by those which followed on his first investigations, and they appealed to him more because they were such as would interest a mathematician than because they were of importance to the Exercise. So it was that his next book dealt with a subject which at no time had much interest for ringers and now has none at all.

Eighty years before his time Shipway, like other men, had tried to get a peal of Grandsire Triples by splicing the second half of Holt's Ten-part into the first by means of bobs. One plan he tried was to take one part of the second half and to join it straight on to one part of the first half. The plan was, of course, not a success, but he did discover that if a fifth's place bob (that is, a plain lead of Union) was added to each of these double parts, a true peal could be produced, consisting of triple changes throughout. It was an interesting discovery, but of no great practical importance for, though the peal was rung, the composition was looked on as something rather illegitimate, and it never came into general use.

The plan of it, however, appealed to Thompson, and he investigated it, not as Shipway had done by experimenting with Holt's peal, but on mathematical lines. He, however, reversed Shipway's problem, and instead of trying to compose peals of Grandsire by adding a minimum number of Union leads, he composed peals of Union by adding plain Grandsire leads. When he found that Davies' Report on Calls had recognised the plain

lead of Grandsire as a legitimate call for Union he published the result of his investigations in a pamphlet of fifty pages. It appeared in 1893.

As an example of how the problems of composition can be dealt with mathematically, the book has value, but the subject matter was unfortunate. Very few people wanted to ring Union Triples, and those that did would not use a peal with irregular calls however clever its composition. There were some men who valued Union as a method for composition, but they were very few, and the method which had recently been dragged from obscurity soon after lapsed into oblivion.

Like all his writings, Thompson's book is concise and clear, but the close reasoning and the enormous amount of detail make it very difficult to follow. To most readers the subject is not worth the effort.

The same may fairly be said of the very elaborate investigations he made into the composition of Grandsire Triples. William Snowdon included them in the second edition of 'Grandsire,' and they are there for anyone to study, but I very much doubt if they are ever read. It is rather unfortunate that Grandsire, which in practical ringing is almost the simplest and most elementary of methods, should be in composition one of the most difficult and complex. It means that a text book on the method to be complete must be written half for the beginner and half for the most advanced expert.

When Arthur Heywood made his Investigations into Stedman Triples he sought the help of Thompson, not so much for the general work as to solve certain definite and limited problems which he set out and sent him. One of them was the question, Is it possible to write down the 5,040 rows of Triples in sixty complete and independent natural courses? It was an extraordinarily difficult problem, for the factors are so very elusive. Thompson supplied a proof which purported to show that twenty is the greatest number of true natural courses in the method. It was an ingenious proof, but there was a flaw in it. Had he been conversant with composition in general and with Stedman Caters in particular, he would have seen that with fixed second's, sixth's and seventh's place bells twenty-four true courses are obviously possible, though the selection of those twenty-four would undoubtedly make further true courses impossible. It is rather strange that neither Heywood nor Bulwer, both of whom thoroughly understood Stedman Caters, missed the point and allowed the 'proof' to appear.

The matter was finally settled in the year 1908, when three men, Joseph J. Parker, Joseph W. Parker and John Carter, almost simultaneously produced forty true natural courses. Thompson then revised his proof and gave what he said was a really sound proof that forty is the limit. It is a very complicated proof and very difficult to follow, but no one has been able to find a flaw in it. Thompson's original problem, it should be remembered, was to settle whether the sixty are possible, not how many true ones there are. I was in error when I wrote in my book on Stedman that the problem is still unsolved.

It is, of course, no reproach to Thompson that his first proof had a flaw in it, but in one instance his isolation from the general life of the Exercise led him into an error in a matter on which he might have been supposed to be almost the supreme authority, and which a lesser man would probably have escaped, since the pitfall was fairly

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

generally known. He published three peals of Grandsire Triples with common singles, and all were false at the handstrokes.

Apart from his use of Q Sets it is not unlikely that Thompson influenced the Exercise most through Joseph J. Parker, of Farnham Royal. I have very little direct evidence, but I think it probable that Parker's work was largely based on Thompson's methods. At any rate, I gathered the impression, from what he told me and showed me many years ago, that the two men worked on very similar lines, and on lines which at the time were quite unusual with ordinary composers.

That is a remarkable fact considering the differences between the two men. Thompson was a Cambridge mathematician; Parker, like John Holt, his great forerunner in Grandsire Triples, was a shoemaker. He had few advantages in education, but as a composer he has hardly any equals in the history of change ringing. In his work and in the occasional letters and articles he contributed to 'The Bell News' he showed a breadth of vision and a grasp of the essentials of composition far beyond the best of his contemporaries such as John Carter and Henry Dains. He had the true mathematician's gift of looking at a peal objectively. It was a problem to be solved, not something he could 'make,' and which would be his 'property.' He did not publish masses of figures, as did so many others at the time, merely to pile up the number of his peals; and when, as often happened, other people put their names to obvious adaptations of his work he took little or no pains to establish his rights. Few men would have liked to see another name persistently put to the simplest variation of his best-known work, and it is not fair to him now, when the original version of his twelve-part peal is termed 'Groves' Variation.' There is no analogy here with Reeves' Variation, for Reeves did add something (if not much) to Holt's composition.

Joseph J. Parker had few opportunities of distinguishing himself as a practical ringer. During most of his career his own tower had but six bells, but his is one of the greatest names in the Exercise, and it is pleasant to know that as long as the art lasts he will not be forgotten, for his twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples is one of the two or three indispensable compositions. Middleton's Cambridge and Thurstans' Stedman Triples alone can rank with it.

W. H. Thompson attended only one meeting of the Central Council, the first at London after his election. He quite evidently looked on his membership as an honorary one conferred in recognition of what he had done for the science of ringing, and entailing no duties or obligations; and no doubt he was elected in that spirit. He was so little in touch with ringers and ringing that he could hardly have been of much service.

Much, but not quite the same thing, may be said of another early honorary member. Dr. J. J. Raven was well known to many ringers by name and personally to some, but his interest in bells was archæological, and he did not know very much about ringers or change ringing. At the time the Council was founded he was beginning to get advanced in years and, though he had for six years been the parson of a Suffolk village, and was the president of the Norwich Diocesan Association, the great part

of his active life had been spent as a schoolmaster. He was, in fact, essentially a scholar and an antiquarian.

John James Raven was born on June 25th, 1833, at Boston, the eldest son of J. H. Raven, Rector of Worlington, in Suffolk. He was educated at Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1857, M.A. in 1860, and D.D. in 1872. He was appointed headmaster of Bungay Grammar School in 1859, and from 1866 to 1885 he was headmaster of Yarmouth Grammar School. In the latter year he became Vicar of Fressingfield, which living he held with two other Suffolk benefices until his death in 1906. He had few opportunities of coming into contact with ringers until he had passed middle life, but his interest in bells began when he was a boy. He was, in fact, one of the earliest and one of the most distinguished of those antiquarians who did so much during the second half of the last century to survey the church bells of England, and who brought to the task so much patience, learning and industry.

These men did a lot of good for the Exercise, but almost entirely indirectly. They brought to the notice of churchpeople the value of the many bells which for so long had hung neglected and almost forgotten in the village steeples, and the interest they evoked helped very largely the reform movement among ringers.

This antiquarian interest, however, was quite independent of change ringing and outside the Exercise. It is rather remarkable how little these campanologists, as they called themselves, knew about ringing. Ellacombe did get as far as Grandsire Doubles, and A. H. Cocks rang, I believe, one or two peals of Grandsire Triples; but to W. C. Lukis ringers were a degraded and degenerate lot. Thomas North was an invalid who was not able to enter a tower, L'Estrange and Stahlschmidt never referred to ringing, and Mr. H. B. Walters was one of the principal officials of the British Museum and dealt with bells in the same way and with the same authority as he dealt with Greek and Roman antiquities. The result was that, though these men wrote of bells with knowledge and authority, the few references to change ringing in their books are inadequate and inaccurate.

Raven was no exception, though towards the end of his life he was president of the Norwich Diocesan Association. His first published work was in 1869 on 'The Bells of Cambridgeshire, a second edition of which appeared in 1881. His best work was on 'The Church Bells of Suffolk,' published in 1890. Probably he is chiefly known to ringers by his 'Bells of England' in the series called the Antiquary's Books, where he dealt with the whole subject of bells. It is rather unequal in quality and not altogether up to his best standard, for he had to include matters outside his particular province, and to borrow from his contemporaries. In so doing he was not always accurate or well advised. This was particularly so when he dealt with change ringing. The history he took from Ellacombe and the account of the art from the 'Tintinnalogia.' As an explanation of change ringing for the general public it is anything but adequate.

Dr. Raven, however, will always be remembered with gratitude by lovers of bells and bell lore. My personal recollection is of a kindly and courteous gentleman with extraordinarily brilliant and sparkling eyes. Though elected an honorary member at the first meeting, he never attended the Central Council.

SINGLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR. WHERE WAS THE FIRST PEAL RUNG?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the schedule of first performances compiled by the late Rev. A. T. Beeston for the Central Council and reproduced by Mr. Morris in his 'History' it is stated that the first peal of Single Oxford Bob Major was rung at Warnham by the Sussex County Association on January 10th, 1899. No record of this peal appears in the contemporary 'Bell News' nor in the Analysis. We should be glad if anyone who has a copy of the Sussex Association report for that year or any particulars of the peal will send us details, as we are anxious to have a correct record of the first performances of the methods given in the Collection of Plain Major Methods. We have no definite account of any peal in the method before May 7th, 1909, when Fred Holden called a peal of it at Sittingbourne, and October 20th in the same year, when Mr. E. H. Lewis called a peal of it at Pulford.

E. C. S. TURNER,
J. A. TROLLOPE,
The Methods Committee.

PREPARE FOR HOSTILE FORCES

To the Editor.

Sir,—'Anti-Silent' is right—deadly right! We must build up machinery, and that quickly, wherewith to tap the silent, hostile forces now forming.

Our first task is to seek at once some learned exponent of Civil and Ecclesiastical Law to tell us exactly how we, as ringers, stand in relation to the public. Can a ringer for the State religion and being a servant of it commit a campanological nuisance? Does such a privilege protect him when engaged in pleasure ringing? Is one bell the legal limit for divine service or may a full-blooded ring count as unit? A host of questions will need clearing up before we get anywhere, and the sooner we begin moving, as the other side is moving—and, creeping, the better.

The next step is to 'cease' all news of association activities in the public Press ('The Ringing World' excepted!). 'Anti-Silent' has already, and rightly, raised this point and, for those who possibly missed his letter, gave, in so many words, the probable reaction of the opposition to unthinking publicity: 'you have your bellringing in silence and are apparently satisfied—continue, my friends, and so please everybody.'

To it! with no half-armed guessing, but with fully equipped knowledge how to deal with Dora's slick and silent paratroops.

'WIND-UP.'

STEDMAN ON EVEN NUMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the recent Standard Methods article on 'Stedman and some others,' Shipway's treatment of Stedman missed the fact that Stedman is purely an odd-bell principle, and if we seek to apply it to an even number of bells, only an odd number can do Stedman work, the extra bell being compelled to act differently. In Shipway's Stedman Major he made each bell strike three blows in 4th place; in Double Stedman the 5th never got away from 4-5 and returned to 5th at the end of each division.

The fact that the alternate quick and slow work breaks up the natural coursing order and is redeemed on an odd number of bells by the covering tenor is quite true.

Another method which might find a place for investigation or discussion in your very interesting articles is Extended-Stedman Major (published some time ago in 'The Ringing World'), which pivots round the treble, which is a plain hunt from lead to 6th place and is actually the quick-bell in each division, the other seven doing Stedman slow-work.

FREDEBICK E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

"SCROOF."

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. A. Young's explanation is ingenious, but I am afraid it will not do. The objection is that the paid ringing in olden times was never done by regularly appointed bands, and so the members were never 'enrolled' and never on the 'escroie.' The steeple-keeper or the parish clerk was responsible to the parochial authorities for the ringing and he employed whom he would or whom he could get. Older London ringers still remember what some of those men were like fifty or sixty years ago. It would not be insulting them to call them a 'scruffy' lot.

J. A. T.

THE TERM 'BOB.'—Some writers affirm that the term bob was adopted because it could be easily articulated. There are no doubt other monosyllables equally easy, though perhaps not so applicable to the purpose, particularly if we may be allowed to imagine any analogy to exist between the construction of a peal and that of an edifice, the term will imply something of much greater importance. In the latter the bob is used as an instrument of adjustment or leveller; and in the former its judicious application has the effect of levelling and adjusting as to make each bell strike an exact number of times in each place, a condition that must of necessity be complied with in obtaining the extent of the changes in any method.—Henry Hubbard, 1864.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

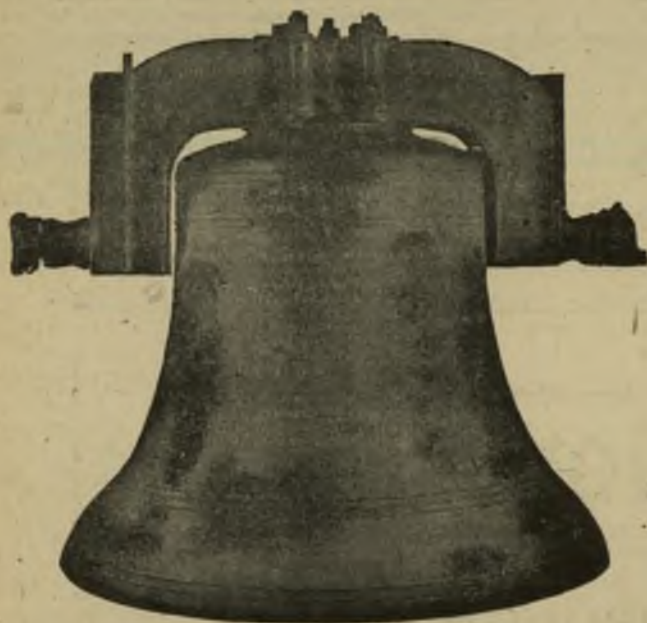
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Although the veteran ringer of Ipswich, Mr. Robert H. Brundle, had a severe illness during last winter, his many friends throughout the country will be pleased to learn that he has made a good recovery and often takes a two miles walk.

He will be 90 years of age on September 18th, and in conversation with Mr. Charles Mee, who is nearing four score years, suggested that they should stand in a peal of Stedman Cinques together when peace is celebrated.

Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, must be almost if not quite the oldest member of the Royal Cumberland Youths. He is 85 years of age and joined the society on August Bank Holiday, 1885. The occasion was a peal at Arundel, Sussex, in which, among others, Henry Dains and Hewitt rang.

It carries us a long way back, for Hewitt was a contemporary with Shipway and rang with him. Mr. Williams is the only one left of the band who rang at Arundel on that day 56 years ago.

Harold Reed, of the North Stoneham band, has passed his examinations and qualified as a sergeant-pilot in the Royal Air Force. Like other towers, North Stoneham has lost all its 'top-line' youngsters, who have gone on active service, but Mr. Williams is keeping a number of boys interested in ringing by handbell practices and practice on the tower bells with clapper stays. For 60 years George has never ceased to teach—either elementary or advanced 'classes'.

The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, will be away from home from August 6th to August 30th, and letters will not be forwarded.

We are asked to say that Rupert would like to comply with the suggestion of his old friend, Mr. A. H. Pulling, but just at the moment he is too busy growing food in the day time and watching for 'Jerry' aeroplanes at night to write about his early trips round the Lincoln Fens, which, he says, if described by a capable pen, might make very good reading.

The ring of twelve bells cast by Samuel Knight for St. Saviour's, Southwark, was opened by the College Youths on August 3rd, 1735.

On August 4th, 1819, the twelve bells at Quex Park, Thanet, were opened by bands from the Societies of College Youths and Cumberland Youths. Next day the latter rang 5,213 Grandsire Cinques, conducted by the younger George Gross. Shipway rang the third. The other society did not attempt a peal, but contented themselves with one or two long touches.

A new record for Maximus was set up on August 5th, 1929, when 15,312 changes of Cambridge Surprise were rung at Ashton-under-Lyne. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. His brother Bob rang the third and Mr. Tom Coles the fourth.

Five thousand and ninety-nine changes of Grandsire Royal were rung at Painswick on August 6th, 1815. This was not the first in the method, though it has sometimes been called so.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. Four were Grandsire Triples, one Oxford Bob Triples, one Stedman Caters, and one Minor. On the August Bank Holiday in 1891 only four peals were rung. Four of them were Grandsire Triples and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

DOUBLE NORWICH MAXIMUS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few weeks ago in 'The Ringing World' I noticed an account of a peal of Double Norwich Maximus rung in the city of Norwich about 100 years ago, and I wondered why so few peals of Double Norwich Maximus are rung.

If the music in Maximus is equal or superior to the Major it must be a treat to listen to it, for I consider the music in the Major superior to any other Major method.

I soon found a difficulty in extending the method to Royal, but using three blocks, that is places in 4-3, 6-5 and 8-7, it extends beautifully to Maximus. The places or blocks may be separated as No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4. The lead ends are all the same, but the leads and places in 12th's are different. None of the variations give full work in front or full work behind. No. 1 has the 6th making full work in front when the treble is in 12th place, and when the treble is on the lead the 3rd makes a single dodge in the full work instead of a double dodge in 11-12. The rules of the method are much the same as in the Major.

In extending the method to Royal we find that using three blocks produces rounds in three leads, but adding an extra 7th place at the start will produce a plain course, but the lead ends are not Double Norwich. By using two blocks we get more success: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 contain two blocks each, with the 7th making 9th place, with the treble in 10th place, and Nos. 4, 5 and 6 have Bob Royal treble leads, with the 10th making 2nd place. Either one or the other produces the correct lead end and plain course. Personally, I prefer the Bob Royal lead end, which allows the 6th to make full work in front.

E. WEATHERBY.

4511, South Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

BACKWARD HUNTING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am afraid that I did not make my meaning clear in my last letter. In hunting all the leads are at hand and back stroke; in hunting backwards they are all at back and hand.

E. BANKES JAMES.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

DISCOVERY OF AN INTERESTING LETTER.

Preparations for the Feast of 1784.

At the Whitechapel Foundry last week, during repairs made necessary by enemy action, Mr. A. A. Hughes discovered among the rafters of the roof some objects which had probably lain hidden there for a century or more.

One was a hand-made glass wine bottle, empty, of course, and another was an autograph letter which throws some light on the story of the College Youths of bygone days. It was written on October 11th, 1784, by John Lyford, a prominent member of the society, to William Mears, who was the Master for that year, and it relates to the coming annual feast. This is what it says:—

No. 463, Strand, London. 11th October, 1784.

Sir,—I was inform'd by Mr. Monk that when I could procure a proper List of the Stewards Names & transmitt them to you you would cause a Circular Letter to be wrote to each of those Gentlemen appointing a Meeting at the Pauls head Tavern. hereunder you have a List which I have no doubt are responsible for the undertaking. Viz.

Messrs. Mears Wm.
Green John
Hindmarsh
Davis
Blamey
Newberry
Pollard

Master
Islington
Spitl. Fields
Whitechapel
Horslydown
Battersea
Do.

The Tickets are Ordered and will be Speedily produced at our Club. every assistance will be given in our power to support you on that Day & I hope no Exertion on your part will be wanting. I call'd at your house on Thursday last but had not the pleasure of meeting you. I likewise call'd upon Mr. Hindmarsh and was told yt. he would not be in Town Till Sunday. it would be well if you were to attend on that Gentleman. I also call'd on Mr. Green of Islington whose Compliments. attend you &c & that he accepts the Office of Steward and will attend you when called upon. I have nothing more to Add than Compliments from Brother Wm. and self & remain &c John Lyford.

Although I have not particulariz'd the Xtian Names of the Gentlemen yet Letters directed Mr. — will find their way they being well known Characters.

To understand this letter we must remember that the annual feast was almost the most important event in the life of the old societies. With the College Youths it was an elaborate and costly affair. The price of the tickets was fifteen shillings, fully the equivalent of double that amount to-day. The society was a small one, and the company at the dinner, which usually numbered between one and two hundred, had to be drawn from the outside mostly from without the Exercise. There was always a certain amount of financial risk, and to meet it stewards were appointed whose chief and perhaps only duty was to guarantee the payment of any loss that might be incurred. The following rule, which had been passed eight years before by the ancient Society of College Youths, explains how matters stood:—

That a general Meeting of this Society be held at least Five Weeks before the Feast to take into Consideration and examine the Abilities of the Master and Stewards, whether they be able and willing to bear the Expense attending such Feast: and on the failure of any One or more of the Stewards to provide accordingly and so judiciously to conduct Matters that no Debts may be contracted to fall on the Society.

This was not the rule of the Society of College Youths we are talking about, but it was the general custom. There were, it will be remembered, two Societies of College Youths at this time, the result of a split due to the quarrels which occurred at the time of the death of Annable. Some of the members formed themselves into a company for peal and practice ringing. They had, it would seem, no intention of founding a new society, and though they became quite separated from the ancient Society of College Youths it was long before they adopted

the regular forms of a society. They never had any formal rules, and probably their officers, all except the beadle, were appointed principally for the dinner. In the belfry the company carried on much as a modern band would do.

Evidently it was so in 1784, when they were at the very height of their prosperity. Earlier in the year they had beaten the Cumberlands in the contest at the opening of Horsleydown bells, and had set up a new twelve-bell record by ringing 7,008 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark, though their rivals, by the famous 12,000 of Royal, had taken the ten-bell record from them.

In these performances the Master had taken no part. William Mears was not a ringer, or at any rate not a ringer of the same class as the College Youths. After two years' partnership with William Chapman he had just come into sole ownership of the Whitechapel Foundry, and had started the dynasty of bell founders which lasted for nearly a century.

Possibly his new responsibilities did not give him much opportunity for other activities, and if he had been a regular attendant at the society's meetings and practices there would hardly have been any need for such a letter as the above. But he was just the sort of man to preside at the feast.

John Lyford, the writer of the letter, was for many years a prominent member of the society. Mr. Hughes' suggestion is that he may have been the equivalent of the present-day secretary. It is possible, but hardly likely. There was then no secretary, and the executive officer was the beadle. John Povey held that office for many years. When he was appointed we do not for the minute know, but he was calling all the important peals rung at the time. The beadle's office was not exactly a paid one, but he received fees. To some extent he was the servant of the company, and the members most endowed with worldly goods do not seem to have sought the office.

John Lyford and his brother William were well-to-do tradesmen. William was the elder, and it was from his house in the Strand that the letter was written. The family apparently came from Mortlake, where the name of Henry Lyford (possibly the other's father) appears on a peal board, and where there are several family tombstones in the churchyard. John Lyford lived either then or rather later at Whitechapel. He had begun his peal ringing with the College Youths in 1777, when he rang Fulham tenor to two peals of Grandsire Caters, one a seven-thousand. For some years his peals were all on the tenor, and some of his performances were notable ones. He was the first man to ring Cornhill tenor to a peal with only one to assist him, and he was on the box at York Minster when the College Youths rang the first peal on those heavy bells. William Doubleday Crofts and John Nixon strapped for him. He rang the ninth at Bow when the first peal was rung there by ten men only. As a ringer he was never the equal of his brother, who took part in all the great performances by the society during many years.

The Mr. Monk mentioned was Joseph Monk, who was the doyen of the society and had a long and distinguished ringing career behind him. He, too, had been a famous heavy bell ringer in his time. He edited the last edition of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' which appeared in 1766.

(Continued on next page.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Probably what had happened was this. At the society's meeting, or club as they called it, three or four of the leading men talked about the coming feast and discussed ways and means. Monk was present, and William Lyford and Povey and probably Winstanley Richardson and Joseph Holdsworth. They decided who would be the most likely men to undertake the office of steward, and then got John Lyford, the junior of the party to write to William Mears, the Master, asking him to issue the formal invitations.

The men invited were necessarily all men of some position. None of them figures as a peal ringer. Possibly they were not ringers at all but men who, as churchwardens or prominent parishioners, had some interest in bells and had come into contact with the society. John Blamey (or Blame as the name is spelt) was one of the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' He was then living at Bell Yard, Temple Bar. If they had been regular members of the society, John Lyford would have known their Christian names.

THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS.

THE KING'S HEAD, WINCHESTER STREET.

The efforts of those College Youths who are within reach of the City of London to keep alive the traditions, by meeting regularly, led our representative in the issue of May 2nd to refer to some of the houses at which in the past the Ancient Society has made its headquarters.

It was recalled that the Coffee Pot was not the only tavern associated with the College Youths' long history which has disappeared. There was The Goose and Gridiron. That fell to the house breakers 40 years ago and so escaped the fate of The Coffee Pot which it would have shared. There was The Barn, which stood where Trafalgar Square now is. There was the Barley Mow by St. Bride's. There is a tavern now on its site, but the name is changed, and it is but a small portion of an immense office building. The Old Bell, where Annable, and Cundell, and Hardham sometimes had a drink, is still there, how much rebuilt and changed we do not know. And what of the Whittington and Cat, as famous a tavern as any in the story of the Exercise, with so many memories of the London Youths and the College Youths, of handbell peals, and Matt. Wood, and Haley, and Cox, and Cooter? That, too, is gone.

After this paragraph had appeared in 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Richard Woodley wrote to the society that the meeting house most frequented in the years from 1880 to 1890 was one in the Borough Market, under the shade of St. Saviour's. But what the sign of the house was he could not remember, and he suggested that Frank Dawe or Bob Newton could supply the information.

A few days ago we visited Mr. Dawe to see what he could tell us about it. We found him clear in his memory, although frail in body. He is in his eightieth year and has been in a physically enfeebled condition for some time, but he still follows with keen interest the activities of the Ancient Society, of which he was Master for five years, between 1888 and 1893.

The name of the house which Mr. Woodley could not remember was, Mr. Dawe said, the King's Head, Winchester Street, and he has good reason to know, for it was there, when Sam Reeves, of Birmingham, was Master, that he was elected a member of the society in 1879 and where he later passed through the various offices to the chair.

The room in which the society used to meet was specially reserved for them, and some of their framed possessions adorned the walls. Many a happy evening the members spent there, until about 1893 they moved to the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard. When this house was pulled down to make way for a big commercial building the society transferred for a short time to Paternoster Square, but after only a few weeks moved to The Coffee Pot.

Mr. Dawe said he did not remember Tom Powell keeping the King's Head, as Mr. Woodley mentioned. The people who managed the house were named Roots. Powell, who originally came from Birmingham, and was a good ringer, kept the Three Tuns at Waltham Abbey.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.

At the meeting of the College Youths held on Saturday, August 2nd, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was supported by the secretary and treasurer and by Messrs. E. A. Young, G. N. Price, E. Murrell, R. Stannard, J. A. G. Prior, H. G. Miles, H. Hoskins, W. Madgwick, Wilfred Williams (Cheltenham), James H. Shepherd (Swindon), Charles H. Kippen (Beddington) and Henry W. Kirton (Chelmsford).

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF MR. A. PANTHER.

THE FUNERAL.

As we recorded in our last issue, the death occurred at his home, 29, Avenue Road, Waltham-on-Avon, on Monday, July 21st, of Mr. Arthur Panther, after a long and painful illness. He had undergone an operation about 18 months before, from which he seemed to rally and attended one or two meetings, but later he relapsed and passed peacefully away at the age of 64 years.

Mr. Panther was a member of the Yorkshire Association, which he joined in 1901, and served on the committee of the Southern District of the association for a number of years up to the time of his death.

He had taken a very active part in the work of the Barnsley and District Society and was one of the first members, joining the society when it was founded in 1909. He was elected hon. treasurer in 1920, an office he held until 1930, when he was elected hon. secretary. This position he held until 1937, when he resigned on account of his failing health. He was presented with a clock by the members for his long and valuable services.

Mr. Panther was always of the same genial nature and did much to encourage beginners. He will be sadly missed in the society.

He had rung about 140 peals, of which he had conducted 26. Among these performances were many peals of Minor, including one in 35 methods spliced, and one non-conducted in seven methods. In Minor peal ringing he was always a 'solid rock.'

Mr. Panther was a native of Wath, the tower with which he was connected during the whole of his ringing career. He was secretary of the local company for many years.

The funeral took place on Thursday, July 24th, the service, which took place in the Parish Church, being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. V. Evans). The interment afterwards took place in Wath Cemetery. In addition to the widow and other family mourners, there were among those present Mr. S. F. Palmer, hon. treasurer of the Yorkshire Association, officially representing this association; Mr. E. Brookes (president), Mr. H. Chant (treasurer), Mr. D. Smith (hon. secretary), Barnsley and District Society; Mr. S. Woodcock, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. T. Hilton (Darfield), Mr. H. S. B. Chamberlain (Doncaster), Mr. S. Briggs (Eastwood), Mr. A. Nash (Rotherham), Mr. A. Champion (Penistone), Mr. W. Moxon (Sandal, vice-president of the Barnsley Society), Messrs. A. Gill, G. Lord, W. Green and L. Steele (Wath). The following ringers acted as bearers: Messrs. E. Brookes, H. Chant, W. Green, L. Steele, T. Hilton, W. Moxon, J. Champion and D. Smith.

After the service at the graveside a well-struck course of Bob Major was rung by S. Briggs 1-2, H. Chant 3-4, A. Nash 5-6, A. Gill 7-8. All the ringers of the Barnsley and District Society are members of the Yorkshire Association, so that both societies were well represented. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the members of the Barnsley and District Society.

THE BELLS OF PENZANCE.

MEMORIES OF FORTY YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—H. D.'s early memories of a village curfew published recently brought to my mind a similar one nearly forty years ago.

I was on my way to Bristol from London by steamer and we had called at Penzance. During the evening I strolled towards St. Michael's Mount, and when opposite I heard across the water from the Mount six bells being chimed in rounds and call changes, with occasional attempts at Grandsire Doubles which never survived more than the first lead.

I cannot remember either seeing anything about these bells or hearing of them from anyone, but there is evidently a peal of six in the castle. Perhaps some of our Cornish friends could tell us about them.

10, King's Close, Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

A welcome visitor was Able Seaman Jack Millhouse, of Lincoln, who was on his way to rejoin his ship the same night. Greetings were received from Messrs. S. H. Hoare, P. A. Corby and E. Barnett.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that when stripping the walls of an attic damaged during a recent air raid an old letter was discovered addressed to William Mears, bellfounder, of Whitechapel. The letter is an important discovery, as it reveals the name of one of the Masters between 1755 and 1822—the period for which there is no record of those who occupied the chair. Commenting on this interesting discovery, Mr. Young said he himself had observed Thomas Lowe's name on the dinner ticket for that year included in the Osborn MSS. in the British Museum. Thus with the name of William Mears as Master in 1784 and William Irons in 1788 they were gradually filling the gap.

The sympathy of the meeting was expressed with Mr. F. E. Dawe in his present indisposition, and Mr. Young said he would be calling on Mr. Dawe and would acquaint him of this.

The Master announced that the next meeting would be held on August 16th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

After refreshments handbell ringing brought the meeting to a close.

RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

VISITORS' EXPERIENCES AT WOODSTOCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'It's an ill wind that blows no fortune,' says the old proverb, and this was amply proved by the vicissitudes of the war enabling two members of the N.U.T.S. to ring at St. Mary's, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa.

Myself, Signalman A. Patrick Cannon, Royal Corps of Signals, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, and Mechanist Cecil F. Guy, Royal Navy, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, were in the same convoy together, which called at Cape Town for a few days. I had known of the peal at Woodstock for a good many years, but it was not until I was well on my journey that I learnt with great pleasure that this was a suburb of Cape Town. I was imagining it somewhere near Johannesburg. Naturally I was determined to spare no pains to get a ring fixed up.

There are only two peals of bells in the whole of South Africa, St. Mary's, Woodstock, and St. Mary's, Greyville, Durban, and both towers contain eight bells. On the former the only peal rung in the continent was scored on December 15th, 1904. This was Grandsire Triples—Taylor's six-part—conducted by F. P. Powell. Mr. E. F. Behan, now, I believe, in Australia, who composed a peal of Grandsire, rang the 4th. A 720 of Bob Minor was also rung in 1904, conducted by J. F. Priest, and since then two quarter-peals of Grandsire Doubles have been rung.

Obviously on this occasion speed in making the necessary arrangements was the important factor and so on the first evening ashore—a Wednesday—I made straight for the church. A Confirmation service was in progress, conducted by the Suffragan Bishop of Cape Town, and at the conclusion of this I was introduced to the Vicar, the Rev. E. W. Wray. He readily gave his consent to any ringing, though he stressed the difficulty of getting a band together. However, Mr. J. Riley, one of the ringers, was in the Vicarage at the time and kindly took me to the house of the local captain, Mr. J. Wood, who in turn immediately informed two more, with the result that a meeting was fixed for the next evening, Thursday.

Next day I found Cecil Guy, and after the naturally enthusiastic greetings one would expect from two ringing friends, meeting 6,000 odd miles from home, I told him of the glad news of a ring. Actually he was on duty, but got special permission to come ashore, and so at 7 p.m. we got the key early and made our way into the belfry.

The ringing chamber, reached by a short staircase from the base of the tower which forms a porch, is fairly small. It is lit by four small windows, with broken glass, and by electricity. The back six bells, except the 7th, which have not been rung since New Year's Eve, were 'up,' the 2nd having no rope, and the treble rope being in such a condition that ringing it 'up' would have been impossible. The 7th rope was hanging with its sally touching the ceiling, and on investigation it was found that it had broken and was tied to the wheel. A splice being impossible, it was accordingly knotted together, and much to our surprise held together for the evening. Both of us were very dirty after this inspection and were glad of a wash at the Vicarage before the three local ringers arrived at 8 p.m.

While waiting the arrival of Mr. J. Wood, the local captain, who was delayed through business, we rang Grandsire Doubles on the back five, leaving out the 7th to save the rope. The weight of the tenor is only 10 cwt., but neither of us wanted to 'turn it in' for longer than one 120! And it was the only bell hung on ball bearings!

When Mr. Wood came we rang several more 120's, but the 7th was nearly unringable, a state of affairs probably made worse by the knot in the rope, which had to pass through the pulley block. The last touch was 240 Grandsire Doubles, rung by J. L. V. Riley 1, V. Meyer 2, A. Collins 3, J. S. Wood 4, Signalman A. P. Cannon (conductor) 5, Mechanist C. F. Guy 6. And this was about the extent that could be managed owing to the bad 'go' of the 7th and tenor.

Well, you can imagine our delight at being able to ring Grandsire Doubles at one of the two towers in South Africa, where ringing is possible. Indeed, as neither of us had touched a bell for 10 months, it was an added pleasure to be able to travel 5,000 miles to 'beat the ban.' It was Cecil Guy's 125th tower and my 954th. Afterwards the Rev. E. W. Wray, whose home was in Clevedon, Somerset, kindly gave us tea and biscuits in the Vicarage, and we enjoyed a chat on varying topics until 11 p.m.

I should be very interested to know of any other ringers who have rung in South Africa within, say, the last 25 years or even more, and what they rang. While in St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, I met Mr. Carter, brother of Mr. Philip Carter, who used to be a steward in the London County Association. He had learnt to ring at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, under the instructorship of Mr. A. D. Barker. I also learnt that Mr. F. G. May, the well-known Bristol conductor, was living somewhere in the city, but no one knew his address and he had not been seen for over a year. I am now hoping to ring at Vancouver, British Columbia and some towers in Australia and New Zealand, so that I can complete four continents!

In the meantime while stationed here in India (in boiling weather!) I shall continue to read 'The Ringing World' with great interest and long for the day when peace reigns once more and we can all return to our favourite hobby. My very best wishes to all my friends everywhere and happy remembrances of the pleasant times I have spent in the belfry all over the old country. I hope we shall all meet again soon, and may we all be spared to do so. A. PATRICK CANNON.

CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—First of all let me assure Mr. Trollope that it is far from my wish to be rude to anyone, and least of all to him. When a joke is not understood, it may appear that the words are rude. Perhaps Mr. Trollope thought that I meant that he did not know what he was talking about. But I did not mean this. I said that no one knows what backward hunting means. Now three people have written letters on this subject, and though what they said has not been lengthy, they have written enough to show that they do not understand the words in the same sense as he does. And as there is no one to say which of these four kinds of interpretation is right, your readers can see for themselves that there is no one to know what the words do mean.

Nor do Mr. Trollope's quotations help him. They are much more on my side than on his. I agree with them all as far as the terms used before 1931. His authorities mostly use the term 'retrograde,' which is quite unobjectionable, and if he will agree to use it, we shall all understand what he means (now so difficult), and this controversy will end.

The only old authority he quotes, which, it seems, uses the term 'backward,' is Henry Hubbard; and while most of us would have used some other word, we do see what he means. He uses 'backward' to explain roughly 'retrograde motion'; whereas Mr. Trollope uses other words to try—not very successfully—to explain 'backward hunting.' If Mr. Trollope does not see that Henry Hubbard is right and that he is wrong, I can only say that he does not understand; but I must assure him that I am not doing so in any rude sense.

Evidently Mr. Trollope thinks that his account of the Liverpool debate is not so funny as mine. Well, it were a pity to deceive him, so we will let it pass. But in one thing he is quite right. His friends did waste their time trying to explain to me the differing interpretations they each put on these words. Instead they ought to have explained it to one another! As the Prime Minister said to his Cabinet, it is better to hang together than to hang separately: so now those who use this ridiculous expression are hanging separately!

If we look at the next page to this letter (page 321), we can read a long defence of the use of the word 'hunt.' Clearly the writer does not see that 'hunt' is one of the most expressive and useful terms we have in ringing. It is like 'coursing' in this. But it has a slightly ridiculous flavour, which 'coursing' (a term in more general use) has not. When we use 'hunt' in the usual way, or if we add 'up' or 'down' to it, this flavour is not noticed. But add 'forward' to it, and you at once become the funny man. While if you want to become screamingly funny, you have only to talk of 'hunting backwards.' Anyone who questions this has only to try it on the next non-ringer he meets.

Mr. Bankes James writes to say that if you ring the eight changes on four bells, starting with the last row, and ending with the first, not one but all the bells will be hunting backwards. Now when we were at Cambridge he taught me that backwards was 4321. Therefore, anything that has that term in it would naturally depend on that row, e.g., it might begin and end with it, instead of with rounds. Even if we do not agree that this is the only sense of the words, we must admit that it might be so used, and therefore it is misleading to use it in any other sense.

I am not denying that backwards may be used conversationally in what I have shown to be the wrong sense. Thus there is a saying about not knowing if one stands on one's head or one's heels. You tell a beginner not to stand too much on his heels. One inclined to acrobatics might retort that he would ring on his head. 'Anyone seeing him try to do so might say, "He is trying to ring backwards." We might laugh and see what he meant. But if he had to write it down, I expect he would attempt to be more correct, and perhaps write, "He is ringing in the inverted position."'

Seriously, if we start at the end, and end at the beginning, whether we take (as I did) the quick and slow sixes of Stedman or the eight on four bells (as Mr. James does), in either case the order of the rows is 'inverted.' Everybody understands that word, and it cannot mean anything else, so why not stick to it, instead of puzzling people by using such a dubious word as backwards?

One must remember that there are two ways in which these inverted changes may be rung. We do not see any difference as long as the changes are confined to the hunting course, and they are written down: but in the tower, or when a piece of inverted changes are inserted in a method, the lead may be either right or wrong. The meaningless term backwards cannot naturally distinguish between these. But if 'hunting wrong' is used to mean hunting so that when the bell reaches the front it will lead wrong, we know at once what is meant, and there is nothing which may have two or more meanings like 'backwards.'

The extract from Mr. Woolley's letter helps to explain matters. The words 'and forward and backward ringing,' may be referring to what is the result of 'snaps, leads right and wrong,' which he has already mentioned. If so, he is wrong in giving them as something in addition. When I first read the letter I took these words to mean 'and other retrograde motions.' But he may have meant something quite different. Why use such doubtful expressions when one can easily say what one does mean?

(Continued on page 383.)

THE STANDARD METHODS

NEW CUMBERLAND MAJOR.

In April, 1886, Henry Earle Bulwer published in 'The Bell News' a new method which is interesting, not only for its own great merits, but because it was the first of the modern Surprise Major methods, the early forerunner of the goodly array of the last forty years.

Bulwer had been given (so he tells us) a verbal description of Hugh Wright's Albion, and on returning home sat down to reconstruct what he had been told. He did not succeed, but he did discover a method which seemed to him to have exceptional merits. Here it is.

New Cumberland Major. A Variation.

12345678	12345678
21435687	21346587
12346578	12435678
21436587	21436587

24163857	24163578
42618375	42615387
24168357	24165378
42613875	42613587

24631857	46231857
42368175	64328175
24361857	46321857
42638175	64238175

46283715	46283715
64287351	64823751
46823715	46287315
64827351	64827351

68472531	68472531
86475213	86742513
68742531	68475231
86745213	86745213

87654123	68754123
78561432	86571432
87564123	68574123
78651432	86751432

87615423	87615342
78164532	78163524
87614523	87613542
78165432	78165324

71856342	71856342
17586324	17853624
71853642	71586342
17583624	17583624

15738264	15738264
----------	----------

When we examine New Cumberland we find it has many good qualities. Its form is a simple one. The method is a perfectly double one. Kent Places are made in 5-6 in the first section, and in 3-4 in the fourth section. Oxford places are made in 5-6 in the second section and in 3-4 in the third section. Thirds and fifths are made at the second cross-section.

The work is easy and the bells move freely. Musically the method ranks very high. The natural coursing order is maintained throughout with just enough alteration to give sufficient variety of rhythm. The bells always come

to the front and behind in their natural coursing order, and the dodging is single and three-pull. The method has a clear proof scale, and so has sixty full natural courses available for composition. It is difficult to point to a Surprise Major method which is its equal in these respects. Cornwall perhaps is on the whole its superior, for the Kent places in 5-6, though not very objectionable, do rather take from the merits of New Cumberland.

It is significant that Bulwer, writing in 1886, put among the method's good qualities that it has the 'accustomed' (i.e., Bob Major) lead-ends.

Bulwer used a fourth's place bob which introduced an entirely new style of composition with a capacity for expansion that even now has largely been left unexplored.

At the bob there is only three-pull dodging and not the excessive five-pull dodging which occurs in so many eighth's place Surprise methods.

A sixth's place bob could be used, but that would mean four consecutive blows in sixth's and some rather awkward work.

In New Cumberland no internal places are made at the first and third cross sections, and so it does not technically rank as Surprise. The neglect of the method is largely due to this, and here is another condemnation of the Surprise definition. The first peal was rung on May 31st, 1886, by the famous Burton-on-Trent company, with William Wakley as conductor. Three of the band are still alive—Mr. John Jagger, the composer, Mr. Joseph Griffin, and Mr. John Austin. Other peals were rung at Brighton, Crawley, the London district, and elsewhere; and then the method fell quite undeservedly into disuse.

Constructionally New Cumberland is a very interesting method. We have seen that in many Major methods (Double Norwich and Bristol, for instance) the lead-end is produced by shunts made by the bell coursing in front of the treble, making places round it, and so changing positions with it in coursing order. A more complex form of this shunt occurs in New Cumberland, where the bell coursing in front of the treble makes sixths and thirds (the Duffield work, as it has been called), and follows it up behind. We get a similar shunt in Brighton and Ash-lead, which are more or less variations of New Cumberland.

This shunt could be made in the first and second sections instead of in the second and third. It would give us:—

12345678
21436587
12435678
21346587

23145678
32416587
32145678
23416587

24361857

Not so good, but still useful to form methods.

Several fairly close variations of New Cumberland are possible, and we have given one as an illustration. At first sight it seems almost as good as the original, but a closer inspection will show how superior the latter is. In New Cumberland the Oxford and Kent places are made by bells widely separated in coursing order. In the varia-

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. By kind invitation of the Rector, the gardens will be open as usual.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Willingham-by-Stow on Saturday, August 9th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Usual war-time ringing arrangements.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by usual business meeting and handbell practice.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and Hawkurst and District Guilds will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, August 16th. Six silent bells and handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, by August 13th. All ringers and friends welcome.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at reasonable prices for members notifying me not later than Tuesday, August 12th. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tedburn St. Mary Rectory on August 16th, at 3 p.m. Service in the church 4.30. Tea 5.15 only to those who notify me by August 9th. Bus leaves Exeter 2.45, returning 7.23. Handbells available.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Weedon (6 silent) on Saturday, August 16th. Tea for those who notify me, and don't forget your sugar. Frequent bus service from Northampton and Daventry.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Fleet on Saturday, August 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Bring your own food and sugar; tea and milk will be provided. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Rectory lawn after meeting. Will those intending to come please let me know by Tuesday, August 12th?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church Tower on Saturday, Aug. 16th. Handbells will be available at 3p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall. Numbers not later than Tuesday, August 19th.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

CONTRARY MOTION.—Continued from page 381.

In the quotation from Mr. Law James, the word 'hunting' must have slipped in through some error. For by the universal use of the word by ringers in the twentieth century (whatever it was in the seventeenth), hunting must be either up or down. One blow is not enough to show what it is. It may be, as Mr. Powell well says, 'one step,' but unless there is a second step hunting has not begun!
Ufford Rectory.
H. DRAKE.

NEW CUMBERLAND MAJOR.—Continued from previous page. tion the Oxford places are made by coursing bells (5-3 and 3-2), which gives the false course end B24365; and the Kent places are made by bells next but one to each other in coursing order, which gives the two false course ends A32546 and D46253. The only advantages are the parallel dodging in 5-6 and the possibility of using a sixth's place bob.

New Cumberland is a method well worthy of being practised and of taking a place as a standard method. But there is some difficulty about the name. Surprise we may not call it. Pleasure, we think we will not call it. Perhaps the best thing is to call it simply New Cumberland Major, as we have done, unless we add Treble Bob.

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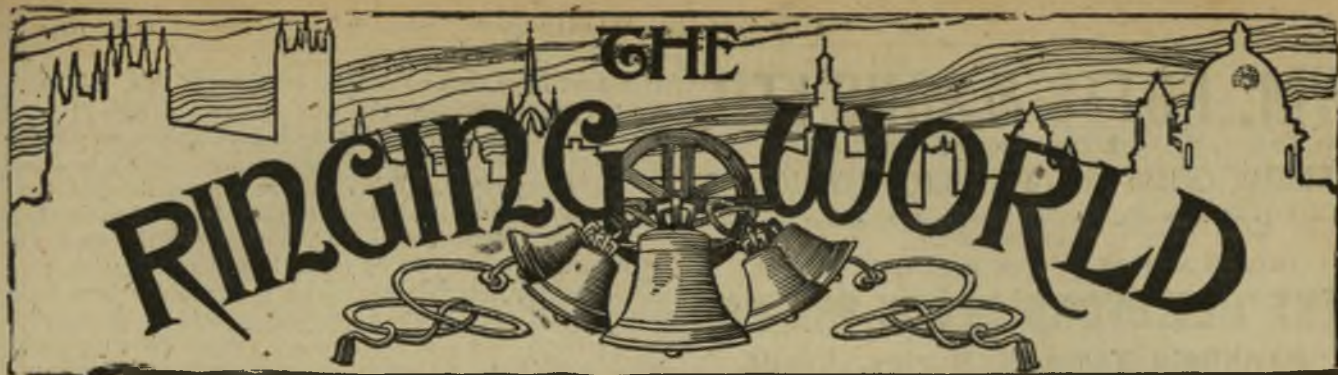
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1941.

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BELL TOWERS OF THE FUTURE.

While we are wondering what is to happen in the future to replace the bells that have been damaged and destroyed in the war, we ought not to lose sight of the question of the rebuilding of steeples as well as the construction of towers in the new churches, which will inevitably spring up in fresh districts when the replanning of some of our cities takes place. There is always the possibility that, in the reconstruction, sacrifices, on the ground of expense, may be made, and the fine old towers of the past, now severely damaged, will not be rebuilt in all their earlier strength, to carry the bells which were once their proud possession. In some cities there is already a suggestion that redundant churches which have suffered in the raids should not be re-erected, but should be transferred to more spiritually necessitous districts. Much as the loss of the old churches would be regretted, the ecclesiastical authorities have to face the facts, and from that standpoint the mere loss of a peal of bells cannot be weighed against the pressing demands upon the Church for extended activity in the newly-populated areas. In some cases in the past the bells have been transferred and re-erected with the building, as was the case of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, which was removed to Kingsbury and rebuilt in all its old completeness. In contrast, when All Hallows', Lombard Street, was demolished and a new church built at Twickenham and equipped with the fittings from the city, only the stone exterior of the tower was transplanted, and it stands today a mere ornamental shell. The bells are to find a home elsewhere. In the rebuildings that must come after the war, other such instances as that of All Hallows' may be threatened, and there are likely to be cases where, though the tower remains, the bells are lost and no effort will be made to replace them. The only hope is that there will be some body of sufficient influence to cause the subject to be given full consideration, so that the loss of the bells does not go by default.

Similarly, we have to face the danger of an increasing number of churches being erected with towers merely for embellishment instead of for use. There was a growing tendency to this before the war, and the Central Council a few years ago passed a resolution condemning the practice. The utilitarian age which will follow the war is bound to lead to an increasing number of such structures, to which there is the risk of the added 'make-believe' of 'canned' bells. A correspondent this week urges that every effort shall be made to counter what he considers a definite trend on the part of certain sections of the Church to use this situation to stifle bells.

(Continued on page 396.)

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While we have seen no definite evidence of this, it is more than likely that when the war is over there will be a tendency, where church building is undertaken, to provide only the bare necessities. What we want to try to avoid are the sham towers, and it would be a good thing if some approach could be made both to diocesan authorities and ecclesiastical architects, urging that towers, if included in church designs, should be of such a character that they can serve the purpose for which towers have been built through the ages, that of carrying a peal of bells which can be rung. As was urged in the discussion which took place at the Central Council meeting, if money is the consideration it would be far better, and more in keeping with the ideal of putting only the best into the House of God, to delay the building of the tower until funds permit the erection of a structure substantial enough to be used for the bells. Had the builders of old followed the modern trend and built for appearances only, few of the towers which still stand proudly erect over the ruins of bombed churches would have remained, like the stately piles of Bow and St. Bride's, on the war-scarred face of London. Above the sites of demolished churches, these and similar towers in cities like Bristol, Coventry and Southampton, to mention but a few, still point heavenward, a symbol of our faith and a testimony to their builders.

HANDBELL PEAL.

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

On Monday, August 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 1884 CHANGES,

SIDNEY BRIGGS 1-2	ALBERT NASH 5-6
HAROLD CHANT 3-4	*ARTHUR GILL 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung in memory of Arthur Panther, for 40 years ringer at the above church and one time treasurer and afterwards secretary of the Barnsley and District Society, who died on July 21st, 1941.

NEW CUMBERLAND AND BRIGHTON SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In last week's 'Ringing World' you write, 'We get a similar shunt in "Brighton" and "Ashtead," which are more or less variations of "New Cumberland."'

According to arbitrary definition, 'Brighton' and 'Ashtead' are Surprise methods, whereas 'New Cumberland' according to arbitrary definition is merely an 'Exercise' method. For this reason only they could not possibly be variations of one another, as places in 'New Cumberland' are made at only one cross section out of three.

Evidently round blocks and transpositions in methods are beyond your mental capacity, but there is something more simple, the actual lead-heads of the hunting courses which contain the rows of 'Brighton' and 'New Cumberland,' and when I point out that there are only four lead-heads in 'Brighton' that correspond with the leads that contain the rows of 'New Cumberland,' perhaps you will realise you have made one more big blunder.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton 1.

P.S.—I shall be very surprised if you publish this.

FIRST PEAL OF OXFORD BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in this week's 'Ringing World' a request from the Methods Committee for particulars of the supposed first peal of Oxford Bob Major. I have looked up the Sussex Association reports and I find it in the 1889 report, not 1890:—

'Warnham, January 10th, 1889, a peal of Oxford Bob Major, 5,040 changes, in 2 hours and 52 minutes, by the Warnham Branch: G. Woodman treble, W. Charman 2, G. Charman 3, T. Andrews 4, W. Short 5, H. Cook 6, H. Burstow 7, H. H. Chandler tenor. Conducted by H. H. Chandler. This peal is supposed to be the first ever rung in the method.'

Henfield, Sussex.

C. TYLER.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. NORTH AND EAST MEETING AT STANMORE Government's Responsibility for Enemy Damage.

Many pleasant meetings have been held at Stanmore, a residential district in North-West Middlesex, which still retains some of its old-world aspect, and in the happy days of peace and bells which could be rung there was always a desire at these meetings to be in two places at once. The reason for this was due to the fact that the beautiful rectory grounds were usually placed at the disposal of members, so that it was only the most enthusiastic ringers and, of course, the ringing master who spent all their time in the belfry.

On Saturday last, however, the belfry remained empty, and everybody present was able to enjoy the gardens, opened for use by the genial Rector (the Rev. W. A. Hewett), who did not forget to welcome his visitors in person. Handbells were, of course, in evidence and many touches were rung (or perhaps we should say 'many were attempted, some were rung').

Divine service was held at 4.30, conducted by the Rector, who spoke of the many happy meetings of the past, and whilst he regretted that on this occasion the bells could not be rung, he was full of hope that it would not be long before peace reigned once again and we could return to our ringing.

Tea was a squeeze, due to the fact that the secretary could not correctly guess how many members, and others, had forgotten to advise him that they intended to be present. Despite this, the management did well, and ultimately all were served—quite a miracle for war time. There is a moral, however, which is especially applicable in these days of food rationing.

At the business meeting, in the absence of the district secretary (Mr. T. J. Lock), the services of the general secretary were called upon, and Mr. C. T. Coles once again found himself in the position he occupied for some 28 years. Mr. G. W. Fletcher (vice-president) was also unavoidably absent on Home Guard duties, and Mr. J. A. Trollope took the chair in his stead. Before the minutes of the previous meeting were read, the company stood in silence for a few moments in respect to the memory of Mr. P. Buckell, of the local band, who was accidentally killed whilst undergoing training in the Army. By his death the Stanmore band lost an enthusiastic and promising member.

There were no new members for election, and the chairman took occasion to remind leaders of towers to make every effort to keep their hands up to strength during the present difficult times.

As regards the next meeting, it was decided to hold this at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, about the middle of September, if possible.

MILITARY OBJECTIVES?

Mr. C. T. Coles referred to resolutions recently passed by two associations as to the responsibility of replacing bells destroyed by enemy action. He said there was a growing feeling that, in view of the fact that bells could now be rung only as a warning of invasion, both the bells and the towers had become military objectives, and the Government should, therefore, accept responsibility for damage done. He asked members carefully to think about this matter, so that a resolution, if put before the annual general meeting, would receive proper consideration.

Ultimately it was decided that the general secretary should take such action as he thought fit to get this matter considered by the committee and by the association.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for his address at the service, and for the use of his garden for recreation and handbell ringing; to Mr. E. J. Leversuch for making arrangements for the meeting; and to Mr. Barker, the organist. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. C. T. Coles welcomed the many visitors present, especially mentioning Mr. C. Bailey (Leiston), whom they all hoped to see when it was possible to ring the bells again; Mr. P. A. Corby, who was up on a visit from Nottingham; and Messrs. C. Kippen and D. Cooper, of Croydon, whom they were delighted to see once more.

This concluded a very happy meeting, which was attended by about 40 members and friends, most of whom afterwards spent some time in the rectory grounds ringing handbells or talking, which seems to be the most popular pastime at meetings nowadays.

The handbell ringing included Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques; Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus; Double Norwich and London Major; and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques. The last, however, started well, but did not reach its appointed end.

WINCHESTER.—On August 4th at 6, Cathedral View, on handbells, in honour of H.M. the Queen's birthday, 720 Grandsire Doubles, six different callings: Miss Noice 1-2, G. Noice (conductor) 3-4-5-6.

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A HANDBELL MEETING.

VISIT TO A SURREY VILLAGE.

A few members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild tried an experiment on Saturday, when an 'invitation' meeting for handbell ringing was held at Chiddingfold. It was a development of a local activity at Guildford, where for some time a party has been meeting weekly for practice on Saturdays. Chiddingfold provided not only a change of scene, but brought a renewal of interest, which it is hoped will have further results among some of the Chiddingfold band. It was an entirely successful little party.

There were ringers from five towers and they began very tentatively with Grandsire Triples, but before the day was out Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Caters had been rung, the 'beginners' had improved and the old stagers had rubbed off a bit of the rust which has accumulated through the years. The success of the ringing was due chiefly to the guidance of that master of the art, Mr. Alfred Pulling. Without his aid it is certain that a number of touches would have failed to materialise; his conducting saved many a threatened collapse.

But the ringing was not all that made the gathering worth while. It provided a rare opportunity for old friends to meet in one of the most charming villages of Surrey, and to get away, as it were, for a few hours from the drive of the war. In addition, the ringers were able to give pleasure to one of the oldest members of the Guild, Mr. Tom Attwell, who is now 84 years of age, and has a long record of service with Chiddingfold bells. He lives hard by the church, so the handbells were taken to his house after tea and some touches rung which gave him and his wife great pleasure. They are the oldest married couple in the village, Mrs. Attwell being now 82.

The remainder of the ringing was done in the ringing chamber of the church, and the ringers were visited by the Rector, the Rev. Michael Bruce, who welcomed them and expressed his regret that the church bells could not be rung. Mr. Bruce has been Rector of Chiddingfold for nearly a year, and, apart from the clock chimes, has never yet heard the sound of his bells.

ESSEX MEETING AT LOUGHTON.

NEED FOR ACTION STRESSED.

A most successful meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association was held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th, when about 20 members were present from Leytonstone, Brentwood, South Weald, Wanstead and the local band. Touches on the handbells were rung until 4 p.m., when the Rev. M. N. Lake, the Rector of Loughton, conducted a most inspiring service in the church.

The party then proceeded to the Church Hall for an excellent tea. The business meeting followed, the Rev. M. N. Lake taking the chair and being elected an honorary member. It was proposed that the next meeting, which would be the annual district meeting, should be held at Romford in January next. The District Master, Mr. J. Chalk, said how pleased he was to see that their secretary, Mr. J. H. Crampin, had rung his first handbell peal at Preston, and he wished on behalf of all present to congratulate him.

Mr. J. Rann expressed the hope of the local band that after the war the District Master would see that help is given to teach the younger generation. They were getting on in years and it was only right that someone else should carry on the work. Mr. R. Heazel, replying, said we had to look ahead. Wherever there was a peal of bells they should not be allowed to stand idle for the want of a band to ring them, and it was up to all ringers to give their help. He further stated that service ringing should be first and foremost and peal ringing should take a second place.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. M. N. Lake for conducting the service, to the organist for accompanying the hymns, to the ladies for providing the tea, and to the local band and verger for having everything in readiness. Various touches on handbells were rung during the evening.

OLD FRIENDS REUNITE.

On Thursday, July 31st, at 20, Swaisland Road, Dartford, Kent, old ringing friends met to wish 'good luck and a safe return' to Derek M. Sharp, who reported for training as a sergeant pilot in the R.A.F. on August Monday. Those present were A. Hall, A. Williams, H. Hoverd, N. Summerhayes and J. E. Bailey, and, of course, the life and soul of the party, Derek Sharp. Handbells were in evidence and touches were brought round in various methods from Doubles to Maximus.

On Thursday, August 7th, another gathering welcomed two visitors, George Butcher, of Northfleet, now serving with the Royal Navy, and J. M. Bailey, of Leiston, Suffolk. Others present were H. E. Audsley, H. Hoverd, A. Hall, A. Williams, Mrs. J. E. Bailey and J. E. Bailey. A pleasant evening was spent with the handbells, interspersed with memories of 'before the war.'

Any ringer in the Forces whose duties bring him to the Dartford district is invited to call at the above address, particularly on Thursday evenings, when there is usually a muster for handbell ringing.

CLENT.—On Sunday, July 20th, in St. Leonard's belfry, 720 Bob Minor: John Walter (first 720) 1-2, William Short 3-4. B. C. Ashford (conductor) 5-6.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 376.)

SOME EARLY MEMBERS.

In the attendance lists of the early meetings of the Council there is no more interesting name than that of Leonard Proctor. It sounds like an echo from the dim past. No doubt many of the names—Heywood and Bulwer, and Dains and others—strike the present generation much in the same way, but Proctor belonged to the remote period when there were no railway trains and when soldiers went into battle with muzzle-loading weapons. The illusion of remoteness is increased by the fact that, though he lived entirely in the nineteenth century, he was in a real sense a belated representative of the eighteenth century, just as some of the others were early forerunners of the twentieth.

Few particulars of Proctor's life and career seem to have been preserved, and it was characteristic of the way 'The Bell News' was conducted that no mention of his death and no obituary notice appeared in the paper.

He was born some time about the date of the battle of Waterloo, he belonged by class to the small country gentlemen, and he was educated at Cambridge, where he joined the Cambridge Youths as an undergraduate in 1835. His home was at Benington in Hertfordshire, where he increased the ring of six to eight in 1838, and where he formed one of the most famous bands in the history of the Exercise.

Proctor's first peal apparently was one of Grandsire Triples by the Cumberland Youths, when the new octave was opened. To that he rang the tenor, but he set about the task of getting together a good local band, and with such success that eventually they became the best method-ringing company in the country. Among their performances were Double Norwich Major in 1849, Kent Treble Bob Major in 1851, Superlative Surprise in 1855, 6,048 Superlative and Stedman Triples in 1865, 6,048 London in 1870, and 5,600 Cambridge in 1873. These were at the time the longest peals in each of the Surprise methods, and the Cambridge (Middleton's full composition) was the first true peal in the method. The Benington men were the first band to accomplish a peal in the three standard Surprise methods.

A list like that does not seem very remarkable to-day, when more is done in a week's ringing, but any comparison is futile. This was the only band then making progress. Everywhere else the art of change ringing was declining, and in many places had practically died out. The old active societies which the enthusiasm of the eighteenth century bequeathed to the nineteenth, had mostly lapsed, and even in the big towns, where there were still societies with long traditions, there was stagnation where there was not actual decay. Before the year 1870 the famous old Norwich Scholars were practically a thing of the past, the St. Martin's Youths, of Birmingham, had lost much of the enthusiasm they showed in the great days of Thurstans and Lates, and in London the Cumberlands and the College Youths rang Stedman Cinques and looked down with lofty contempt on all others and anything else.

Proctor's band was made up of villagers, men who worked on the land, and the majority of them could neither read nor write. Proctor himself seems to have been a modest, unassuming man, a typical countryman to judge by his portrait. Though he was, of course, the undisputed leader of the band, he left the conducting to

others, except that he always called the bells into changes.

Besides peals and touches in separate methods, the Benington band rang on several occasions long lengths made up of many methods. In 1873 they rang at Galleywood, by Chelmsford, 5,060 changes, consisting of 336 Grandsire Triples, 420 Stedman Triples, 336 Bob Major, 336 Double London Court, 1,008 Double Norwich Court, 576 Oxford Treble Bob, 704 Kent Treble Bob, 448 Superlative Surprise, 448 Cambridge Surprise and 448 London Surprise. This was not spliced ringing, but consisted of separate touches. It was, however, a most remarkable performance at the time, and included every method then generally known. No other band could have achieved it.

One of these touches in January, 1872, consisted of three courses of each of the three Surprise Major methods, and a report of it appeared in 'Church Bells.' A correspondent wrote to the paper to congratulate the band, and said that in his opinion 'it was more to be commended than long peals in plain methods, which at the most are only an evidence of unusual physical endurance, while such ringing as that at Benington is a special display of consummate skill, acquired by intense study, diligent practice and steady perseverance.'

This provoked a characteristic letter from George Muskett, the then secretary of the Society of College Youths. After talking about what that society had done throughout the ages, he went on: 'What have the Benington gentlemen or any other gentlemen done to make void what is already recorded on tablets in church belfries and College Youths' books? I can only say the College Youths can hold their own against any company in England. The bare idea of comparing 2,000 changes of Surprise ringing on a light peal of eight to a good 5,000 of Stedman Cinques or Treble Bob Maximus, tenor averaging from 36 to 50 cwt., is simply absurd. Therefore, I hope, or rather we College Youths hope, we shall hear no more such comparisons.'

This is good evidence of the general opinion of ringers towards progress in method ringing.

When the Council was founded, Leonard Proctor was an old man with his life's work behind him. His presence added to its authority, but naturally he took no part in its actual work.

I met him shortly before his death, but the great gap between us in years and importance prevented me from gaining any personal impressions of him.

I have already mentioned Frederick W. J. Rees as the man who very likely brought the problems of change ringing to the notice of William Henry Thompson. He too was one of the earliest members of the Council, representing the Winchester Diocesan Guild until 1894, and being an honorary member from 1896 until his death.

Rees began to ring when he was at school at Shrewsbury and continued as an undergraduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. During his twenty-five years in the Bengal Civil Service, to which he was appointed in 1862, he occasionally sent letters on ringing matters to 'Church Bells,' the only journal apart from 'Bells Life,' the sporting paper that then published anything about the art. When he came home he lived at Guildford for a time, and afterwards, I believe, at Stoke-by-Nayland in Suffolk. He gave the two trebles to S. Nicolas', Guildford, to complete the ten, and, while he was connected with

(Continued on next page.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

the belfry, he rang a few peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Rees took a good deal of interest in the history of change ringing, and compiled and published in 'The Bell News' a chronology from the earliest times. It was, of course, not nearly so full as more recent research has made possible, but it was an excellent and accurate piece of work. I found it very useful when writing early articles.

He also attempted, and to some extent carried out, a survey of the rings of bells throughout the country, and the methods that were rung on them. This he published in 1885. Frederick Rees died on November 5th, 1903.

A most distinguished member of the Central Council was Thomas Leslie Papillon. He was born on April 12th, 1841, and educated at Marlborough, whence he went to Oxford as a scholar of Balliol College. His University career was a distinguished one. He took a first-class in classics and was elected Fellow of Merton and also of New College. After a year as assistant master at Rugby, he returned to Oxford as tutor and dean of New College. From 1884 until 1909 he was Vicar of Writtle, near Chelmsford, and from 1909 Honorary Canon of St. Albans Cathedral.

While at Oxford he learned to handle a bell, and when he was appointed to Writtle and found there eight bells and no ringers, he determined to form a band and to make one himself. He was successful in getting together a company to ring the bells on Sundays and good enough to score peals without outside help. Papillon himself rang three or four peals of Grandsire Caters, and some

of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. He did good work as the hon. secretary of the Essex Association.

Papillon enjoyed a reputation outside ringing and clerical circles. He was a leader writer for 'The Times' and a recognised authority on education. He was the author of a commentary on Virgil and a frequent contributor to 'The Guardian' and suchlike periodicals. Through the medium of 'The Guardian' he did his best to interest the clergy in their ringers and, though results in such a thing are difficult to assess, it is almost certain he did much good in that way.

His most lasting work was the article on Bells, Change Ringing and Bell Literature in the eleventh edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' which has been reproduced in all the subsequent editions. It replaced the very unsatisfactory article by H. R. Haweis, who could see no good in English bells and ringing, and led a crusade in favour of the introduction of Belgian bells and carillons. It was through his influence that the Belgian bells at Kilburn, Boston, Cattistock, Lower Beeding and some other places were put up.

Papillon's article is a sound and thoroughly authoritative one. The history of the London societies needs some revision in the light of recent research, but that was only to be expected.

Canon Papillon died in 1926.

QUARTER-PEALS AT READING.

The following quarter-peals have been rung recently at Reading: On July 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples at St. Laurence's Church: A. Wiggins 1-2, R. T. Hibbert 3-4, A. Diserens 5-6, T. Lanaghan (first as conductor) 7-8. At 18, Manchester Road on July 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Cyril Burgess (first quarter-peal on handbells) 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, T. Lanaghan 7-8. On August 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Burgess 1-2, A. Wiggins 3-4, A. Diserens (conductor) 5-6, Miss Winifred Hunt (first quarter-peal) 7-8.

John Taylor & Co.

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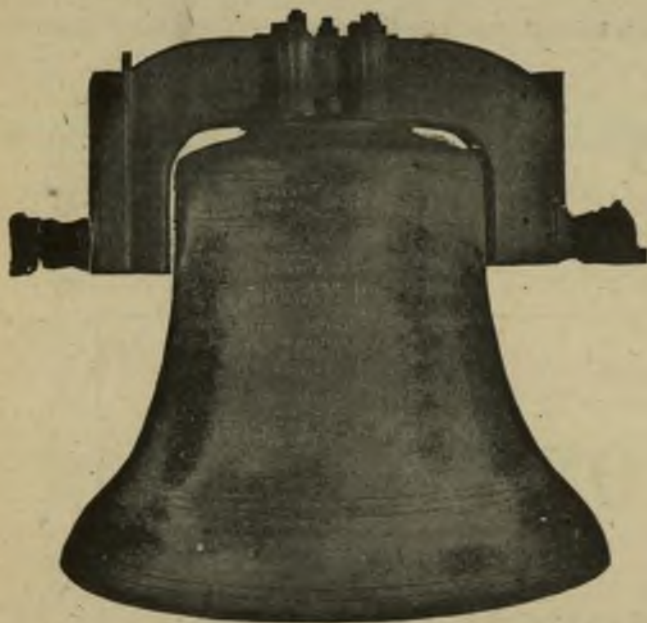
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, who reached his 73rd birthday last Tuesday.

The many friends of Mr. Thomas Hurd will be sorry to hear that he has had to go to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary for treatment for internal trouble. They will wish him a speedy recovery.

Official figures have been given of churches injured in Devon by enemy action. Fifty-six have suffered in all. Of these 14 have been destroyed, three are unfit for use but repairable, and 39 are damaged in more or less degree. Most of this damage is in the Plymouth area and includes Charles Church with its ring of ten bells. Nearly a year ago the village church of Clyst St. George in East Devon was destroyed. This was the home for many years of H. T. Ellacombe, the famous bell archaeologist, and in recent years the Rev. E. S. Powell held the living for a time.

Mr. Isaac Emery successfully underwent an operation in Bromley Hospital last week. He wishes to be remembered to all his many ringing friends.

William Pye was born August 14th, 1870.

On August 12th, 1749, John Holt called at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields a peal of Bob Triples for the Society of Union Scholars.

On August 15th, 1908, James Motts called at Ipswich the first peal of Cambridge Maximus. The three brothers Pye and Bertram Prewett took part.

Ten thousand changes of Double Norwich Major were rung at Henley in Suffolk on August 16th, 1902.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung. Both were Grandsire Triples.

BLOCKING TOWER WINDOWS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With what you say about publicity and complaints about ringing I quite agree; but I cannot agree that there is no opportunity at present of any constructional work. Not only is such work being done in this church at the present time, but there are enough bricks and money in the country for every church tower to be properly blocked now, if we try in the right way.

If we try to get the sound of the bells properly modulated, we shall find after the war, just as before it, that the Church authorities are apathetic or worse. But if we ask for the draught to be stopped in case of fire, as a war-time precaution, both Church and State will eagerly listen to us. The cost will soon be forthcoming from the very people who object to spending a penny towards hearing the bells better.

When the windows are once blocked, the large ones with bricks or roofing felt, and the small ones in the staircase with glass, we can take care how they are uncovered, and we must manage things badly if we do not get the work so done as to make the bells sound better than at present.

Now here is work we ringers can do at once. Impress on every incumbent, every churchwarden, and everyone we meet, the importance of blocking the draught in towers at once. For a change, we shall be listened to. Few people know much about towers themselves, but at least they know that we do.

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

RECONSTRUCTION.

NEED FOR ACTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have read in the daily Press recently many suggestions regarding what the country is going to do after the war.

I consider it is time that the members of the Ringing Exercise took stock of the situation in their sphere.

Nobody knows when the war will finish. It may be in a few weeks, it may be next year; the fact remains that it will be much more difficult to restart ringing than it was to stop.

Therefore, we ought to take such opportunities as are available to us in the training of beginners, such as teaching recruits on silenced bells, and by teaching them the first elements of change ringing on handbells.

To obtain such recruits I would suggest that ringing masters and instructors should get in touch with local youth organisations, such as Boy Scouts or Church Lads' Brigades.

I would like to have other ringers' opinions on this subject.

R. SUCKLING.

11, Alice Cottages, Bocking Church Street, Braintree.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very much interested to read Mr. Barnett's letter about the bells of St. Michael's Mount. A few months ago I was stationed on St. Michael's Mount and was very pleased to find that there were six bells in the church.

I was told that the biggest was about 10 or 12 cwt., but they were not hung for ringing as the tower is not strong enough. I met the man who chimed them and he said that hymns were chimed regularly in peace time every Sunday morning.

F. H. HICKS.

Hailsham, Sussex.

ANCIENT TOWERS AND THE VALUE OF TRADITION.

THE STABILITY OF WREN'S STEEPLES.

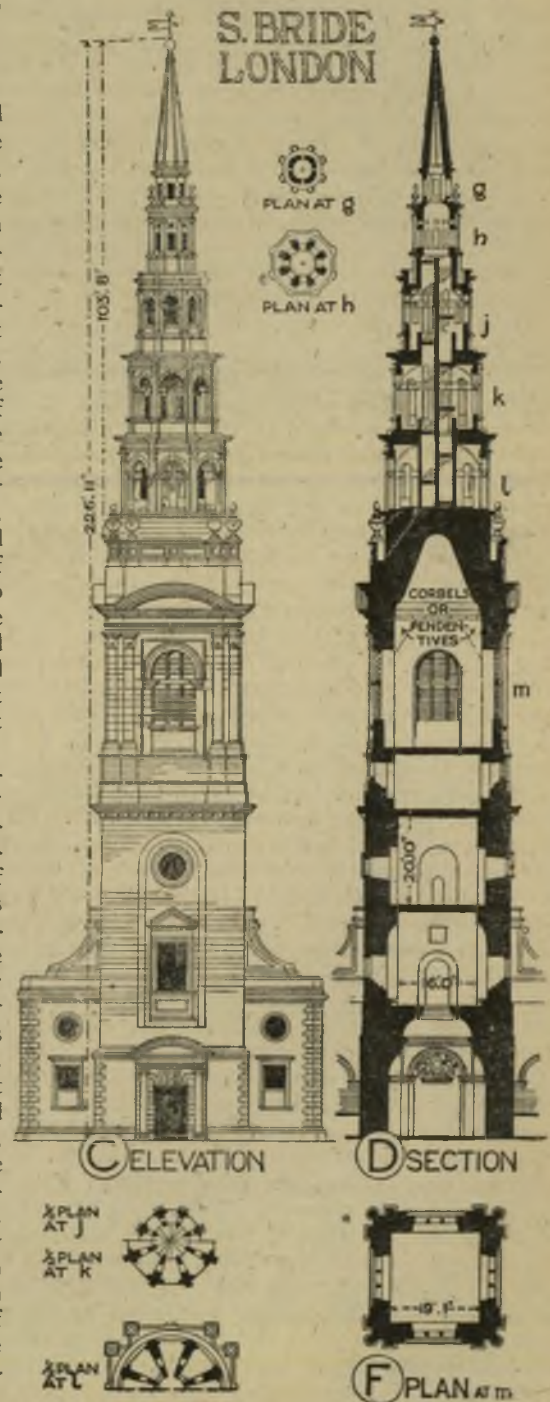
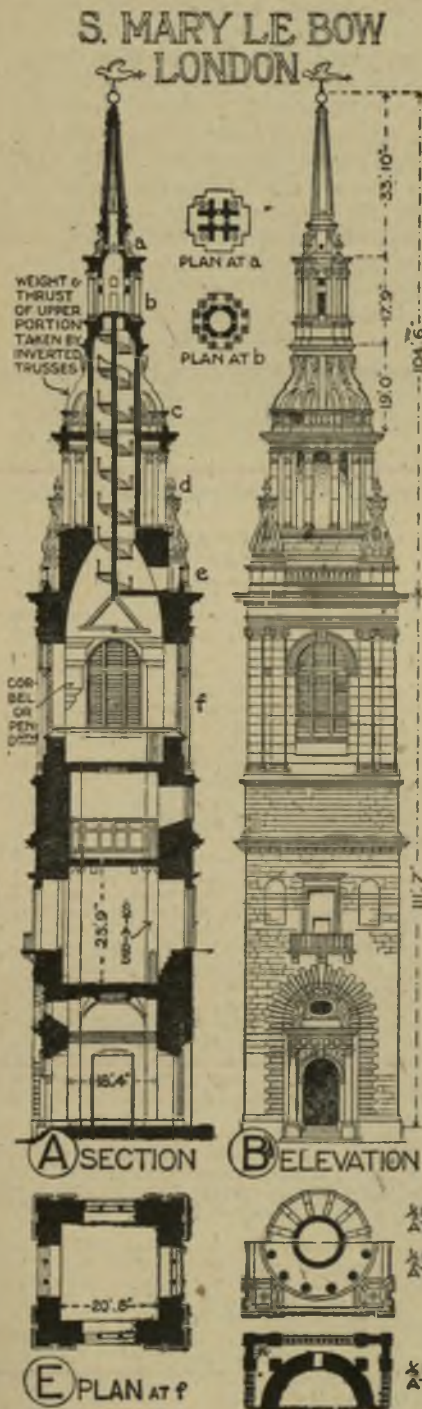
By E. ALEXANDER YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.

We all regret the damage to and loss of hundreds of churches and towers throughout the country, and Londoners especially deplore the destruction of their city churches. We ringers feel acutely the loss of our famous 'Bow' and 'Bride's.'

In view of the damage which has been sustained, the following extract from a chapter which I contributed to Sir Arthur Heywood's book on 'Bell-Towers and Bell Hanging,' may be of interest to your readers. The illustrations are reproduced by kind consent of Sir Banister Fletcher, P.P., R.I.B.A., from his 'History of

Architecture' (9th edition), and of his publishers, Messrs. B. T. Batsford, Ltd.

"A well-known civil engineer, in addressing the members of his institute, once said that when he was called upon to design an important public structure, he first drew out what his practical experience demanded and what his eye told him was right. He then investigated the principles involved, and if theory demanded more strength than practice, he gave it; but if, on the other hand, it assented to less, he still allowed his original design to stand. So that if the buildings of those who have gone before us have stood the tests of time and use, our experience based upon them is our first asset, and is, further, most valuable to us in considering the design of any similar structure which may have to fulfil the same purpose or use. The architect has to make himself familiar with the steeples of mediæval and renaissance times, which have been fitted with bells for ringing as they are rung to-day, and these buildings will be his best guide. Among them, not the least important are those erected by that great architect, Wren, whose steeples have withstood every test during the past 200 years. So, too, have many of our towers and steeples which have come down to us from Gothic times; but, of course, many of these are characterised by their massive proportions, which are



BOW AND ST. BRIDE'S STEEPLES.

(Continued from previous page.)

rather beyond present-day work and, indeed, hardly called for. One finds in our old church towers walls whose thickness is one-fifth or more of the tower breadth, thus giving a ratio of solid to void of almost three to one. When these towers are of no great height, they have an enormous reserve of strength, even though built of flint or random rubble.

Taking the English mediæval steeples—i.e., a tower with its surmounting spire—these were generally built for the use of bells, and are an obvious prototype for the revived gothic of to-day. It is much to be feared, however, that the first gothic revivalists of the early nineteenth century copied far more the outward form than they did the interior strength, and are responsible for the just complaint that many of their towers are unsuitable for a 'ring' of bells of even moderate weight.

An interesting table might be given of the proportions and areas of some of the principal gothic and renaissance steeples; a general proportion, however, of height and breadth would seem to be about 8 to 1, with the spire springing at about half the height.

Returning to the gothic steeples, an interesting plate, showing the section of that at St. Andrew's, Heckington, Lincolnshire, is given in Fletcher's Handbook, and the building described as a typical English church. The tower here has a height of 175ft. and a breadth of 25ft., or a ratio of about 7 to 1. The walls of this tower are some 4ft. 6in. thick, and equal the breadth divided by 5.5. There are, of course, many well-known steeples of greater height, notably St. James', Louth, and St. Michael's, Coventry, both having ratios of about 11 to 1. It is interesting to compare, coming to rather later times, the two famous London steeples of St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Bride's, both erected by Wren in the English renaissance style at the close of the seventeenth century.

Wren, owing to his remarkable gifts, had been able to take the gothic tower and spire and clothe them in the garb of the new style, then, as we know, lately arrived from the Continent, and here, too, he achieved some of his happiest results. Artist as Wren certainly was, he is, of course, yet more famous as a scientist. He may, indeed, as a skilled mathematician himself, have had his interest awakened in the new branch of the science of permutation, which had in his time recently come prominently before the public. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that both these towers of Wren's are eminently fitted for their purpose, and approximate very closely to each other in proportion. Each contains a 'ring' of 12 bells, hung at a height of about 80ft., which is about two-fifths of the total height of some 220ft.

An examination of the plans and sections of the two last quoted churches shows that the ratio at St. Mary-le-Bow is about 6.6 to 1, whilst the walls are in thickness about the breadth divided by 4.4. At St. Bride's, the steeple being loftier, the ratio is about 7.6; the walls, however, remain about the same, viz., 4.3. It is worthy of note that St. Bride's has always had a lighter peal than 'Bow,' and was probably intended for 8 or 10 bells only. Contrasting these with the mediæval steeples we, of course, miss the massive buttresses of the latter; but this is compensated for in Wren's typical ones by more massive proportions, thicker walls, and, as a rule, fewer openings.

It should be observed, too, that the sixteenth century ashlar masonry was usually better built than the coursed rubble of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The mortar was probably much the same in both, as Wren's masons carried on the practical traditions of the previous age. As regards mortar and cement, modern work has undeniably a very great and important advantage over the old, especially in its use of Portland cement.

All the old steeples were laced together very liberally with heavy beams, generally of oak, at frequent intervals, the walls thus not being weakened by lofty chambers. The lower part was often vaulted, a valuable addition to the tower both for adornment and strength. Openings and voids were sparingly used, the chief of these being the four great windows immediately above the bells; the latter an eminently logical conclusion, for there the tower no longer requires that strength of cross-section which is necessary from the bell-frame downwards. On the æsthetic side, too, the louvred windows proclaim to the onlooker the purpose of the structure, and their beauty and lightness emphasise and contrast the 'reserve of strength' declared by the plainer wall surface below.

The illustrations here produced of Bow and St. Bride's give the elevation and section of each side by side. They are of interest to all, and especially to-day to ringers. Architects are struck by the recognition, on Wren's part, of the importance of foreshortening (he probably designed in true perspective first). Ringers ponder on the position of the bells, whether they will ever be replaced, and, if so, how much lower down the towers, so as to minimise the stresses. The towers are there and not beyond repair!

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

JAMES GEORGE AND TOM MILLER VISITED.

The Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association held a well-attended practice meeting at Belbroughton on July 19th. Six bells were available for 'silent' practice and were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, the methods ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise. An excellent tea was provided by mine host of the 'Shoes,' after which handbells were well to the fore. Members were present from Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Clent, Cradley, Hagley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Wolverley, and their best thanks were tendered to Mr. E. Calcutt, the local leader, for having everything in readiness.

On Wednesday, July 30th, a few members of the Worcestershire and Districts Association kept a 'date' which had been on the boards for some little time. The party consisted of Messrs. William Short, William H. Barber, John Bass, John Walton and Bernard Ashford, and the occasion was a visit to Messrs. James George and Thomas Miller, at present staying at Quinton Hall, near Birmingham. A set of handbells (including some semi-tones to give Tom Miller a chance of finding a peal with a tenor which pleased him) accompanied the party, and the proceedings opened with a well-struck course of Grandsire Caters by John Bass 1-2, William Short 3-4, William H. Barber 5-6, Thomas Miller 7-8, James George 9-10. The ages of these ringers are 61, 73, 65, 83 and 88 respectively, and it is interesting to recall the following performances by St. Martin's Guild in which the four last named took part together over 42 years ago:—

On Saturday, May 20th, 1899, at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5,017 changes: George Salter treble, Gabriel Lindoff 2, William Short 3, Thomas J. Salter 4, William H. Barber 5, R. R. Cherry, Q.C. 6, James George 7, Thomas Miller 8, John Barber 9, John Buffery tenor. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by William H. Barber.

On Sunday, May 22nd, 1899, at the Church of SS. Augustine and John, Dublin, a peal of Bob Royal, 5,040 changes: George Salter treble, W. F. Hartshorne 2, William H. Barber 3, Thomas Miller 4, Thomas J. Salter 5, William Short 6, John Buffery 7, James George 8, Gabriel Lindoff 9, John Barber tenor. Composed by G. Lindoff and conducted by William Short.

After chatting over old times, a few tunes were rung. Then more reminiscences were followed by another course of Grandsire Caters by the same band, the proceedings eventually finishing up with two courses of Bob Major by John Bass 1-2, William H. Barber 3-4, Thomas Miller 5-6, Bernard C. Ashford (conductor) 7-8.

Messrs. George and Miller will be very pleased to see any old friends who are able to look them up. Visitors should go by Birmingham Corporation bus to Quinton (Service No. 8), as this service has its terminus at the gates of Quinton Hall.

ANTI-BELL ADVOCATES.

UTILITARIAN CHURCHES OF THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Anyone who read the Rev. A. M. Samson's letter in 'The Ringing World' of July 25th could scarcely fail to have noticed that the first part of the question which I asked, very strangely in the same issue, is as good as answered. The question was, 'Can it be that the influence of those who dislike the sound of bells has spread to sections of the ecclesiastical authorities and to the Ministry of Home Security?' Under the disguise that the new or rebuilt churches after the war will have to be 'strictly utilitarian,' it is fairly evident that these people intend to use this as one of their 'front line weapons' in order to gain their own way.

Is the ringing fraternity alive to this 'bogy'? If the Exercise is to come back after the war it must be the duty and business of every ringer now to break this utilitarian policy. Let the words of that well-known hymn ring in every ringer's ears, 'Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armour on.' Recent years has seen the utilitarian church spring up in many places, the principle of which seems to be to spend a lot of money first of all upon a mission church, to be followed by a permanent 'jerrybuilt' structure in red brick which will be slums in less than a hundred years, whilst many of our old Saxon, Norman and early English churches will be still retaining their solid stately appearance and true utility, that is—serving every branch of religion and shutting God out from none, not even the man in the street who fails to enter the church to hear the Gospel message. 'The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword,' yet it is remarkable that in times like these, when many of our religious leaders are preaching to everybody that these are days of opportunity for the Church, the same people are quite willing to shut this word or thought of God out from our bellfries in order to satisfy a few and, as I see it, to cheapen religion.

Ask these same individuals to buy a cheap, shoddy suit or pair of shoes and they would very promptly reply, 'Oh, no, I must have something lasting.' Tell them that the cash they wished to tender was insufficient and they would soon reply, 'I'll wait until I've got enough.' Yet it is remarkable in a land where thousands of pounds can be found in a few minutes for war weapons (and by these very same people) how they will use 'the lack of finance argument' to put up cheap, shoddy churches everywhere.

Mr. Samson says, 'It is only too well known that the great majority of our churches have the utmost difficulty in making financial ends meet.' I am, sir, in full sympathy with what was said recently in a certain Midland town, at a great gathering of Anglicans, Free Churchmen and Roman Catholics all meeting under one roof, by Dr. Berry, Deputy Mediator of the Free Church, 'that too often in the past the watchword of many of our ministers and church leaders has been "Go!" rather than "Come!"'; that the churches are to blame for their own failure. Another speaker expressed similar views by saying that the cause of empty churches to-day was not external but internal; that where things were right internally a great work was still being done despite all the difficulties.

We are told that after the war a greater sense of community will have to be realised, and this, to my mind, applies in no small measure to many of our present-day clergy and is one of the primary causes of empty churches and lack of finance, which Mr. Samson complains of. Too many of our parsons to-day try to run the church on their own, but be it remembered that no vicar or one person constitutes a parish. In many cases the Parochial Church Council is looked upon as an outside interfering body. What is wanted is not a weakening of the parochial system but the reverse, and a body who will influence the Church Assembly and Parliament to introduce a measure whereby a parson who is found acting in a way detrimental to the spiritual welfare of the parish should be removed. Not only bellringers, but all who have the Church and the cause of religion at heart should unite and rise to the occasion.

The verger has often been blamed when he has failed to get the church comfortably warm, but there has been little energetic complaint when the spiritual atmosphere has been so low that growth is absolutely impossible. Some of the finest Christians I ever met are those whose eyes twinkle merrily. The world needs to-day a glad, hearty, cheering message, and the Church is the only organisation which can satisfactorily give it. I ask Mr. Samson and those of your readers to recall the first days of the ban upon the bells and what Sunday without them felt like. There are thousands in our land to-day suffering from 'spiritual dyspepsia'—this ultimately must mean ruin for the Christian Church: 'preachers are cold and anæmic.'

Bishop Theodore Woods, in 1920, when Bishop of Peterborough, said, 'If people won't go to church, the church must go to them, both in thought and deed, and it is in the former where the value of our bells comes in.' To shut them out (as our utilitarian friends advocate) is, in my opinion, a crime upon religion equal to that of the 'fifth columnist' in the present national struggle. Writing in 'The Chelmsford Diocesan Chronicle' on July 21st, the Bishop of Chelmsford said, 'I could shake hands with a non-praying Stalin, but I should beg to be excused from doing so with a Petain, Darlan, Mussolini or Weygand who can go happily to Mass with selfishness, trickery and dishonesty in their hearts. It is more religious to repudiate openly all religion than to manipulate it or fashion it to

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

The East Grinstead and District Guild held a very enjoyable meeting at Balcombe on Saturday, August 2nd, when members attended from Crawley, Hartfield, Uckfield, Wadhurst, West Grinstead and the local band. Mr. Amos Clark (Croydon) and two other welcome visitors from the London area, who did not divulge their identity, were also present.

Six silent tower bells were available and proved the biggest attraction of the day. Everyone found that they had not lost their touch and methods up to Cambridge Minor were rung. The experiment of another ringer striking a handbell as the rope was pulled did not meet with much success; opinions varied as to when the handbell should be struck.

It was suggested that someone should take a look at the bells, and instead of the usual one or two the whole company clambered up into the tower, not only to see the bells, but to give them a tap.

When enough could be persuaded to leave the ropes the handbells were brought into use, and as there were several experts present the striking was excellent. Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major were brought round successfully. Just before tea two enthusiasts started tune ringing with four bells each, but it was left to Amos Clark and Reg Johnson to polish things off with an excellent rendering of 'The Blue Bells of Scotland,' in harmony too.

After tea a business meeting was held, when those present heard with much regret of the death of two old members, Mr. Charles Holman, of Balcombe, and Mr. Arthur Cansley, of Buxted. Both were regular ringers at their respective parish churches, and were always to be seen at guild meetings. The funeral of Mr. Holman had taken place just previous to the meeting that day, when the local band rang a course of Grandire Doubles on handbells as a mark of respect. Mr. Cansley had been sub-postmaster at Buxted for the past 40 years and will be greatly missed in that village.

The business being concluded, the company again repaired to the tower for more ringing, silent and otherwise, and before the gathering broke up a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. A. Laker for the excellent arrangements, especially the tea. It was truly the Guild's best meeting of the year.

OXFORD GUILD'S LOSS.

SUDDEN DEATH OF V.W.H. BRANCH CHAIRMAN.

The chairman of the Vale of White Horse Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (the Rev. A. J. de D. Denne) died suddenly from heart failure on Saturday, August 2nd. He was buried on August 5th at Brimsfield, Glos. Parish Church.

Mr. Denne was chairman of the branch for nine years and vice-chairman for two years previous and took a great interest in the branch.

A memorial service was held in his Parish Church at Shellingford, Berks, on Saturday last, when members of the branch were present.

LIGHT PEALS IN LIGHT TOWERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

one's own liking.' This is what our utilitarian anti-bell advocates are doing, and there is no question about it.

The Exercise has been 'disarmed,' and it is now that our 'enemies' are likely to strike their hardest blows—like all dictators, they will go for the weakest first. Propaganda is now becoming a 'weapon' of first rate importance. Can the Exercise do better than to quote the large number of churches everywhere, where bell restorations and augmentations have been carried out and willingness with which the people have given? Two years ago I had the task of making a house-to-house collection towards a bell fund in a parish of 600 houses, out of which 391 gave, and the Free Church and Roman Catholic claim a big proportion of the inhabitants. This is propaganda in itself, I consider, to our utilitarian anti-bell advocates.

Where the utilitarian church of a permanent character with tower has sprung up, or is likely to, there is another line of attitude the Exercise can take. I have heard it said that the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn was a staunch advocate where such towers were to be found, of light peals such as will be found at St. Ebbe's, Oxford (3, tenor 4½ cwt.), Tetworth, Bucks (6, tenor 4½ cwt.), Bidston, Cheshire (6, tenor 5½ cwt.), Bosley, Cheshire (6, tenor 5½ cwt.), Moreton, Derbyshire (6, tenor 4½ cwt.), or even peals like the Foundry Campanile at Loughborough, in preference to one bell. There are not many of these utilitarian churches whose towers will not take a peal of such dimensions or even the last six or five of this number. Much as we deplore the idea of such light peals and tell people that they are not worth while, they are better than one bell. We cannot have it both ways, where the church is determined upon such towers being built. We must remember that these peals are an answer to our utilitarian friends, who will constantly make the excuse 'that the tower won't stand a peal' or that there is insufficient room. I invite some of these people to go to Woodston, near Peterborough, and see the tiny tower there, in which is hung a ringing peal of six (tenor 8 cwt.), and they are hung with every safety. From outside the tower does not look big enough to hold two bells.

'ANTI-SILENT.'

JOINT MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD. HANDBELLS AND SILENT TOWER BELLS.

A joint meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild and the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Leatherhead on August Bank Holiday, at which about 35 members and friends attended. The programme should have started with a ramble from Box Hill Station through Norbury Park to Leatherhead, but owing to the unsettled state of the weather the ringers went direct to Leatherhead, where handbells and eight silent bells were available at the Parish Church.

A short service was held at 5 o'clock, followed by tea at the Duke's Head, when a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to all those who had combined to make the meeting a success.

The tower was again visited in the evening for more silent ringing and handbells. A good many of the ringers present had the first opportunity of handling a bell since the ban was imposed, and it was a pleasant surprise to some of them that they could still manage a bell and remember the methods.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The August meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, August 9th, when members were present from Cawthorne, Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Rotherham Parish Church, Sandal, Sheffield (St. Marie's) and Wath.

Handbell ringing began at 3 p.m. and continued until 5.30 p.m., when tea was served. The business meeting followed, with the president, Mr. E. Brookes, in the chair. The members took in silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. A. Panther, whose death had been reported in 'The Ringing World.' Best thanks were given to the secretary for making the arrangements and were accepted gratefully.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Cawthorne on Saturday, September 13th.

More handbell ringing followed until about 9 p.m. The methods practised during the afternoon and evening ranged from Minor to Royal, and included a lapping course and rounds on twelve.

THE BELLS OF MAYFIELD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' there is some doubt as to who cast the 5th bell at Mayfield, Sussex.

On looking through Amherst Daniel-Tyssen's 'Church Bells of Sussex,' page 23, 1864 edition, I see he mentions this bell, with two others, as cast by Thomas Giles, one at Mayfield, 1602, one at Oving, 1613, and one at South Bersted, 1614.

C. TYLER.

High Street, Henfield, Sussex.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

MR. NEVARD'S CLAIM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' that Mr. G. Williams is called the oldest member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, being elected on August Bank Holiday, 1885. I was elected in February, 1885, at Long Melford, Suffolk, on the occasion of a peal of Bob Major arranged for my birthday by S. Slater, of Glemsford. The band was John Slater treble, Zachariah Slater 2, Oliver Garwood 3, Samuel Slater 4, Frederick Pitstow 5, Percy Charles S. Scott 6, William J. Nevard 7, Ernest A. Pitstow tenor. Composed by S. Slater and conducted by F. Pitstow. It was my first peal. Only E. A. Pitstow and myself are still living.

I am in my 86th year. I had a serious illness this year, but I am very well again now, I am glad to say.

W. J. NEVARD.

Hall View, Thorington.

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Rung on handbells at the Royal Masonic Junior School, Bushey, on June 23rd, 1941, conducted by the composer.

REMINISCENCES.

BY ONE NOT TOO TOUGH.

One of the first things I remember was the five bells of St. Mary's Church, Brome, Suffolk, standing in the churchyard in 1886. A tall man from Norfolk came to work in the village. He picked up a hurdle stake and placed it in the cannons of the treble, lifting it from the ground; then he did the same thing to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. On attempting to lift the tenor, the hurdle stake broke, and he would not try again.

As soon as the bells were opened at Christmas in 1886, I began to ring on them. The draught of rope was so short that the sallies went on to the wheel at back-stroke. A neighbouring parish, Stuston, with four bells had only half wheels, about this time, and bells chimed only frame high. Once at Oakley four of the bells were lowered and tenor left up. Not enough ringers turned up to ring for service, so they decided to chime two each. A hefty man put his foot in the tenor rope and started, as he thought, to chime; luckily his foot slipped out just in time to save any disastrous results.

In 1896 I was ringing in London and conversing with many notable men such as Matt Wood, J. Rogers, Mansfield and others. I was sitting in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields one practice night when John Rogers was calling over 700 changes of Grandsire Cinques. Another ringer near me said he could hear the bob begin to rumble low in Mr. Rogers' chest when the treble was in 5th place coming down and gradually crescendoed in 4th, finally developing into a grand call in the proper place.

John Nelms composed several good peals of Stedman Caters on the back of sandpaper in his workshop. He had a seizure in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields whilst passing the death bell for Mr. Gladstone, and died in hospital.

I also remember the original scruff band at St. Paul's Cathedral. I understand that in one year Mr. James Pettitt conducted 52 different three-course Stedman Cinques on Sunday afternoons.

When ringing Holt's Original silent at St. John's, Waterloo Road, as we were about 700 changes from the end there was a loud bang on the door. Mr. Fred Perrin, the umpire, shouted, 'We shan't be long.' About 300 changes further on came bang, bang again, and he said, 'It is nearly finished.' On the final single he called, 'That's all.' He also called 'Go' at the start and 'Stand' at the end; these were the only words spoken. Mr. Perrin always left us with a reminder, 'Don't forget Watworth Sunday morning.'

One Sunday morning, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was in progress at St. Peter's, Walworth. The weather was not too good and some of the ringers felt a bit seedy. When the young man on the treble (now a member of St. Paul's band) accidentally let the tail end of the rope out of his hands, and, of course, missed the sally, it put 'paid' to that attempt, whereupon one ringer offered him sixpence.

About this time practices of Superlative Major were held at St. John's, Vassal Road, on the silent apparatus which we have lately heard much about.

Two attempts for a peal of Bob Major at St. Albans Cathedral occupying six hours resulted in no peal. At the first attempt the clapper fell out of the tenor as it was making second's for the last half of 3½ hours; and at the second attempt the 7th rope slipped the wheel after about 2½ hours' ringing.

In 1900 I was back in the country again. On New Year's Eve handbell ringing by the aid of a hurricane lantern was performed around the village. At the Hall lived a wealthy South African merchant, and we were there regaled with cake and beer. When the time came to go, Mr. John Taylor wished us all a Happy New Century, whereupon one of our company, Ted Youngs, exclaimed, 'Same to you, sir, and many of 'em.' This Mr. Taylor rehung the bells at Thornham Magna and added a new treble, making them a peal of six. I called the first peal on them in 1901.

Mr. George Day, of Eye, and six others were trying a course of Plain Bob 14-in at Norwich on handbells. A slight trip occurred, and Mr. Day, looking at the offender, blurted out, 'Dodge that in fortin' (thirteen, fourteen).

About half-way through a peal of Cambridge Maximus there were three consecutive homes to call: as I was about to call the first, the fifth to be called up, I noticed, had left the slow with the intermediate bell. After sorting them out, I found it was too late to call a bob; what was I to do? The ringing had been good and the ringers had settled down again. In my mind I had to call 'Stand' or carry on. As there were no M in the next course, I called three in place of the 3 H omitted, and chanced it; and then continued with the proper calling. The peal came into rounds. I at once sat down to see if what I had called was false. To the delight of everyone concerned it was true; thus turning what looked like bad luck into good luck, as some had come a long distance.

Years ago my father and mother were walking to church. The five bells were ringing for the service. 'What are they ringing?' asked my mother. 'Doubles,' answered my father, to which my mother replied, 'I thought so; there are two bells continually striking together.'

Old Bill had shaved his beard off and was met outside St. Margaret's by younger Bill, who remarked to Old Bill, 'You look 20 years' younger than you did the last time I saw you.' Old Bill wondered if this compliment was meant or not, and replied, 'What sort o' beer dew yew drink?'
G. S.

NOTICES.

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.**

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.

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

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Cheddleton to-morrow (Saturday), August 16th. Handbells available from 3 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and Hawkhurst and District Guilds will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, August 16th. Six silent bells and handbells available from 3 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Fleet on Saturday, August 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Bring your own food and sugar; tea and milk will be provided. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Rectory lawn after meeting.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church Tower on Saturday, Aug. 16th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, August 16th. Handbells and St. John's (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Victoria Park, Bristol 3.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—A meeting will be held at Measham to-morrow, Saturday, August 16th. Handbells available in belfry at 3.30. Short service at 4.30. Tea and meeting in Church

Room at 5 p.m. Tea and cakes provided, but do not forget your sandwiches and sugar. Loughborough district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseale.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held, by kind permission of the Rector, at the Rectory Gardens at Stratton, on Saturday, August 23rd. Handbells and games from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Canon D. F. Slemek, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering. Kindly notify for tea by Tuesday, August 19th.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall. Numbers not later than Tuesday, August 19th.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Chaddesley Corbett (D.V.) on Saturday, August 30th (not August 23rd). Eight bells available for silent practice 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements at the Swan (Tim's).—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Selby Abbey on Saturday, August 30th. Handbells and ringing on the back eight tower bells (silent). The Vicar, Canon Solloway, will conduct those present round the Abbey at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea can be obtained at Olde Cross Cafe, near Abbey. Business meeting at 6 o'clock, at which all outstanding annual subscriptions should be paid.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, September 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Tea, by kind invitation, only to those who notify Mr. G. P. Elphick, 66, Priory Street, Lewes, by previous Saturday.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

J. A.
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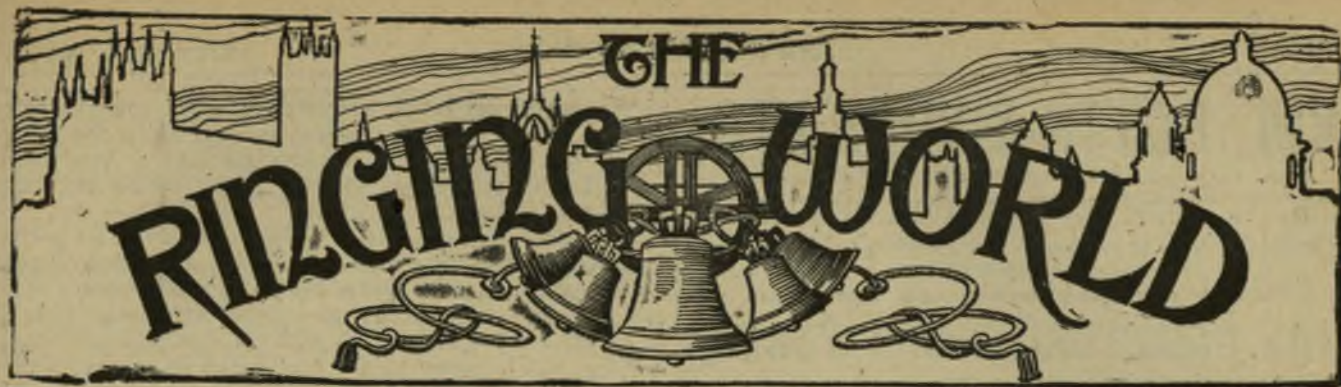
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE PRESERVATION OF BELLS.

We are glad to learn that associations in many parts of the country are taking up seriously the question of the preservation of church bells during the ban upon ringing. We understand that among the associations which contemplate immediately circularising the clergy is the Yorkshire Association, in whose extensive area there are hundreds of rings of bells. Oxford and Kent are already taking action and others are moving in the matter. Those associations which have not already done so would be well advised to remind the responsible church authorities that their bells may suffer unless they take precautions, and in this connection it is important that it is not only the clergy who have the care of bells in towers where there are association members who should be approached, but also those who have bells and no ringers and those whose bells have been seldom rung. Indeed, it is even more important that these latter towers should receive attention because they are almost certain to have suffered from earlier neglect, whereas where there are ringers and the bells were rung up to the time of the ban there is unlikely to be the preliminary handicap of previous cumulative neglect.

Expert advice on what to do to preserve our church bells was given to our readers by the head of one of the leading firms of bell founders a little more than a year ago, and, for the benefit of those who did not take that advice to heart, we are reproducing the article in this issue, in the hope that it will be of further use. In concise language it deals with the best method of treating the bells and their fittings, and, if followed, the bells will be ready for immediate use when the time comes that they can be rung again.

To one point in the advice we would like to call special attention, in case there should be any misconception. Because bells, which happen to be hung in ball bearings, were expected to run for years with a minimum of attention—and in that way may, incidentally, have helped to make a certain number of lazy steeplekeepers—it must not be assumed they now need no attention because they are not being used. The very fact that they have remained so long unmoved may render the bearings liable to deterioration through the breaking of the protective film of grease. It is not for lubrication that ball bearings are packed in grease, but for the prevention of rust, and those bells which had not received attention for some time before the ban ought to get some attention without delay, if only as a matter of precaution. The painting of metal bell frames is also an important matter. Under normal conditions this is a thing which

(Continued on page 398.)

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is frequently neglected. Nowadays when towerkeepers seldom, if ever, visit the bells it is likely to be the thing which least of all will receive attention. Steel and wrought iron frames are specially liable to rust and long neglect leads to certain trouble.

One other matter needs to be stressed, and that is the importance of getting the advice which may be proffered acted upon. It is an easy thing to send a circular; it is not so easy to ensure that it receives attention. Issued by an association, it goes out with the stamp of authority, but for lack of interest or, maybe, in ignorance, some clergy may not attach to it the importance it merits. In these things the help of the diocesan authorities should, if possible, be enlisted, and if Bishops or Archdeacons can be induced to call attention to the subject in the official monthly diocesan publications clergy who might otherwise pass over the matter in indifference, may be brought to realise that this is one thing in the care of church property that ought not to be neglected even in these times. The ringing associations in the past have not made all the use of the diocesan authorities and publications that they might have done; here is a case where very valuable aid might be secured.

WEST CORNWALL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The tower in the Castle of St. Michael's Mount, near Penzance, contains six or rather the remains of six bells, of which only one, the tenor by John Pennington, 1640, is hung in a frame for the clock to strike on, all the others lying on the floor, the second and third broken. Their inscriptions are:—

1. ORDO PROTESTATUM.
2. (COME AWAY MAKE NO DELAY 1785.
3. CHARLES & JOHN RUDHALL FE(CERUNT).
4. SPIRITUS SANCTUS EST DEUS.
GABRIEL SANCTE PAULE, ORA PRO NOBIS.
ORDO VIRTUTUM MARIA.
5. FILIUS EST DEUS.
RAPHAEL ORDO ARCHANGELORUM,
SANCTA MARGARETA ORA PRO NOBIS.
6. SULI DEO DETUR GLORIA 1640 I.P.

(The original tenor was inscribed 'Pater Est Deus' and probably the name 'Michael' also appeared on it.)

It is, therefore, impossible within the past seventy years to have heard the six bells rung in peal.

It is probable that the six bells heard by your correspondent were those of Ludgvan, lying about two miles north of the Mount, from whence 'stone' or call changes may be heard, but not even six changes of Grandsire Doubles.

'COLLEGE YOUTH.'

Similar information as to St. Michael's bells has been sent to us by the Rev. C. J. Sturton from an account compiled by his uncle, the late Mr. J. R. Jerram, of Salisbury, who during his lifetime contributed many articles on the history of famous rings of bells to 'The Ringing World.'

THE SILENT TOWER.

Forrabury, another Cornish coast church, has what is locally known as 'The Silent Tower.' Its one bell, hanging in a massive tower that almost dwarfs the little church, contains one bell, 17½ inches in diameter, inscribed 'John Tink, 1812.'

Here is the legend of the tower as recorded by Mr. Jerram:—

'For some years after the church was built there were no bells in the tower. In process of time the people became dissatisfied with this state of things. Accordingly money was collected and a fine peal of bells was ordered from a mediæval London founder.

'In due time the bells were cast and shipped to Forrabury. After a most prosperous voyage the ship arrived in sight of land. The people on shore watched it making its way into the bay.

'On board, however, an uproar was taking place. The pilot, a devout man, lifted his hat and thanked God for the safe and prosperous voyage. But the captain, a bombastic infidel, reviled the pilot, and said that it was only his own skill as a navigator and the efficiency of the crew that they had to thank for their safe arrival in sight of land. The pilot rebuked the captain, but he only repeated his boastful assertion with blasphemous oaths and curses.

'At this moment clouds suddenly gathered, and the wind rose to a gale, and an immense sea swamped the ship. To the horror of the people on shore she went down in an instant. Of all the crew the pilot only was saved.

'The bells were never recovered and to this day Forrabury tower only possesses one small bell, with the appropriate inscription, John Tink, 1812.'

HANDBELL PEALS.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*ALBERT CATTERWELL ... 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	MISS HILDA G. SNOWDEN ... 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.
* First peal of Major away from the tenors. † First peal on handbells. 100th peal as conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in E.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... 1-2	JACK BRAY ... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4	*P. MICHAEL FREEMAN ... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.
* First peal away from the trebles.

BOCKING, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At 11, ALICE COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

RONALD SUCKLING ... 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5-6
BASIL REDGWELL ... 3-4	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... 7-8
ALBERT WIFFEN ... 9-10	

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Tuesday, August 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
In THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALL
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising 12 six-scores of Plain Bob and 30 of Grandsire, with 14 different callings. Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS HARRIS ... 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER ... 3-4
DONALD G. CLIFT ... 5-6	

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

First peal of Doubles 'in hand' by all, by the Guild, and first peal 'in hand' as conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
Rung as a birthday peal to Mrs. J. Thomas.

SWINDON, WILTS.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, August 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
At HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in C.

DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 1-2	IVOR C. N. BELL ... 3-6
JACK S. ROBERTS ... 3-4	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE
First peal by the society.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,
At THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2	R. GORDON CROSS ... 5-6
†MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4	*MRS. R. G. CROSS ... 7-8

Composed by H. HOWLETT. Conducted by R. G. CROSS.
* First peal. † First peal of Major 'in hand.' First handbell peal as conductor.

(Continued in next column.)

THE DEVON GUILD.

MEETING AT TEDBURN ST. MARY.

Those who have motored from Exeter to Okehampton must have been impressed by the view of Tedburn's tall tower, on the north side of a narrow valley and standing amid a panorama of neatly hedge-rowed fields.

The sandstone tower, of the Decorated period, contains six bells which have not been rung for 70 years. The church is as fine as any village church and in the vale below nestles one of the most delightful old, big rectories, with stable accommodation for half a dozen horses. The charm of the gardens and lawns is impressive. At this place, the home of the honoured and esteemed president of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox, the Exeter Branch held their summer meeting, and every member present was impressed and pleased.

The company took part in handbell practice and clock golf before the service, at which Preb. Cox officiated. A touch of Grandsire Triples and a record of a course of Grandsire Caters in the tower commenced the proceedings. In his address Preb. Cox referred to the unringable bells and said two were cast by Worth, two by Pennington and two by Mears. The tenor has only a half-wheel. He referred also to a frontal cloth, which was a copy of part of a cope discovered some 70 years ago by a former rector. The original is now in the keeping of the South Kensington Museum. The theme of his address was loyalty to our King, love of our Church and honesty.

Mrs. Cox and her staff provided an ample tea, pasties, honey and what not. Her cook must be an adept in her craft, overcoming all rationing difficulties, and every hungry ringer was satisfied.

Chairman E. J. Ryle acted as secretary in the unavoidable absence of William H. Howe. Messrs. Charles E. Lilley, Jim and Mrs. Lilley, Charley Glass, Tom Laver, Bill Richardson and F. H. Gardner were in the company. There were too few of the young brigade and for that we must blame the war. Mr. W. S. Lethbridge, of St. David's, Exeter, was re-elected as a member, and it was decided that the next meeting should take place at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on December 6th.

Mr. Laver read a letter he had received from Mr. J. H. Godfrey, secretary of the East Devon Branch. There was a general expression of pleasure that Mr. Godfrey was better. Mr. A. E. Searle sent apologies for his absence.

Hearty vote of thanks were given the organist and choir, who, though few in number, contributed so much to the delightful service. The Prebendary and Mrs. Cox were thanked for their kind hospitality and the service. More handbell practice ended a most enjoyable afternoon.

F. C. S.

VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Once upon a time, in the year 1936 to be exact, a prolific writer, at the expense of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, wrote a booklet, the title of which is the heading of this paper. In this booklet the writer gives two peals: (1) A peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major by the late N. J. Pitsoy; (2) a peal of Bob Major (slightly altered) by Gabriel Lindoff. Of these two peals the writer (I am quoting from the booklet) says: 'These two compositions look quite different; actually they are the same and they contain exactly the same lead-ends, but in a different order.'

If the writer of the booklet had known anything of round blocks and transpositions in peal compositions he would not have made this false statement.

There are probably many peals that contain the same Q sets, the same course-heads, the same lead-heads as in the two peals given, but that does not make them 'actually the same' as stated by the writer.

By round blocks and transpositions in peal compositions it is possible to prove whether or no any two peals are actually the same.

GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton

HANDBELL PEALS

(Continued from previous column.)

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.	
ALBERT M. TYLER ... 1-2	L/C F. C. SHORTER, R.A.S.C. ... 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT ... 7-8

Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal in the method on handbells and first handbell peal as conductor. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of 7-8. The band wish to associate the names of Mr. T. Harris and Mr. R. G. Bryant with this peal, they kindly standing down for the visitors.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 389.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Of all the early members of the Council none seemed more likely to take a leading part in its activities than Edward F. Strange. He was of a rather better class and education than the ordinary ringers, he was ambitious and he had marked ability. He held a position in the National Art Library of the South Kensington Museum, and lived in one of the southern or south-western suburbs. Where he learned to ring I do not know, but early he mixed with the London ringers, and he joined the Society of College Youths. At the time there was much in the metropolitan societies, and in London ringing generally, which would strike a young and ardent man as undesirable, and he set himself the task of improving matters. In 1884 he published anonymously a series of short articles in 'The Bell News,' which he called Thumb-nail Sketches, and which were intended to satirise the foibles and eccentricities of some of the characters to be met in London steeples.

He professed to be dealing with types, not with individuals, but his shafts went home in many instances; and since he was anxious to keep on good terms with the College Youths and his anonymity was difficult to maintain, after a time he thought it prudent to drop the series.

One of his complaints was that there was little chance of a young newcomer getting into the inner circle unless he was prepared to do a great deal of toadying and treating at the meeting place. He himself rang some peals of Grandsire Triples with more outlying bands, but except on one or two occasions he never had a chance of a ten-bell peal, and ten-bell ringing was his ambition.

It is impossible to say how far he was a competent practical ringer, but he evidently did not succeed in getting a place in the inner circle, and that probably had something to do with the renewal of his hostile criticism. He published a very unfavourable account of ringing in the metropolitan steeples. There was no change ringing at all at Bow, St. Bride's, or Cripplegate; an occasional practice at Cornhill and St. Paul's; and at St. Saviour's thirty or forty members in the meeting room, and only five or six of the youngest outside the tower, 'who wait about on the bare chance of some extraordinary circumstance procuring them a touch on twelve.'

Things in the ten-bell towers were no better. Out of thirteen there were only two in which a pupil could make sure of a touch on ten.

From criticising the ringing, Strange went on to criticise the way the Society of College Youths was conducted, and as he was supported by a few more malcontents, the older members were compelled to take action. Strange dropped his anonymity and admitted his responsibility for all the letters and articles; he was therefore summoned under rule ten to appear before the society and answer for his conduct.

The result was a foregone conclusion. Nominally Strange was on trial; actually he was the accuser, and the accused were the men who would give the verdict and pronounce the sentence. He was expelled from the society.

When the Central Council was founded, Strange was elected to represent the Surrey Association. He was one of the candidates for the office of secretary, but, as already mentioned, he was rejected. He owed his defeat

undoubtedly to the opposition of the College Youths, and in the long run it was a good thing, for the failure of the man who was appointed cleared the way for the election at the second meeting of Earle Bulwer, who was not only a thoroughly competent man, but was the most likely person to work in harmony and understanding with Heyward.

Strange moved the resolution defining a peal on seven bells which led to the most important debate at the first meeting. For the second meeting he gave notice of a motion, 'That it is expedient to publish a bibliography or catalogue of books relating to bells and ringing, and that a committee be instructed to confer and report as to how this can best be done.'

This motion was carried at Birmingham with the amendment that the matter should be left to the Standing Committee on the understanding that Strange himself would undertake the work. He had said that his position in the National Art Library gave him facilities for undertaking a work of the nature, which were probably possessed by few others.'

The preparation and publishing of a catalogue of books on bells and ringing would seem at first sight a fairly simple and straightforward matter, but directly the job is undertaken difficulties appear. To be of any real use, the catalogue must be a full and fairly exhaustive one. It is easy enough to make a list of the well-known books, but to deal with the rare and little-known ones entails a lot of research work and the expenditure of much time and patience. It is not time that can be taken from odd leisure hours, for it must be spent in great libraries and in places that are not usually readily accessible to the worker.

Strange started well. In April, 1895, he published in 'The Bell News' a list of seventy books on bells and ringing which are included in the National Art Library at South Kensington. But then he had practically exhausted all his opportunities for gathering information, and the work flagged. His enthusiasm died down, he began to lose interest in ringing, and after 1900 he ceased to be a member of the Council. Beyond the published list, his work on bibliography was lost to the Exercise.

After a while, R. A. Daniell undertook to carry on the work with the help of Henry Dains. His experience was much the same as Strange's, except that he worked at the British Museum library. There is, of course, no place like it in the kingdom, but the great number of books and the size and complexity of the catalogues make any research work there a job for an expert or, at any rate, for one who is prepared to spend a vast amount of time and patience.

Daniell published a short list of books on ringing to be found at Bloomsbury, and then nothing more was heard about the matter.

In more recent years I was able to complete to some extent these men's work, and, chiefly because I did not set out with the deliberate intention of forming a catalogue of bell literature. When I started to write a history of London bells and ringers, the subject was as yet untouched. I had to gather all my material from a very large number of sources, and that meant much research work among little-known books and periodicals. I spent many hours at the British Museum, and, as I kept a careful account of all the books I consulted, I got together a list of several hundreds which contain more or less references to bells and ringing, or gave some particulars

(Continued on next page.)

R. A. DANIELL'S WORK FOR THE COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

of the lives of ringers of bygone years. I calendared these books with short notes of what they contain, and, having bound the sheets, I gave them to the Central Council library.

Something more could be done to improve my catalogue, but it is a fairly full and comprehensive guide to all the books and magazine articles which have been published and relate to bells and bellringing. It is available for the use of anyone who needs such a guide.

Robert Arthur Daniell was an outstanding example of the fact that interest in bells and ringing is not confined to one class of man or to those who are practical ringers. His knowledge of both the art and the science of change ringing was but small, yet he was for many years an active member of the London Exercise; he took a leading part in the Central Council; and he earned a distinguished place in the history of ringing as a writer.

He was a Cambridge University man and a solicitor by profession. He early became connected with the belfry of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, when the band there rang nothing but stoney.

Daniell afterwards took up change ringing, but he did not progress very far. He rang the seventh to one peal of Bob Major at St. Andrew's, Cambridge, with the University Guild. It was not, it would seem, a very good peal.

The social life of the London societies attracted him strongly, and he was for long a leading man among the Cumberlands and for a time in the St. James' Society.

It was this interest that supplied the motive for his main activities. He made himself the champion of the old societies against those (and especially Arthur T. King)

who wished to reorganise the London Exercise on the lines of the great provincial associations, and against those who said that ringers of past days were a drunken and disorderly lot.

This led him to study the history of the Exercise, and here he did good and original work. Other men had written well and learnedly about the history of bells. A few, notably Jasper Snowdon, had written about the history of change ringing. But no one had tried to give an account of the old ringers as men, or to describe them in relationship to the times they lived in.

It was a subject well worth study, and Daniell deserves praise for having undertaken it; but his work is marred by the fact that he wrote to support the opinions he had already formed. He went to the past to find justification for his views on the present. He had not the true historian's gift of looking at events and men objectively; he was too often intent on controverting some other writer's opinion; and he was much too rambling and diffuse in his writing.

His most ambitious work was an attempt to show that change ringing is and always has been essentially a secular affair and should remain so. Much of his contention was perfectly sound, but he missed the real causes which led to the conditions he described.

For several years he was a frequent contributor to the pages of 'The Bell News.' Some of his articles contained an excessive amount of padding, but many of them were good and valuable additions to an important and much neglected side of the history of the Exercise.

R. A. Daniell represented the Society of Cumberland Youths on the Central Council from 1900 to 1911, and was an honorary member from 1912 to 1923. He died in 1938.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

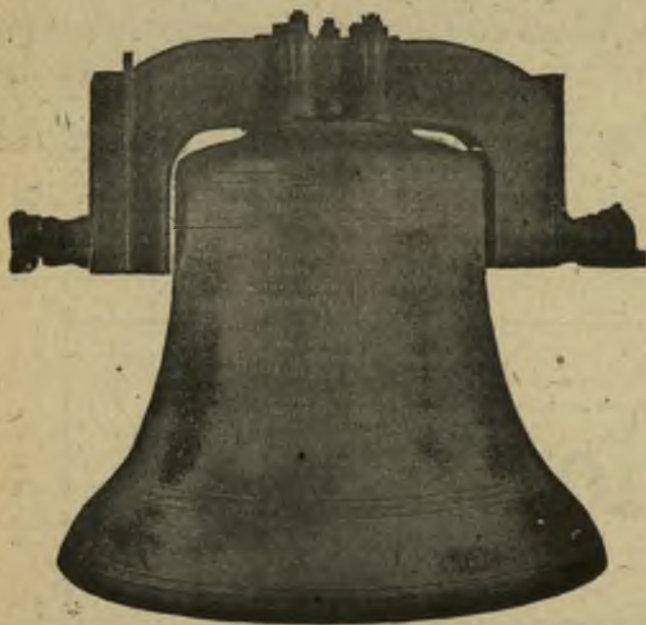
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

For the first time in history so far as we know a meeting is to be held at Crowthorne, Berks, on Saturday, August 30th. Crowthorne Church has only one bell, but its Vicar is one of the most popular and revered figures in the Exercise—Canon G. F. Coleridge. We hope the Master of the Oxford Guild will have a bumper meeting.

We have received a letter from Mr. Peter Laffin which confirms what Mr. Tyler said last week about Single Oxford Bob Major. The late Mr. A. T. Beeston made a mistake in the year.

The Highcliffe Society, which was formed last February, have rung their first peal, and revealed the identity of some of their members. Messrs. Smout and Bell are 14 and 16 years old respectively. These and other members of the society have rung a large variety of methods, including Sextuples and Spliced Surprise Major.

On August 5th, 1882, Holt's Original was called at Christ Church, Ealing, by William Baron. It was the first peal by the West Middlesex Association, which later on was absorbed into the Middlesex Association. It was Mr. W. H. Fussell's first peal and the first by John Basden and F. G. Goddard, both afterwards well-known ringers in the district. J. J. Parker rang the second.

On August 17th, 1812, a peal of 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Michael's, Coventry, 'to celebrate the glorious victory obtained by Lord Wellington over the French at Salamanca.' Joseph Keene called it and some of the band came from Birmingham.

A tablet in the belfry of Keighley Church, Yorkshire, says that on August 18th, 1811, eight ringers of the town rang '5,376 changes of that most intricate peal Cambridge Surprise, being the first true peal in that method ever rung in the North of England.' It was, however, false.

A new ring of the bells cast by Lester and Pack, of Whitechapel, for York Minster, was opened on August 19th, 1765, by the Norwich Scholars, who had made the long journey to the North for the purpose. They did not attempt a peal, but rang a long touch of Plain Bob Royal. Samuel Turner was the bellhanger. He was one of a family who worked for many years in conjunction with the Whitechapel Foundry and made many good frames.

To-day is the 189th anniversary of the first time Holt's Original was called by a man who also took part in the ringing. It was at St. Michael's, Coslany, Norwich.

The second peal of Stedman Caters ever rung was conducted at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by John Reeves with a band of Cumberland Youths on August 23rd, 1788.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. They consisted of one each of Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

THE TERM 'BOB.' HOW DID IT ORIGINATE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Henry Hubbard's definition of the term 'Bob,' in your issue of August 8th, although written in perfect literary style, misses a point, in my opinion, about the first uses of the word. When I was very young I went fishing with a bent pin and a cork for a float, which would bob when there was a bite, also when playing snowball I would bob my head to prevent being hit in the face.

This is just what happens to the line drawn of a working bell in, say, Bob Major.

I believe when change ringing began the ringer of the treble would call, when he came to lead, 'Now bob,' meaning, of course, 'Now dodge.'

So 'Bob' and 'Dodge' at one time had the same meaning.

Ipswich.
G. E. SYMONDS.

THE FIRST PEAL OF HEReward BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one who has supported 'The Ringing World' since its first number, allow me to congratulate you on the interesting items you continue to bring forward to fill its columns week by week.

I regret the Stockport handbell band have not been able for various reasons to forward you any peals for insertion, but, seeing your pithy 'pars' week by week, I thought perhaps you could mention the recording of the first peal of Hereward Bob Major, rung at Reddish on Thursday, August 20th, 1914. The composition, a 5,040 by H. W. Wilde, was conducted by the late Rev. A. T. Beeston. It was first published as 'Reddish Court Bob Major.' It is really a combination of Oxford Bob above the treble and Double Norwich below.

ALFRED BARNES.
3, Longford Road, North Reddish, Stockport.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' one or two names mentioned as the oldest Royal Cumberland Youths now living.

I make no claim to be the oldest, but in the book of rules and regulations I received when elected, my election is entered as on November 21st, 1884.

High Street, Henfield, Sussex.
C. TYLER.

THE CARE OF CHURCH BELLS.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE BAN.

At the request of the secretaries of two or three associations we are reproducing the article written by Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitchapel Bell Foundry, on the 'Care of Church Bells,' which appeared in our issue of July 5th, 1940.

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., nuts 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.

DEATH OF LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.

SURFLEET TOWER'S SAD LOSS.

We regret to announce that after being previously reported missing, believed to be prisoner of war, L.-Cpl. Ernest T. King, of the Surfleet tower, has now been reported killed in action on June 9th in the Middle East.

L.-Cpl. King joined the Lincolnshire Territorial Regiment just previous to the outbreak of war and was called up at the commencement of hostilities. He went with his unit to France and took part in many episodes there, including Dunkirk. On returning to England he came under the Scottish Command and was sent out to the Middle East, from where little was heard of him until the news of his death.

Young Ernie, as he was always known to his fellow ringers, was one of the most promising youngsters the Surfleet band have had. He joined the company at a very early age and rang his first peal at Surfleet on December 17th, 1935, at the age of 14 years. Since then he had rung a total of 12 peals, of which he conducted two. Always of a jolly disposition, he was liked by all with whom he came in contact. He was a most regular attender in the belfry and showed great keenness. His place will be hard to fill.

He was the only son of Mr. Norman T. King, also a ringer at the above church, for whom much sympathy is felt.

E. R.

THE CLERGY AND RESTORATIONS.

INSURANCE OF CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—'Anti-Silent' takes up much space in your current issue in making cheap sneers at the clergy and the Church (of which he is a unit) which have nothing to do with the matters I raised, and are not likely to promote the Christian good fellowship which I hope he desires, in spite of his letter. So far as I am concerned they will be ignored. But may I say that if he thinks I am a parson who dislikes the sound of bells he is greatly mistaken. From my earliest youth I have lived near them and loved them.

I do not know how widespread is the objection to the sound of bells; I have not met it amongst any clergy of my acquaintance, though I have among some of the laity. This point never entered my mind when I wrote my previous letter. That letter was written by an incumbent who with his Church Councils (kindly note, Mr. Anti-Silent) has been and is responsible for the war damage insurance of two churches. In this connection I gave plain facts, and I made the reasonable conjecture that, from the nature of the case, the Government will not be able to provide the money for anything more than a utilitarian building in the cases where churches have been utterly ruined. Anything more than this will, I imagine, have to be raised from other sources, and no doubt will be raised. I hoped that what I said would remove some misconceptions and open the eyes of ringers and others to the need of *monetary support* if insurances are to be effected for more than the barest minimum.

St. Peter's Vicarage, Loughborough.

(Rev.) A. M. SAMSON.

'SCARED BY HIS OWN BOGEY.'

Dear Sir,—What is the object of 'Anti-Silent's' tirade against the clergy? Is this a time to attempt to create feeling against them? Surely those who have lost their churches, and with them the bells, are entitled to our full sympathy and ought not to be made an object of suspicion. Where, I ask, has 'Anti-Silent' found any indication that, under the disguise that the new or rebuilt churches after the war will have to be strictly utilitarian, it is fairly evident that these people intend to use this as one of the front line weapons in order to gain their own way?

If 'Anti-Silent' were bombed out of his own home, his house brought to the ground in ruins and all his belongings destroyed, including his grand piano, and if he had only a limited supply of money for replacements, he would probably be only too glad to get another roof over his head, however modest the building, and would probably, also, be content with the barest necessities of household furnishings until he could later on accumulate funds to re-establish his home on its former scale. I imagine the replacement of his grand piano would be one of the last things he would be able to find the money for—unless, of course, he happens to be one of those individuals who must have music before necessities.

Is not the position in regard to a bombed out church much the same? It is the spiritual home of the parish; the roof, however humble, and the furniture to meet immediate needs must come first. The 'grand piano,' which may be represented by the bells, must wait until later.

Can 'Anti-Silent' tell us of any single case in which the tower and bells have been destroyed where there is proof that, if the church is restored, the parson, whom he seeks mostly to blame as the arch-conspirator, has shown any indication that he wants to prevent also the restoration of the bells? I doubt if he can point to one.

There may be cases, as you, sir, pointed out in your last leading article, where bells may not now be reinstated because the churches themselves on the same site would be redundant. Where, however, there was formerly a ring of bells and the churches are rebuilt I feel quite convinced that eventually a peal of bells will again hang in the towers, for it is well known that, even in the over-blitzed cities, the church towers have in nearly every case come through the ordeal and now stand silent sentinels over the ruined churches, to be used again as soon as circumstances permit.

The 'bogy' to which 'Anti-Silent' refers is, I feel, of his own making, and it is, in his sight, so fearsome that he has frightened himself with it. Instead of casting stones at the clergy and the Church, let him seek the mote in his own eye. If his own parish church should happen to be the next to suffer, let him be thankful for any building, whether mission hall or otherwise, which will enable the Church in his parish to get to work again on its principal task of providing a spiritual home, however temporary, for the people. Stately buildings, beautiful furnishings and rings of bells will come in time to replace the ravages of war. It should not be forgotten that even the buildings which we now so much admire, and their contents, not always so admirable but nevertheless cherished, were not provided in a day. They grew in the past gradually, as the restored churches must grow in the future.

To say that a section of the clergy are out to build 'strictly utilitarian' churches because they 'dislike the sound of bells' is indeed a bogy that will scare no one but the creator of it.

F. H. SMITH.

TREBLE BOB FOURTEEN-IN.

At Ipswich on Sunday, August 17th, in the belfry of St. Mary-le-Tower Church, a plain course of Kent Treble Bob fourteen-in: G. A. Fleming 1-2, H. E. Smith 3-4, C. J. Sedgley 5-6, G. E. Symonds 7-8, W. P. Garrett 9-10, W. J. G. Brown 11-12, F. J. Tillett 13-14.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

A NEW PLAN.

Composition in Five-Lead Courses.

After the war is ended it will inevitably be some time before the Exercise can again resume its normal life. There will be much reconstruction to be done. Bands will be broken up or depleted. Some ringers will have lost much of their old enthusiasm, more will have lost some of their skill, and all will be older.

We must not, therefore, expect that it will be possible at once to resume the practice of the higher methods, and perhaps it will be well if the attempt is not generally made. There are more important things. Especially the standard of striking must be kept up and we ought not to risk lowering it in the quest for peals in many and complex methods. Better at first to concentrate on the easier and well-proven methods. The others will then come naturally.

But progress is bound to come, and nowhere does a more fruitful field seem to be open than in spliced ringing. Not so very long ago it was a curiosity and then an opportunity for a few specially brilliant bands to show their skill; but when war broke out it was beginning to take a recognised and useful place in the ringers' repertoire.

At first it was tied down, at least so far as the Surprise Major methods are concerned, to a very rigid plan. Law James' peal consisted of three-lead courses each with two leads of London and one of Superlative or Cambridge and occasional bobbed leads of Bristol. This plan seemed to be necessitated by the great liability to internal falseness when two or more methods are joined together, and it led to some adverse criticism. Some people objected that the tenors never ring the whole of the work of the methods. Others said that since only three leads of the course are rung (the Middle, the Wrong and the Home), spliced ringing is not nearly so difficult as is claimed.

These latter critics were perhaps mostly found outside the ranks of those who had actually rung the new style peals, but there is some truth in the contention that the rigid plan of Law James' peal does in some degrees lessen its difficulty.

But composers did not intend to be confined to the plan, if there were any means of breaking away from it. Here Mr. A. J. Pitman showed himself a pioneer, not merely in the number of methods he used, but also in the way he spliced them together.

He was the first to use plain leads of Bristol instead of bobbed leads. It seems a small change, but it meant a good deal in actual ringing. He was the first, too, to introduce full courses of some of the methods, and one of his peals with full courses of London, Bristol and Superlative, interspersed with the 3-lead courses, was called at Willesden a few years ago by Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner.

One object of composers has been to obtain peals with approximately the same number of changes in each method. Here Mr. Turner has been very successful. Our readers will remember the very clever peals by Mr. J. W. Parker published in our columns some weeks ago.

MR. A. J. PITMAN'S PEAL.

23456	B	M	W	H
42356				— S S C X L
35426				— S S C X L
35264	—			— S S S S
32654				— 2 L X L B
24653				— 2 B B X L B
43652				— 2 B B X L B
23564		— 2		— B X B C S S
62534			— 3	— L X L B B
45236				— L X L
24536				— S S C X L
62345	2	— 2		— S S C B X B B B
63425				— 2 L X B B B
64235				— 2 L X B B B
52436				— L X L
52364	—			— S S S S
65324		— 3		— L X L B B
43626				— L X L
54326				— S S C X L
54263	—			— S S S S
32465				— L X C S S
43265				— L X C S S
24365				— L X C S S
53462	—			— L X C S S
45362				— L X C S S
34562				— L X C S S
25463				— L X C S S
42563				— L X C S S
64523		— 3		— L X L B B
32546				— L X L
53246				— S S C X L
25346				— S S C X L
34256				— S S C X L
23456				— S S C X L

X Cambridge or Superlative. Contains 1,536 Superlative, 576 Cambridge, 960 Cambridge or Superlative, 832 Bristol, 1,152 London.

We have now a peal by Mr. Pitman on a distinct plan. Instead of a 3-lead course he uses a 5-lead course. A great advantage is that

(Continued in next column.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

THE MASTERS OF THE PAST.

A representative gathering supported the Master and officers of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last. Among the members present were Messrs. Dan Cooper (Croydon), C. H. Kippin (Beddington) and J. E. Lewis Cockey (Ealing). The visitors were Messrs. E. Wallace, Newcastle Cathedral, and Arthur Hughes, Tooting. The secretary brought greetings from Mr. George Pullinger, of Bishopstoke, Hants.

Mr. E. Murrell raised an interesting discussion as to the likelihood of filling gaps by further discovery of the names of past Masters. Would some Samuel Pepys come to light by further research in the libraries?

Mr. Young thought that these had been pretty well gleaned by Messrs. Daniell, Morris and Trollope, especially the latter, at the British Museum and the Records Office. Undoubtedly further facts would come to light. There were thousands of papers and letters awaiting search and publication in the old records and letters of the county families and many years of 'Bells Life' still awaited gleaning. Much has already been obtained from these files and other old newspapers. He (Mr. Young) paid tribute to Past Master J. S. Hawkins, who on behalf of the Rule Book Revision Committee of 1928 went all through the extant Pence and Minute books and so obtained the names of every Master from 1822 onwards, but for which most of the names would be unknown to-day and would have perished with The Coffee Pot.

The next meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on August 30th at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LAMBELL.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. William Lambell at his home at East Hagbourne on August 14th at the early age of 33 years after only one day's illness.

Mr. Lambell had been a ringer and member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild since he was 16 years old and had been secretary to the Hagbourne band for the last five or six years. He was, first of all, a staunch Sunday service ringer and had rung several peals of Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob in the district and with neighbouring bands. The funeral took place at East Hagbourne on August 16th, and his fellow ringers acted as bearers and rang the handbells at the graveside.

Much sympathy is extended to his relatives and fiancée, more so as his wedding was to have taken place shortly.

GERMAN VANDALISM.

NORWEGIAN BELLS CONFISCATED.

The Stockholm correspondent of 'The Daily Telegraph' reported that last Monday Swedish papers published an order issued by Terboven, Nazi Governor of Norway, according to which all church bells in Norway must be dismantled and handed over to the German authorities. Many bells have already been taken down and sent to Germany to be melted down.

To give a thin veneer of legality to this vandalism Terboven declares that it is 'for vital purposes of the country's defence.' He adds that the Germans will replace the bells with new ones 'when circumstances permit.'

For some months Nazi officials have been busy compiling a list of bells throughout Norway, with details of their weight and the quantity of copper they contain. Protests by local church authorities have been disregarded.

This latest act of provocation has roused much indignation, particularly among the deeply religious peasant folk. Some of their bells are hundreds of years old.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

(Continued from previous column.)

the tenors have a larger share of the work of Cambridge and Superlative, while a disadvantage is that peals of this sort seem bound to be one-part, and so difficult to call.

Mr. Turner tells us that he made some investigations into a similar plan some time since and has peals in 5-lead courses with Cambridge, Superlative, Rutland and Yorkshire. There is still much scope for the clever composer in spliced peals.

One other point is worth considering. Which is the best way to give these compositions of Spliced Surprise on paper? Composers have differed a good deal and some confusion has been caused in the minds of conductors and readers. Some peals have been given by the lead ends. Mr. Parker, it will be remembered, adopted a plan in which the calling is put before the course end produced by it, and the methods shown after the course end are those of the following course.

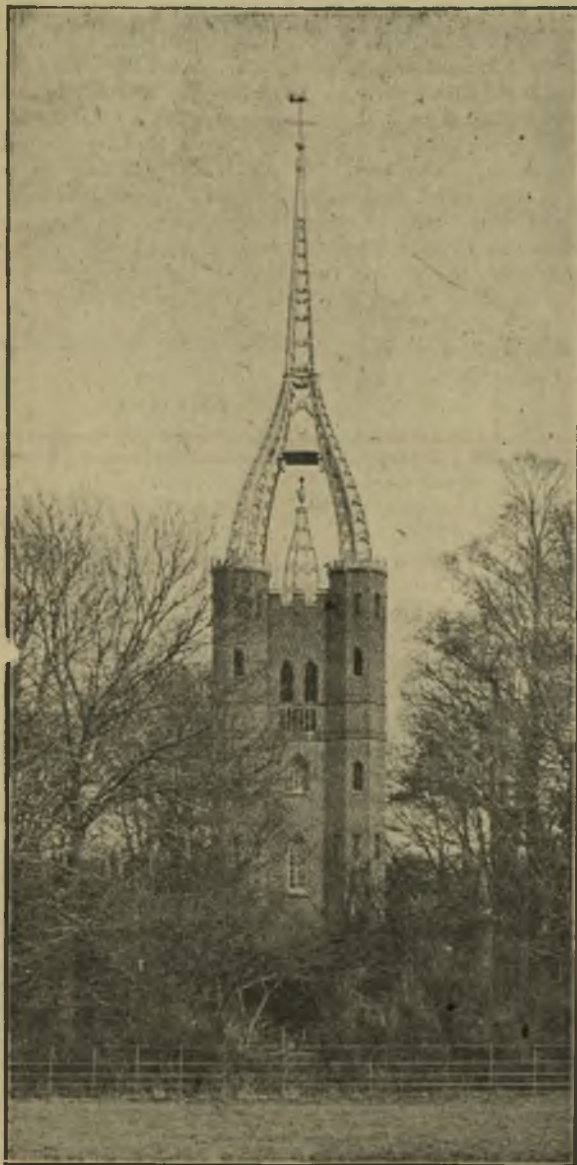
When he sent us his peal Mr. Pitman adopted the same plan, but after having consulted some conductors most experienced in spliced ringing, we have altered the arrangement as above. This arrangement follows most closely the traditional practice of the Exercise. First we have the course end, then the calling which produces it, and then the methods which are rung in it. We suggest that this should be the standard way of giving spliced peals as the best to avoid confusion; but we welcome any comments on the matter.

MEMORIES OF QUEX PARK.

A TALE OF TWO STRANDED RINGERS.

BY A TOUGH VETERAN.

In his reminiscences E. B. mentions Quex Park, and it would be strange if a Kent ringer had not had something to say about it. It is just the place to excite memories, for everything about it is so unusual. A ring of twelve bells privately owned, hung in a tower which stands in the middle of a large park a mile or so from the sea and far away from any houses; an ideal place for a holiday week-end where you can ring to your heart's content with no more restriction than you must be silent during service time on Sunday morning—in such conditions you expect something to talk about afterwards and you usually get it.



THE QUAIN TOWER OF QUEX.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

Most ringers know the story of the tower and its builder, John Powell Powell, and I am not going to repeat it now. There is, however, the question of the quality of the bells which I have never heard satisfactorily explained. Most visitors perhaps put them down as a failure; a poor lot, dreadfully out of tune, and leave it at that. But it will hardly do. They came as a peal from the Whitechapel foundry at a time when some really good bells were being cast there, though those who can see no good in any old bells may not admit it.

Thomas Mears was not likely to give anything but his very best to so wealthy and influential a patron as Squire Powell.

If you examine the bells critically you would probably find that the strike notes of the twelve are quite sufficiently in tune. The back eight are a good eight, the back ten just passable, the front five not a bad little ring and the middle six good. But the twelve as a whole are a thing to laugh at. They do not sound like twelve bells at all. I suppose the explanation (and, of course, there is an explanation) will be found in the overtones and undertones and their relative prominence.

Out of the memories of the things which have happened to me at Quex Park and which could have happened nowhere else there is one which I will tell, because it is of no importance, but was rather amusing at the time.

Some years ago I was asked by Jack Cheeseman to make one of a band to attempt a number of peals during the August Bank Holiday week-end in the Margate and Canterbury district. We were to meet on the Saturday at Quex, ring three peals there and then go on to Ramsgate and Canterbury. It was an ambitious programme and the band was rather a mixed one.

We met at Birchington on the Saturday, and since all the men had not yet turned up, started for Cambridge on the back eight, but had no luck. Walking through the park afterwards, Jack said to me, 'We had better go down to the town and get some lodgings.' I said, 'I thought you had done all that. We shan't get in anywhere this time of night in Birchington on the eve of a Bank Holiday.' 'Yes,' he said, 'I did make the arrangements, but there are two chaps coming by the last train and will have to be put up.'

I suggested that we should give them our beds and go and sleep in the tower, but he did not like the idea, so we went hunting for lodgings.

Of course, we had no luck. Every bathroom and every coal cellar in the place was taken, so with much misgiving he agreed to my suggestion.

We went back to the park and then found that the man who kept the tower key had gone to Margate and would not be back till after eleven. We waited for him, and when he turned up, told our tale and induced him to let us have the key.

A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.

To get to the tower at Quex you go along the drive through an iron gate and across the park into a wood which surrounds the tower. A way easy enough to find when you know it as we did.

But it was a dark night and the drive is bordered by thick undergrowth and bushes, and, search as we might, we could not find the path through. At last in desperation we went up to the house, cut across the ornamental flower beds and climbed the fence into the park that way, not without fear that we might run across a keeper or suddenly find a big dog with his teeth in the seat of our trousers.

When we got into the park we could see the dark mass of trees which surrounds the tower, but we had come to it from an unfamiliar angle and we had to search round that blessed wood two or three times before we could find the gate. And then when we did reach the tower the key would not open the lock.

He tried and I tried. I tried and he tried. We hammered on the door, but it was no use. The lock was a good lock and the door fitted properly. He swore and I swore, but even that did no good; and at last we gave it up as a bad job and began to wonder what we should do. It is easy to talk about sleeping in the open on an August night in England. Have you tried it? I have, and I know. And then for no reason at all the door opened almost before he had put the key into the lock for a final attempt.

We happened both of us to have some sandwiches, and so after lighting the candles and having a smoke we prepared for the night. 'Take your clothes off, Jack,' I told him, 'and especially your boots.' 'I shall be cold if I do,' he objected. 'You'll be cold if you don't,' I said, for I had not long since worn the King's uniform and was a veteran campaigner. But he would not heed.

Next morning I woke up well refreshed, but poor old Jack had not slept a wink. It was a lovely morning, and if we could have had a wash all would have been heavenly. A rubber sponge moistened with dew from the grass was not a really efficient substitute. But when we went to the town and saw the stuffy rooms where the others had been sleeping I thought we had not done so very badly after all.

But Jack was not up to peal ringing that morning, so we rang Treble Ten. In the afternoon we started for Stedman Cinques, but you don't always get the peals you start for at Quex, and we did not.

Next morning we rang another peal of Treble Ten at Ramsgate and then went on to Canterbury. Another attempt for Stedman Cinques was to be made there, but one of the local men was late in turning up. I could not afford to miss the last train, and so after waiting till the last moment I gave up my rope and went outside and listened while the rest started for another peal of Treble Ten. They finished their job, but just before the end the clapper of the tenth fell out and the last few changes were rung with only nine bells speaking.

Some people will remember the incident and the ensuing controversy which led in the end to the peal being withdrawn.

WOODDITTON, NEAR NEWMARKET.—On Sunday, August 17th. at Sunny View, on handbells, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): R. Heath 1-2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3-4, R. C. Sharpe 5-6, J. Acres 7-8.

THE STANDARD METHODS

THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.

One of the conditions laid down by Sir Arthur Heywood as essential in a standard method for Royal and Maximus was that it must be capable of being practised on eight bells and of extension to ten and twelve without material alteration in the work. It is a condition which obtains in the more simply constructed methods, such as Plain Bob, Grandsire, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Stedman, but becomes impossible as soon as any degree of complexity is introduced into the construction.

In the simpler methods it is possible to describe the movement of the bells in a short and simple statement which will apply to every number alike. For instance, we can say that in Plain Bob all the bells hunt forward until the treble leads, when second's place is made and the bells above dodge. We can say that in Kent all the bells hunt forward Treble Bob fashion except that the bell left on the lead by the treble leads and makes seconds until it returns again, and that certain fourths and thirds, and thirds and fourths are made before and after a bell goes in and out of the Slow. Stedman and Grandsire and Forward and Duffield we can describe in similarly short and comprehensive sentences.

But, as soon as we get away from this elementary group we find it difficult, and usually impossible, to draw up any general statement which will describe the work of a particular method on all numbers of bells. It is very difficult, for instance, to give a description of the movement of the bells in Double Norwich which would apply equally to Major, Royal and Maximus; and it is quite impossible to do so in the cases of Superlative, Bristol and London.

The natural conclusion is that, while the former group of methods will extend satisfactorily, for the latter methods no real extensions do or can exist. We may call methods Double Norwich Royal, Superlative Royal, Bristol Royal or London Royal, and we may produce a lot of arguments to justify our doing so, but actually those methods do not exist on the higher numbers in the sense that Plain Bob or Kent exist equally well on six and on twelve.

All this raises the question of the extension of methods, a very important and interesting subject, which for the moment we do not intend to discuss. Our object is to call attention to an exception to the general rule that the more complex methods are practically confined to one number of bells. The exception is Cambridge and one or two other methods which are closely related to it.

At first sight Cambridge might seem to be very similar to Superlative, and, indeed, the latter is usually considered to have been produced by an attempt to improve Cambridge, which was looked upon by Heywood and the leading men of his generation as crude and imperfect in construction, and interesting only on account of its antiquity. Really it is one of the very few methods of which the work on all numbers can be described in a short comprehensive statement, and therefore, if physical conditions allowed, it could be rung on a hundred bells or a thousand, with no more knowledge than can be gathered from eight or ten. That can be said of Plain Bob or Kent; it cannot be said of Superlative or London.

Here is the method thus comprehensively stated. The treble has a forward Treble Bob movement. All the other bells have also a forward Treble Bob movement, but

when the treble dodges they hunt forward; and when the treble hunts forward they dodge.

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10300000
01030000
10003000
01000300
-----
00103000
00010300
00100030
00010003

```

Now when there are two bells each moving in a regular path, if the movements are dissimilar it is evident that it will not be long before they will clash. So long as the treble and the third in the above illustration are apart, each can keep to its particular path, but when they come together they will get in each other's road and, unless one gives way to the other, there will be confusion and disaster. The treble is the fixed bell and has the right of the road, therefore the other must temporarily adapt its movement to that of the treble. It does so in this manner. When hunting up or down it will reach the treble's path in one or two ways: either before it has dodged or after it has dodged. If it comes there before it has dodged, it will omit that dodge and the dodge in the next position thus:—

```

10000300      00100003
01003000      00010030
10030000      00100300
01300000      00013000
-----
03100000      00031000
30010000      00300100
30100000      03001000
03010000      30000100

```

But if the bell meets the treble after it has dodged it must make a couple of places, dodge with the treble, and make a couple more places, before it can resume its treble bob hunting.

```

00000301      01003000
-----
00003001      00100300
00000310      00013000
00000301      00103000
00003010      00010300
-----
00003100      00001300
00001300      00003100
00003100      00001300
00001300      00003100
-----
00010300      00003010
00103000      00000301
00013000      00000310
00100300      00003001

```

All this can be tested practically; not now, of course, in the steeple, but in this manner.

Take a large sheet of square ruled paper and on it trace the path of a Treble Bob hunting treble on twelve or fourteen bells. Then trace the path of another bell causing it to hunt within the sections and dodge at the cross-sections. When it reaches the treble's path let it cross it either by running through or by place making, as explained above. When you have completed the course you will have the work of a bell in Cambridge on twelve or fourteen bells.

NOTICES.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—A meeting will (D.V.) be held, by kind permission of the Rector, at the Rectory Gardens at Stratton, on Saturday, August 23rd. Handbells and games from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Address by Canon D. F. Slemeck, to be followed by tea, handbells and social gathering.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next ringing meeting at Stoney Stanton, Saturday, Aug. 23rd. Bells (silenced and oiled) at 4.30. No tea. Handbells.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 30th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Chaddesley Corbett (D.V.) on Saturday, August 30th (not August 23rd). Eight bells available for silent practice 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements at the Swan (Tim's).—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Selby Abbey on Saturday, August 30th. Handbells and ringing on the back eight tower bells (silent). The Vicar, Canon Solloway, will conduct those present round the Abbey at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea can be obtained at Olde Cross Cafe, near Abbey. Business meeting at 6 o'clock, at which all outstanding annual subscriptions should be paid.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Barnby Don, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Buses start from Christ Church, Doncaster. Tea will be arranged for those who notify me by Wednesday, Aug. 27th.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton and Manchester Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Prestwick, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, to start at 3.30 p.m. Bells (silent). Tea can be obtained at the Co-op Cafe until 6 p.m. There are still many 1939-40 annual reports on hand.—Peter Crook and Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, Aug. 30th. Service in Parish Church at 3.45 p.m., followed by handbell ringing at the Vicarage and a cup of tea for those who inform me by Aug. 26th.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at East Ardsley. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea for drinking will

be provided. Members are requested to bring their own food. Business meeting in the Schools.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe on Aug. 30th. Ringing (silent) at about 3 p.m. (Six bells). Tea, about 5 p.m., at the King William IV., 15, 3d. each, for those only who notify Mr. W. Root, 19, Leicester Road, Countesthorpe, not later than Aug. 26th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Six tower bells available for silent ringing. Tea, by kind invitation, only to those who notify Mr. G. P. Elphick, 66, Priory Street, Lewes, by previous Saturday.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Further particulars later.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting in Church House. Those requiring tea please notify me by Aug. 30th. All ringers welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Service at 4 p.m. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock. Tea for those who notify Mr. L. Pullin, High Street, Yatton, by Thursday, Sept. 4th.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

FOR SALE.—800 copies 'Ringing World,' 1921 to 1940. What offers?—Box X., 'Ringing World' Office, Woking.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

FALSE ALARM AT NOTTINGHAM.

Nottingham people could hardly believe their ears when the bell of Trinity Church, in the city centre, rang on Sunday afternoon. Police found a Canadian, Sgt.-Air Gunner Richard Derry, in the balcony, near the bell rope. He said to them, 'I want the padre.' At Nottingham on Monday Derry pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly but he was given a good character by his commanding officer, and the case was dismissed.

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No. 1,588. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th, 1941.

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WAR-TIME MEETINGS.

The continuance of the ban on the ringing of church bells is having an increasingly serious effect, not only on the art but also on the existence of the ringing associations themselves. It is, perhaps, to be expected and much of it is unavoidable, but it is none the less regrettable. Those whose chief interest was in their Sunday service ringing have nothing to hold them together; others who took a wider interest and enjoyed the social attraction of meetings as well as the practice such gatherings provided, have few inducements. Soundless bells are a poor substitute for the lovely voices we all so much enjoyed; and somehow there usually seems only a half-hearted atmosphere about meetings deprived of the church bells.

It may be for these reasons that in many districts ringing meetings appear to have been entirely abandoned, but, despite all the drawbacks, the ringers who are left ought not to resort to what amounts to a policy of despair. Even small gatherings are worth while, if only to preserve the life of the organisations and contact between members who remain at home, and, while the meetings must of necessity be of a restricted nature, their complete abandonment is to be greatly deplored. The example of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who are still maintaining their traditions by meeting fortnightly, despite having been bombed out of their official home, is one on which other associations might ponder and from which they may take heart. The gatherings are small, but the few who meet are faithful, and when better times come and ringing is once more restored, the College Youths will have added to their prestige by the continuity of their activities and their determination that even in these disturbed times they will not break faith with the past.

We do not, of course, know what may be in store, but while there is opportunity associations should do their utmost to keep in touch with the members still left. If they do not do so they cannot complain later that the members have left them, although we repeat that those who remain ought, in loyalty, to continue to support their associations and not let their membership lapse through the non-payment of subscriptions because they imagine they are getting nothing in return. Nevertheless associations in their turn have a duty to the members, and in many cases much more could be done than is at present apparent to retain interest. Even the smallest meeting is not without its value, for, if nothing else, it is a sign of life. At the same time there should be an effort to provide some kind of attraction, and this ought not to be difficult where the officials are men, or women, of initiative.

(Continued on page 410.)

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For instance, now that no one is in a hurry to get back to the belfry, which used formerly to be the excuse for cutting short the business meetings, talks and discussions on the many-sided interests of ringing might be arranged and in this way post-war plans might be usefully developed, as well as much instructive material of various kinds disseminated and ideas ventilated. This might eventually encourage more members to take a hand in the affairs of the association, because they will have derived an extended interest and will be ready, when the time comes, to throw themselves with greater enthusiasm into putting their own bands, their own associations and the Exercise into top gear again.

We must not imagine that, when the war finishes, ringing will be able to start again exactly where it left off. A good deal will have been lost, and there will be much leeway to make up. Bands have got to be rebuilt, and where there are, as inevitably there must be, gaps to be filled, a great deal of time will have to be spent in the recovery. It may not be possible at the moment to stay the adverse current, but it should be the business of all who remain at home to prepare for the brighter days. In the towns it must rest with the individual ringers, the faithful few; but they are entitled to the help which associations can give by bringing them together as often as possible for mutual encouragement and an exchange of ideas. The pessimistic secretaries who fail to hold meetings for fear of small attendances need 'gingering up.' Pessimism breeds despair, and where this creeps in, the effort required to re-establish ringing later on will be all the greater and the difficulties all the more formidable.

A PEAL OF Highbury Bob Major.

5,056 CHANGES.
By E. C. S. TURNER.
23456 O H F I

34256	—	—
25346	—	—
53246	—	—
32546	—	—
54326	—	—
42356	—	—

42635	—	—
26435	—	—
43265	—	—
32465	—	—
24365	—	—
36245	—	—
62345	—	—

62534	—	—
53264	8	—
32564	—	—
25364	—	—
36254	—	—
62354	—	—
23654	—	—

65234	—	—
23546	—	—
54236	—	—
23465	—	—

Repeated.

Rung on handbells at Bushey on July 25th, 1941, the first in the method. Can be used for any Plain method with J lead-ends. The method is No. 6 in the Central Council's Collection of Plain Major Methods.

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THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 17, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*GEORGE H. SPICE ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
 †BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | †WILLIAM SPICE ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal. † First peal 'in hand' on eight bells. First peal on eight bells as conductor.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 18, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH ... 3-4
 BERNARD BROWN ... 5-6

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 18, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-ON-THE-WALL

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS HARRIS ... 1-2 | ALBERT M. TYLER ... 5-6
 ROYSTON G. BRYANT ... 3-4 | *GEORGE H. SMITH ... 7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

Witnessed by Donald G. Clift.

* First peal of Triples. Rung as a birthday compliment to Royston G. Bryant.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Friday, August 22, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

At 21, WATKEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 18 in G flat.

THOMAS HARRIS ... 1-2 | ROYSTON G. BRYANT ... 5-6
 ALBERT M. TYLER ... 3-4 | DONALD G. CLIFT ... 7-8

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

First peal in the method on handbells as conductor. A birthday compliment to the ringer of 1-2. First peal on this beautiful set of bells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL.

Owing most likely to the fact that the bells of St. Nicholas', Liverpool, have been taken down from the steeple, there was not such a good attendance as previously at the meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held on August 16th in the belfry. In addition to the local company, members were present from Bootle, West Derby, Woolton and Wallasey. A welcome visitor was Mr. G. W. Massey, of Claygate, Surrey, who was elected a non-resident life member of the association.

The Rector of Liverpool, the Rev. D. Railton, presided at the meeting. After referring to the removal of St. Nicholas' bells to a place of safety, he stressed the importance of ringers being ready to play their part in the work which will be necessary after the war is over. Some of the destroyed churches will be rebuilt; he hoped they would be many and include St. Nicholas'. He hoped that those whose bells had been destroyed would have them replaced so that they could again be used for the purpose for which they were cast.

It was decided to hold another meeting on Saturday, September 13th. West Derby was proposed, and, failing that, St. Francis Xavier, Liverpool. It is hoped that permission will be obtained to use the tower bells for silent ringing as an addition to handbell ringing.

THE HANDBELL RECORD.

MEMORABLE PEAL RECALLED.

Next Sunday is the anniversary of the longest handbell peal on record, 19,738 of Stedman Caters, rung in the belfry at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, on August 31st, 1912, by Arthur F. Shepherd, Alfred H. Pulling, William Shepherd, James Hunt and Frank Blondell.

It was a great performance, but fell short of the original intention of the band. The 'prize' was to have been the 'five twos'—22,222, but it was cut just short of twenty thousand. The arrangements for the peal provided for a start at 12 noon, but in the morning one of the band sent to say he could not arrive until 1 p.m., which actually turned out to be nearly two o'clock.

At 11.15 p.m., when usually all the band would have been in bed, there was still nearly three thousand changes to ring, and the conductor asked if they all agreed to go on, but knowing the time and being tired, some thought they had better finish. The last bob at 4 put the bells into the hand-stroke plain course, and the bells were allowed to come home with 19,728 changes in 9 hours 32 minutes. Had they gone on for the full length the ringing would have ended at about a quarter to one.

This is what 'The Ringing World' said about the peal in the following issue:—

'It was not until 1.55 p.m. that the bells got away to a good start after two attempts at the going-off course. The striking was splendid and the half of the twenty-two thousand ran up in 5 hours 23 minutes. The turning course was perfectly rung and the tapping with the bells in the handstroke position was as good as it had been in the titlums. Course after course rolled faultlessly away, but it was obvious that the peal would have to be curtailed.

'It was really a wonderful performance and constitutes a world's double record, inasmuch as it is not only by far the longest length yet rung on handbells, but it is also the greatest number of changes ever rung by one set of men.

'Incidentally it was Alfred Pulling's 300th peal, of which 127 had been on handbells. He had conducted 240 of the total, including all the 58 peals of Stedman Caters which he had rung on handbells.

'A number of umpires, including the Editor of "The Ringing World," assisted in checking the peal, but only one stayed from beginning to end. This was Mr. A. H. Winch, who, as he had to be back in Leatherhead on Sunday morning, walked home, a distance of 12 miles, after the peal!

Here are some comments on the peal which were made in 'The Ringing World' a week later: 'The more one thinks about the record peal the more wonderful it appears. To ring Stedman Caters "double handed" for 9 hours 32 minutes without a pause is a truly remarkable performance. The mere concentration of mind necessary for such a length of time is in itself a wonderful feat. We learn that the only real trip was about twelve courses from home, but cool heads and smart conducting saved the situation. It also had the effect of waking the ringers up and after the trip the bells ran out without a misblow to a brilliant finish.'

The speed at which the various portions of the peal were rung is interesting. The average pace was 34.5 changes a minute, and the following figures compiled from notes made by one of the umpires as the ringing progressed show how little the pace varied. The peal was divided approximately into 24-course blocks of 2,592 changes each, except when the 2nd was 5th's place bell, and then the block consisted of seven courses only.

Start	Actual Time	Time Occupied	Changes Per Min.
1.55 p.m.			
24 Courses	3. 8 "	73 mins.	35.6
24 "	4.22 "	74 "	35.1
7 "	4.44 "	22 "	34.3
24 "	6. 4 "	80 "	32.5
24 "	7.18 "	74 "	35.1
24 "	8.34 "	76 "	34.2
24 "	9.46 "	72 "	36.1
7 "	10. 8 "	22 "	34.3
24 "	11.27 "	79 "	32.9

Here is another note of interest about the peal. One of the ringers was so seated that he could see the belfry clock by turning his head. The first time he looked at it was when the bells started at 1.55 p.m. The next time was at 10.5 p.m.! He was too engrossed in his job to worry about how the hours were passing, or else it was that he realised he had a long way to go and it was no good looking too soon.

SHOULD PUBLICITY CEASE ?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your leading article of August 8th called attention to the matter that all ringers should watch carefully.

It has been my experience, and no doubt yours, that it is the minority who take an active and often adverse interest in most matters. Bells and their noise are no exception. The voice of this minority is usually heard the loudest, the reason being that the majority do not take any action until their interests are definitely threatened.

While agreeing with your article, it would be well, I think, to bear this in mind.

FREDERICK E. PITMAN

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S**'COLLEGE YOUTHS'****A History of the Society**

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WOKING, SURREY.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 401.)

TRUTH IN PEAL RINGING.

It will be remembered that one of the resolutions, proposed by Arthur Heywood and adopted at the Johnson dinner in 1889, declared that it was 'eminently desirable that there should be some authoritative definition as to the extent of departure from absolute correctness of ringing which may be permitted in a true peal.' Heywood evidently intended this to be one of the matters for the proposed Central Council; he mentioned it at one or two of the early meetings; and it was debated at Bristol in 1898.

It is a question which has interested ringers in one form or another from the earliest days of change ringing, and it will no doubt continue to interest them as long as the art is practised.

In theory, when we ring a peal we claim not only to have struck a certain number of changes without repetition of any one, but also to have performed a given amount of work without any mistake whatever. That is the theory. But the practice is not quite the same, and of very few peals indeed is it literally true. One missed dodge, one faulty blow is enough to invalidate the claim; and we are compelled to accept as a true peal something which only approximately fulfils the required conditions.

The question therefore which ringers have always had, consciously or unconsciously, to face is this: Since perfection can hardly be hoped for how far are we justified in ignoring any lapses from it?

It is an extraordinarily difficult question, and the answers that ringers have given by their action as well as by their words are very diverse.

We may say quite definitely that the number of men who would consent to the publication of a false peal is very small. There are some who for the sake of scoring a peal will do things which they know are not quite right and which they would be ashamed to own up to, but they are very few. The vast majority act up to what they think is the required standard, but the difficulty is that the standard is sometimes lower than it ought to be.

Many years ago, after over two hours' quite good ringing I was asked why I stopped the bells. I answered, 'Because the third and fourth had shifted.' 'But why did you stop the bells? We could easily have put them right again.' The men who said that were quite honest and would not have wittingly done anything they thought was wrong. On the other hand, there is a story, of a well-known Suffolk ringer who was one of a band that was trying to ring a peal of Treble Bob Royal on handbells at a time when peals of Treble Bob Royal on handbells were rare. They had been ringing for a long time without any trips and with most excellent striking when he put his bells down. Asked why he did so, he replied, 'When we ring the peal, we'll ring a true one.' His bells had been crossing in 3-4 and should have made places, but he dodged them and did not realise the mistake until he had made it.

These incidents show how very diverse are the opinions of ringers, and there is in addition all that is involved in the not uncommon cases where during a peal a trip degenerates into a muddle in which half the band have lost themselves and the other half who know what

they should do cannot find where to do it. Then the conductor or another in the band straightens out things and saves the peal. As an exhibition of skill and knowledge such a thing often is admirable, but how far can it be said to be compatible with true peal ringing? Often there is no guarantee that the bells were not already wrong before the muddle began, or that the change where they are brought out of the muddle is the one they would be at if there had been no muddle.

At Bristol the Council was invited to discuss how far and under what conditions any departure from the true and clear ringing of every change is permissible in the performance of a peal. F. E. Robinson was entrusted with the opening of the debate. Heywood probably asked him because he was eminently distinguished as a peal ringer, but his speech was inconclusive and disappointing, and neither he nor the Council as a whole rose to the occasion. What was needed was a plain and straightforward declaration that though absolute perfection is unattainable, yet every conductor and every ringer should aim at it. Men should be induced to feel that truth in peal ringing is not only a point of honour, but also a matter of self interest. When that is done the question of how far lapses are allowable can safely be left to the individual. But many people thought, and Heywood among them, that a definite line could be drawn between merely faulty ringing and false ringing.

Robinson said that he thought the time had come when the Council might undertake to say how far a departure from a true peal should be permitted. In former times the standard was a low one. He remembered a conductor who used to say, 'I don't trouble about the little bells so long as the big'uns keep smartish,' and another who would say if there was a hitch, 'Now then! give one good fire and do what I tell you.'

I rather doubt the last tale. It does not sound quite true. It used to be told about Washbrook, and probably was invented by someone who was trying to satirise his extraordinary skill as a conductor. Unless, indeed, it is one of those traditional tales which have come down from the remote past and have been applied from time to time to many people. Like the other one of the man who never made but one good blow in a peal, and that was when he missed his sally.

Probably in the past, there was a good deal of laxity in some places, but there is no evidence that it was general. The standard of good striking and true ringing was a very high one in Norwich and the Eastern Counties generally, and so it was in London among the College Youths. John Cox was accused of having done some rather shady things in peal ringing; but his accuser had a reason for discrediting him, and the charge would hardly have been made if the practices were at all common.

Robinson went on to point out that in Triples a peal runs to the full extent of the changes, any lapse would almost certainly cause repetition, and therefore Triples should be rung on more rigid lines than other numbers.

He was here referring to a fallacy by which many ringers have sought to excuse their lapses. Suppose you are ringing a peal of Stedman, Caters of the sort then usual without singles. If there is a shift of course and the two bells are afterwards put right, there will still be no repetition of changes. Why cannot you count it as a true peal? I objected that it would not be Sted-

man Caters. Heywood said, 'What you mean is, I suppose, that it would not be the peal they started for.' 'No, I don't,' I said. 'What I mean is that in a true peal of Stedman Caters, you can't have a shift and a single, any more than you can in Stedman Triples, and the fact that there has been no repetition of changes has nothing to do with it.'

Robinson was here hampered by the memory of what had happened not so long before at Taunton. On June 25th, 1885, he called a peal of Stedman Caters in that town with a band that included Washbrook and Davies. It was reported in 'The Bell News' in the usual way, but some time afterwards rumours began to get about that the ringing had been false. What had happened was this: a shift had occurred and to get the bells round a single was called. I rather imagine from what was said that it was Washbrook who put the single in. When the peal was finished there was a discussion in the belfry and though Robinson was uneasy about the matter, he did not object when the report was sent (by another man) to 'The Bell News.' When in 1892 the peal was publicly challenged he admitted it was false, but rather glossed over the matter. A week or two later, however, he wrote again and made what he called a lenten confession, when he fully admitted his mistake and took the responsibility. It was an honourable thing to do, and can hardly have been an easy one for a man in his position, but it shed a rather unfavourable light on the standard of peal ringing current in some quarters.

An incident, not unlike the Taunton one, happened as far back as 1796 at Christ Church, Spitalfields. A band of the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, with William Williams as conductor and John Noonan at the

fourth, rang 7,001 changes of Grandsire Caters. A footnote to the record in the peal book (which was not written until several years later) states that 'the third and fifth were out of course five courses about the middle of the peal, after which they took their right course again to the end of the peal.' The composition was an in-course one, but we are left in doubt as to whether the peal was considered a true one or not.

The debate at Bristol did not produce any striking speeches. The Council appeared to be rather afraid of the subject, and Heywood declared at the beginning of the debate that 'there was not a member present who would dare to move a resolution upon it even if they discussed it.' At the close he said that when a man was conducting, his motives were excellent, and so they were when the peal was finished, but when he got into a fix there was no telling what he would not do. He had himself rung a great many peals, some in which things had happened which, if he related them, would make their hair stand on end. One rather wonders where he had met with these alarming experiences. The great majority of his peals were rung in his own tower with himself as conductor, or with the Burton-on-Trent band, or at Birmingham. He also missed the real point. No one can complain when a conductor does everything he can think of to save a peal. The real test is whether the saved peal should afterwards be considered up to the standard necessary for it to rank as a true peal. In the event the only resolution passed by the Council on the subject in 1902 declared that any shift or error in ringing must be immediately corrected. The Exercise has always recognised this rule, and few would care to admit they had ever willingly broken it.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The meeting of the Hertford County Association at Bushey, which was to have been held to-morrow, has been cancelled. Meetings will be resumed on the last Saturday in September.

Congratulations to Mr. R. T. Woodley, one of the oldest members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who reaches his 82nd birthday to-day.

Sunday is the twenty-third anniversary of the death of Bertram Prewett, who was killed on active service in France.

Sergt. H. P. Reed, who recently was seriously wounded while on active service, is now in the R.A.F. Hospital, Ely, Cambs. Any letters would be very welcome, though it will be some time before he can reply to them. Sergt. Reed was one of Mr. George Williams' band at North Stoneham.

A correspondent asks us if anything has been done to safeguard the Carter ringing machine. It is in the custody of the Science Museum, who, of course, have the charge of thousands of far more valuable exhibits, and the safety of the machine must be left to them.

John Lyford, who wrote the letter recently discovered by Mr. A. A. Hughes, died on October 14th, 1826, aged 69. He would, therefore, be a young man of 27 when the letter was written. His brother William was five years older.

Official figures have been issued of the damage to church property in Liverpool through enemy action. Nineteen churches, five vicarages and seven church halls have been totally destroyed. The Cathedral and 83 other churches have been more or less seriously damaged.

Henry Hubbard, one of the famous Norwich Scholars and the author of the text book on change ringing which went through four editions between 1845 and 1876, was born on August 25th, 1807.

The first true peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, by the Norwich Scholars on August 26th, 1718. On the same date in 1776 the College Youths rang 10,640 changes of Bob Major at Mortlake.

Matthew A. Wood, for many years a very prominent member of the London Exercise, died on August 27th, 1912, aged 87.

The splendid ring of twelve bells at York Minster were dedicated on August 29th, 1926.

Sir Henry Tulse, sometime Lord Mayor of London and Master of the Society of College Youths, died on August 31st, 1689.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. They were one each of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Oxford Treble Bob Major, and 7 Minor methods.

LEONARD PROCTOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Leonard Proctor's portrait and short 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in 'Church Bells' for March 22nd, 1895.

It says he was born in January, 1816, and his family had been seated at Benington for three centuries. He went to Eton in 1829, where he rang the bell at the death of George IV., and to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1834, where he graduated in January, 1838.

In the last paragraph it says, 'The Benington band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants and the Squire and his men grew old together. He had few pursuits outside and seldom left the village. Latterly he lived almost entirely alone, and became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life. He was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham.

TEDBURN ST. MARY.

OLD-TIME RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read the report of the Devon Guild's meeting at Tedburn St. Mary in your issue of August 22nd and especially the statement that the bells had not been rung for 70 years.

My grandfather, W. H. Wedlake, who died in 1930 at the age of 78, was a ringer for many years at Dunsford, a village about five miles from Tedburn, and I well remember him telling me of an occasion in his younger days when the Dunsford ringers paid a visit to Tedburn to ring. They were met by the Tedburn band, and, after the ringing, all adjourned to the village pub, where an argument started (no doubt as to who were the best ringers!), and it ended in the Dunsford band being driven out of the village! This, however, did not suit my grandfather, who, I do not doubt, was a fairly hefty customer in those days, and he returned to the pub alone. Whether the Tedburn ringers admired him for having the sauce to come back I do not know, but anyway he was welcomed, and once or twice afterwards he went to Tedburn alone to ring with the locals.

I have spent many happy hours with the present Dunsford band, who still ring call changes, and a few years ago I happened to take part in the muffled ringing for Henry Pook, leader of the band in my grandfather's time, and who, quite possibly, was present on the expedition mentioned above.

L. C. W. HUNTER.

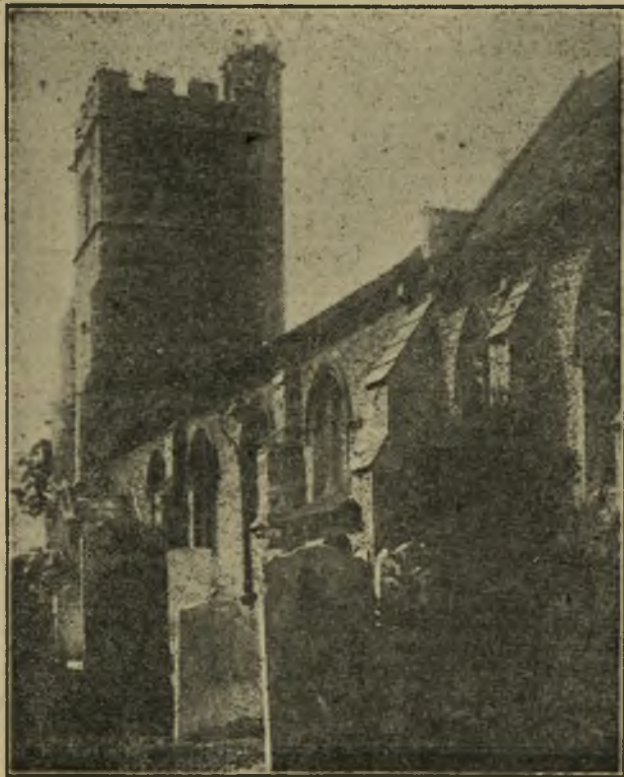
Shalford, Surrey.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE RAIDS.

Proposed Rebuilding.

A few weeks ago we mentioned among the buildings damaged by air raids a church in a south-east suburb. We are now permitted to give its name. It was SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley in Kent, and was almost completely destroyed with its ring of eight bells. We learn from 'The Times' that clearance of the site has begun. First-aid repairs are to be made to the tower (which was built about the year 1400, and is the oldest remaining part of the church) pending a decision whether it can be fully restored. The view of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is that full restoration is possible. It is hoped to recover the bell metal for eventual use in casting new bells. As much of the masonry as possible will be saved in the hope of using it in building a new church after the war. As soon as circumstances permit a temporary church will be put up.



SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH, BROMLEY.

The bells were a ring of eight supplied in 1773 by Thomas Jannaway. He did not cast many bells. The most important of his still remaining are the eight at Battersea and most of those at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, where he hung an octave afterwards increased to ten by Warners, who added a tenor and recast one or two others.

In the late eighteenth century Bromley had an energetic and successful company of ringers, who called themselves the Bromley Youths. They were tradesmen of the town, shoemakers, carpenters, breeches-makers, bricklayers and the like. In September, 1774, they rang a peal of Bob Major and in the next year 10,080 changes in the same method. They followed with many other peals, some in their home belfry and some at neighbouring towers. Their most notable performance was 5,520 Real Double Bob Major in 1789. It was John Reeves' composition from the 'Clavis' and was the first peal ever rung with the bobs in pairs one behind and one in front and both in the same lead.

For long William Chapman was their chief bob caller, and when he died in 1817 the company rang to his memory the first muffled five thousand ever achieved. The society also scored the first 'John' peal, one of Grandsire Triples in 1828.

Like the majority of similar companies the society declined soon after the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The peal book in which they recorded their performances was preserved, and has, we understand, survived the latest catastrophes.

FUTURE OF DAMAGED CHURCHES.

THE PRACTICE OF CENTURIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I fully agree with your correspondent, F. H. Smith, when he says that 'Anti-Silent' has created a bogey with which he has scared himself stiff. There is no proof yet that anywhere in the Church the clergy or anyone else are making an excuse of the war damage to stop bellringing by providing only utilitarian replacements. Such necessity as there may be for this type of building has long been with us, and, as far as the provision of bells is concerned, unquestionably from the beginning.

There has always been a very large proportion of churches, both old and new, wherein the erection of a ringing peal was never contemplated. Within a short radius of my own parish there are three twelfth century churches which have never had anything but a bell turret, and there are six other parish churches built within the last 70 years which are similarly without towers.

The early churches are built with all the proud and stately simplicity of the age; the 'new' churches may well be called 'utilitarian.' They vary in what some people term 'beauty' or lack of it, whichever you prefer, from a brick built 'barn' to a stone faced structure, but all of them are churches which serve the parishioners in all their spiritual needs. They never have had nor are they likely ever to have a ring of bells, but no one can complain that that is due to any prejudice against them.

And so it has been, I imagine, all down the ages, and if new churches go up without provision for bells—well, much as we ringers may regret it, it will not be a disguised attack upon our art. It may well be the need for rigid economy. Where there are damaged or destroyed churches which formerly had towers, even if the towers are down with the rest of the buildings, we may hope to see them rise again and to become as beautiful and as complete as before the war.

Those who visited Belgium and the areas stricken in the last war will probably have noticed how the spirit of the Church there reacted when peace permitted reconstruction. The Cathedral at Ypres, for instance, was reduced by bombardment to a heap of rubble, but the building rose again in the years that followed. Its furnishings were first of an extremely 'utilitarian' character, but pious men and women gradually began to restore the interior to something of its old grandeur by their gifts, and permanent fittings commensurate with the importance and dignity of the building soon began to take the place of the plain furniture that sufficed at the outset. So it will be, I am sure, with our churches here in England. Where the churches are rebuilt the bells will, some day, come again to the towers.

New churches in new districts may be a different matter, but let us remember what I said before that by no means all the churches built down the centuries have been designed to hold rings of bells.

T. PARKINSON.

ANTI-BELL ADVOCATES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent 'Anti-Silent' seems to be a don hand in inventing bogies. Does he or anyone else really believe that there is any organised opposition to the use of church bells or that the influence of those who dislike the sound of them has spread to sections of the ecclesiastical authorities or to the Ministry of Home Security? There are people who do not like the bells of the church next door to where they live and they have a right to their likes and dislikes. But they don't care twopence about the bells in the next parish.

'Anti-Silent' talks big enough, but I wonder what sort of a Church it would be if he had the ordering of it.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

CONDUCTORS.—Conductors in my early ringing days sometimes indulged in laxity that would not be tolerated now. One used to say that 'he did not trouble about the little bells so long as the big ones kept right.' The following conversation is reported to have taken place during a peal of Grandsire Triples: 'What's the matter with you?' quoth one of the band to the conductor, who replied, 'We're in the last part of the peal, but I can't get the bells round'; to which the other rejoined, 'Ah, we've been in he a smart many times; let me call 'em round.'—F. E. Robinson.

SINGLES.—Some ringers have thought that singles should not be used unless the object cannot otherwise be attained: but I differ in opinion: as they not only afford a pleasing variety, but also an opportunity of introducing a greater number of musical changes. We have many instances of their being used when not absolutely necessary as in one peal of Grandsire Triples with 50 singles, etc. They are indeed indispensable in some methods as in Grandsire Caters: for without them not one change in 181,440 could be obtained.—Shipway.

Have 'The Ringing World' sent to your ringing friends abroad; 4s. 4d. per quarter from 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The composition published this week marks another important stage in the history of Spliced Surprise Major. It was over 17 years ago, on May 14th, 1924, to be precise, when the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major was rung at Whitley Bay. This was a peal of Cambridge and Superlative, with 2,528 changes in each method. It is strange that no other band in the country took up this form of ringing, although there were several at that time quite capable of doing so, and it can only be assumed that the 'time was not ripe.'

It is interesting to note, however, especially in the light of criticisms made during a controversy which took place many years later, that this composition fulfilled much that has since been sought after by composers. It not only contained full courses, but there was exactly the same number of changes in each method, and all the bells did all the work of the two methods rung. This last quality was only just attained, and an examination of the composition shows that some of the work was done by the tenors once only throughout the peal. There appears to be no doubt that the composer, Mr. J. W. Parker, had some difficulty in fitting in some of the leads without introducing falseness.

If this is so, it is not surprising that a four method peal was impossible to find with full courses, but the ingenious plan introduced in 1927 by the late Rev. H. Law James gave the Exercise a peal in the four standard methods, London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative. This peal was rung soon after publication by bands led by Mr. A. H. Pulling, Mr. William Pye and Mr. H. E. Passmore, the latter being the first to call the peal from a bell doing all the work. Later, other methods were introduced, Lincolnshire in one peal in which a third lead of London was also rung, and Pudsey and Rutland in another.

Then Mr. Pitman produced a variety of peals in all numbers of methods up to 16. Several of these were rung, the greatest number of methods introduced into any one of the successful performances being twelve. All these compositions, however, were on the short course plan, and, generally speaking, the only courses containing more than three leads were those in which such methods as Bristol and New Gloucester, bobbed, were introduced. At the same time, it was quite evident to those ringers who took an intelligent interest in the matter that the more methods in the peals, the greater the liability to falseness, and the greater the difficulty of getting away from Law James' plan, which was introduced as the only way to avoid falseness. It was, therefore, surprising to find opposition to this plan, which showed itself on more than one occasion.

A subtle attack was made by an association whose members, none of whom had apparently had any practical experience of Spliced Surprise ringing, passed a resolution to the effect that 'the splicing of methods is theoretically unsound.' No reasons were given for this extraordinary resolution, and enquiries as to what were the reasons which led up to the resolution being put to the meeting brought only an evasive reply.

Later, some critics objected to the whole plan on the grounds that in spliced peals all the bells should do all the work of all the methods, and that the same number, or very nearly the same number, of changes of each method should be rung; the critics quite forgetting or perhaps never even being aware of the difficulties involved, and certainly having no idea at all how such a desirable state of affairs could be achieved.

To-day we see Mr. Pitman's latest peal, which gives the tenors a much larger share of the work. A few weeks ago we saw Mr. J. W. Parker's latest very fine compositions, which actually, but only just, introduced all the work of all the methods for all the bells, and one is entitled to ask whether such peals would have been discovered had the critics of a few years ago had their way and succeeded in getting the short course plan ruled out as unsound.

One thing is quite certain, the fine achievements of the Bushey handbell band would not now be looked back upon with pride—nor could we look forward to the days when some of our younger composers and conductors will make still further advances in this branch of our art.

I have in my possession a composition by Mr. Pitman, consisting of 5,120 changes of Superlative, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Major, in four lead courses, each course containing a bob 'before.' I do not know if it has been published, but perhaps Mr. Pitman can say. It is an extremely interesting composition, and it may be rung in five, four, three or two methods.

One other point raised this week is worthy of comment. The plan adopted by Mr. Parker of placing the calling of the methods against the previous course-end seems to me to be likely to cause confusion. As a matter of fact, when I saw his first peal so shown I wondered what it was all about, as it did not seem to fit together until I realised what had been done. I, for one, favour the plan adopted by the Editor in this week's paper, which up to now has appeared quite satisfactory.

C. T. COLES.

HOW TO GIVE THE FIGURES.

Dear Sir,—Mention last week was made as to the best way to give compositions of spliced peals on paper, and the arrangement of Mr. Pitman's peal there given certainly follows the 'traditional' practice, but is it perfectly clear?

(Continued in next column.)

A FAMILY PEAL.

MR. W. SPICE'S ACHIEVEMENT AT EIGHTY.

Ringing is one of the most remarkable of all pastimes in that there is practically no age limit. One seems never too young or too old to begin, and even those who have grown up in it can launch out afresh in another direction at any age.

For instance, at eighty Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall, Kent, has just rung his first peal 'in hand' on eight bells—and it is not that he knew all about it before and had only bothered about it now. No, he has been practising with a family band who started to teach themselves handbell ringing when war broke out; in fact, the first practice took place on the day war was declared—but that was, perhaps, a coincidence.

It has always been Mr. William Spice's ambition to ring a 'Spice' peal and for many years there have been enough ringers in the family to make up a band, but, what with one thing and another, only two attempts for a tower-bell peal of Grandsire Triples have ever been made. With the outbreak of the war, followed by the imposition of the ban, it seemed that the performance would never be accomplished.

When handbell practice was started none of the band could manage more than a plain course of Grandsire Triples, and the difficulties were not made less by the absence from home for half the year of the most enthusiastic member of the company.

However, a handbell peal of Grandsire Triples has now been rung after four or five attempts, and Grandfather Spice has achieved one of his great ambitions. And he will be congratulated, too, for it is no mean feat for a man to start ringing handbell peals, even if only on 7-8, at the age of eighty. Mr. Spice is already talking of trying for a family peal of Caters!

From the record of the peal it will be observed that all the ringers did something new. Betty Spice rang her first peal, George Spice rang his first peal 'in hand,' William Spice rang his first peal 'in hand' on eight bells, and John Spice called his first peal on eight bells.

The 'Spice' peal recalls other family achievements of a similar kind. The brothers Bailey, of Leiston, rang many peals on handbells from Triples to Maximus, the methods including Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Stedman. The brothers Pye rang peals which reached Surprise Major. The late John D. Matthews when Master of the Royal Cumberlands called a family peal of Bob Major. There have been others, of course, several of them on six bells, one as long ago as 1897 by three Timbrells, of Chipping, Lancs.

Although we do not remember that the talented Washbrook family ever rang a handbell peal, they did some remarkable things and used to ring courses of Grandsire Cinques with the great J. W., sen., ringing four bells.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND YOUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The query in your Belfry Gossip for August 8th last has brought an interesting letter or two in reply.

On perusing Belfry Gossip this week I find a note saying Mr. W. H. Fussell rang his first peal on August 5th, 1882, conducted by William Baron. I naturally thought this may have been a Cumberland peal, as peals at that time were sometimes headed by two or more societies. However, it was not so, but on the same page (149), 'The Bell News,' August 12th, 1882, I find Henry Hopkins ringing in a Cumberland peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Saffron Walden, Essex. Therefore, Mr. Hopkins is a much older member than those mentioned. Looking further on I find on page 294 for September 22nd, 1883, Mr. W. H. Fussell taking part in a Cumberland peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Arthur H. Gardom.

These dates are both prior to those already given.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

OTHER CANDIDATES.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Fussell and my father joined this society within a few months of each other, and their 50 years' membership was celebrated at Shoreditch in 1931 with a peal of Stedman Cinques, in which they both took part. Mr. J. F. Priest, of Woodstock, South Africa, who recently wrote to 'The Ringing World,' also became a member about the same time. The Rev. W. C. Pearson, of Henley, Ipswich, who founded the Cambridge University Guild in 1879, is also a Cumberland Youth. When he became a member I am unable to say.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR

(Continued from previous column.)

The novice reads from left to right and from top to bottom of a column or page, and, glancing at the peal, one sees: 23456 BMWH. then under a line 42356 SSCXI, which, if called as shown, would produce 34256 and not 35426, there being nothing whatever to show how 42356 is arrived at. Again at the end of the peal, after rounds it would appear there was still SSCXL to be rung with a bob at home.

These remarks apply to any composition, and if the composer prefers his calling on the right of the courses, should it not be shown one step higher than is always printed, or, alternatively, immediately to the left of the course the particular calling produces?

Mr. Parker's arrangement of his peal could be easily followed, and Mr. Pitman apparently agrees, inasmuch as he presented his composition for publication in a similar order.

40, Fuchsia Lane, Ipswich.

W. J. G. BROWN.

THE KING'S HEAD.

A FORMER COLLEGE YOUTHS' HEADQUARTERS.

Mention has recently been made of the King's Head in Winchester Street, Southwark, where for many years the Society of College Youths had its headquarters. They went there in 1849, when they left St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Barn in St. Martin's Lane, and they remained there until after St. Paul's Cathedral bells were opened and they crossed the river to The Goose and Gridiron. Few ringers now know the King's Head. It stands in the street which runs westwards from St. Saviour's, and as it holds a special market licence, it shuts up, we believe, at eight o'clock every night.

A description of the King's Head and a meeting of the College Youths there was printed in 'All the Year Round' for February 27th, 1869. Charles Dickens then owned and edited that journal, and he is usually supposed to have paid a personal visit to the ringers and to have written the article himself. It is possible, for he knew and loved the by-paths of London, but perhaps not very likely. There is nothing in the article that any average reporter in search of copy could not have written. This is what is said about the King's Head and the meeting there. It is part of a long account which describes a visit to St. Saviour's belfry and a short history of the society, the latter a mere paraphrase of the account in the old rule book.

THE MEETING ROOM.

'The headquarters of change ringing are in a long rather low room on the first floor of the King's Head in Winchester Street in the borough of Southwark. Records of distinguished peals in frames of all sorts and various sizes adorn the walls, and an iron safe is fixed in a corner. Here the business of the venerable Society is transacted, here its records and property are kept, and here is presently to be held a meeting at which it will be our high privilege to assist. A large thickly bound book with strong brazen clasps, and a general appearance of having been made to stand constant reference for many years lies on the table. This is the second volume of the peal book and was presented to the Society by an enthusiastic amateur. Here are entered all the peals rung by the members in records written by professional hands, in a most ornate style and in various bright colours. There are comparatively few entries in the book as yet, for it has but recently commenced. By the time we have turned over its pages a sufficient muster of College Youths has come together, and an adjournment is made to the church.'

After a long account of the ringing the writer returns to the King's Head.

'The first thing that strikes the visitor on opening the door is that the Ancient College Youths are good and steady smokers. The smoke is so dense that for some time it is difficult to make out the surrounding objects; the only way to avoid inconvenience is to light up oneself, which, accordingly, every newcomer does without loss of time.

'On looking down the table and down the room, it becomes evident that the bulk of the College Youths present are of the working class. Our introducer is a Cambridge graduate and destined for the Church, so it will be seen that the composition of the Society is very catholic. It becomes soon pleasantly apparent that change ringing is by no means merely an excuse for beer. There is an excellent rule strictly enforced that no refreshments are allowed in the belfry; and moderation is clearly the custom in the club-room.

'The iron safe is opened and the property and archives of the company are displayed on the table before the master, who fills the chair. We are shown a curious old silver bell, fixed on a silver-mounted staff, which in old days was carried before the members of the Society when they went on the 5th of November as was their annual custom to St. Mary-le-Bow to attend Divine Service. This is looked on as the palladium of the Society. The company also boast an old-fashioned two-handled cup won in fair fight as its inscription records

DICKENS AND THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

'Among the archives are the name-book which contains the names of the members from the remotest time; the peal book to which allusion has been made contains their performances.

'A suggestion that the society may like to hear a touch on the handbells being received with great favour, the handbells are produced, and half a dozen College Youths taking each two bells, and drawing their chairs into a circle away from the table, play up manfully. If it is difficult to remember and execute the part one bell has to take in a peal, it must be maddening to have charge of two bells. Of course, the absence of the mechanical labour is in favour of the handbell ringer.

'The precision of these ringers was marvellous. We could not have supposed it possible that such sweet sounds and such musical combinations could have been produced by a dozen handbells, and the members of the society present, experts be it remarked, appeared as pleased as the ignorant visitors. The ringers were all College Youths of long experience and vast learning, but were nevertheless not insensible to the admiration and applause which greeted the termination of the touch.'

We cannot believe that the above was written by Charles Dickens. It is a good, honest, straightforward piece of work by a reasonably competent reporter, but there is absolutely nothing to show a master's hand. The writer saw no more than a number of men sitting at a long table and smoking. All he noticed was that they belonged to the working class. Did he expect a gathering of artists or lawyers in

(Continued in next column.)

RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

HAPPY RECOLLECTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Pat Cannon's letter awakens happy memories. I, too, on arriving at Capetown in 1930 soon made the acquaintance of the Vicar of Woodstock and such of his ringers who then maintained a tenuous interest in the bells. Amongst them was F. G. May, formerly of Bristol, and an old veteran (whose name I forget), a survivor of the 1904 peal, of which there was a board on the wall.

As Canon Ridout happened also to be then on a visit down to Capetown, there was a flutter at the prospect of at last bringing off a touch of Grandsire Triples. In this, however, we were sadly disappointed, for I think we only rang a plain course, and that with much difficulty. Though I had rung 'Paul's' tenor often and in comfort, that of Woodstock soon beat me, and when I shifted to the other end the treble wanted as much coaxing as a half broken-in colt. It was mid-December and very hot.

One of the aspirants was in an engineering workshop and offered to overhaul the bearings, and a fortnight or so later, on Christmas morning, we were able to ring the eight to some fair 'stone,' and I was very pleased.

Three months later at Durban I visited the towers of Greyville and the Cathedral (there are three 'rings' in South Africa), but hadn't time to ring at either or for more than a pleasant chat.

On again visiting Durban two years ago, the head ringer at the Cathedral told me that they had the only real band in South Africa. They rang every Sunday evening throughout the year, the morning heat being too much for them! And that evening I had the pleasure of listening to some particularly well struck call-changes, the waking stars of a tropical sky twinkling approval. E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley.

OUTPOSTS OF THE EXERCISE.

Dear Sir,—For the information of Signalman A. P. Cannon and other members of the N.U.T.S. who may have the opportunity to visit them, there are to my knowledge three peals of bells in South Africa, St. Mary's, Woodstock, St. Mary's, Greyville, and St. Paul's, Durban.

St. Mary's, Greyville, a suburb of Durban, has a peal of ten bells (tenor 18 cwt. 25 lb.) I spent a very pleasant Sunday there in August, 1930, conducting a 120 of Grandsire Doubles on the back six for morning service. I don't remember the names of the band except Mr. Clarkson, the head ringer, who kindly entertained me that day and the previous day when I first made contact with him.

On an earlier visit to Durban in 1929 I rang at St. Paul's, where a young band were ringing call changes on a handy peal of eight.

Both peals of bells were in excellent condition, although the two bands of ringers appeared to have no connection with one another.

I visited St. Mary's, Woodstock, in 1931, but was unable to arrange any ringing owing to the shortness of my stay at Capetown.

I have also visited Melbourne, Sydney and Ballarat in Australia, Hobart, Tasmania, and Christchurch, New Zealand, between 1929 and 1934. At all these outposts of the Exercise I was made very welcome by the local ringers. Many of them still take 'The Ringing World' I send them greetings and thanks for the pleasant hours I spent in their company.

Any ringer who has the opportunity of visiting these distant centres of our art should not neglect to do so. It is an experience not to be forgotten.

So 'good luck' to those who can beat the ban and ring in other continents. F. H. CRAWLEY.

51, Laburnum Crescent, Barrow-in-Furness.

ANOTHER ENGLISH RINGER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Dear Sir,—While on shore leave abroad, I was fortunate enough to ring on a light peal of eight at Woodstock, South Africa, 600 Grandsire Doubles. The ringers were: J. Riley 1, V. Meyer 2, A. Collins 3, F. Hopgood 4, J. G. Wood 5, H. Meyer tenor. A quarter-peal was arranged for the following Sunday evening service, but as the convoy sailed the same morning, this was impossible. I would be glad to hear from any of my fellow-ringers. FRANK HOPGOOD.

Wimbledon.

THE KING'S HEAD—Continued from previous column.

Winchester Street, Southwark? Charles Dickens surely would have seen individuals—Dwight, the blacksmith, and Matt. Wood, the weaver, Ted Lansdell from the Hop Market, and Mash, whom, as the steeplekeeper of the tower whence he had come, he must have spoken to. He would have told us what these men said and what they were. He would not have gone on as the writer did to fill up his pages with a long account of what the society had done in the past, or rather what the College Youths told him they had done. We do not quite see Charles Dickens writing of his personal visit to the College Youths and filling up his space by transcribing the account from the society's rule book.

At the beginning of the year 1869 Dickens was engaged on a lecture tour throughout England. He was in failing health, and in February he had a serious breakdown. He died on June 9th, 1870. His last contribution to 'All the Year Round' was on June 5th, 1869. It may be possible when the sources of information are once more open to settle the matter definitely, but we fear that the tale about Charles Dickens' visit to the College Youths must be included among the many baseless fables which are so common in the story of the Exercise.

THE STANDARD METHODS THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.

All the places in Cambridge are made next the treble's path, and consequently the bells above the treble keep the same coursing order among themselves; and the bells below the treble keep the same coursing order among themselves. Above the treble the bells are in the natural coursing order of the course, but as they pass the treble they do so alternately, one running through and the next place making; and this alternate quick and slow gives an entirely different coursing order below the treble. When the bells hunt up they pass the treble in the opposite way from that they passed it going down. Those that went down quick go up slow; and those that went down slow go up quick. By this means the natural coursing order is regained.

It is quite similar to what happens in Stedman, only there it takes a whole course, but in Cambridge only a lead.

But while the natural coursing order is regained within the lead there is this difference that the treble is in a different position. That must happen in every method with a treble and working bells, and is caused by one or more shunts (or Q sets) which may or may not include the whole of the work. In Cambridge it is caused by the places made next the treble when it leads or lies full. These are the constructional places of Double Bob and Cambridge is based ultimately on Double Bob.

In the group of methods we are now considering we must take the positions of the constructional places as being definitely fixed on all numbers. Seconds is always made when the treble leads full, and when the treble lies full, the place immediately next it is always made. We have to consider what variations are implied in the nature of the work represented by the other places.

The first thing to notice is that in Cambridge all the work above the treble forms a complete unit in itself, and all the work below the treble forms another complete unit in itself. By this we mean that if above the treble the bells hunted ordinary Treble Bob fashion instead of in the Cambridge fashion (as explained last week), we should still get the same lead-end. We should have repetition of changes, but the ultimate effect on the coursing order would be the same. The work above the treble, taken as a whole, has a similar effect to the 3-4 places in Kent, and the same is true of the work below the treble, taken as a whole.

The arrangement of the places below the treble in Cambridge is very symmetrical. All are at backstroke, and they consist of alternately two made at the middle change of a section and one at a cross-section. The arrangement is as follows: 1sts and 2nds; 3rds; 1sts and 4ths; 5ths; 1sts and 6ths; 7ths; 1sts and 8ths; 9ths; 1sts and 10ths. And so on in a regular progression, the extent of which is limited by the number of sections available on any particular number of bells. At the half-lead-end the process is reversed. The arrangement of the places may be said to be triangular in form and to fit into the triangle formed by the path of the treble and the half-lead-end.

In Cambridge the places form a triangle which fills up the full available space in any number of bells, but we can easily find by experiment that, so far as the ultimate

effect on the coursing order is concerned, the size of the triangle does not matter so long as its base is the half-lead-end.

On ten bells, for instance, we can have three alternatives. One is the arrangement of Cambridge Royal; the other two are as follows, one in which the triangle is the same size as that in Cambridge Major, and the other in which it is the same size as that in Cambridge Minor.

2614385079	2614385079
6241830597	6241830597
2614803957	2614803957
6241089375	6241089375
6420183957	6420183957
4602819375	4602819375
4620189735	6420189735
6402817953	4602817953
4608271935	4068271935
6480729153	0486729153
6840271935	0468271935
8604729153	4086729153
6840792513	0487692513
8604975231	4078965231
8069472513	4708692513
0896745231	7480965231
8069472531	4708692531

On six bells there is only one possible arrangement; on eight there are two; on ten there are three; and the number increases in a regular progression as the number of the bells increases.

The arrangement of the places above the treble is very similar. Again we have a triangular form, the triangle in the first half-lead being based on the lead-head, and the triangle in the second half-lead being based on the lead-end. The triangles expand in a regular progression in size, and number according to the space provided by the increasing number of bells. In form they are similar to those below the treble, except that places are never made together in the two hindmost positions.

When we have set down the full number of these triangles possible on any number of bells, both below and above the treble, we can work out the combinations of them, and that will give us a group of closely related methods; which, by reason of their peculiar construction, have a capacity for true extension not possessed in similar degree by any other than the simpler methods such as Plain Bob, Oxford, Kent, Grandsire and Stedman.

But not all of these methods are, as they stand, of any practical use, for unless the triangles are large enough to cover between them all the sections there will be repetition of rows. This could be remedied by the use of Kent places.

Of the four possible variations on eight bells, two in addition to Cambridge are good methods. One of them is Yorkshire, which has the Cambridge Major triangle above the treble and the Cambridge Minor triangle below the treble. The other is Pudsey, which has the Cambridge Minor triangle above the treble and the Cambridge Major below the treble. The fourth method has the Cambridge Minor triangle both above and below the treble. As it stands it contains repetition of rows.

NOTICES.**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 30th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Chaddesley Corbett (D.V.) on Saturday, August 30th (not August 23rd). Eight bells available for silent practice 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements at the Swan (Tim's).—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Selby Abbey on Saturday, August 30th. Handbells and ringing on the back eight tower bells (silent). The Vicar, Canon Solloway, will conduct those present round the Abbey at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea can be obtained at Olde Cross Cafe, near Abbey. Business meeting at 6 o'clock, at which all outstanding annual subscriptions should be paid.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Barnby Don, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Buses start from Christ Church, Doncaster.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton and Manchester Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Prestwick, on Saturday, Aug. 30th, to start at 3.30 p.m. Bells (silent). Tea can be obtained at the Co-op Cafe until 6 p.m. There are still many 1939-40 annual reports on hand.—Peter Crook and Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Crowthorne on Saturday, Aug. 30th. Service in Parish Church at 3.45 p.m., followed by handbell ringing at the Vicarage.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham, Berks.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Aug. 30th, at East Ardsley. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea for drinking will be provided. Members are requested to bring their own food. Business meeting in the Schools.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Countesthorpe on Aug. 30th. Ringing (silent) at about 3 p.m. (Six bells).—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Six tower bells available for silent ringing.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting in Church House. Those requiring tea please notify me by Aug. 30th. All ringers welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea if possible is being arranged. Will all members attending please let Miss D. Colgate, 38, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, know not later than Tuesday, September 2nd. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock. Tea for those who notify Mr. L. Pullin, High Street, Yatton, by Thursday, Sept. 4th.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The deferred annual general meeting will be held at Cambridge, Sat., Sept. 6th. Ringing on Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Please come, if possible, to elect a general secretary. I am unable to carry on.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, September 6th. Central committee meet at 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m., followed by tea (all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street). Service in Cathedral 5.15, followed by handbell ringing. Will those requiring tea please inform me by Wednesday, 3rd? All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Next meeting will be held at Codsall, on Saturday, September 13th. Meet in the belfry at 3 o'clock for handbell practice. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your own victuals and sugar. Buses leave Queen Square, Wolverhampton, at 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes.—H. Knight.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on September 13th at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Hall at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. No provision for tea is being made this year. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend, as the new Vicar has promised to be present. Handbells will be available after completion of business.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

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NOW AND AFTER.

After just two years of war and more than twelve months under the 'ban,' which has completely silenced the bells in all our churches, the Exercise is still trying to carry on, and, like many other organisations, hoping for the dawn of the day when it can once more go ahead. Never in history has there been such a complete cessation of ringing. Even in the last great war the ban was imposed only from nightfall and ringers were free to exercise their art until sunset. Now, stern necessity decrees that both in daylight and darkness the bells shall be silent, unless the enemy dares to attempt a landing from the air. Then, of course, they will clang over the countryside; but until the danger of invasion is past there will be no church bell ringing.

We still do not see the real need for the restriction, because we feel that there are other and better means of achieving the end in view, and with far less possibilities of creating panic. But while this silence is ordained, it is useless to kick against it and ringers must make the best of a bad job. There is no other pastime of which we know that has been put so completely out of commission, and the faithful among ringers can take credit for the way they are endeavouring to keep the flag flying. This is not an easy matter without bells, or where there are no opportunities for handbell practice, and it will only continue where, as we pointed out last week, arrangements can be made for ringers, at any rate in neighbouring towers, to keep in touch with one another for mutual encouragement. Association officials ought not to relax their organising efforts in this direction; even small meetings will keep interest alive, and there is no need for a spirit of pessimism if the response does not come up to expectations.

If the task of the associations is difficult, that which confronts this journal is far harder and the work of maintaining its publication, with the lengthening days of the ban, does not diminish. It is only by the almost superhuman efforts of a valued coadjutor that 'The Ringing World' has continued publication through these troublous times, and it has been gratifying to be assured from many quarters that 'The Ringing World' was never more interesting than it is now, but we again appeal to our readers to help us maintain this standard by making what contributions they can to our columns. There are a variety of subjects which could still be discussed with advantage, and there are doubtless many matters in ringers' minds which could be ventilated with interest. Until the day arrives when the bells begin to speak again and there is more ringing news, a good deal

(Continued on page 422.)

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Albans, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

depends upon the ringers themselves to keep up a flow of topics for discussion.

At the same time, of course, the future of 'The Ringing World' also depends upon the support which is given to its circulation. It is admitted that the Exercise would have great difficulty in surviving without the paper and the task of reorganisation after the war would be, if not insurmountable, at least a slow and formidable one. What is required, therefore, is wholehearted support from those ringers who are still left and their further help which might find an outlet by purchasing another copy to send to a serving member of the Forces. Even associations might assist in this way. Where there are funds available it might be money well spent to use this means of keeping absent members interested in the art. The associations will need all the support they can get, when they are able to reorganise, and so will the towers; and how better can they lay the foundation than by keeping alive the interest of those whom they hope to welcome back?

In the meantime there is work to be done to try to fill the gaps against the day when the bells may not only ring again but will be wanted, to play their part, as they have through centuries of history, in proclaiming the victory and in bringing back to the people the joyous sounds which so many sadly miss both in towns and villages on Sundays. Happily there are quite a number of places where ringers are 'carrying on,' and practising, as best they may, with 'silent' tower bells and with handbells. We can only hope that this method—the best available—of keeping alive the art and encouraging beginners will expand until everywhere where bells are left in the towers, men and women will be ready to ring as soon as opportunity offers.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Sunday, August 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 21, WATHEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

THOMAS HARRIS 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Arranged and Conducted by D. G. CLIFT.

First peal of Major 'in hand' by all and by the Guild. Believed to be the first peal of Bob Major on handbells rung in the city of Bristol. Rung on the wedding anniversary of the ringer of 3-4.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING AT WADHURST.

A very successful joint meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association and the East Grinstead and Hawkhurst and District Guild was held at Wadhurst on August 16th, when 21 ringers attended from Hawkhurst, Benenden, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, Hailsham, Etchingham, Paddock Wood and Uckfield. Mr. C. A. Levett paid a very welcome visit from Slough.

Ringing on six silent bells began at 3.15 in methods from Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor. Ringing was also enjoyed on a tuneful octave of handbells, lent by Mr. Levett. A course of Grandsire Caters was also rung on a set belonging to the Wadhurst ringers.

Tea was at a nearby hotel, followed by the business meeting of the Eastern Division, at which Mr. W. Haigh was in the chair.

Mr. E. Ladd, on behalf of the East Grinstead Guild, welcomed the co-operation of the Sussex Association and the Hawkhurst and District Guild and expressed the hope that further joint meetings might be arranged.

The thanks of the meeting were extended to the Vicar for the use of the bells and Mr. C. A. Bassett for silencing the bells and making the arrangements.

The ringers then returned to the church and ringing continued until 8 p.m.

THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The correspondence in recent issues of your paper has brought to light interesting facts with regard to the bells of St. Michael's Mount. We are indebted to 'College Youth' for the inscriptions and dates, but there is evidence enough to show that the six bells are hung for chiming, but not for ringing. Mr. Edwin Barnett heard them being chimed nearly forty years ago, and my wife has heard them much more recently than that. Mr. Hicks has spoken to the man who has chimed them regularly. I have been in touch with Mr. Clive Marriott, Lord St. Levan's agent, and he tells me that the bells can be chimed, but not rung, as the tower is not safe. One of my parishioners was for many years the organist at The Mount, and she told me when I visited her in hospital recently (where unfortunately she is at present) that the bells were at one time lying on the tower floor—this confirms 'College Youth's' memories—but to commemorate the diamond wedding of the parents of the late Lord St. Levan (who died this year) the bells were hung for chiming. The chiming ropes come down into the chapel and a tablet behind them reads, 'Their sound is gone out into all lands: and their words into the ends of the world.'

By way of interest I will quote at full from M. A. Courtney's 'Cornish Feasts and Folk-Lore': "... St. Keyne not only thus endowed her well, but during her stay at St. Michael's Mount she gave the same virtue to St. Michael's Chair. This chair is the remains of an old lantern on the south-west angle of the tower, at a height of upwards of 250 feet from low water. It is fabled to have been a favourite seat of St. Michael. Whittaker, in his supplement to Polwhele's "History of Cornwall," says, "It was for such pilgrims as had stronger heads and bolder spirits to complete their devotions at the Mount by sitting in this St. Michael's Chair and showing themselves as pilgrims to the country round"; but it most probably served as a beacon for ships at sea. To get into it you must climb on to the parapet, and you sit with your feet dangling over a sheer descent of at least 70 feet; but to get out of it is much more difficult, as the sitter is obliged to turn round in his seat. Notwithstanding this and the danger of a fall through giddiness, which, of course, would be certain death, for there is not the slightest protection, I have seen ladies perform the feat. Curiously enough, Southey has also written a ballad on St. Michael's Chair, but it is not as popular as the one before quoted; it is about "Richard Penlake and Rebecca his wife," "a terrible shrew was she." In pursuance of a vow made when Richard "fell sick" they went on a pilgrimage to the Mount, and whilst he was in the chapel—

She left him to pray, and stole away
To sit in St. Michael's Chair.

Up the tower Rebecca ran,
Round and round and round;
'Twas a giddy sight to stand atop
And look upon the ground.

"A curse on the ringers for rocking
The tower!" Rebecca cried,
As over the church battlements
She strode with a long stride.

"A blessing on St. Michael's Chair!"
She said as she sat down:
Merrily, merrily rung the bells,
And out Rebecca was thrown.

Tidings to Richard Penlake were brought
That his good wife was dead!
"Now shall we toll for her poor soul
The great church bell?" they said.

"Toll at her burying," quoth Richard Penlake,
"Toll at her burying," quoth he;
"But don't disturb the ringers now
In compliment to me."

Richard Penlake must have known something about ringing, and was considerate enough to want the ringers to score the peal! At any rate, let us hope that the bells of St. Michael's Mount will some day again rock the tower and so answer the other bells in that particular part of West Cornwall—those of Ludgvan, Gulval, St. Mary's, Penzance, and Madron.

ARTHUR S. ROBERTS.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay.

THE BELLS RESTORED.

Dear Sir,—I thank 'College Youth' for his reply concerning the bells on St. Michael's Mount.

If he will read my letter again he will find that I did not suggest they were rung when I heard them. I distinctly said they were chimed.

He also states that it was impossible for anyone to have heard them for the past 70 years, but it is evident that they were put in order between the time he states, and 1904 or 5 when I was there.

That they are still in order is borne out by Mr. Hicks in his reply

(Continued in next column.)

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

EX-PRESIDENT SAFE AND WELL.

The August meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at St. Michael's, East Ardsley, on Saturday.

The attendance was not all that could be desired, and the officers would like members to give a little more time to the society's meetings. Handbells were rung in the schoolroom during the afternoon and evening. The Vicar of East Ardsley arrived soon after the tea interval and conversed in general with the members present.

At the business meeting the president was in the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Drighlington, Rothwell, Shipley and the local company. After a vote of thanks to the Vicar and to Mr. E. Watson, of the local company, proposed by Mr. L. W. G. Morris and seconded by Mr. T. W. Strangeway, the secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Rev. J. H. B. Andrews (ex-president of the society) saying he was alive and well and back in England after having been in many actions while serving as a chaplain in His Majesty's Navy, during which his own ship had been sunk.

It was proposed and seconded that the next meeting should be held if possible at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, September 27th.

The business meeting then closed and further handbell ringing took place.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY GOLDING.

FIFTY-NINE YEARS A RINGER.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of 73, after a rather short illness, of Henry Golding, of 10, Alma Road, Hemel Hempstead.

A native of the borough, he had been a ringer at the Parish Church for 59 years, first in the stoney band and later in the change ringing band. Eventually he became leader and remained so until his death. In 1932 he was presented with a gramophone and records by the churchwardens and parishioners to commemorate 50 years' faithful service.

He joined the Herts County Association on July 24th, 1897, and was elected as president for the year 1929. He was also a member of the College Youths.

Mr. Golding was not a great peal ringer; he rang his first, Bob Minor, on September 24th, 1898, the first peal on the bells of St. Mary's and the first by all the band. His last peal was at the end of October, 1938, and altogether he rang about 50 peals, including Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major (one of which he conducted), Kent and Oxford, Little Bob Major, Oxford Bob Major and Wellington Little Court.

The funeral took place at Hemel Hempstead; the Vicar (the Rev. A. F. Robson) officiated. At the close a plain course of Grandsire Doubles was rung over the grave by R. S. Cook 1-2, W. Ayre 3-4, and W. C. Hughes 5-6.

On the following Sunday the Vicar based his sermon on the faithful service and strict devotion to duty of Henry Golding, and at the close of the address the congregation stood while a course of Grandsire Triples was rung under the tower by R. S. Cook 1-2, W. Ayre 3-4, W. J. Randall 5-6, and W. C. Hughes 7-8.

A more devoted servant to a tower could not be found, and his smiling face will be sadly missed when the bells once again resume their message of peace and goodwill.

W. A.

THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT

(Continued from previous column.)

last week, when he says that in the past few months he met the man who chimed them regularly in peace time every Sunday morning.

In a letter I received from the Rev. Arthur Roberts a few days ago he also says, 'However, I do know that there are six bells on the Mount, and that they are only chimed. I do not think any of them are hung for ringing. The ropes come down into the chapel close to a wall.'

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

Since writing the above I have received another letter from the Rev. A. S. Roberts which settles beyond all doubt that the bells on St. Michael's Mount were restored many years ago. This is what he says:—

The late organist at the Mount is one of my parishioners and is at present in hospital. I went to see her yesterday, having sent on in advance with her husband the two "Ringing Worlds" with your letter and the reply. These caused her great interest, in fact, jubilation, as she loves the Mount. She could tell me that the bells were in a bad condition and some were on the tower floor, but they were restored on the occasion of the diamond wedding of the father and mother of the Lord St. Levan, who died a few months ago. It was said at the time that the tower was too weak for them to be hung for ringing, so they were hung dead.

If, as I suspect, 'College Youth' is a local man, he may be able to remember the year in which the diamond wedding was celebrated, and so fix the date of the restoration. Had he been aware of this at the time, I feel sure his influence would, in all probability, have gone a long way towards getting them hung for ringing.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 413.)

THE ANALYSIS.

The Analysis is older than the Central Council. It was started as far back as the year 1896 by George F. Attree, who was at the time the secretary of the Sussex County Association. Attree was largely instrumental in the formation of the very fine band which existed at St. Peter's, Brighton, during the closing years of the nineteenth century. He was the principal of a leading firm of auctioneers and undertakers, and he employed the greater part of the company. That naturally gave him a commanding position in the belfry, though the two most skilful ringers, Mr. George Williams and Mr. Keith Hart, were independent of him.

The Analysis at first gave the number of peals rung by each of the leading associations, and the total number of peals in the various methods. The tables appeared monthly with the associations arranged according to the number of peals they had rung. Throughout the year the Midland Counties Association easily kept the lead and finished up with a total of 65. The next three places were held in varying order by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Yorkshire Association, but in the final list the Lancashire Association displaced the last. The Oxford Diocesan Guild's score was 36, and the others' 35, 35, and 33.

The prominent position of the Midland Counties Guild was due mainly to the Burton-on-Trent band and to the activity of Arthur Percival Heywood, who called 18 peals during the year. Washbrook headed the list of conductors with 28 peals, and John Carter shared the second place with Heywood. The total number of peals was 556.

Among the methods rung were Cambridge Major 1, Superlative 10, Double Norwich 11 and Double Oxford 9. There were seven 12-bell peals—Grandsire Cinques 2, Stedman Cinques 4, and Treble Bob Maximus 1, Grandsire Triples numbered 192, but Stedman Triples only 47. Treble Bob Major numbered 122, and there were two unusual peals. One was Kent Treble Bob Caters at St. Peter's, Liverpool, and the other 5,080 changes, made up of 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, 1,280 Bob Major, 1,260 Stedman Triples and 1,260 Grandsire Triples. This was rung at Perry Barr, Staffordshire, by the Birmingham men, with Henry Bastable as conductor. It was not, of course, spliced ringing, and did not escape adverse criticism.

In the year 1887 the number of peals increased to 646. The Sussex County Association now took the lead with 70 peals, followed closely by the Ancient Society of College Youths (67 peals), the Yorkshire Association (63 peals) and the Oxford Diocesan Guild 51. The Midland Counties Association's total dropped to 44 and the Lancashire Association's to 34. Washbrook again headed the conductors with 46 peals. Mr. Charles Tyler was second with 16 and Heywood dropped to 13.

In 1888 the total number of peals increased to 759, and there was a great advance in method ringing. The Surprise Major methods included four of London, twelve of Superlative, nine of Cambridge and one of New Cumberland. Stedman Cinques numbered five, Stedman Caters twenty-eight, Treble Bob Maximus three, and Plain Bob Maximus one. Grandsire Triples with 275 peals was the most widely rung seven-bell method, and

Treble Bob Major, with 113 peals, the most widely rung eight-bell method. There were eight peals of over 10,000 changes, including 12,041 and 15,041 Stedman Caters at Appleton, and 13,054 in the same method at Cheltenham, besides 13,265 Grandsire Caters at Appleton.

The head of the table was occupied by the Ancient Society of College Youths, who rang 96 peals. Next to them were the Sussex County Association (78 peals), the Midland Counties Association (72 peals), the Oxford Diocesan Guild (66 peals) and the Essex Association (55 peals).

These figures were rather deceptive, for it was often the custom of bands to put two or even three names at the head of their peals so that they could be booked by more than one association. A large number by provincial bands were recorded as College Youths' peals. Heywood drew attention to this practice in one of the resolutions passed at the Johnson dinner in 1889. It declared that 'the registration of any performance in the name of more than one association is destructive of fair comparison.' In 1893 the Central Council formally condemned the custom. In 1888 no fewer than 84 peals were published under the names of more than one association.

Washbrook, who was then at the zenith of his career, easily topped the list of conductors. His score was 60, and the next man, H. H. Chandler, of Warnham, had only 17, with James Motts (15) and George Newson (14) in the third and fourth places. Heywood, who had called eleven peals, was still well up in the list.

The year 1889 saw a further advance, though not so great relatively as that of the previous year. The total number of peals was 797. Only eleven were Surprise, but Stedman Cinques increased to ten and Stedman Triples to 92. Treble Bob Major dropped to 97, and Grandsire Triples remained almost stationary at 262. One peal of Bob Caters, 25 of Bob Triples, four of Grandsire Major and ten of Union Triples were rung.

The same five associations headed the table, but the Sussex County Association (98 peals) displaced the College Youths (84 peals), and the Oxford Diocesan Guild (80 peals) displaced the Midland Counties Association (57 peals). The Essex Association (49 peals) was again fifth.

Washbrook, yet again top of the conductors, called 88 peals. He was followed by Charles Hills, of Angmering, Sussex (22 peals), and Henry Chandler (21 peals). Mr. George Williams' score for the year was 17. Heywood called ten.

Three peals exceeded 10,000 changes, the longest being 15,227 changes of Grandsire Caters at Cheltenham on April 22nd.

In 1890 the number of peals dropped to 699, but in 1891 they passed all previous totals with 878. In 1892 802 were rung; in 1893, 705; and in 1894, 859. In 1896 the number dropped to 791, but the Jubilee year, 1897, saw another record, 905; and in 1898 the thousand mark was reached.

These figures and the details of the various methods rung give valuable information of the progress being made by the Exercise, but that was not, for most readers, the main purpose of the Analysis. To them its chief interest lay in the fact that it ministered to the sporting element in change ringing.

To understand the history of the Exercise we must never forget that change ringing began as a sport, was

developed as a sport and, despite the later recognition of other things in it, to a large degree remains a sport.

Now an essential condition of sport is competition; we can hardly imagine any sport in which it does not enter in some form or other. Sometimes it is the direct and simple competition between two persons or two teams who contend for the mastery in a set match. We get that kind of competition in boxing, cricket, football and chess. Then there is the competition which consists of a man or a team striving to beat some record already made by others. We get that when liners try to cross the Atlantic in a shorter time than it has ever been done before; in the flights of aircraft or the racing of motor-cars. And we get it, too, when football or cricket teams strive for the championship or the top of the league. And then we have the more complex form of competition where a man sets himself to overcome the obstacles of nature or the inherent difficulties in his self-imposed task.

All these forms of competition have existed in the ringing Exercise, and they have supplied the most potent of the influences which have kept the art alive.

Direct competition between bands was common everywhere in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the nineteenth century it became practically confined to the North and the West, but it survived there down to living memory, and even now is not altogether extinct. It was in the course of time associated with grave scandals and became discredited, so that the best elements in the Exercise resolutely set their faces against it.

But the competition between bands who try to break each other's records remained in full force, and fifty years ago was looked upon as a natural and healthy thing

which ought to be fostered rather than discouraged, though it had a bad side which showed itself in jealousy and ill-feeling between rival societies.

It was this kind of competition that the Analysis served, for it was looked upon much in the same way as football league tables are. It will be remembered that it appeared nearly every month.

I do not suppose that any bands did actually arrange and ring their peals with the idea of helping their association towards the top of the Analysis; but just as thousands of men are keenly interested in the position of a football team in the league tables, though they take no part in the matches, so ringers did take an interest in the positions of the associations in the Analysis.

But in all good sport the competition must be perfectly fair, and it very soon became clear that the Analysis as originally given was not fair. There was the fact, already referred to, that many peals were credited to more than one association. Even Heywood, as we have seen, pointed out strongly that it was not fair, and in 1893 the Central Council passed a formal resolution condemning the practice. The feeling on the matter was so strong that a second resolution was passed in 1904. In the end the Analysis Committee were instructed to take notice only of the first of any given names of associations, and the associations themselves only booked the peals when their own names stood first. That finally settled the matter.

There was, of course, really nothing unfair in the attempt of bands to get their peals booked by more than one association, apart from the competition implied in the analysis. It was only a natural and harmless attempt to get the fullest publicity for their performances.

John Taylor & Co.

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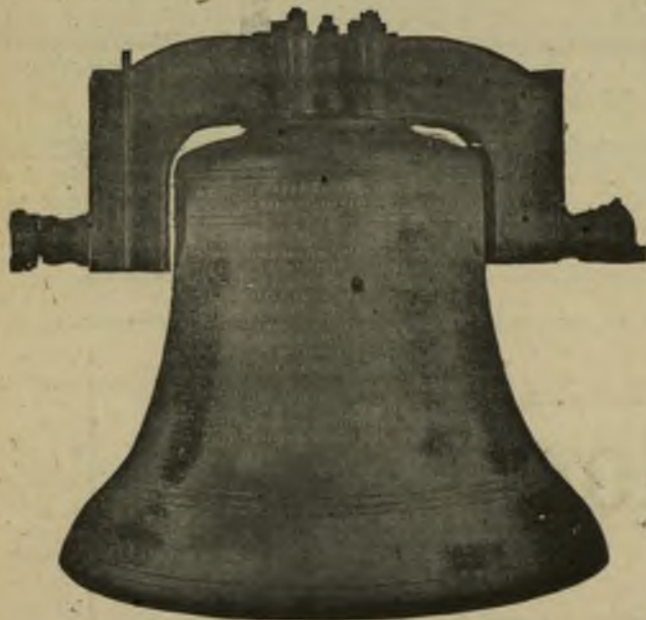
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have removed the remaining bells from the burnt out steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow. They have taken the six sixteenth century bells from St. Andrew's, Undershaft, the five pre-Reformation bells from St. Bartholomew-the-Great and the two still older bells from St. Bartholomew-the-Less to a place of safety somewhere in Somerset. They have in hand the restoration of the bells at Cranford, Middlesex, which are to be hung in a new frame and, after the war, augmented to a ring of five.

It would be interesting to discover how many lady ringers are now serving His Majesty in the auxiliary services. If their names, the names of their towers and the particulars of the forces in which they are serving are sent to us, we shall be pleased to publish a list.

In last week's issue, owing to a printer's error, the name of the method was omitted from the report of the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Bristol on August 22nd. The fact that the composition was Holt's Original was, however, a pretty good indication of the method.

On September 2nd, 1820, the first peal on the ten bells at Bishop's Stortford was rung by the Junior Society of College Youths. It was 5,039 changes of Grandsire Caters, the first peal by the society, and was conducted by Henry Symondson.

The Coventry Youths on Sunday morning, September 6th, 1807, rang 'on that harmonious Peal of Bells at St. Michael's,' 6,140 changes of Tittum Bob Royal, and on the same date in 1908 the Midland Counties Association rang 10,192 changes of Bob Major at Anstey in Leicestershire.

The College Youths rang 6,144 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Peter's, Wolverth, on September 7th, 1830. Thomas Tolladay was in the band.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung.

RINGERS' DUTY TO THE CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your past few issues have contained a number of very 'windy' letters upon the anticipated hostility to open ringing when the ban is lifted.

If this hostility does materialise, my opinion is that we may ourselves be partly to blame for it.

Now, sir, before the war one used to see periodically in your columns opinions expressed by non-ringing clergy about those ringers who rang for services and then departed the moment divine service commenced.

It is a lamentable fact that since the enforced silence of the church bells many of these same clergymen have never seen some of their ringers inside the church doors. Surely, sir, herein lies a great danger for the future of the Exercise.

'Wind Up' suggests that we should mobilise our forces against those of the 'silent' movement.

I suggest, in answer to this, that we should first get our own forces purged, for, whatever he may say, the ringer who has entirely forsaken his church during these dark days is a 'fifth columnist' playing right into the hands of those who would see our bells remain forever silent, whilst those who pay even an occasional visit to their old church are the real forces who will be in a real position to see that the bells shall once more ring out.

RICHARD A. POST.

Headington, Oxford.

THE PEAL AT TAUNTON.

The Local Version.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After reading in 'The Ringing World' last week about the peal at St. Mary's on June 25th, 1885, I thought I would give your readers the local version.

A new frame had been erected, the peal of ten rehung and four semi-tones added hung dead to form a carillon. The Oxford Guild of Ringers were invited to open the bells, and it was arranged that the band should be paid a certain sum per head, provided they rang a peal. This they nearly succeeded in doing.

The late Mr. T. Doble, the bellhanger, sat in the tower throughout and heard the end of the peal. Washbrook saw something (whether a missed bob or a shift course was never known), but he said to Mr. Robinson, 'Bob here, sir,' and according to Mr. Doble he finished the peal in this manner, 'Bob here, sir'—at the remaining necessary calls to get the bells round. It appears that one of the band sent the peal to 'The Bell News.' The reason the band did this was they thought they would not get anything for expenses, seeing they had agreed to ring a peal. Mr. Robinson was blamed, but to me he acted on behalf of the men's pockets.

On November 4th, 1891, a peal of Stedman Caters was rung on Wells Cathedral bells, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Washbrook taking part. The peal was conducted by Mr. Washbrook, who rang the tenor. This was published as the first peal of Stedman Caters in the county. Mr. Robinson, when challenged, admitted the Taunton job was no good.

The above may interest your readers.

JAMES HUNT.

P.S.—After the Wells peal the Rev. F. E. Robinson as a penance refrained from ringing peals during the Lenten season.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.****Meeting at a One-Bell Church.**

Although the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Crowthorne, possesses only a single bell, it is compensated by the fact that for more than 40 years the living has been held by a great ringer, Canon G. F. Coleridge, Master of the Oxford Guild and chairman of the Sonning Deanery Branch.

On Saturday last some two dozen ringers and friends were present from Easthampstead, Binfield, Finchampstead, Hurst, Sandhurst and Wokingham, as well as visitors from Bagshot, Bramley (Hants), Reading and Windsor. Mr. A. H. Pulling and Mr. J. Corbett, of the Guildford Guild, and Mr. R. T. Hibbert, the secretary of the Guild, were also present. Excellent touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung in the vestry on handbells before the service, which was conducted by Canon Coleridge. Mr. Goodband presided at the organ, and the ringers' hymn, 'Unchanging God,' was impressively sung.

In the course of a short address, Canon Coleridge gave a hearty welcome to all those present and based a few earnest remarks on the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, 'Cast down, but not destroyed.' He said that it must be unique for a company of ringers to meet together in a parish where there was no ring of bells, but it was good to come together if only for the sake of the social side of their work. Great were the difficulties of the ringers to-day, and their art was in grave danger, but it was inspiring to know that there were some who were determined to carry on and keep things going. We were cast down by reason of restrictions and because of many difficulties, but we were not destroyed, and we looked forward to the day when the bells will ring again for victory and peace.

The party assembled at the Vicarage and sat down to a tea kindly provided by the Vicar, to which, it need not be added, full justice was done. There was no formal business, but the branch secretary expressed the thanks of all present to Canon Coleridge for his warm welcome and hospitality, and said they were glad to meet at Crowthorne if only to save the Canon a journey from home in these difficult days of travelling, because he (the Canon) always liked to attend their meetings and was disappointed if he could not. The secretary coupled the name of the organist with the vote of thanks.

Canon Coleridge replied and said what a real pleasure it was to have the ringers there and to see some old friends whom he had not met for a long time.

HAPPY ASSOCIATION WITH CANON COLERIDGE.

Mr. A. H. Pulling said when he read the notice in 'The Ringing World' he felt he must come to Crowthorne and see the Canon once again. He recalled some of the peals he had rung with him in years gone past, notably a 7,000 of Double Norwich at Chiddingfold over 30 years ago. Mr. Pulling spoke of the pleasure of seeing some there who were progressing with handbell ringing and urged them to continue.

Mr. H. Goodyer, of Tilehurst, supported the vote of thanks, and spoke of Mr. J. Martin Routh, who was still living at Tilehurst. He thought he must be the oldest member of the College Youths, as he was over 90 years of age. Mr. Nye, Bagshot, also spoke of his pleasure at being present, and said that he had always enjoyed attending meetings of the Sonning Deanery Branch.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert, general secretary of the Guild, spoke of his many years' happy association with Canon Coleridge and the peals he had rung with him fifty and more years ago. He appealed to everyone present to continue to support the Guild and stressed the value of meetings such as they were holding that day.

Mr. W. J. Paice, branch secretary, asked that more members of the Guild might take 'The Ringing World.' In these days of increased cost of postage it meant quite a lot of money to send notices of meetings to everyone, but if more supported 'The Ringing World' individual notices would not be so necessary. In many respects he considered 'The Ringing World' more interesting than before the war. Mr. Paice also spoke of the responsibility of steeplekeepers and others for the care of church bells during this time of inactivity, a subject brought forward at the Guild annual festival.

Handbell ringing continued until after 7 o'clock. The methods included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Bob Major. Some touches of Stedman Triples were particularly good and some members rang their first double-handed touch.

Thus ended a happy and memorable meeting and one that will live long in the minds of those who were privileged to be present.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**DORCHESTER BRANCH.**

On Saturday, August 23rd, the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild held a meeting at Stratton. It was the end of the 40 days of St. Swithun's and was drenching rain throughout, but even that did not damp the enthusiasm of a good attendance. The meeting was to have been held in the Rectory gardens, by kind permission of the Rector and Mrs. A. F. Godley, and special preparations had been made, but it was transferred to the Institute, which was made very comfortable and inviting. A good number arrived by 3 o'clock by train and cars. Practice in change ringing and tunes was indulged in on the handbells, while some tried their hand at table tennis, darts, etc.

A touch was rung on the handbells in the church previous to the service. The singing of well-known hymns and psalm was well rendered by the choir and congregation, and the address was given by Canon D. F. Slemek, vice-chairman of the branch. He referred to the enforced silence of the bells, and said they linked together prayer and praise, 'and God grant it may be soon when our bells ring again.'

Following the service, the members again assembled at the Institute, where they were invited to tea by the Rector and Mrs. Godley, and great credit is due to them the way they got over the rationing difficulties. Although there were about 30 present, there was plenty to spare. Had it been fine the number probably would have been about 50.

In the absence of the chairman (owing to the weather), the chair at the meeting was taken by the vice-chairman. The hon. secretary read several apologies for absence. A vote of sympathy was passed to the family of Mr. J. Orchard, of West Lulworth, who died on August 10th. He had been a member of the Guild for 40 years and was the mainstay of his tower. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The branch was represented at the funeral by the Wool ringers.

An interesting discussion took place on the advisability of holding another meeting, and the members were unanimous that owing to the many difficulties which at present existed, it was not advisable to hold another meeting before the annual meeting, although the chairman said if there had been a hall available in his parish of Maiden Newton he would have invited them there.

The Chairman said how glad they all were to see their hon. secretary present after his illness. He had come to the meeting against doctor's orders, and they hoped he would continue in better health. It was proposed from the chair that the best thanks of the meeting should be given to the Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Godley for their kind hospitality and to their helpers. This was received with acclamation.

The Rector suitably replied. The chairman also thanked the organist and choir for their services, and thanks were given to those who kindly placed their cars at the disposal of the members.

At the conclusion of the meeting further handbell practice and games were enjoyed until about 8 p.m., everyone voting it another happy gathering despite the weather.

The following towers were represented; Bradford Peverell, St. Peter's, Dorchester, Frampton, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Sydling and Wyke Regis.

'THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In this week's 'Ringing World' you write, 'Of the four possible variations on eight bells, one is "Yorkshire," another is "Pudsey."'

Exactly three months ago to-day I sent you a table of coursing order of various Treble Bob, 'Exercise,' 'Delight' and Surprise methods, 54 in all, which ought to have been sufficient to convince you that the relationship between these three methods is next to nothing.

The lead heads of Hunting Courses prove that in the first lead there are only 12 rows common to both 'Yorkshire' and 'Cambridge,' the first six rows and the last six rows of the lead.

'Pudsey' has only four rows in common with 'Yorkshire' and 'Cambridge,' the first two and the last two rows of the lead.

These facts are also proved by Round Blocks and Transpositions of the three methods.

What is the use of pretending that something is what it is not?

GEORGE BAKER.

P.S.—Will you never learn?

THE LATE ROBERT A. DANIELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I point out that the late R. A. Daniell took part in another peal besides the one mentioned in 'The Ringing World' of August 22nd? He rang the treble to 5,003 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on December 3rd, 1897. The band were Cumberland Youths, and included William Baron, Arthur Jacob, George Newson and Henry Dains, with John Rogers as composer and conductor. Daniell was at the time the captain of the Kensington band and he arranged the peal, which was the second on the ten.

Daniell died on December 20th, 1935, at the age of 79, not in 1938 as stated.

HENRY G. MILES.

Hammer-smith.

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THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

MAINTAINING TRADITIONS.

The strength of the tradition behind the Ancient Society of College Youths has never been better shown throughout all its history than by its activities to-day, when under the stress of such war-time conditions as were never before known or even visualised, when all their cherished haunts are either destroyed or denied to them, they continue to meet, to discharge their formal business and to enjoy that social intercourse which so long has been the characteristic sequel to all their meetings.

Their official meeting places through the centuries have always been such that the liquid refreshment associated in the public mind with bellringing (and which 'soft impeachment' ringers will be the last to deny) has been available either to quench the fires arising from heated debate or further to seal the bond of brotherly love between the members. Even in living memory there have been occasions when erstwhile bosom friends, with a grievance, real or imaginary, ranking in their hearts would sit through session after session of post-business conviviality without so much as a word, but sooner or later burning passions beneath an apparently ice-bound exterior would succumb to the mellowing influence of the atmosphere of the meeting room and the ice would be broken by Bill asking Tom to 'take the top off' his pint.

These things are now dim recollections, but there is cause for regret that this war has enforced a break in the traditions of three centuries. Probably not even after the Great Fire of London were the society so homeless, in the official sense, as they are now, when they have lost not only The Coffee Pot, but many of their records and cherished possessions.

But still the College Youths carry on, and they meet amid the ruins at Whitechapel in one of the buildings which the enemy has failed to destroy. Of course, there are other places, but we can hardly imagine any more appropriate than the Foundry, which was established even before the Ancient Society itself was founded and has produced so many of the bells on which the College Youths have been delighted to ring. The fact that these premises are unlicensed is but a temporary drawback, but the hospitality which characterises the welcome at this establishment more than compensates for any other inconvenience—and 'a place within the meaning of the Act' is, after all, not so far away, when the business is completed, the handbells done with and put aside, and members are still loth to separate without completing what has in effect become part of the ritual.

And so once again on Saturday the College Youths, represented by the faithful few, met at the Whitechapel Foundry. The Master presided, and was supported by the treasurer and secretary and Messrs. E. Murrell, G. N. Price, J. H. Shepherd, C. W. Roberts, H. G. Miles, Rapley, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, Tony Price, Feltham, and Guardsman Munday, of Basinstoke. The visitors were Able Seaman Millhouse, Lincoln, and the Scribe from Ealing.

Nominations for two new members were given in. Business was soon over and good use was made of the handbells. Reminiscences of the past and friendly discussion brought the meeting to a close.

The next meeting will be on September 13th at the Bell Foundry.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS IN 1869.

A VISIT TO ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

In response to a request from a correspondent, we give further extracts from the account of a visit to the College Youths which appeared in 'All the Year Round' of February 27th, 1869.

For some years (says the writer) a strong desire to make a personal acquaintance with the Ancient Youths possessed our mind. We were not satisfied with the occasional intelligence respecting them to be gleaned from the sporting paper which usually recorded their doings, and which was invariably to the effect that the following members of the society ascended the tower of St. Somebody's; that a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in such and such a surprisingly short time; that the peal was composed and conducted by Mr. So-and-So; and that the tenor weighed so much. We became anxious to see with our own eyes what manner of men these might be who were in the habit of devoting long hours to this voluntary hard labour, and even if we felt a sad presentiment that a Grandsire Triples might prove too much for our feeble comprehension, a lingering hope remained that we might find the key to at least some part of the mystery. A very dark and cold evening in January found us crossing London Bridge bellward bound.

The portion of the church we have to pass through is dim enough by what little light comes from the organ loft where the organist is practising. The lantern we have with us is rather more useful, however, when we reach the narrow winding staircase that leads to the belfry, which is dark indeed and very long and very steep. When we reach the first halting place we feel but weak about the knees and giddy about the head, and are glad to cross along the level flooring of the loft.

'We nearly had an accident here the other day. Some of the boys were on in front and were going to cross in the dark. Fortunately I called on them to wait until I brought the lantern, thinking it just possible some of the traps were open. Sure enough they were and somebody must have gone right down to the floor of the church if I hadn't sung out in time.' Thus our conductor, to the derangement

(Continued in next column.)

BOCKING CHURCH AND ITS BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought perhaps your readers would like to know something of the history of our ancient deanery church and its bells.

The church was founded in the year 995 by Royal Charter under the direction of Elfric the Archbishop, the freehold lands at Bocking and Mersega, now known as 'Mersea Island,' being given by Edwin and Luftwine, his wife, as an endowment to a priory to be known as the Grand Priory of Christchurch, a Sub-Priory of Canterbury.

In the early 13th century the first bell was given to the Priory to be used as a sacring bell, and this bell remains in the turret unto this day. The inscription reads as follows round the crown, 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,' and an effigy of a knight in armour with the date 1237. Underneath, the Latin inscription reads, 'If you want to know my name, my name is Richard.'

At the dissolution of the monasteries the Priory Church became a peculiar church of Canterbury, and the Grand Prior became Dean Ordinary and Rector.

It is not known whether there were bells other than the one mentioned before the Commonwealth. Of the present peal of eight, two of the bells are dated 1670 and two others 1684. The two tenors, of which we have no record regarding their previous age, were recast in 1895 by Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel. The two trebles were presented by Mrs. Carrington and the Countess De Martiningo to commemorate the 60th year of Henry Carrington as Dean and Rector, and bear the names of the ringers of that day, which are as follows: Henry Hammond, Charles Bearman, William Bearman, Frederick Warren, William Moore, Frederick Radley, William Grimwade and Ezra Carter. Only two of these are still living, namely, Henry Hammond and Frederick Radley. These two bells were dedicated in 1904. The two oldest bells were cast by John Darbie and the other two by Bartlett.

Until the beginning of the 20th century a dog-rapper was paid to keep dogs out of the church, noisy boys in order and the congregation awake during sermons. He carried a staff, on one end of which was a feather, which he used to tickle the ladies under their nose to rouse them, and with the other end he poked the gentlemen in the ribs. This staff can be seen in the church at the present time.

RONALD SUCKLEY.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

of our nervous system, for the floor appears to be all trap, and the fastenings may or may not be all secure.

Another spell of steep winding staircase and we emerge breathless in the ringers' room.

Large and lofty is the ringers' room, lighted by a gas apparatus rather like the hoop that serves for a chandelier in a travelling circus. The walls are adorned by large black and gold frames looking at first sight like monumental tablets to the memory of departed ringers, but proving on further examination to refer, like the records in the club room, but on a larger scale, to the performances of the society. Peals of all kinds appear to have been rung on these bells; but on one occasion it seems that the company achieved a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus. Bob Major we have heard of, but Bob Maximus! Will they introduce us to Bob Maximus to-night?

The ropes of the twelve bells pass through holes in the ceiling and reach the floor. Under each is a little raised platform for the ringer to stand on, with a strap for his foot to help him in getting good purchase, and each rope half-way up is covered for some 4ft. by a fluffy woolly-looking covering, technically called a 'sally,' and intended to afford a good hold to the ringer as he checks his bell in the pull down.

Coats are taken off, sleeves are turned up and business is evidently about to begin. But nothing connected, however remotely, with music can be done without a quantity of tuning, or other preliminary performances, and change ringing is no exception to this rule. Before the ringing can begin, it is necessary to 'set' the bells; to set a bell is to get it on the right balance mouth upwards. Some of the bells are set already, some consent to be set with little trouble, but the tenor, a small plaything of fifty-two hundredweight, or thereabouts, is obstinate to-night. Three youths take him in hand and presently his deep note booms out sonorously, but he absolutely declines to assume the required position. We take the opportunity and go up, preceded by our friend with the lantern, into the belfry and among the bells.

As we go the tenor's voice becomes louder and louder, and the ladder and walls shake more and more, until at last as we are going to step on to the platform of the bells we shrink back as from a blow from the stunning crash of sound with which he greets us. He is rather an alarming object to behold swinging violently to and fro close to us, and we decline the invitation to step past him on to the staging beyond. Our conductor does not disturb himself in the least, but is presently busy among the bells with his lantern, sublimely indifferent to the clanging monster so close to him. All at once alarming tenor comes up slowly, hovers, poises for a moment as though hesitating and sets; his great mouth five feet or so in diameter turned at last the right way. All his companions have been in this position for some time and now the ringing can begin.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

AN ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

By W. TAYLOR.

In all Treble Bob methods some of the internal places play a part in fixing the first lead head of a method, whilst others have no effect on the lead head, but serve to prevent repetition of rows which would otherwise occur.

The first named or those which serve to determine the lead head are usually made by the bell which is coursing immediately in front of the treble making a place, crossing the treble and making another place, which causes it to again course the treble, but after it instead of before. It does not matter where the placemaking occurs, whether internally or at the Extremes, the result of the operation is the same, viz., to change the pair of bells concerned in their coursing order. For examples, examine the work of the treble and the 3rd in rows 2 to 5 inclusive of Double Norwich, where the operation is internal; or the laying in 2nd's place of the 3rd at the first lead end of Bob Major where the operation is at the Extreme.

The effect or result of the complete operation is always the same, whether it is made by the treble and a bell coursing before it, or by any pair of coursing bells. It always makes the course bells exchange places in coursing order. If the operation is made by a bell and the treble it causes the treble to move one step backward in the coursing order; thus the coursing order of rounds 246875312 after the operation has been completed once becomes 246875132 where it will be seen 1 and 3 have exchanged places, and the resulting lead head being 13527486.

Now in Double Norwich the operation is performed four times in the first lead, viz., with the 3rd, then the 5th, then the 7th and then the 8th, so that the treble is moved to 513, 715, 817 and 618 in succession, which last is part of the coursing order 246187532, and corresponds to the lead head 18674523, which is the first lead head of Double Norwich.

This operation has been given the name 'A Court Shunt' when it occurs internally and 'An Extreme' when it occurs at the Extremities, i.e., 1st's and 2nd's on the lead and 7th's and 8th's behind in Major. Although not strictly correct, I am going to use the term 'Court Shunt' to include Extremes, and shall hereafter usually indicate it by the initial letters C.S. There are some who object to the term 'Court Shunt' because they think it attempts to compare ringing with railway shunting. Those who dislike the term can substitute any other word or words which they think more nearly corresponds with the disturbance to normal plain hunting of the bells concerned, e.g., 'Move,' 'Exchange,' 'Side tracking,' etc., but just as the name given to the rose has nothing to do with the scent, so the name given to this operation has nothing to do with the result. *Verb. sap.*

I have explained what a C.S. is and what it does. It has absolutely no effect on the coursing order of the other bells, although it may cause them to dodge or do other things and temporarily disturb them while it is being carried out. After a C.S. original coursing order (hereafter coursing order will be C.O.) can be restored in one or two ways only—(a) by another C.S. on the same pair of bells, but the placemaking bell being the one which continued plain hunting in the first C.S., and (b) the placemaking bell making a C.S. with each of the other bells in turn so that it has made a C.S. with all. This latter is called a plained Q set. Case (a) may be called a reverse Q set.

The places of a C.S. are not necessarily made in four consecutive rows, between the places, the course bells taking part in the C.S. may dodge or even separate for several rows as occurs in Single Court Minor where the 3rd makes a place above the treble at rows 2 and 3, the other place being deferred till near the end of the lead at rows 10 and 11, but the final result is exactly the same as when made in 4 rows, viz., it moves the treble one place backward or exchanges the two in C.O.

Adjoining places on a pair of now coursing bells have the same effect as a C.S. has on coursing bells, viz., the pair of bells concerned exchange places in C.O. Examine the 3.4 places in Oxford Treble Bob when the treble is in 1.2. The C.O. is changed from 246875312 to 236875412, which pair is again reversed when the treble is in 1.2 down. So you see these places serve to prevent repetition of rows, but have no effect whatsoever on the first lead head of Oxford Treble Bob.

Court Shunts and adjoining places are two bell shunts because they affect two bells only. We can have three bell shunts operating on three bells coursing one another. They are more complicated and have more variations than C.S.'s. A three bell shunt disturbs the C.O. of three course bells in exactly the same way as a bob does. For this reason I call them Bob Shunts or shortly B.S.'s. A B.S.

(Continued in next column.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BEXLEY.

The Lewisham District of the Kent County Association held a very successful meeting at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th, at which 20 members attended from Crayford, Dartford, Erith, Lewisham, Chelsfield, Barnehurst and the local band.

Touces of Double Norwich, Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Stedman on handbells beguiled the all too short time available for performers and listeners alike. That some were listeners only was entirely due to the diffidence of the few people concerned, for never were exponents of an art more eager to initiate the uninformed than were Messrs. Barnett, Cross, Hoverd, Audsley and their fellows.

Service was held in St. Mary's Church, at which the association's form was used and the Rev. A. D. Talbot (curate-in-charge) officiated. Mr. E. Barnett read the lesson, and the singing was led by the organist, Mr. S. C. Garland. The address which the congregation found very interesting and encouraging, included an apology for the Vicar's absence and a warm welcome to Bexley. A collection was made for the Church Expenses Fund.

After service, a pleasant meal was despatched (at the Crayside Cafe) to a happy accompaniment of anecdote and reminiscence. Pressure of other duties necessitated the departure of the curate when tea was over.

The business meeting was held in the Church Institute, Mr. J. E. Bailey (Dartford) being elected to the chair.

Reference in the minutes of the last meeting to Mr. G. H. Lovelock, of St. Mary Cray, since deceased, led Mr. E. Barnett to pay a tribute to his memory; also to the late Mr. E. F. Pike, of Crofton Park, an unattached member of the association. The meeting signified its respect for these gentlemen's memory in the time-honoured manner.

Mr. Dennis Sheppard, Bexley, was elected a member of the association.

It was resolved to hold the annual district meeting in October at Chislehurst if arrangements can be made. Crayford was chosen as the alternative.

Mr. E. Barnett gave a report of transactions at the committee meeting preceding the general meeting at Gravesend last July.

The meeting was informed that Mr. Isaac Emery, of Bromley, was undergoing surgical treatment in hospital, and was greatly appreciative of the sympathy and interest of his many ringing friends, exemplified by the recent visit paid to him by Mr. E. Barnett.

The district secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Emery and convey the meeting's good wishes and solicitude.

The district representatives and secretary, gratified at the successful result of their application to Mr. Holden to arrange the meeting, took great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks for all that he had done, an appreciation endorsed in no uncertain manner by all present.

Further handbell ringing followed, bringing to an end a successful afternoon and evening.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

(Continued from previous column.)

is made by the first of three coursing bells making a place, which causes it to cross the other two, as soon as this occurs another place is made and the placemaking bell courses after its two companions instead of before. In a C.S. the placemaking bell crosses one bell and in a B.S. it crosses two bells, so that if when 4.6.8 are coursing together and 4 makes a B.S. with 6.8, the C.O. will be changed to 684, or if the other bells are represented by 0's, the C.O. is changed from 04680000 to 06840000, all the other bells being undisturbed in C.O. at the completion of the operation. As in the case of the C.S., the B.S. may be made either internally or externally as exemplified in the skeleton diagrams—

A	B	C	D
00004068	00004068	40680000	00040608
00040608	00040608	46080000	00004068
00046080	00406080	64800000	00000486
00064800	00460800	68400000	00000468
00608400	00648000	86400000	00004086
06804000	06804000	84800000	00040806
68040000	68040000	48060000	00408060

(To be continued.)

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

YORKSHIRE SURPRISE.

Of all the new methods which have been practised during the last twenty-five years, Yorkshire Surprise seems to have the best chance of making a secure position among the select group of the Standard Methods, and when everything is taken into consideration, no other seems to have such good claims to the honour. It is interesting and fairly easy to ring; it can produce good music; it has an extensive range of peal compositions; it lies in the direct line of development in method ringing taken by the Exercise throughout the ages; it extends perfectly, so that it can be rung on ten and twelve bells by the same rules as on eight; and it has a first-class name.

Yorkshire S.	Pudsey S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 4 6 3 8 5 7	1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 6 4 8 3 7 5	2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5
2 6 1 4 3 8 5 7	2 4 1 8 3 6 5 7
6 2 4 1 8 3 7 5	4 2 8 1 6 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 8 7 3 5	4 2 1 8 3 6 5 7
6 2 4 1 7 8 5 3	2 4 8 1 6 3 7 5
6 4 2 7 1 8 3 5	4 2 8 6 1 7 3 5
4 6 7 2 8 1 5 3	2 4 6 8 7 1 5 3
4 6 2 7 1 8 3 5	2 6 4 8 1 7 3 5
6 4 7 2 8 1 5 3	6 2 8 4 7 1 5 3
4 6 7 8 2 5 1 3	2 6 4 8 7 5 1 3
6 4 8 7 5 2 3 1	6 2 8 4 5 7 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3	6 8 2 5 4 7 1 3
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1	8 6 5 2 7 4 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 3 1	6 8 2 5 4 7 3 1
8 6 7 4 5 2 1 3	8 6 5 2 7 4 1 3
8 7 6 4 2 5 3 1	8 5 6 7 2 4 3 1
7 8 4 6 5 2 1 3	5 8 7 6 4 2 1 3
8 7 4 5 6 1 2 3	8 5 6 7 4 1 2 3
7 8 5 4 1 6 3 2	5 8 7 6 1 4 3 2
7 8 4 5 6 1 2 3	5 7 8 6 4 1 2 3
8 7 5 4 1 6 3 2	7 5 6 8 1 4 3 2
8 5 7 1 4 6 2 3	5 7 6 1 8 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 6 4 3 2	7 5 1 6 3 8 2 4
8 5 7 1 6 3 4 2	7 5 6 1 8 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 3 6 2 4	5 7 1 6 3 8 2 4
5 1 8 7 6 3 4 2	5 1 7 3 6 8 4 2
1 5 7 8 3 6 2 4	1 5 3 7 8 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4	5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6	1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6
1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4	1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

Last week we gave an explanation of the construction of the Cambridge group of methods. We said that Yorkshire is produced by the Cambridge Major triangle of places above the treble, and the Cambridge Minor triangle of places below the treble; and Pudsey is produced by the Cambridge Minor triangle of places above the treble, and the Cambridge Major triangle of places below the treble. If the reader will mark with a pen the places

in the above two leads, this point will be quite clear to him.

A fortnight ago we described the general plan on which Cambridge is based, and which enables it to extend so well. Yorkshire is based on the same general plan, but with the exception that while the bell coursing behind the treble as it goes up, and the bell coursing in front of the treble as it goes down, have an ordinary Treble Bob hunting which is strictly parallel to that of the treble, the other bells have a Treble Bob hunting which, as in Cambridge, dodges when the treble hunts, and hunts when the treble dodges (see illustration in 'The Ringing World' for August 22nd, page 406).

The means whereby these two huntings are reconciled are the same as in Cambridge. The bells, as they meet the treble, pass it either by place-making or by run-throughs; but in Yorkshire, as there are two bells to pass, half the place-making is followed by a run-through of half the length of the Cambridge run-through, and a half run-through is followed by half the Cambridge places.

The man who practises Yorkshire will almost certainly be familiar with Cambridge, and he will do well to ring the former as a variation of the latter by adapting its rules.

Above the treble the work of Yorkshire is pure Cambridge. As you hunt down and meet the treble the guiding rule is the same as in that method. If you meet the treble before you have dodged, you omit the dodge. If you meet the treble after you have dodged, you make places. After having passed the treble by a run-through you do not omit the next dodging position, but make half a set of places to enable you to pass the bell coursing after the treble, and, if you have passed the treble after a half set of Cambridge places, you pass the next bell with a run-through.

Similarly, when going up you run-through or make places accordingly as you meet the bell coursing in front of the treble. If you pass that bell by place-making, you run-through the treble; and if you pass the first bell by a run-through, you pass the treble by place-making.

To take the work of a bell in detail. When you are the bell which courses down in front of the treble you do ordinary Treble Bob hunting down and up, except that you make second's place over the treble when it is leading full. When you get up into 5-6 you do a three-pull dodge there before passing the treble into 7-8. You are now in the position of the 'intermediate bell' of Cambridge, and you do a double and a single dodge behind. You hunt down, and as you meet the treble in 3-4 before you have dodged, you run past it to the lead. There you do what is the equivalent of half the Treble Work Before of Cambridge; only you do it, not with the treble, but with the bell next it in coursing order. It consists of a dodge in 1-2 down, a whole pull on the front and second's place, followed by full Treble Bob work on the front.

When you get into 3-4, you omit the dodge and go up into 5-6, where you dodge with the treble, do the second half of the Cambridge places, and go to 7-8.

You are now ringing Cambridge Major again and on your way down, after dodging in 7-8, you meet the treble before you have dodged in 5-6. You therefore omit the dodge, pass the treble and go to 3-4, where you dodge,

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held in the belfry of Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Tower open 3 p.m. Six tower bells available for silent ringing.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting in Church House. All ringers welcome. — R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea if possible is being arranged. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, Sept. 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock. — Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Sec., Long Ashton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The deferred annual general meeting will be held at Cambridge, Sat., Sept. 6th. Ringing on Seage apparatus at Great St. Mary's from 3 p.m. Please come, if possible, to elect a general secretary. I am unable to carry on.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester on Saturday, September 6th. Central committee meet at 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m., followed by tea (all at Dumper's Restaurant, High Street). Service in Cathedral 5.15, followed by handbell ringing. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec., 183, Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, Hants.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Next meeting will be held at Codsall, on Saturday, September 13th. Meet in the belfry at 3 o'clock for handbell practice. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your own victuals and sugar. Buses leave Queen Square, Wolverhampton, at 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes.—H. Knight.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Newhall on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells in tower at 3.30. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A full tea MAY be provided at a moderate cost, but please take own sugar. Everyone cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting to be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Tower and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. A good attendance requested.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Branch Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held on September 13th at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Hall at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. No provision for tea is being made this year. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend, as the new Vicar has promised to be present. Handbells will be available after completion of business.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 13th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells. Bring sandwiches.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells available in Parish Room 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Rusby, Hill Top, Cawthorne, near Barnsley, not later than Sept. 10th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chertsey on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Churchroom 5 p.m. Tea can be provided on receipt of a p.c. by Tuesday, Sept. 16th. The larger the attendance the more the officers will be pleased.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting of the Western Division will be held at Heptonstall on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Handbells will be available during the afternoon and evening, and a tea will be arranged. Further particulars see later announcement.—F. Rayment, Bramley.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Buckby on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Bells (5) will be rung silent. Tea provided for those who notify me by Sept. 16th.—C. Green, Hon. Sec., Murcatt, Long Buckby.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th. Tower bells (silent), if possible, 2.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Coffee Tavern 4.45 p.m. Please note change of date of meeting. Please write Albert G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, about numbers for tea.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

make third's and fourth's places, dodge again, and go to the front.

On the front you dodge before leading, but omit the dodge after, and go up to 3-4, where you dodge with the treble and do the second half of Cambridge Places, after which you hunt up to treble work behind exactly as in Cambridge.

The second half of the work is the same as the first, but in reverse order, the Turning Places of the method being seconds over the treble when it is leading, and sevenths under the treble when it is lying behind. The order of the work is 3-4 places down, lead and dodge, 3-4 places up, omit 5-6 dodge, 5-6 places down, omit 3-4, long front work, omit 3-4, single and double behind, three-pull dodge in 5-6, treble work before.

To follow these rules it is well to examine the figures given above and to draw a skeleton course of the method.

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THE WINCHESTER GUILD'S DECISION

In the area of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild it has been thought desirable to suspend all activities while the ban on the ringing of church bells lasts and the danger of air-raids remains. The organisation of the Guild will, of course, remain in being, and there is to be an annual meeting called next year. The decision was arrived at by the members at the general meeting last Saturday, although the resolution only formally recognised what had actually been the state of affairs for a year or more. At first sight it seems a pity that the Guild which covers so wide an area should decide upon what looks like a policy of surrender to conditions which other associations are cheerfully endeavouring to overcome. Admittedly the season is now approaching, with long nights and early black-out, when there is little possibility of holding meetings, but we believe this is the first instance of an association officially abandoning all activity and putting up the shutters so completely.

Some excuse may be found for the Guild, apart from the loss of members which it shares in common with all other ringing organisations. Part of the area the Guild covers is one of the most vulnerable in the country, and the centre of its past activities has been in that strip of Hampshire which has suffered most at enemy hands. The risks of holding a gathering in that part of the county are therefore greater than in some other places, and winter meetings may be considered impossible. On the other hand, in the territory farther removed from the sea, enthusiasm has long been less marked, and cannot, we suppose, be expected to rise to fresh heights when there are no bells to ring. Between risks in one part and indifference in the other, the Guild has decided there is little hope of carrying on, and it is going into hibernation until, some time next year, the members will be asked to come together again to transact the business of the annual meeting required by the rules.

So completely are the Guild activities to be put aside that not only is there to be no annual report or balance sheet printed until after the war, but the rule requiring the payment of subscriptions by December 31st is to be suspended. This, of course, will keep the names on the roll, and a Guild with funds of over £200 and few, if any, expenses, can be expected to carry on in name for a long time, but on the face of it the whole policy looks very much like a defeatist attitude. And yet there are indications that the Guild still has life. An attendance of sixty, drawn from a wide area, at last week's meeting shows that the Guild is by no means dead, and that, in all probability, a few optimists might keep the spark of life in

(Continued on page 434.)

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being, but on last Saturday's decision how will they answer if in days to come they are asked, 'What did you do to keep the flag of ringing flying?' At the moment the flag has been struck, and how long it will be before it goes up to the masthead again no one can say. It will not be yet, unless some miracle happens. In reply to a letter forwarded from the Doncaster and District Society the Minister of Home Security (Mr. Herbert Morrison) has said, 'Unfortunately the threat of invasion remains, and as the circumstances are the same as a year ago when the Church Bell Order was made, I cannot recommend any amendment of the Order.'

But one ray of hope stands out. The veteran Master of the Guild has set an example to other towers. Most of the older members of his band are dispersed, but he has gathered round him a group of youngsters who meet Sunday by Sunday, 'bells or no bells,' and have a weekly handbell practice. That is the spirit to keep the art alive. North Stoneham is in the vulnerable part of the area, and if this sort of thing is possible there it ought to be possible elsewhere where the towers are left standing. The recommendations of the executive committee, which were accepted by last Saturday's meeting, were passed last November, when the Battle of Britain had only just been fought, and the onslaught on our coastal areas was at its height. The outlook then was different, and doubtless had its influence on the committee in coming to their decision. It is true there are still risks, but it was a pity officially to discourage the maintenance of life in those areas where something might even in these days have been done to keep up the interest of the members.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 31, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 1004 CHANGES,

Tenor size 15 in C.

CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 5-6

EDWARD COWPERTHWAITE ... 3-4 | E. ROGER MARTIN ... 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Composed by CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE

First peal as conductor in the method and 'in hand.'

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, September 5, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 1040 CHANGES,

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4

CADET A. J. BRIAN WAYMAN ... 5-6

Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witnesses: Miss E. M. Richardson and Miss Pauline Ley.

'SCROOF'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Scroof is a form, current from the 16th to the 18th centuries, but now practically obsolete, of the word scurf, which is itself another form of scurf. According to the dictionary, one meaning of this last word is 'a contemptible person,' and another, 'but rarer, meaning 'the scum of the population.' S.

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THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

LETTER FROM MINISTER OF HOME SECURITY.

No Change Yet.

The following letter was sent by Mr. Herbert Morrison (Minister of Home Security) on August 6th to Mr. E. Walker, M.P. for Doncaster: I am writing further in reply to your letter dated the 31st ultimo, with which you forwarded a letter you had received from the secretary of the Doncaster District Society of Change Ringers about the use of church bells as a warning of enemy troops landing by air.

Unfortunately, the threat of invasion remains, and as the circumstances are the same as a year ago when the church bells order was made, I cannot recommend any amendment of the order.

The sirens are not capable of much variety of signals and there is a danger that a special signal might be misunderstood, but the main objection to their use for the purpose for which church bells are now to be used is that sirens have only been installed in urban areas. There are none in rural districts and it is in rural districts that enemy parachutists are most likely to be dropped.

Admittedly churches in urban areas have suffered seriously from enemy action, but it has been in the course of an indiscriminate attack, and does not indicate that they have become military objectives because their bells might be used for giving a signal.

The letter was read at a meeting of the Doncaster and District Society, held at Barnby Don on Saturday week.

The attendance was very poor and in view of this it was decided to hold over the meetings for the winter months.

The correspondence with the local M.P. did not raise any great hopes in the hearts of ringers of the lifting of the ban.

Handbells were put to good use and some useful work was done on six and eight bells. Ringers attended from Arksey, Doncaster, Felkirk and the local company.

DEATH OF FREDERICK WILLIAM DIXON.

A PROMINENT YORKSHIRE RINGER.

Yorkshire ringers have learnt with regret of the passing of Frederick William Dixon, of Guseley, on July 15th, in his 71st year, a ringer and churchman for over fifty years.

He was especially well known in the West Riding as a first-class conductor, and his ability in this direction was appreciated by all who rang peals with him, for he was very definite in his conducting, both as regards accuracy and striking.

Born at Guseley, he began to ring in 1887 at the age of 17 and was one of the earliest members of the Yorkshire Association. He rang his first peal, one of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1889. His total number of peals was upwards of 200, of which he conducted about 130. They included Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major and Royal, Grandshire, Bob Major (including one of 10,400), Stedman Triples and Caters, London and Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich Little Bob Major and Royal, and several handbell peals, one of which was the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major rung by the Yorkshire Association.

He was a tower of strength to his fellow ringers at Guseley during the whole of his ringing career and his place will be very hard to fill, for his whole heart was in his ringing and churchmanship at the Parish Church, where he was an honorary sidesman.

The funeral service was at the church where he had worshipped all his life and was conducted by the Rector and Canon Marshall, president of the Yorkshire Association. A plain course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by J. Ambler, P. J. Johnson, J. McGlellan and T. M. Thomson (the latter having been associated with him as a ringer for over fifty years).

Many ringers were present at the service, including a large number of old friends and members of the Yorkshire Association Executive Committee to pay their respect to a departed friend and ringer. Canon Marshall gave a short address and paid tribute to Frederick William Dixon's reputation by declaring him truly a man of sterling character.

THE LATE MR. ARTHUR PANTHER.

LIST OF HIS PEALS.

The late Mr. Arthur Panther, of Wath-on-Dearne, rang in all 145 peals, of which he conducted 26. Thirty-eight were on eight bells as follows: Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Rutland 1, Yorkshire 3, Killamarsh 1, Superlative 1, Treble Bob 14, Spliced Treble Bob 3, Double Norwich 9, Plain Bob 3, Grandshire Triples 1. His six-bell peals included one in each of 14, 16 and 35 Spliced methods; two of 20 Spliced methods; one of each 10 and 15 Surprise Extents, and 9 and 10 Treble Bob Extents; fifteen in 7 Surprise Extents; eighty-two in 7 methods; and one in 3 methods. One hundred and forty-two were rung for the Yorkshire Association, one for the Barnsley District, one for the Guildford and one for the Middlesex Associations.

The most outstanding peals are the 10 and 15 Surprise Minor Extents, the spliced peals ranging from 14 to 35 methods, and the non-conducted peal of Minor in seven Treble Bob methods.

THE OLDEST CUMBERLAND.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My Cumberland certificate states that I was 'duly elected a member of this society on the 1st day of November, 1878.'

Henley, Ipswich.

WILLIAM C. PEARSON.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CANON SOLLOWAY'S DEPARTURE FROM SELBY.

President's Tribute.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Selby on Saturday, August 30th, and was attended by over 20 ringers from Bradford, Campsall, Headingley (St. Chad's), Hessele, Howden, Pudsey, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York and the local company.

During the afternoon the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Solloway, D.D., acted as guide to the party on a tour of the Abbey, and later conducted shortened evensong, at which the singing was led by the choirboys.

After tea the business meeting was held in the Sacristy, over which the president of the association, the Rev. Canon C. C. Marshall, presided. It was decided not to hold the December meeting owing to the 'black-out,' and the date and place of the next annual meeting was left to the secretary to arrange.

The principal item on the agenda was a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Selby (Canon Solloway) for his many kindnesses to the association during his 31 years' stay at Selby. He is retiring at the end of September and is going to live at Scarborough, where he spent some few years as curate at St. Mary's Church in the early days of his ministry.

Canon Marshall, in proposing the resolution, said how sorry they all felt at the impending retirement of Canon Solloway, who had always been so considerate of their welfare whenever they visited Selby. Bellringers desired and looked for the help and sympathy of the clergy, who had bells under their charge, and one thing was certain, they always got it in connection with Canon Solloway. The Selby ringers knew that was the case, and that he always looked upon ringers as a real part of church life. As an association, they always knew that whenever they wanted anyone to help them they had only to turn to Canon Solloway and he had always been most willing to assist. That had been Canon Solloway's great characteristic since their association with him. He added that they would look back with pleasure on the many occasions the Canon had kindly conducted parties round the Abbey, and how he made them appreciate not only the Abbey, but every other great church they visited, by his minute examination and his explanation of the varying styles of architecture from the Norman period to the present day, of which the Abbey is so rich. Canon Marshall concluded by wishing Canon Solloway many years of happy retirement; they were sorry to part with him, but they knew he would retain his interest in the bells and of the Abbey where he had spent so many years as Vicar.

Mr. F. Cryer, the vice-president, seconded the vote of thanks, and said he had never had a wrong word with Canon Solloway or with any of his three predecessors during the whole of his ringing career at Selby, which went back nearly 70 years. He said Canon Solloway came to Selby from York 31 years ago to have a rest, and he had been working hard ever since he came. He was sorry Canon Solloway could not stay another 20 years with them.

The resolution was carried with applause, and, in reply, Canon Solloway said how grateful he was for their kind words. Many of the things said were undeserved, but he had always been keenly interested in their work, and everything that had passed between them had been perfectly amicable. He only wished he could have heard the bells again at this particular time of his life ringing as they used to ring. He was not going far away, and if he knew at any time when they were going to ring a peal he would try and come over to hear them once again. He had been in Selby a long while, he added, and felt the time had come when he should make room for a younger man. He thanked God he was in good health and he wished them every success in their good work and hoped they would soon be ringing the bells again in honour of peace and victory.

Handbell ringing took place till after 8 o'clock, when an enjoyable meeting terminated.

CARTER RINGING MACHINE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the enquiry as to the Carter Ringing Machine, I am glad to say that it is kept reasonably secure.

Mr. W. Sharman, one of the two demonstrators, tried the machine early this year. Unfortunately, neither my fellow trustee (Mr. A. A. Hughes) nor myself could attend on the day he was there. Mr. Sharman later called upon me and said that the machine was brought up from the vaults and that he made a satisfactory test, whereupon he understood that it would be again placed in safety. He added that practically all the other exhibits appeared to have been likewise removed.

It would be interesting for us to know about Mr. Woodhouse's machine and whether it is also in a fairly safe place.

E. ALEXR. YOUNG (Trustee).

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Thursday, August 28th, at the Vicarage, 720 Bob Minor: Henry G. Keeley 1-2, Rev. C. Carew Cox 3-4 (conductor), Mrs. C. W. Powell 5-6. First 720 on handbells by all and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Powell for the first anniversary of their wedding.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 425.)

POINTS FOR PEALS.

Apart from the duplication of the names of associations, there was another thing in the original Analysis which struck people as unfair. The only thing that counted was the number of peals; their quality went for nothing. One association might come out at the top whose performances consisted almost entirely of Grand-sire Triples and Plain Bob or Treble Bob Major, while another association which rang London or Superlative Surprise and Stedman Cinques might be well down the table. It was felt that something ought to be done to correct such a state of affairs, and that led to the adoption of points for peals.

I am not quite sure what was the ultimate origin of points for peals, but I believe it came out of a practice of the Sussex County Association. They had a scheme by which, whenever a peal was rung, so many points were allotted to each individual ringer and were credited to his home tower. For instance, if a peal of Treble Bob was rung at Steyning, and five of the band came from St. Peter's, Brighton, two from Eastbourne, and one from Southover, Brighton would have ten points, Eastbourne four, and Southover two. The list of towers was given in the annual report with the aggregate number of points gained, and the one with the biggest number was the champion for the year.

At the time, when comparatively few methods were rung, and in a county like Sussex, where there was no ring of twelve bells and but one of ten, and no tenor above 25 cwt. in weight, the scheme worked quite well and fairly, and was a pretty good test of the peal-ringing capacity of the various companies.

George F. Attree, who compiled the Analysis, was the secretary of the Sussex Association, and so, when it became clear that there was a call for some better plan than merely arranging the associations according to the number of the peals they had rung, it was only natural that he should adopt the scheme which had proved successful in his own association; and when the Analysis for 1891 was published the number of points earned by each association was stated, though the names were still given according to the number of peals.

The schedule of points was as follows:—Triples in all plain methods, 1 point for each ringer. Major, in all plain methods, 1½ points. Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Forward, 2 points. Double Methods twice the number of points as the single of the same method. Duffield, 3 points. Stedman Triples, 4 points. Superlative, 5 points. Cambridge 6 points. London, 8 points. Peals of Minor received from 1 to 6 points, according to the number of methods rung.

The positions of the various associations in the table according to the number of points they had earned did not differ very much from the positions according to the number of peals rung.

As applied to the whole country the scheme was not so successful as when applied to Sussex only. People began to point out what they thought were anomalies, the matter came before the Council at the Sheffield meeting in 1895, and a committee was appointed to deal with the subject. It was a very strong committee and consisted of Attree, Dr. Carpenter, Henry Dains, James W. Washbrook, John Carter, E. B. James and A. P. Heywood.

In the discussion some people thought weight of metal and number of changes should be taken into account, and some asked why Cambridge should be rated so much higher than Superlative. William Wakley, speaking for the Burton men, said that if London were given 50 points then Cambridge, Superlative, and New Cumberland were each worth 30 points. Attree's opinion was that Cambridge is more difficult than Superlative. It was easier to get a band for the latter and men were safer in it than in the former.

In 1897 the Council adopted the following scheme. All plain methods, Triples, 7; Major, 8; Caters, 9; Royal, 10; Cinques, 11; Maximus, 12. All double methods, Double Norwich, Oxford Bob, Duffield, etc., Major 16, Royal 18, Maximus 20. Stedman Triples, 24; Stedman Caters, 24; Stedman Cinques, 28. Treble Bob methods, Major, 12; Royal, 14; Maximus, 16. London Surprise Major, 50; Cambridge, 40; Superlative, 30.

These figures show the great respect people then had for Stedman Triples, which indeed was for the majority the height of a ringer's ambition. There was a great deal of ignorance and prejudice against anything outside the very beaten track. When Law James asked Attree why he had omitted Double Norwich Caters, the latter said he did not think methods of that sort ought to be rung. When it was urged that it was a perfectly good method, he rejoined that it might be so, but Double Norwich ought to be rung on even numbers only. He was not the only man who held that opinion, and some years later Sir Arthur Heywood confessed to me in a letter that the relationship between the Major and the Caters which I had pointed out was quite new to him.

In 1898 and the following fourteen years the names of the associations were arranged in the Analysis according to the number of points they had earned.

Attree had begun the Analysis, and for several years he carried it on, but in the course of time it became more complicated and not unnaturally the labour began to get irksome. For a while much of the routine work was done by people in his employment, and from 1898 to 1904 Mr. George Baker's name was added to his own. In 1905 at the Canterbury meeting a proposal was made that an annual grant of five guineas should be made to pay for the work, but the Council has necessarily to depend on voluntary service, and when the motion was put to the meeting no one voted for it. For three years no Analysis appeared and it seemed as if it had lapsed entirely.

Its revival was due to Mr. Charles E. Borrett, who then and for many years represented the Norwich Diocesan Association. He gave notice of a motion to appoint a committee to deal with the matter. As he could not attend the London meeting in 1906, he asked me to move for him, and a committee was appointed, consisting of himself, Mr. Joseph Griffin, Mr. Arthur T. King and myself. I remained on the committee until 1910, but, so far as I remember, I did not do very much of the work. The others, however, worked hard. The overdue tables for 1904 and 1905 were published in 1906, and by 1907 the arrears had been brought up to date. Since then the Analysis has appeared annually.

The interest taken in points for peals is shown by the fact that for a long time there was hardly a meeting of the Council at which they were not debated in some form or other. The Peal Values Committee was kept in

being for more than ten years, and then was discharged only because its functions were taken over by the Analysis Committee. Heywood summed up the general opinion when he said at Manchester in 1910 that there was no longer much ringing for money, but Englishmen would have competition in some form, and the Analysis, with its points for peals, was the only way in which the Exercise could, and did, compete. It was a healthy substitute for the ringing of church bells for money prizes, and was a vast improvement upon the old state of affairs.

There was, however, all along a considerable amount of opinion which objected strongly to points. Some people thought that they 'degraded' change ringing, and Law James never lost an opportunity of saying so. Others complained that they were unfair, and in many cases their complaint was based on some local circumstances not unconnected with rivalry between individuals and bands. In 1907 an incident brought this feeling to the front. In October in that year the three brothers Pye and Mr. William Keeble rang on handbells in the belfry of Romford Church a peal of Bristol Surprise Major, which, with its points, was credited to the Middlesex County Association. This brought to 'The Bell News' a letter of protest from Benjamin Keeble. After saying that a peal on tower bells should not be classed with sport of any kind, and that 'those who cannot practise the science without peal ringing, should have a higher and more noble object than that of football, golf, or any other athletic profession (which was a little bit pharisaical), he came to his main point, 'the injustice of the whole thing.' The peal had been rung by Essex men in an Essex tower affiliated to the Essex Association from the day it was founded, and upon handbells be-

longing to the tower; yet another association got the credit of the points. 'Is it not time,' he said, 'that points for peals were abolished?'

This letter started a long correspondence, in which Edwin Barnett, Canon Papillon, Arthur T. King, Edward O'Meara, John R. Sharman, George Williams and others took part. R. A. Daniell, in his role as the advocate for the old London societies, contributed a long article, in which he directly challenged the Middlesex Association. At the time the relations between the old societies and that association were somewhat strained. The rights and wrongs of the dispute do not matter much for our present subject, for, after all, it was only the sort of thing that has been common in the London Exercise from the earliest days. Once the rivalry was between the College Youths and the London Scholars, then between the College Youths and the Eastern Scholars, later between the College Youths and the Cumberlands, and now between the College Youths and the Middlesex Association. A good deal of heat was generated and some bad feeling, but an impartial observer would probably conclude that on the whole the old London societies benefited, by the rivalry of their younger opponents.

(To be continued.)

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The composition of Superlative, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Pudsey Surprise Major mentioned by Mr. C. T. Coles in his interesting and able letter concerning Spliced Surprise Major was published in 'The Ringing World' of August 12th, 1932. The figures of the peal called by Mr. E. C. S. Turner, in which all the bells ring all the work in the course of London, Bristol and Superlative, were published in 'The Ringing World' of June 14th, 1935. The study of Spliced Surprise Major is extremely interesting and there is still plenty of scope for further investigation.

A. J. PITMAN.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

His friends will learn with pleasure that Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, now 84 years old, is still active. 'Hale and hearty' is the way to describe him, and he is still teaching ringing. He has a new company of youths, who meet regularly for handbell practice at North Stoneham.

Mr. Williams presided over the Guild annual meeting and conducted the business with the aplomb of one at least 20 years younger.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) had returned from the Orkney Islands just in time to make the arrangements for the meeting, and among the 'visitors' was Mr. Alf Greenwood, formerly Portsmouth District secretary, who was home on a holiday from Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Emery will be glad to hear that he is making a good recovery after his operation, and hopes to be discharged from hospital this week.

Eighteen years ago last Monday the first twelve-bell peal in Hampshire was rung at Winchester Cathedral. The method was Stedman Cinques and the conductor was Mr. F. E. Dawe.

On September 10th, 1741, the Crowfield Society rang at Coddensham in Suffolk John Garthorn's peal of Grandsire Triples. It was conducted by John Foster, whom Theodore Eccleston, the donor of the bells, had got from Norwich to help to make up a good company.

Ninety-seven years ago to-day Charles Henry Hattersley was born at Sheffield, and 85 years ago to-day Charles D. P. Davies was born at Tewkesbury.

On September 13th, 1802, the Cumberlands rang 5,040 changes of Imperial Place Major at Islington. The method, by Shipway, was constructed without a dodge.

Charles Middleton, the composer of the well-known peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, died at Norwich on September 14th, 1886.

On the same date in 1934, the Australian tour began. Next Tuesday Mr. W. H. Fussell, who organised the tour, will celebrate his 80th birthday. Fifty years ago last Wednesday, Washbrook rang the tenor and called the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Oxford. In those days the bell was always stated to be 40 cwt.

Fifty years ago to-day three peals were rung. Two were Bob Major and one Double Norwich. The latter was at Crawley, the first peal in the method on the bells and by Mr. James Parker. It was composed and called by Mr. George Williams.

Revisiting Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, writes a correspondent, I noticed in one of the stalls in the choir a cushion, with a remarkable embroidered portrait of the late Mr. J. W. Elkins, for so many years Dean's Verger and a life member of the Winchester Guild, who was so well known to ringers. This surely is a unique memorial to find in a Cathedral. But then, J. W. Elkins was in many respects a remarkable man.

Recent references to Quex Park remind us of a rather remarkable record made by Mr. J. R. Sharman. He went to Birchington on four Easters and was successful in ringing three peals on each visit. On each occasion he rang a different bell, and except on the last visit by chance and not by design, so in twelve attempts he had rung all twelve bells to a peal. The peals were on all numbers from Major to Maximus.

PRISONER OF WAR.

News has been received by his parents at Tolworth, Surrey, that Mr. Cyril C. Rayner, one of the ringers at Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, Parish Church, who has been missing since April, is now a prisoner of war in Germany. He was serving with the Royal Corps of Signals in the Middle East at the time of his capture.

Cyril Rayner learnt his ringing at Selby Abbey, Yorkshire, where he was always very popular, both with the Selby ringers and those of Hemingbrough and Sherburn-in-Elmet, which towers he often visited on practice nights whilst living at Selby.

His ringing friends all wish him a safe and speedy return home.

PROTECTION OF CHURCH BELLS FROM FIRE.

In the light of recent happenings, the following letter which appeared in 'The Bell News' as far back as January 26th, 1907, will be read with interest:—

'In view of the several church fires which have occurred lately at Selby and elsewhere, in which bells have been destroyed, I suggest to those building or restoring churches that the first floor of the tower (and, if a low one, the roof also) be of steel and concrete construction; that the louvre openings be fitted with interval fire-proof sliding doors, so hung as to close automatically with excessive heat, and that windows abutting on roofs be glazed with wired glass. With these precautions, the burning of a church need not involve the destruction of the bells and clock, often the most valuable contents of the building.—Richard F. Deal.'

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

ACTIVITIES TO BE SUSPENDED.

Effect of Ban and Air Raid Danger.

A fateful decision was taken at the annual meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild on Saturday, when it was resolved to approve various recommendations of the Executive Committee suspending the activities of the Guild in all the districts. The recommendations were drawn up last November, and, as far as they affected the conduct of the Guild's affairs, had been acted upon since. The meeting last week at Winchester confirmed this course of action.

The Master of the Guild (Mr. George Williams) presided over an attendance of some 60 members from all parts of the diocese, from Christchurch in the west to Petersfield in the east, from Basingstoke in the north to the Isle of Wight in the south. The chairman was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the acting treasurer (Mr. W. Linter).

LOWER MEMBERSHIP, BUT INCREASED BALANCE.

The meeting resolved to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. G. H. Coombes, of Ryde, the oldest member of the Guild, who at the age of 98 is still hale and hearty.

Among the apologies received was one from the Rev. N. C. Woods, chairman of the Winchester District, and now at St. John's Vicarage, Ladbroke Grove, London, who sent his greetings and good wishes.

Mr. W. Linter, acting hon. treasurer, presented the balance sheet and statement of accounts for the year 1940. It showed that the year began with a balance in hand of £219 5s. 5d., including £93 1s. 1d. retained by the districts. The receipts included subscriptions from 92 honorary members amounting to £24 11s., and from 420 ringing members £41 4s., one new life member £2 2s., and an arrear of 2s.; £4 2s. was received in interest from the Post Office Savings Bank for 1939 and 1940, the total receipts being £73 18s. 7d. Among the items of expenditure was £17 14s. for printing the previous year's report. The balance in hand had risen to £237 9s., including £80 from the district balances which had been invested in War Savings; the net increase on the year being £18 3s. 7d.

Mr. Linter, in giving some comparative figures of membership, said in 1939 they had 139 honorary members, but in 1940 only 92. They had 686 full ringing members in 1939, but only 420 in 1940. In 1939 they elected 39 compounding members, but in 1940 only eight.

The balance sheet was adopted on the motion of Mr. R. Brown, who congratulated the Guild on the result in a very difficult year.

The Hon. Secretary thanked Mr. Linter for his services in connection with the accounts. Owing to the death of the late treasurer, Mr. H. Barton, they were somewhat at 'sixes and sevens,' and they wondered how they could get hold of someone to undertake to visit Mr. Barton's executors at Ventnor. The Guild was indebted to Mr. Linter for stepping into the breach and extricating the Guild's finances in the way he had done.

Later a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Linter for his services.

The report of the Peal Recorder (Mr. R. A. Reed, now in the Royal Air Force) was read by the hon. secretary. Seven peals were rung before the ban put an end to church bell ringing, three of them having been by the young band at St. Michael's, Basingstoke.

ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the future of the Guild's activities was discussed at a special meeting of the Executive Committee on November 9th, and it was decided to ask the general meeting to say whether they should carry on under war-time conditions. The feeling of the committee was that, at least until the ban was lifted and the risk of air raids less serious, they could not advise the resumption of district meetings. Fifteen members of the committee were present, representing six out of the eight districts, and the committee made the following report:—

The various aspects of the Guild's activities were discussed, in the light of war conditions, and the following decisions were reached, with a recommendation to the districts for their adoption:—

1. Guild meetings.—Until the ban is lifted on church bell ringing, and the danger of air raids less serious, the committee does not see how to recommend the resumption of any district meetings.

2. District accounts.—(a) That the district accounts be balanced up for 1940, and annually for the duration of the war, and added to any balance that may be in the hands of the respective secretaries, after which three-quarters (75 per cent.) of these amounts be deposited in the general treasurer's account on deposit at the Post Office. These moneys will remain in this account until such times as the district secretaries may require them again. This will not only help the 'war effort,' but will be safely invested. (b) That in view of the fact it is considered impracticable to hold any district meetings, the Executive Committee directs that the district secretaries balance their accounts for 1940, and annually for the duration of the war, have them duly audited and signed by the district auditor and representative(s) without submission to the usual annual district meeting, and then forward the appropriate balance to the general treasurer not later than February 14th of each following year.

A RULE SUSPENDED.

3. Membership.—It was felt by the committee that many members, both honorary and ringing, could not see their way clear to continue their financial support, and in order to retain their membership it was decided that, for the duration of the war, Rule 6, Paragraph 4,

be suspended. It is hoped, however, that those more fortunately placed will continue to give their financial support.

In making these recommendations, which, the committee feel, is to the best advantage of the Guild, it is hoped that if and when the situation permits, a return can be made to normal conditions in the districts.

Rule 6, Paragraph 4, referred to in the report, provides that a member who fails to pay his subscription for any year by December 31st shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Guild.

The Hon. Secretary pointed out that the 1940 accounts were drawn up under the altered rule.

The meeting confirmed the committee's recommendation.

On the motion of Mr. Wilfred Andrews, seconded by Mr. W. Tucker, the Master (Mr. G. Williams), the hon. secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the peals recorder (Mr. R. A. Reed) were re-elected, and Mr. W. Linter was elected hon. treasurer.

In acknowledging his election, Mr. Rogers, as it is not possible to hold district meetings, appealed to the members to continue their support of the Guild. As there is no ringing, he said, there is no incentive to do anything, but they should realise that the war will end some time and they would be able to resume their activities. He asked the members to continue to give their support to the Guild and rally round the officers so that when the time came they could get together again.

It was decided to elect the four representatives to the Central Council to which the Guild is entitled, and the following were appointed: Messrs. G. Williams, F. W. Rogers and G. Pullinger (re-appointed) and W. Andrews (to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. H. Barton).

On the question of the place and date of the next annual meeting, Mr. Pullinger moved that it be left to the Master, hon. treasurer and hon. secretary to decide. It was useless, he said, to decide at that meeting something which they might next year find it impossible to carry out.—Mr. R. Brown seconded.

Mr. W. Tucker moved an amendment that the meeting be held at Winchester, whatever happened. 'I am not a pessimist,' he added.—Mr. J. W. Faithfull seconded.

The amendment was carried, but the date of the meeting was left to the officers to decide.

NO 'ANNUAL REPORT.'

Mr. Pullinger brought forward the question of printing an annual report for 1940, and moved 'That the reports for 1940 and subsequent war years be not printed, but that the accounts and records be carefully preserved, and as soon as possible after the end of the war be published under one cover; that four copies of these records be made and distributed in different parts of the county for safety from enemy action.' Apart from the shortage of paper, he said, there was the difficulty of distribution. If they didn't print one copy for each member, the members who did not get them might feel aggrieved; if they did print them, there was the difficulty of finding the members, many of whom were in the Forces; others had been scattered through evacuation and other causes and they were out of touch with them. If the reports were left to the end of the war they would not lose anything, but after the war the combined reports would give them something from which to make a fresh start.

Mr. W. Melville seconded and the motion was supported by Mr. Faithfull, who said that the reports could only remain in the tower secretaries' hands. In his own case he did not know where all his members were, and it was impossible to meet, as the tower went up in smoke and they lost everything.

The Master opposed Mr. Pullinger's motion. He thought the records of the Guild should be kept up and a report in an abridged form published every year, as it was in the last war. At that time he was hon. secretary of the Guild and they printed a pamphlet of a few pages with the balance sheet and the names of the secretaries of the towers. He thought for a wealthy society like theirs not to print a report would make them look very small.

Mr. Melville said the circumstances of the last war and of this were very different. In the last war the towers were still open and a meeting place for the ringers every Sunday. Now, they didn't meet at all and they could not get the reports into the hands of the members.

The Master said in his own tower (North Stoneham) they met nearly every Sunday, bells or no bells. It was true that many of them were young ringers, but they had handbell practice in most weeks. He hoped they would not let the reports lapse.

The Hon. Secretary said he sympathised with both sides. He did not want to see the reports dropped, but they had to realise that, perhaps, 75 per cent. would be left in tower secretaries' hands and many would never reach the members.

The Hon. Treasurer supported the Master's view. He thought there ought to be an annual report on their finances, especially for the hon. members. If they did not give them any report for four or five years they would begin to wonder where their money was going to. He thought they should try to keep in touch with their members, war or no war.

Mr. Pullinger, in replying to the discussion, said he was as anxious as anyone to keep things together, and he felt that if, as soon as peace came, the committee liked to go forward and publish a report it would be a start for them right away, and the reports would get into the hands of those whom they wanted to have them. He dis-

(Continued on page 441.)

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

By W. TAYLOR.

Continued from page 429.)

Unless the treble is one of the three bells concerned or when it is coursing immediately before or after the three coursing bells, the B.S. has no effect on the position of the treble at the lead end or head. The plain course of Grandsire is determined by the B.S.'s with the treble and bell in the hunt remaining constant and each of the other bells making 3rd's place in turn like example C above. Example D may be called the inverse form of the B.S.; its effect or final result is exactly the same as the other examples. The bobs of Double Norwich are like example D. In Treble Bob there is a peculiar case of the B.S. where a snap blow has the effect of a place, i.e., it changes the direction in which the bell hunts. It is exemplified in the first five rows of London Surprise Major. I will give the work of 3.5.7 in skeleton form. It will readily be seen how the 3rd crosses the tracks of 5th and 7th and finally courses after them instead of before (especially so if lines are drawn along the paths of 3.5.7).

10030507

10305070 rounds

01350700

10537000

01573000

05170300

50713000

If plain hunting is continued from here the effect will be even more apparent. It will be seen that both the 5th and 7th stop to make a place, but, instead of reversing as the 3rd does, they continue in original direction. It is as if the 5th and 7th turn slightly aside to avoid bumping someone (the treble and/or the 2nd). After a B.S. original C.O. can be restored in several ways. I have already mentioned how it is done in Grandsire. It can also be restored by two other B.S.'s on the same three bells, in one of which (in our example on 468) the 6th makes the places and in the other the 8th. These three B.S.'s constitute a Bobbed Q set and are exactly similar to three Bobs wrong or three middles or three homes. Another way is by the interplay of portions of two Q sets where four coursing bells are involved as in the Bob Major touch W.H. repeated where each of the four course bells 5.3.2.4 makes one of the Bobs. The two Bobbed Q sets are on 532 and 324 respectively. It will be noticed that two of the coursing bells, viz., 3 and 2, are common to both Q sets. There are other ways of restoring original C.O. after a B.S. which I need not go into here. I explained the one made use of in Superlative many years ago. With regard to the places or shunts which take no part in fixing the first lead head of a method, it is necessary that they should be neutralised or reversed in the lead itself, in other words they must obey the Q set laws corresponding to the way the Q set laws are obeyed in composing touches and peals. With regard to the shunts which fix the first lead head, they are made up of portions only of a Plained Q set. If a complete Plained Q set were used, then rounds would occur at the first lead head. In the Plain course of a method the total number of Plained Q sets is the same multiple of one Q set as there are members of the Q set in one lead. Many years ago, I showed by implication how this is true in the cases of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Cambridge, Superlative, Yorkshire, the Bristol group, etc. London Surprise Major baffled all my attempts to separate those places which fix the first lead head from those which prevent repetition of rows, that is: to separate those places which form the partial plained Q sets fixing the first lead head from those places which have to obey the similar Q set laws of composition, these Q sets are, however, more varied than those of composition. I have now solved this most difficult of method construction problems, and with the aid of the foregoing explanatory notes and the Editor's permission, propose to give you the result and how it is arrived at. I must premise that C.O. is continuous and may be written forwards or backwards. It may be termed 'forward' when the even bells come to lead in direct order and the odds in inverse order, thus: 2468753124687531. C.O. can be commenced at any convenient point, it is cyclic. With forward order the bells normally lead handstroke and backstroke, but not necessarily so, as shown later. Backward C.O. is, of course, obtained by reversing the above order, thus: 1357864213, etc. This usually occurs when the bells lead backstroke and handstroke. As a general rule I will give the C.O. of a given row, commencing and ending with the same bell. Other rows may show C.O. commencing with different bells. Occasionally, to bring out some especial point, more or fewer of the C.O. bells will be shown.

The biggest difficulty in sorting out the shunts of London Surprise arises from the fact that the C.O. is sometimes forward, sometimes backward, but mainly part forward and part backward.

(To be continued.)

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Chaddesley Corbett on August 30th, when 34 members and friends attended. The eight tower bells were available for silent practice and the methods ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge and London Surprise Major. After tea the handbells were kept busy, the high spots being touches of Bob Major and Grandsire and Stedman Caters, interspersed with tunes.

UTILITARIAN CHURCHES.

BELLS ARE NOT LUXURIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am sorry your correspondents, F. H. Smith and the Rev. A. M. Samson, find themselves unable to judge between vilification and criticism, and if Mr. Samson reads my second letter again he will see that what he calls 'cheap sneers at the clergy' are the expressed views of people higher up in religious life than either myself or he. They are words which received the tremendous ovation of a congregation (members of the three principal religious bodies) which packed a large church in the centre of one of our chief industrial towns as I have never seen any church packed before, which proves that they are not just isolated opinions. It is as well that some of our religious leaders, no less than people of other denominations, should be shaken out of their complacency, and all who attended that great gathering were satisfied that the words of each of the speakers (and particularly Dr. Berry) did much to achieve that end.

'The Ringing World' and other personalities have many times pointed out in very able manner that bells are no more luxuries than are expensive organs, pulpits, choir robes, huge crucifixes, saintly images, stained glass windows or pews; yet it is remarkable of recent years (and especially since this question of war damage insurance has cropped up) how many of our clergy classify them as luxuries and among the last things which should be insured. The Peterborough Diocesan leaflet recently circularised all incumbents and parochial councils to the effect that bells (and they also included organs) were considered luxuries and should not be insured. As to what are luxuries and what are necessities is a matter, I maintain, which should not be decided or influenced by just the clergy, neither is it a matter which (as Mr. Smith seems to think) affects just bombed churches or even the war period. It is a matter where all should have an eye to the future. It is important that there should be a constant watch. Ringers should be represented where decisions have to be made, and it is as well that they should not bury their heads ostrich-like in sand. In every parish they should be prepared to resist any attempt to rush ill-considered measures (be they parochial, diocesan, civic or parliamentary) that might menace the very existence of the art itself, which this utilitarian policy does.

Some years ago 'The Ringing World' said, 'The agitation against bells is not very vociferous, but it may rise in a crescendo at any time. That time is, I consider, now here, with the agitation for 'non-bell churches' and 'no war damage insurance' for existing bells. So whether or not it is a 'bogy' of 'Anti-Silent's' own making, and in his sight so fearsome that he has frightened himself with it, as Mr. Smith asserts, it is nevertheless an accomplished fact. So when Mr. Smith sees these parsons agitating for non-insurance and non-bell churches and asks, 'Is this a time to attempt to create feeling against them?' the answer is definitely, 'Yes.' Mr. Smith cannot have it both ways, but the more I read into his letter the more I think that 'he never ought to have been a campanologist; he ought to have been a dumb-bell ringer, or a tin-whistle player, like a wealthy boot manufacturer who sat on a local town council, a Socialist and once contested a seat for Parliament in the same interests and was once very pertinently told that he was 'fighting in the wrong camp.' Mr. Smith, I suppose, will want to tell us that bells do serve as a spiritual reminder to those people outside the Church, that they are a follow-on to boys leaving the choir, as a means of keeping members of boys' brigades, scouts and ringers interested in the Church, as a means of providing social fellowship to ringers. Yes, he will want to agree to all that, and at the same time he is ready to support those people who will classify bells 'luxuries.'

If we treat bells in their truest sense they conform less to the term 'luxury' than the pulpit, which has been recommended for insurance as a great necessity. The parson reads the Word of God from the lectern, yet his own word (which is very often written) must (say the ecclesiastical authorities) be read or preached from an elaborate, expensive pulpit. Cutting out all the show and formality (which utilitarianists tell us is part of their policy), consistency should tell us that if the Bible can be read from the ground, so can the parson's own words. The choir could also sing (as my own did for years) without robes; in fact to be strictly utilitarian a church would be, as I said in my last letter, like some of our preachers—'cold and anæmic.'

Even if nothing but bare necessities are within the pressing demands which are laid upon the ecclesiastical bodies at present, this should not preclude looking to the future. It costs no more at the outset to adapt a design to include a tower for a ringing peal at some later date than it does to produce plans which more or less irrevocably preclude the addition of a tower if and when opportunity occurs, but all or nearly all of these utilitarian churches are built complete from the beginning and with no idea of making any provision—even if the money was forthcoming; therefore, immediate financial needs is *not* always the reason for no bells. It is, I again repeat, more often than not the excuse, and prompted by people who have a dislike of bells. Some years ago Salisbury Town Council decided to sell to its Bishop a site for a church, and a few members of its Council tried to insert a condition that there should be no bells. Here, sir, is where a minority if they get on such bodies as these can do a lot of harm. Bureaucracy has swayed much in national life; pray that it is never allowed to do so in religion. Other examples similar to Salisbury have

(Continued on page 443.)

WAR-TIME MEETINGS.**A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—When 'The Ringing World' arrives (usually, but not always) on Friday morning, force of habit makes me turn to the notices page to see what meetings are announced. In former days this was invariably followed by a search of the map to see if a particular place was within cycling distance, in order that the tower might be bagged! Nowadays this search is just a matter of form, to see just how many associations and societies are keeping their meetings alive.

Generally speaking, the Home Counties seem to have put up the shutters for the duration, with a few very notable exceptions. One London society carries on its meetings regularly, and as time goes on it would not be a surprise to me if that society's meetings became the meeting place for London and district ringers. At the present time it is the only place where ringers can meet and say afterwards, 'See you on the . . .'

We, in this part of Middlesex, can get to Bushey quite easily and we do so with alacrity. If associations pursue a purely negative policy, and many seem to be doing so, they must not complain if membership falls off. I have no particular association in mind, but this seems to be the policy of many: (1) As few meetings as possible—the annual district and the annual general usually being held if possible on any Saturday but the ones prescribed by the rules. (2) An apologetic report by the secretary, explaining the difficulty of arranging war-time meetings and often saying how undesirable it is to hold them at all! This is followed by the statement that 'members will understand,' etc. (3) The annual report is, of course, not published, on account of the cost involved. Members are promised a 'bumper omnibus report' covering the whole period—when the war is over. (4) Lastly, the secretary announces that there are many unpaid subscriptions and that he has the receipt book with him. Members are told that it is important for them to continue their subscriptions and also, if possible, pay those of serving members of their tower!

Frankly, it seems to me as though the associations, like the small boy, want 'cake and halfpenny.'

The solution of the problem seems to be quite simple. From all towns there are transport services radiating into the surrounding areas. This is an obvious fact and could be used to advantage when meetings are arranged. The peace-time policy of having a different meeting place each time a meeting is held quite often means an awkward 'cross-country' journey or else a long journey to the town and out again to the selected spot. Now if all districts of all associations were to select their local 'big town' and arrange with some church to rent or use their church hall once a month, all their troubles would be over. The secretary's difficulty in finding a place each month would be over.

The not so enthusiastic member who says, 'I can't go all that way and come home in the black-out,' loses his excuse. The man who says, 'I can't leave the wife,' need not—he can bring her along, there's always plenty to do in a town even nowadays. Even if the gentlemen described above cannot be enticed in spite of everything being made easy for them, there is the last type of ringer, the oft despised enthusiast. He will be there, wet or fine, blitz or no blitz; there is no need to worry about him only on one score.

In London (where normally four societies vied with each other for members' support), secretaries and officials should bear in mind that enthusiastic ringers will go to whatever meetings are being held and maybe sever their connection with those societies which do not have regular meetings. It seems imperative to hold meetings, however few attend, for otherwise how is one to know that an association is alive?

ERIC B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park, Middlesex.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

(Continued from page 439.)

agreed with the Master that they would 'look small' if they did not publish the report while the war was on. If they put the money into War Loan instead of spending it they would be looked upon as heroes. If they wished to do so they could have a typed copy of the accounts and records placed in the hands of each district secretary. It would be an additional safeguard and the secretaries would have the documents to refer to at any time if necessary.

The motion was carried by 35 votes to 15.

Alfred Picknell, one of the Master's young pupils at North Stoneham, was elected a member of the Guild.

This concluded the business, and tea was served in the meeting room.

Afterwards the members attended evensong in the Choir of the Cathedral at the spot where many Saxon kings were crowned. The hymns were 'All people that on earth do dwell' and 'We love the place, O God.' The preacher was Canon Brabant, who took for his text Numbers x., 7 and 8, and spoke of the religious and national uses of bells, their call to the people and the obligations of ringers.

Subsequently many of the ringers returned to the meeting room and indulged in handbell ringing, or watched it with interest.

THE STANDARD METHODS.**YORKSHIRE AND PUDSEY.**

Yorkshire Surprise retains the natural coursing order in the interior of the lead better than Cambridge does, since, as the bells hunt from back to front one has a run-through, followed by place-making, and the next place-making followed by a run-through, they reach the front in their proper order. This is more noticeable on the higher numbers, and makes Yorkshire Royal and Maximus better methods than Cambridge Royal and Maximus.

Yorkshire S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 4 6 3 8 5 7
2 1 6 4 8 3 7 5

2 6 1 4 3 8 5 7
6 2 4 1 8 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 8 7 3 5
6 2 4 1 7 8 5 3

6 4 2 7 1 8 3 5
4 6 7 2 8 1 5 3
4 6 2 7 1 8 3 5
6 4 7 2 8 1 5 3

4 6 7 8 2 5 1 3
6 4 8 7 5 2 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1

6 8 4 7 2 5 3 1
8 6 7 4 5 2 1 3
8 7 6 4 2 5 3 1
7 8 4 6 5 2 1 3

8 7 4 5 6 1 2 3
7 8 5 4 1 6 3 2
7 8 4 5 6 1 2 3
8 7 5 4 1 6 3 2

8 5 7 1 4 6 2 3
5 8 1 7 6 4 3 2
8 5 7 1 6 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 3 6 2 4

5 1 8 7 6 3 4 2
1 5 7 8 3 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

Pudsey S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5

2 4 1 8 3 6 5 7
4 2 8 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 1 8 3 6 5 7
2 4 8 1 6 3 7 5

4 2 8 6 1 7 3 5
2 4 6 8 7 1 5 3
2 6 4 8 1 7 3 5
6 2 8 4 7 1 5 3

2 6 4 8 7 5 1 3
6 2 8 4 5 7 3 1
6 8 2 5 4 7 1 3
8 6 5 2 7 4 3 1

6 8 2 5 4 7 3 1
8 6 5 2 7 4 1 3
8 5 6 7 2 4 3 1
5 8 7 6 4 2 1 3

8 5 6 7 4 1 2 3
5 8 7 6 1 4 3 2
5 7 8 6 4 1 2 3
7 5 6 8 1 4 3 2

5 7 6 1 8 3 4 2
7 5 1 6 3 8 2 4
7 5 6 1 8 3 4 2
5 7 1 6 3 8 2 4

5 1 7 3 6 8 4 2
1 5 3 7 8 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

It will be seen by examination that, owing to the alternation of run-through and place-making a bell makes Court places round its after bell, and then immediately the after bell makes Court places round the first. The two bells are thus for a few blows reversed in coursing order. For instance, in the first half-lead above, the 8th makes places round the 7th, and then the 7th makes places round the 8th. Earlier the 4th makes places round the 6th, and then the 6th makes second's place over the 4th.

In Yorkshire Major you always work behind with your course bell and your after bell, never with any other.

(Continued on next page.)

THE STANDARD METHODS

(Continued from previous page.)

Two bells come to the front temporarily reversed in coursing order, but they lie still and regain their natural positions. From that point to the corresponding point in the second half-lead, the bells on the front are in natural coursing order.

Yorkshire has but one false course end, B.24365. The first section, which is the same as Cambridge, gives the same false course end, the sixth lead of one course being false against the fifth of the other, and the third lead false against the second. In the third section two coursing bells lie still in 1-2, and that inevitably gives the same B false course end, the incidence of the falseness being 7-1. The second and fourth sections, where in Cambridge the falseness which causes so much trouble lies, have in Yorkshire a clear proof scale.

Thirty full natural courses are available for composition in Yorkshire, and there is a good deal of latitude as to which thirty may be used. So long as the bells in 5-6 are not reversed there will be no internal falseness, and it is also possible to use many courses where those bells are reversed. If 23456 is used 24365 may not be included; but there is no cause to exclude 32465 if 34256 is not used or 43265 if 42356 is not used. Twenty-seven full courses are available without either the second or third in sixth's place at a course end. As in Cambridge, the lead between the Middle and the Wrong from false courses may be used without fear of internal repetition.

In construction, Pudsey is very similar to Yorkshire, but in practice it is not nearly so good a method. It is useful for an occasional peal, but has no real claims to rank as a standard method. Below the treble it is exactly the same as Cambridge; above the treble it has the Cambridge Minor triangle of places.

The general plan is the same as Cambridge and Yorkshire. All the bells have the Cambridge Treble Bob hunting (dodging when the treble hunts and hunting when the treble dodges), with the exception that the bell which courses in front of the treble as it goes up, and courses behind the treble as it goes down, has an ordinary Treble Bob hunting which is strictly parallel to that of the treble. Pudsey deviates from Cambridge above the treble as Yorkshire deviates from it below the treble.

The two kinds of hunting (the ordinary Treble Bob and the Cambridge Treble Bob) are reconciled in exactly the same way as in Yorkshire, with the exception that the two bells to be passed are met in reverse order. When a bell hunting down meets the bell in front of the treble before it has dodged, it has a run-through and then passes the treble by making half a set of Cambridge places. When it meets the bell in front of the treble after it has dodged, it makes half a set of Cambridge places and then runs past the treble.

Hunting up a bell passes the treble as in Cambridge, but half a set of Cambridge places is followed by a run-through and a run-through is followed by half a set of places. These rules should be compared with those of Yorkshire, and in both methods they are more easily seen and more practically useful on the higher numbers than on eight.

The work of Pudsey Major in detail is as follows. The bell next in front of the treble (the third in the first lead of the plain course) hunts up in ordinary Treble Bob

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Next meeting will be held at Codsall, on Saturday, September 13th. Meet in the belfry at 3 o'clock for handbell practice. Service in church at 4.45, with address by the Vicar. Cups of tea will be provided in the Parish Hall at 5.30. Bring your own victuals and sugar. Buses leave Queen Square, Wolverhampton, at 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes.—H. Knight.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Newhall on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells in tower at 3.30. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A full tea MAY be provided at a moderate cost, but please take own sugar. Everyone cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting to be held at St. James' Church, Milnrow, on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Tower and handbells will be available from 3 p.m. A good attendance requested.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Branch Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Cawthorne on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Handbells available in Parish Room 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Coalbrookdale, Saturday, September 13th. Tower bells (silent) and handbells. Bring sandwiches.—W. A. Farmer, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at the Haymarket Hotel on Saturday, September 13th. St. John's peal of six (silent) and handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting at 4.15. All welcome.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Winslow on Saturday, September 13th. Silent bells and handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting. All ringers welcome.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bletchley, Bucks.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous column.)

fashion, makes sevenths under the treble when it lies behind, and then courses it down. It makes a 3-pull dodge in 3-4, and goes to the front. It is now doing the 'intermediate' work of Cambridge, and goes up to places in 5-6. It makes half a set of places (sixths and fifths and dodge with the treble) and then goes behind to a double and a single dodge. Hunting down, it runs past the bell in front of the treble, and makes places in 3-4. It is again ringing Cambridge, and after Treble Bob work on the front runs past the treble in 4-5, and makes 5-6 places round the following bell. Behind it does a double and a single dodge, and comes down to the ordinary Treble Work Before of Cambridge. After making second's place over the treble, it repeats the work in reverse order.

(To be continued.)

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—The annual general meeting will be held on September 13th at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Hall at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. No provision for tea is being made this year. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend, as the new Vicar has promised to be present. Handbells will be available after completion of business.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chertsey on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Churchroom 5 p.m. Tea can be provided on receipt of a p.c. by Tuesday, Sept. 16th. The larger the attendance the more the officers will be pleased.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, September 20th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Bring your own sugar. How many do you think will require tea, which will be held in the Mission Hall, Harrington Hill, Mount Pleasant Lane, E.5.2.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 20th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, on or before September 16th.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 20th. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Short service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., to follow, and usual evening arrangements. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained at this meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, September 20th. Business: Appointment of branch secretary in place of Mr. Sharples, who is removing back to Oswaldtwistle in the near future. A good attendance is desired.—C. Sharples, 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Heptonstall on Saturday, September 20th. Ramblers meet at Hebden Bridge Trackless Terminus at 3 o'clock for walk to Heptonstall. Tea at Co-operative Cafe, Town Gate, at 4.30 (2s. 3d.). Business meeting in schools at 5.30. Handbells during the afternoon and evening. Subscriptions now due. All names for tea to reach me by Friday, September 19th.—Frank Rayment, Greenhill Road, Bramley, Leeds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Buckby on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Bells (5) will be rung silent. Tea provided for those who notify me by Sept. 16th.—C. Green, Hon. Sec., Murcatt, Long Buckby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Preston, Saturday, September 27th. Handbells in vestry and ringing room. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in school after at 1s. 9d. each to those only who send in their names to Mr. C. Crossthwaite, 114, Oxford Street, Preston, not later than Wednesday, the 24th. Meeting in the same school afterwards. We hope as many as possible will try to attend.—W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxborne (8 bells, silent) on Saturday, September 27th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at the Welcome Cafe, near church. All are welcome. Please come.—A. Laurence, 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, September 27th. Tea at the Westbrook Memorial Hall, 1s. 8d. per head, for which notice must be sent to Mr. H. C. Chandler, 44, New Heston Road, Hounslow, not later than September 25th. Handbells available. Reports ready. Subscriptions due. A good attendance is hoped for.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Bradfield on Saturday, September 27th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m., most probably in the Village Hall. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Village Hall. Owing to catering difficulties, those intending to be present must bring their own teas for all meetings while the war lasts. This parish is clear of the defence area, provided people travel via the Harwich Road from Colchester and enter Mistley end of the village. There is a good bus and rail service.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th. Tower bells (silent), if possible, 2.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Coffee Tavern 4.45 p.m. Please note change of date of meeting. Please write Albert G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, about numbers for tea.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

UTILITARIAN CHURCHES

(Continued from page 440.)

been known, and at Peterborough there is a church which is not allowed to have bells owing to a condition attached to a legacy a lady left. Finally, I warn the Exercise against another 'stunt' which the ecclesiastical authorities are likely to go for, that is the weak tower with a stationary hung peal. Not only is this likely to be tried in new towers, but if not checked may lead to some of our old peals being hung in this way. Hymn tunes played on bells are more and more finding sympathy with the public (I must claim a sneaking liking for them myself), but the stationary peal is not the only one which, as the public should be educated to know, can be used for this purpose. Before the war I used to go to three churches with tune playing apparatus to practise, but this was only a side line, like handbell tune playing.

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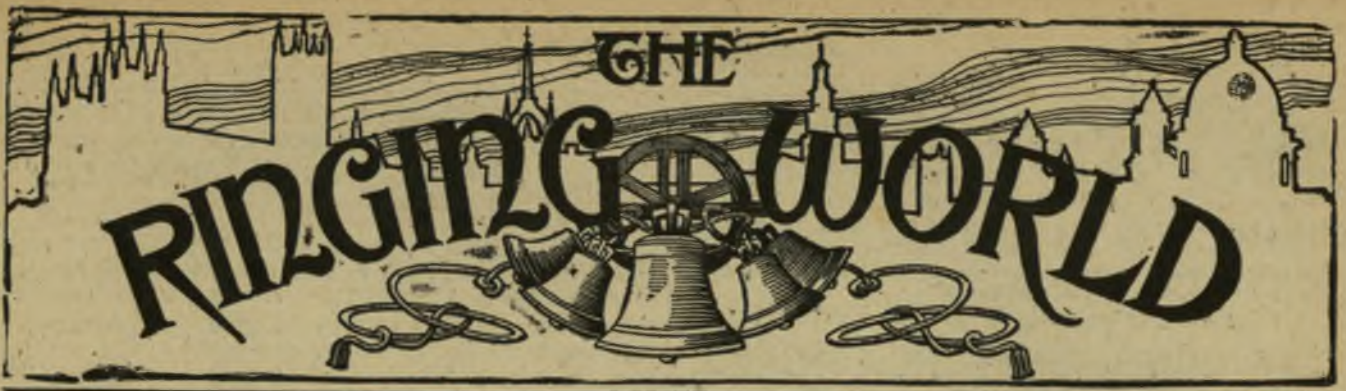
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1941.

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LONDON SOCIETIES.

Two meetings, each with its own special interest, took place in London on Saturday. One was the annual meeting of the Royal Cumberland Youths and the other the fortnightly meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths. These two old societies have subsisted side by side for something like two hundred years and have maintained a rivalry not always entirely friendly, but they carried on their activities through the days when ringing was gradually struggling upwards and they made London what it always has been, a centre in which the art has never flickered out—which can be said of very few other cities through the first half of last century. The two societies still hold to the reciprocal hostility of wiping out from their rolls any member who is taken into the rival camp, which to us savours of the kind of spirit which prompts jealous children to say to their friends that if they join in with the boys next door, 'you shan't come and play in our yard.' Both societies say it in their rules, so both are alike in this respect; but, in these days, as we have often said, we feel that the traditional 'enmity' which the rule indicates could well be eliminated. It never has kept apart members of good will, for they have found ways and means of ringing together despite the implied embargo. Nearly a hundred and twenty years ago St. James' Society was founded for, it is said, the express purpose of encouraging the members of the two societies to ring peals together, and in the last fifty years, of course, they have rung together in a couple of score of different associations and guilds. Neither society can claim all the talents, nor needs to, but the barrier which remains in the sacred name of tradition prevents them both at any rate from sharing any reflected glory which might come from the enrolment of many an honoured name.

Last Saturday one of the best known ringers 'crossed the Rubicon.' He honours the College Youths by joining their ranks, for he has done the Ancient Society a great and lasting service. Under the existing rules, however, he is lost to the Royal Cumberlands, of which he was previously a member, and in which he was held in the highest esteem. Let it be granted that the return to the College Youths was made entirely voluntarily, this instance seems to us to provide an outstanding example of the inanity of the rule. If by reason of disagreement, a man desires to cut his connection with his society and go to the opposite camp he can quite easily resign from his original allegiance, but to compel a man to do so has never seemed to us to add anything to the prestige of the society which receives him. One could better

(Continued on page 446.)

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understand the position if the rule laid it down that no man should be elected to one society if he had once been a member of the other, but even that would be a restriction to be deprecated.

It is not unnatural that Mr. Trollope should feel he would like to be a member of the society for which he has done so much. It is true that he has in the past been a critic of some of the society's traditions and for that he has not been entirely forgiven in some quarters. But his criticism has been constructive and, as one speaker at the meeting at which he was elected put it, if he has knocked down some of the skittles in the Society's alley he has put them up again on a surer foundation. It would, however, have been a far finer compliment to Mr. Trollope if he could have been elected to the College Youths without being automatically thrust out of the other old society. The spirit that requires it is all wrong. To the historians of ringing no society owes so much as do the College Youths to Mr. Trollope. His book on the history of the society was the result of years of painstaking research, but his work would probably never have seen publication except for the incidence of the Society's Tercentenary in 1937. He has the material for an equally interesting volume on the Royal Cumberlands, for which they would be likewise indebted to him if it were published. But because of the rules in their books which says that a member joining the College Youths automatically ceases to remain a Cumberland he can no longer retain that membership. Why is such a rule necessary? We have never yet heard the answer except on the ground of 'tradition.' Traditions, it is said, die hard. Mr. Trollope, in his book on the College Youths, killed a good many. It is time someone killed this one.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At 9, PEMBROKE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

LIEUT. MISS L. K. BOWLING,	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
M.T.S. 1-2	*DRIVER EDWIN A. CRACKNELL,
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	R.A.S.C. 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.
Attested by John AMBLER.
* First peal on handbells. Specially arranged for the ringer of 7-8, who hails from Buxhall, Suffolk.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, September 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 16 in B flat.
*JAMES S. WREB 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE 5
BETTY SPICE 3-4 | †WALTER H. DOBBIE 7

Conducted by W. H. DOBBIE.
* First peal on eight bells. † First peal on handbells.

A PEAL IN TAPESTRY.

There was exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Cumberland Youths on Saturday a piece of tapestry work which must be unique. It represented a complete peal of Grandsire Triples worked in coloured wools, a different colour for each bell, the treble following the example of 'Standard Methods,' being in red.

It is something over seven feet long and each of the twelve parts formed a medley of colour running from end to end, with a neutral band to form a border and divide it from the next part. The course of any bell can be traced with accuracy and distinctness, and the whole piece of work is a monument of care and patience.

At the same time were shown similarly coloured diagrams of other methods in plain courses, including one in a Surprise method. The tapestry is the work of Mr. Henderson and was much admired.

MR. W. H. FUSSELL.**RECOLLECTIONS OF A LONG LIFE.**

Last Tuesday, Mr. William H. Fussell, of Slough, celebrated his eightieth birthday, and received the congratulations of many of his friends.

No name is better known in the Exercise than that of Mr. Fussell, whose ringing career extends over something like 65 years. Indeed, he was elected a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths on the day after his twentieth birthday, when an attempt was made for a birthday peal in his honour at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, but was lost after two hours.

Mr. Fussell is one of the comparatively few ringers who have scored over 1,000 peals. He reached four figures just before his seventy-third birthday, which he spent at sea, on the third day of the memorable journey to Australia. This was the greatest of the numerous tours which he has organised, for he has 'conducted' parties on visits to almost every corner of the country. In this connection it may be added that Mr. Fussell is the only man who has rung a peal in every county in England and Wales. He has been associated with many famous ringers during his long belfry career and at our request he has penned the following recollections of his early ringing days.

The name of the ancient South Bucks parish in which I was born, he writes, no longer exists. It has been swallowed up with a large slice of some half-dozen adjoining parishes by the Borough of Slough, recently granted its Charter of Incorporation. I still feel an affection for my lost parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey.

Saint Mary's Church, erected in 1837, was dedicated by the Bishop of Lincoln, in which diocese we were then included. It was my 'happy home' as soon as I could toddle, and was built to permit the Victorian vandals of a century ago to remove the mother church of St. Lawrence, then in ruins, and its set of four old bells.

My acquaintance with the belfry began in the early winter of 1875, when with four other Upton schoolboys we were 'picking up sides' for our black-out sports in Church Street—there was no public lighting in the town at that time. My brother and the foreman of the tower, Mr. W. Leader, were passing towards the church, it being Thursday, the usual practice night. We boys were asked if we would like to watch the ringers. Four of us accepted the invitation and became regular 'chimers' after much 'watching.' The local team were all hard-working residents, very punctual at practice and regular in their call-changes, but by 1878 I was the only survivor of the four lads and had then become a full member of the 'scroof.' I have helped with muffled peals for all the old hands down to 1886, when the six bells were increased to eight, and there is a short personal history attached to each man more suitable for a Christmas issue.

The year 1875 onwards saw a long struggle between the advocates of set-changes and half-pull ringing. The Slough men had made a reputation among the neighbouring towers, such as Langley, Wraybury, Horton, Burnham and Clewer with five bells each, and Hurst, Wargrave, Beaconsfield, Stoke Poges, Bray, Cookham, Egham and Old Windsor, six bells each. The Slough men had the honour of being asked to open the Farnham Royal bells at Whitsun, 1877.

Our foreman used to carry a roll of stout paper with the course of Grandsire in large figures on it. This was placed over the back of a chair when he called each change ringing the treble. By this means he quickly learnt to hunt the treble in Double and Minor. Several others then followed suit, helped by John Steel, of Langley, who had tried a little at Isleworth, and R. Flaxman from Farnham Royal, who came to reside in Slough.

The West Middlesex Association was founded in 1874. I gave them the certificate of membership, a copy of which is now in Isleworth belfry. Baron, from Waterloo Road, London, was the instructor to the affiliated towers—Hillingdon, Acton, Ealing, Slough and Isleworth in 1879-82. It was entirely due to the efforts of the Rev. C. Mayo, of

(Continued in next column.)



MR. W. H. FUSSELL.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**LEWES TOWER NOW FIRE-WATCHING HEADQUARTERS.**

The belfry of Southover, Lewes, was selected for last Saturday's meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex County Association, and a very great welcome was received from the Rector and the local ringers, who had done everything possible to make the gathering a success. The towerkeeper, Mr. G. P. Elphick, had gone to considerable trouble in removing the clappers of the front six bells and installing an experimental silent apparatus. The opportunity of handling a bell-rope once more was greatly appreciated, despite the fact that the customary sound of the tower bells was lacking. After 18 months, practice on ringing bells came as a distinct novelty, but it was apparent that the art had not suffered greatly in the interval.

Another circumstance which reminded one of changing times was the unusual tower furnishings, which included armchairs and at least one bed. At first it seemed that the Lewes ringers had settled down in comfort to await the lifting of the ban with what patience they could command, but the more prosaic explanation is that the belfry is used as the firewatching headquarters, and the pegs which in happier days had accommodated the coats of famous peal ringers now carry an impressive array of steel helmets. One innovation which may well be retained is the telephone, so that when the next peal is rung any expert auditor may call up the conductor and point out that '34 have just changed course, so what about it?'

Ringings on the tower bells ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Minor, and on the handbells up to Stedman Caters. Twenty ringers were present from St. Peter's and the Good Shepherd, Brighton, Chiddingfold, Lewes; and All Saints', Oxford, was represented by Miss Marie Cross.

An excellent tea was provided by the invitation of an anonymous donor, and the ringers are indebted both for this generosity and to the ladies who gave their services in waiting at the tables. A hearty vote of thanks was given to them, and also to the Rector for his kindness in giving the ringers the use of the bells.

Very little business had to be transacted, the main item being the time and place of the next meeting. After discussion it was decided, owing to the coming dark evenings, not to hold another meeting until the second week in February, leaving the place to be arranged by the secretary according to circumstances.

LOSSES AND GAINS.

(Continued from previous column.)

St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, in 1875-6 that Slough joined the association, some of our men going 'up line' to those towers for practice. In this connection I would like to mention that the peal at Ealing in August, 1882, was not my first, but the first by Messrs. Parker and Basden, for whom it was arranged.

At Whitsun, 1877, there was great rejoicings at Farnham Royal after the tower had been rebuilt and the six bells partly recast. A large marquee was erected in an adjoining meadow and a great luncheon spread for all guests after a special service in the church. Clergy and ringers from Boyne Hill, Burnham, Hillingdon, Amersham, Stoke Poges and Slough attended.

Speeches referred to matters appearing in 'Church Bells': works on change ringing by Banister, Troyte, volumes on the archaeology of bells by Ellacombe, Lestrangle and Dr. Raven had become known: the counties of Lancashire and Devon had formed associations of bellringers. The Victorian reformation of the clergy and the Church was spreading from the chancel to the tower.

Joseph Parker had learned to ring a bell at his native church, Horton, when he settled in Farnham the bells had not been rung for years. Rector Marshall encouraged him to train younger men, as most of the old hands had lost touch.

At Maidenhead, Mr. Edwin Rogers was the secretary of the Association for Berks and Bucks towers, instituted at Whitsuntide, 1878. He received encouragement from the Rev. Drummond and Mr. R. Smith, formerly of the Dockyard hand at Plymouth. Our list of members was written on a sheet of foolscap and hung in the belfry, the fee of 2s. a year being marked opposite each name when paid. The first annual meeting was held at All Saints', Boyne Hill, 1879, when rules were adopted, a secretary and treasurer appointed, and a smart printed circular drawn up for circulation through this part of the two counties—East Berks and South Bucks. The Rev. F. E. Robinson was present and gave the meeting and the association his blessing. I still possess my receipt of membership.

Sixty years ago last January the Oxford Diocesan Guild was founded, and, so far, no reference has been made in your columns to remind the Guild. I regret I could not visit Canon Coleridge at Crowthorne recently and produce my original receipt signed by him. My first peal was No. 5 by the Guild, rung at Bicester at Easter, 1882, after walking from Reading to Oxford. My jubilee of this performance was rung in the same tower—London Surprise Major—but the old eight bells had been replaced by new ones.

Since starting this effusion I have been made aware of several losses, the sure penalty of advancing years. I have lost my native parish and gained a borough. Lost my old parish church and been presented with a new one. Lost my ring of six bells and given a new octave. Lost the old men of the belfry and given a new generation. My earliest ringing societies have been swallowed up by county and diocesan guilds. What is to be the next loss?

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 437.)

POINTS FOR PEALS.

In his article in "The Bell News" on points for peals R. A. Daniell had quite a good debating case, though he largely spoilt it by overstatement. In the previous year, 1906, the Middlesex Association headed the table with 2,198 points, the College Youths were eleventh with 590 points, the Cumberlands eighteenth with 450 points, and the London County Association twentieth with 407 points. Did these figures in any way show a fair comparison between the state of ringing in London and in the towns and villages of Middlesex outside the London boundary? The position of the Middlesex Association was entirely due to one very active and highly skilled band, most of the members of which were not Middlesex men. William Pye had put that association at the top of the Analysis in 1906; in another year he could, if the fancy took him, put any other society at the top. 'I conceive it to be no part of the objects for which the Middlesex Association exists to encourage exotic persons to ring peals for it in the towers of another county and diocese, in selfish disregard of the feelings of the resident change ringers, and I think points so gained are a most discreditable acquisition. A position so gained amounts to a scandal. The common sense and dignity of the Exercise demand the utter abolition of this wretched system.'

In more temperate language Canon Papillon, Edwin Barnett, Joseph J. Parker, and others, mentioned the objections to points, and one or two defended them.

This correspondence did a lot to undermine the regard for points for peals, though country ringers were very much inclined to discount opinions which quite obviously had their origin in local rivalries and disputes. For a long time the feeling was that attempts should be made to remove anomalies rather than that the whole system should be scrapped. Every now and then proposals were made to amend the points allotted. The Yorkshiremen, led by George Bolland, wanted to have fuller recognition of the merits of six-bell methods with what were called 'broken leads.' It was because these demands could not be met fairly that the whole thing ultimately broke down. Several attempts were made. In 1911 the Peal Values Committee, then consisting of Dr. Carpenter, John Carter, Henry Dains and C. D. P. Davies, produced a very carefully thought-out schedule, which was debated at Leicester, and not giving universal satisfaction, was referred back for further consideration. At the next meeting the work of the committee was transferred to the Analysis Committee. They did their best to deal with the very difficult question, but in 1913 they reported that points, and especially points for Minor methods, had got beyond them, and therefore they were printing the Analysis alphabetically. That really ended the whole thing, for points which did not give precedence were meaningless.

The Great War altered men's opinions on most subjects, and the increase in the number of methods rung made any comparison between them increasingly difficult. Points were still occasionally debated at Council meetings, but interest in them almost entirely died out. At Chester in 1925, when some question affecting them came up, Law James, who throughout had been consistent in his opposition, rather abruptly got up and

moved that the whole thing should be dropped. Mr. C. T. Coles seconded, and it was carried by a large majority and an evident feeling of relief that a troublesome and useless matter was at last got rid of.

It is quite clear to us now that no system of points for peals could be a success, and any suggestion of introducing such a thing would be laughed at as preposterous; but the attempt to do so was an interesting and instructive phase in the history of the Exercise. It was an attempt to systematise the sporting elements in change ringing in the same way that contemporary cricket and football were being systematised by the formation of leagues with their tables. The criticism which talked about 'lowering' ringing to the level of a sport was hollow and to some extent insincere; the real difficulty was that competition in peal ringing is not directly between two equally matched bands, as it is in cricket and football, and no perfectly fair system of points could be found.

Such a thing would have been possible in London in the eighteenth century when societies were small and exclusive bodies consisting of one band only, when all had roughly the same opportunities, and when few methods were rung. It would have been possible in the nineteenth century, under the conditions which obtained at prize-ringing meetings. It was possible sixty years ago in Sussex. But the constitution of the great territorial associations, the very diverse conditions under which peals are rung, and the great increase in the number of methods introduced complications which make any fair comparison of the peal-ringing activities of the associations impossible.

Two of the original members of the Analysis Committee, Mr. Charles E. Borrett and Mr. Joseph Griffin, in addition to myself, are happily still alive. The fourth, A. T. King, died in 1922.

Arthur T. King was born on September 30th, 1845, in the Cathedral Close at Salisbury, where his father was a canon of the Cathedral. He was educated at Winchester, and in 1864 joined the Civil Service in the National Debt Office, in which he occupied positions of increasing importance until he became chief clerk. In 1903 he was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order, and in 1910 he retired.

He learned to handle a bell as a boy, and gained some acquaintance with ringing at Worstead in Norfolk, where his uncle, Canon King, was vicar; but not until 1893 did he really take an active interest in bell ringing. In that year the bells at Chipping Barnet, where he lived, were recast, and he became a member of the local band.

Arthur King very quickly became one of the most influential men in the Middlesex Exercise, and in judging him and the things he tried to do, it is important to realise what were the main springs of his action. He was first and last a great Churchman. His devotion to the interests of the Church was the ultimate cause and justification for what he did in ringing, though as an Englishman and a layman he did not wear his heart upon his sleeve nor parade his religious convictions.

In all, he rang about 130 peals, but he had no particular pretensions to be an expert ringer. Neither did he take much interest in the theoretic side of the art. It was to the organisation of the Exercise that he devoted his time and his talents, and there he did much good, though he did not realise his full hopes, and his action and intentions met with a good deal of misunderstanding and misrepresentation.

In many ways he was a very big man—big in stature, and big in vision and in his aims. In his younger days he had distinguished himself as an athlete and a swimmer.

Soon after he became actively connected with ringers, he set himself the task of doing something to improve the general state of the art in the metropolitan area. Throughout the country the Exercise had in comparatively recent years been organised into diocesan and county associations which had abundantly proved their value in bettering the status of ringers, the art of change ringing, and the relations between ringers and the clergy. Only in London was there no such organisation, and King's object was to form one. As a beginning, in 1897 he founded the Middlesex County Association by amalgamating the two small societies which had divided between them the county outside the London boundaries; and to foster the art of change ringing, and to enable the new association to take its place on terms of equality with older societies, he formed, with the assistance of William Pye, a peal ringing band, which for some years was the most active and successful in the country.

In these activities it was inevitable that he should encounter opposition and come into conflict with vested interests; for while he represented the new spirit and the new ideas which had done so much for the Exercise, on the other side there were the traditions which had come down from the past, and the ideas which had not only created the art of change ringing, but had developed it and preserved it through a critical period.

The most active and voluble of King's opponents was R. A. Daniell, who induced the St. James' Society to alter its name and to claim the status of a territorial association, not because he thought a territorial association was a good or a workable thing for London, but so

it might act as a barrier against 'encroachments' on the rights of the two old societies. Daniell was largely actuated by a shallow sentimentality, and in breadth of vision and in ability was a lesser man than King.

To the man who studies the history of ringing and is not influenced by personal factors, the whole episode is an interesting and instructive stage in the development of the London Exercise, but as it does not immediately concern the story of the Central Council, I may not enlarge on it now. I was, however, the ignorant means of bringing before the Council one of the things which caused the greatest amount of dispute and ill-feeling.

It was part of Sir Arthur Heywood's policy to have debates on various matters of general interest, and at one early session he decided that steeple-keepers would be a good subject to talk about. He asked me to open the debate. I knew very little about the matter and confined myself to raising a few points on which I thought the members would express opinions. One was whether visiting bands should pay a fee and what the amount should be. There had been for long (in London) a custom of paying twopence a head, and there had been attempts to extend the custom to the country which had been strongly resented. The assertions had been made that King secured access to belfries for peal ringing by paying more money to the steeple-keepers than ordinary bands could afford, and so unfairly securing preferential treatment. He, not unnaturally in the circumstances, thought I was speaking as the mouthpiece of the College Youths, and criticising him and his association, and he strongly and warmly justified what he had done.

Arthur T. King represented the Middlesex County Association on the Council from 1900 to 1920, and was an honorary member from 1921 until his death.

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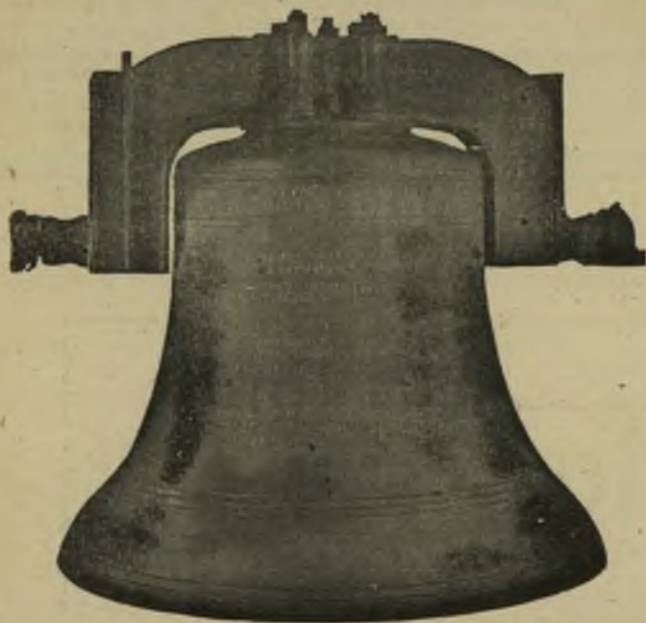
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We understand that Mr. Fred W. Brinklow has had to go into hospital for an operation to his eyes. Mr. Brinklow is one of the band who made history at Bushey by ringing peals of Spliced Surprise Major.

The death has occurred at Green Point, South Africa, of Mr. L. Green. Mr. Green left England 52 years ago, but was so interested in ringing that throughout the whole of that time he followed the activities of the Exercise through the ringing papers. He was always pleased to read of the doings of his old friends. Mr. Green leaves a widow to mourn her loss.

An interesting incident in the late Mr. H. J. Tucker's early ringing career was the fact that he took part in the late Joseph J. Parker's first peal, which was Grandsire Triples, rung at Walthamstow on October 1st, 1881. It was conducted by Harvey Reeves, the editor of 'Bell News.'

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. W. H. Fussell, who was born 80 years ago last Tuesday, and to Mr. W. J. Nevard, who also celebrated his birthday on the same day.

Yesterday the Grand Old Man of the Exercise, Mr. Robert H. Brundle, reached his ninetieth birthday.

On September 16th, 1755, the first recorded peal by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham was rung at St. Philip's in that city. The method was Bob Major.

James W. Washbrook conducted 11,323 changes of London Surprise Major at Drayton on September 17th, 1896. It was the extent of the method, with calls at In and Fifth's and the longest length rung at that time.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples and the rest consisted of one each of Stedman Triples, Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major and three methods on six bells.

THE ANALYSIS AND ITS HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The articles in 'The Ringing World' for the last two weeks re the above have been most interesting to one who has been acquainted with it from its birth, which was much earlier than 1896.

The Sussex County Association came into being in 1885, three years after the new ring of eight bells were installed at St. Peter's, Brighton. A small model bell, presented by the founders, evidently was called the Challenge Bell, and after the Sussex Association was in being, was put up to competition by bands for peal ringing.

On May 11th, 1889, a meeting was called at Brighton to discuss this problem, and delegates were present from the peal ringing branches of the association, which had then been in existence about four years. Why I was invited I never knew, but probably because we had a very enthusiastic band at Midhurst, where I was for two years (1887-89), and our band had rung several peals of Minor, etc.

As far as I could gather, this Challenge Bell had been competed for yearly and been held by the company scoring the 'greatest number' of peals, but the plan did not prove satisfactory to all concerned, as peals galore could be attempted at some towers in the country, while others, like St. Peter's, Brighton, were severely limited, and it was at this latter tower that progress was being made towards the higher methods. Hence the calling of a committee meeting to discuss ways and means to get over this difficulty.

Therefore, on May 11th, 1889, I journeyed to Brighton and met delegates from a number of towers at the Central Schools, Church Street, and I had the honour of being asked to preside.

The question was 'points for peals,' to be allocated according to 'simplicity or difficulty' of the method rung, and a standard of points was set up for peal ringing in the Sussex County Association for competition for the Challenge Bell. This, I think, was really the birth of 'points for peals.'

Many changes have since taken place on this subject, and whether it was all worth while or not I am not prepared to judge, but personally I can say the years that I spent on the Analysis Committee in conjunction with the late Arthur T. King, Revs. A. T. Beeston and E. W. Carpenter, etc., after it was taken over by the Central Council, were amongst the happiest in my long ringing career.

Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

P.S.—I seem to have lost all remembrance of those at this committee meeting beyond the late G. F. Attree. Possibly the names may be given in the association minute book of that period.

BOCKING AND ITS DEANS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Suckling's letter about Bocking Church and bells was very interesting. One unique point he missed was that there are two Deans of Bocking, the second being the Rector of Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Bocking is known as a 'Peculiar,' and is one of three. The other two are Westminster Abbey and Battle, Sussex. These, however, only have one Dean.

I do not know exactly what a Peculiar is, but I believe that in some way or other it is outside the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the diocese. I have been told that in accordance with ancient custom, whenever the Bishop of London goes to the Abbey, he is met by the Dean, who protests against his visit.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

SOCIETY'S HISTORIAN ELECTED A MEMBER.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths was held on Saturday at Whitechapel Foundry and attracted an even larger gathering than usual, over 20 members being present. The Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn) presided, supported by the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the senior steward (Mr. G. W. Cecil).

Among those present were Messrs. E. A. Young, H. G. Miles, H. Hoskins, H. Langdon, W. H. Pasmore, R. F. Deal, C. H. Kippin, G. Murrell, W. Simmonds, E. Rapley, Aubrey L. Bennett (Buckfastleigh, Devon), G. M. Kilby (Ruislip) and H. Golding (Hemel Hempstead). Visitors included Mr. E. Barnett, Cpl. E. A. Barnett, R.A.F., Mr. B. Wayman, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, etc.

The Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of a communication from the Clerk of Works at St. Paul's Cathedral with regard to the safety of some of the society's property in the ringing chamber there. The bust of the late Mr. W. T. Cockerill had now been put into a place of comparative safety in the Crypt, and the memorial bookcase and its contents would also be stored there if arrangements could be made to open the bookcase to facilitate removal.

Mr. Peck said he sent the key to the Clerk of Works and he hoped by this time the bookcase had been removed.

The hon. secretary's action was confirmed.

There were two members for election and their names were added to the roll. They were Mr. Eric B. Hartley and Mr. J. Armiger Trollope.

In proposing Mr. Trollope's election, the Hon. Treasurer said they all knew what he had done for ringing in general, both practically and theoretically, and most of them enjoyed his writings. He no doubt occupied a unique position in the ringing Exercise as an historian of ringing matters and ringers.—Mr. H. Hoskins seconded.

Mr. E. Alex. Young, in supporting the election, said he had rubbed shoulders with Mr. Trollope for many years past, and fit was with great pleasure he heard he had been nominated for membership. Mr. Trollope had spent years in delving into the history of ringing and of their society, winnowing and collating the results. It had involved a tremendous amount of work, and the few grains of new material which he had discovered had helped to put the society in what was an unassailable position. Very few of them realised how much of their history, which they took so glibly and confidently, was only based on tradition. It was the same with all their old institutions, even of the City of London itself. It did not do to trust too implicitly to tales which were handed down and it was up to the historians who had the bent and time to go into it and find out what the facts were. Mr. Trollope had spent much valuable time in going into ringing history, and if he had knocked down one or two of their illusions he had strengthened other traditions. He was not, perhaps, the dogmatic historian he was twelve or fifteen years ago, he had mellowed, and those who had read his book on the College Youths and tried to pick out the important points would find that it reflected his great admiration for their Ancient Society. If he had knocked down some of the skittles in their alley, he had helped to put them up again on a surer foundation. In that respect he had been a friend of the society.

A letter was read from Mr. E. P. Duffield, a former Master, in the course of which he said Mr. Trollope would go down to posterity as the outstanding historian of the Exercise. Mr. Duffield conveyed his greeting to the members and referred to the debt which they owed to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes for their hospitality on the occasion of the society's meetings.

Mr. Arthur B. Wiffin was nominated as a member of the society.

Mr. E. Alex. Young referred to the recent death of Mrs. Pennington Bickford, widow of the late Rector of St. Clement Danes'. She was not, of course, a member of the society, but she was a great friend to them and to anything connected with bells and bellringing. It was with great regret and sadness that he called attention to their loss and said it would be nice if they could record on their minutes that in her death as well as the death of her husband the society had lost two friends. She had been associated with St. Clement Danes' from her girlhood and had been active in all the parochial activities. Not only was she the wife of the Rector, but for something like 19 years was churchwarden—one of the first lady churchwardens of London. The church bells of St. Clement's were always near her heart.

Mr. H. G. Miles reported the death at Chichester of an old member, Mr. Henry J. Tucker, formerly of Bishop's Stortford. He was 83 years old and was buried at Bishop's Stortford on the preceding Wednesday.

Greetings were extended to Mr. J. S. Goldsmith after his long illness.

After the meeting the members were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and handbell ringing took place.

PUDSEY SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I disagree with you entirely. If there is anything at all in Plain Bob Coursing Order, then Pudsey is a better method than Cambridge, both structurally and in its coursing order, furthermore it has only one false course—end to the five of Cambridge.

In the table of coursing order that I sent you three months ago Yorkshire was 12th from the top, Pudsey 35th from the top and Cambridge 47th.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

WINCHESTER GUILD'S DECISION.

THE SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader of last week reviewing the decision of the annual general meeting to suspend district meetings during the present emergency calls for, I think, both comment and explanation.

The Guild, I am sure, would regret to create the impression that it has submitted to 'a policy of surrender to conditions which other associations are cheerfully endeavouring to overcome' and 'abandoning all activity and putting up the shutters so completely.' The decision of the executive to report to the meeting that it did not see how to recommend the resumption of any district meetings was regretfully made after the views of six represented districts out of the eight at its meeting were heard and would be perhaps more accurately described as 'a policy of suspension due to conditions which other associations, etc., etc.'

To suggest that we have officially 'abandoned all activity,' etc., is slightly erroneous, as we are fully aware that in many towers both silent tower-bell practice and handbell ringing is still the order between neighbouring towers (as you instanced in the case of North Stoneham), and we are most grateful to those who are striving to maintain this. The only activity we reluctantly considered that should be suspended is the district meetings. Perhaps a few explanations would not be considered out of place.

(1) As you pointed out, a large area of this Guild covers one of the most vulnerable parts of the country, and the holding of meetings in these districts is still a great risk.

(2) A large number of ringers who were resident in these areas are either evacuated or have been obliged to leave, unfortunately, due to enemy action.

(3) The personnel in many of the towers is employed on vital work of national importance, etc., in some cases 60-70 hours per week and seven days a week, and, therefore, as much as they would wish, cannot support district meetings.

(4) That taking into consideration (2) and (3), many tower secretaries, if they have not removed, are out of touch with many members of their tower and consequently the difficulties of bringing to their notice the fact that a district meeting was to be held would mean that members would not be notified.

I do not suggest that many other associations similarly placed are not endeavouring to surmount such difficulties, and the thanks of the Exercise are due to them even if they attain only a measure of success, but I am sure that our decision to suspend meetings was taken after careful consideration of the situation in so far as it affects us, and we should be most happy if we could recommend to our members, even before our next annual meeting, that the earliest resumption of district meetings was desirable.

In conclusion, I am sure we, as a Guild, would wish (from behind our 'shutters') success to all societies who fortunately can still maintain restricted activities and trust that the time is not too far distant when we can all emerge and pull our weight to put the Exercise on its feet again and march to higher activities.

F. W. ROGERS, Hon. Gen. Sec.

Portsmouth.

Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

THE NORTH HANTS AREA.

Sir,—I have read with interest your leading article dealing with the action taken at the annual meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and although I agree with your remarks on the whole, I should like to take exception to your statement concerning the 'indifference' and 'lack of interest' in the north of the county.

You will perceive from the peal recorder's report that three of the seven peals rung by the Guild during the early part of 1940 were rung by the young band at Basingstoke, a band which was capable of ringing a course of Cambridge as well as Stedman Cinques on handbells. Almost all the members of this band are at present serving in H.M. Forces and ringing in Basingstoke is now suffering as in many other parts of the country. Before the war the attendance at Basingstoke district meetings was almost double that of the other districts in the Guild, and although the standard of ringing has not been up to that of the south, this can be accounted for by the fact that there are only four or five rings of eight in the whole of the north of the county and that travelling facilities are not at all good. Consequently the members have not been able to meet as frequently as they would like.

However, I do agree that the action taken at Winchester was rather drastic, and I feel that some effort should be made to hold meetings such as the one I yesterday had the pleasure of attending here in the Midlands.

C. W. MUNDAY.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN IPSWICH RINGER.

As we go to press we regret to hear of the death of Mr. Albert E. Durrant, of Ipswich, who died on September 8th last.

Have 'The Ringing World' sent to your ringing friends abroad; 4s. 4d. per quarter from 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Search for Oldest Member.

The famous Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in Trafalgar Square, still stands proudly and practically unscarred after the many raids on London, but it has had narrow escapes. The great religious and social work which was being done under the late Vicar, the Rev. Pat McCormick, and his predecessor, 'Dick' Sheppard, is being continued with unabated vigour, and a visit to the Crypt last Saturday revealed how much the devoted service of the band of voluntary workers is appreciated by the wayfarers, including large numbers of Service men, who seek rest and refreshment there.

St. Martin's, as ringers well know, has long been the official home of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, and they met there on Saturday for their delayed annual meeting. Over fifty members were present, many of them having come from considerable distances, among them Mr. W. H. Fussell of Slough, who joined the society exactly 60 years ago.

The meeting was held in the Vestry Hall and was presided over by the Master (Mr. G. H. Cross), who, in opening the proceedings, expressed his pleasure at seeing so large a gathering.

The hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. G. W. Steere) presented the financial statement, which showed that the balance in hand had been increased from £19 19s. 6d. to £23 3s. 8d.

The Treasurer stated that the subscription to the Central Council for 1940 had not yet been paid and he asked for the instructions of the meeting. When the Council last met in London in 1939 the society was asked to contribute to an entertainment fund and did so. Afterwards he was informed that there was a balance to be returned, but the last he heard of this was in January, 1940.

It was pointed out that the entertainment fund had nothing to do with the Council, as such, but was a separate fund raised by London societies and adjoining associations for the entertainment of the visitors. The view was expressed that the society was under an obligation to keep the Central Council alive, and the payment of the subscription for 1940 was authorised.

The balance sheet was adopted.

THE LATE REV. PAT McCORMICK

The hon. secretary's report referred to the death of the Rev. Pat McCormick and said the members would remember him, as the late Vicar would wish to be remembered, as the staunch supporter of their society and of bellringers throughout the country. In him the Church had lost one of its noblest servants, while the society mourned him as a true friend. The secretary also recorded the passing of one of the oldest members in the person of Mr. George Lucas. He joined the society in 1884 and throughout his long association with the Cumberlands could always be relied upon to help those in need of instruction and assistance.

The members stood in silence to the memory of the Vicar and Mr. Lucas and all other ringers who had died since the last meeting.

The secretary went on to say that there was little to report in regard to ringing itself. The ban on church bells had kept them quiet for over a year, but he trusted they would soon be allowed to carry on the good work. Three weeks ago he wrote to the Minister of Home Security, asking if there were any possibility of the ban being lifted in the near future and urging that permission might at any rate be granted for the bells to be rung for Sunday services during the hours of daylight. He had received a reply saying that there was no likelihood of the ban on the ringing of church bells being lifted in the near future.

During last year, the report added, one peal was rung, at Burnham, under the leadership of Mr. George Gilbert. Combined practices were held in the early part of the year at Bishopsgate and Shoreditch with good results, but a quarterly meeting at Bexley in June last year had to be abandoned, as was also a proposed joint meeting with the Middlesex Association. The sympathy of the society was offered to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis on the damage sustained in raids at St. John's, Waterloo Road, where they had done so much to get a band together. A handsome peal board had been presented by the Mayor of High Wycombe to the Parish Church there, to commemorate a peal rung by the society in the tower on Empire Day, 1939. As far as possible all the records of the society, which were kept in the ringing chamber at St. Martin's, had been removed to the Crypt for greater safety, and their thanks were due to the Vicar and churchwardens for making this possible, also to Messrs. Bevan, Hardy and Matthews, who did the work.

THE OLDEST MEMBER.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. W. Keeble, sending his greetings and good wishes. He would be glad, he said, to see any ringers who could visit him at Severalls Hospital on Sunday or Thursday afternoons. He added that he had recently seen Mr. W. J. Nevard, who had lost his home and many of his belongings in a fire.

The report was adopted and the following officers re-elected: Master, Mr. G. H. Cross; hon. treasurer and secretary, Mr. G. W. Steere; senior steward, Mr. T. Bevin; junior steward, Mr. R. Heazel; trustees, Messrs. A. Hardy and C. J. Matthews; auditors, Messrs. F. J. Symonds and C. A. Hughes. The society's representatives on the Central Council were re-elected, viz., the Master, and Messrs. James Parker, G. W. Steere and G. Gilbert.

Seven young ladies, now under instruction in Burnham tower, under Mr. G. Gilbert, were elected members, viz., Freda Minchett (aged 12), Jean M. Broomfield (11), Joyce Hearn (11), Mary Pemberton (11), Edna Hearn (13), Elizabeth Jewitt (13) and Mildred I. Crouch (14).

The Hon. Secretary offered the congratulations of the society to Mr. W. H. Fussell, who was 80 years old on Tuesday and had been a member for 60 years, and it was decided also to send congratulations to Mr. W. J. Nevard, whose birthday was on the same day, and who joined the society in 1885.



[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

Incidentally, there was much searching of the records to endeavour to settle the question recently raised in 'The Ringing World' as to who is now the oldest member of the society. Eventually it was decided that, if he is still 'in the land of the living,' Mr. Harry A. Hopkins, of Whitstable, has the honour, for he was elected on November 25th, 1870.

As the members had been invited to tea, free, in the Crypt of St. Martin's, one guinea was voted from the fund for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Canteen Fund.

It was decided that while the war lasted the annual meeting should be held about the middle of the year instead of, as formerly, in January.

Mr. J. E. Bailey, in welcoming the Editor of 'The Ringing World' after his illness and congratulating him on his recovery, said 'The Ringing World' was one of the few things to which they, as ringers, could now cling, and he hoped the paper would be able to continue through these difficult times and flourish as strongly after as it did before the war.

The good wishes offered to Mr. Goldsmith were endorsed by the Master and warmly supported by the meeting, and Mr. Goldsmith thanked the members. He told them that he had found his name in the records that afternoon and discovered that he joined the society 47 years ago.

There was some discussion as to arranging practices for handbell ringing, but it was felt that it would be impossible to do this with any chance of success until after the dark evenings had passed.

(Continued on next page.)

DEATH OF MR. H. J. TUCKER.

VETERAN RINGER AND COMPOSER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Henry James Tucker, who passed away at Chichester, Sussex, on Saturday, September 6th, at the age of 83 years. He had resided at Chichester for the last 16 years with his daughter (Mrs. Ide), but had spent his earlier years at Bishop's Stortford, where at St. Michael's Church he was sexton and ringing instructor.

He was an excellent ringer and conductor, and was also the author of several well-known compositions. When he removed to Chichester he took a leading part in the ringing at the Cathedral, and his cordial welcome to visitors in the tower and his cheerful disposition will long be remembered by those who made his acquaintance.

He rang his first peal over 60 years ago, and as a young man was one of the progressive spirits in ringing. He took part with the College Youths in London in the early eighties in some of the first peals of Double Norwich. His last peal was rung at Chichester Cathedral just before his eightieth birthday.

Altogether Mr. Tucker rang 260 peals from Minor to Maximus, and of these he conducted 108. He was a member of many societies and rang peals for the following, among others: The College Youths, St. James' Society, Hertford College Youths, All Saints' Society, Fulham, the Herefordshire Association, Essex Association, Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and the Lancashire Association.

The funeral took place at Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday week, the Vicar of St. Michael's (the Rev. McCarthy) conducting the service. In a brief address the Vicar spoke of Mr. Tucker's wonderful service to the church and bells which he loved.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Ide, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. and Mrs. H. Tucker (son and daughter-in-law). There is another daughter in Canada. Many ringers were present, including Miss Wacey, Messrs. W. Bird, W. T. Prior, H. M. White, W. Wilkinson and T. Ward, from St. Michael's Church; W. Prior and F. Thorby, Stamsted; S. Clark, Porter Street, and W. Tarling, Sawbridgeworth.

A list of peals rung by Mr. Tucker will appear in our next issue.

PROTECTION OF CHURCH BELLS FROM FIRE

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I note you have resurrected a letter I wrote in the enthusiasm of youth to the old 'Bell News' in 1907. The suggestions I then made were, I think, quite sound, but I don't know an instance in which they have been acted upon! Perhaps you will allow me to elaborate upon them.

The sliding, or rolling, internal door (not 'interval door,' Mr. Printer) I had in view is of a type well known to people interested in fire protection. It consists of three layers of boards nailed together, completely covered with sheets of tin interlocked so that air is excluded from the wood core, which consequently will not burn or become distorted when exposed to great heat. The door would normally be held open by a light wire rope, in which is inserted one or more 'fusable links.' The parts of these links separate when exposed to abnormal heat, releasing the door, which closes by its own weight. The makers of the doors usually undertake the fixing and arrange the frames and accessories. Very large openings could be partly bricked up inside the louvres if necessary to reduce the size of the door and to provide space for its open position.

My suggestions could be carried out very easily in a new tower; admittedly to apply them to some old ones would call for ingenuity on the part of the architect. The necessary lifting hole in the concrete floor might provide a minor problem, but as it would be used only on rare occasions, it could be filled in with a light reinforced concrete or artificial stone slab let into an angle iron frame.

In conclusion, I would like to mention Selby Abbey again. I have been in this church but once, and did not see it before the disastrous fire, which I well remember. I was struck by the noble proportions of the building and the delicacy of many of its details, and I am led to hope that some of our own older London churches, such as St. Giles', Cripplegate, may come through their recent ordeal with added beauty, as perhaps Selby did.

RICHARD F. DEAL.

10, Kimberley Avenue, E.6.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. Gilbert suggested they could make better use of their time by getting youngsters together, as he had done, and teaching them to handle 'silent' bells, with change ringing on handbells. They would then be ready to ring the church bells when wanted.

Thanks were accorded to the Church authorities for the use of the Vestry Hall, and the Master expressed regret that, after all, the Vicar had been unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. W. H. Fussell expressed pleasure and surprise at seeing such a large gathering, which showed that the old society was still alive and facing the war. If they kept together and held themselves ready for the peace there would still be a few of them able to ring the bells. He felt he had not had a wasted journey that afternoon, although at his time of life he did not like travelling. One reason he came that afternoon was that there were no stairs to climb (laughter). He was pleased to see so many of his friends there and wished the society every prosperity. — After tea in the Crypt, some members indulged in handbell ringing.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE POSTPONED ANNUAL MEETING.

Difficulty of Keeping Interest Alive.

Deferred from Easter Monday, the annual meeting of the Ely Diocesan Association was held on Saturday week at Cambridge. In the interim there had been a meeting at Great St. Mary's in July, when members and friends came from considerable distances and all were happy to see so many familiar faces again.

Various methods were rung on the Seage apparatus, and service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. E. C. Essex), who gave an address.

There was an informal business meeting, at which members criticised, and rightly, the general secretary's apparent slackness in not arranging the annual general meeting on Easter Monday as usual.

The Hon. Secretary (Miss K. Willers) said she thought the ban on bells changed everything, and had, therefore, arranged no meeting.

There seemed a strong desire for some action to prevent the association from going to sleep 'for the duration,' therefore it was decided to hold another meeting on September 6th.

The business concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for conducting service and presiding over the business, also to Mr. Quinney for playing the organ and having everything ready.—The Vicar replied, reminding his listeners that in the end justice and truth would win, although the present days might be dark.

The deferred annual general meeting was attended by a small company of members, who rang on the Seage apparatus at St. Mary's until 4.30 p.m., when service was conducted by the Rev. E. Lunt, who gave a most inspiring address, emphasising the great need for lay people to witness for Christ.

At the business meeting, which followed the service, the balance sheet, showing a balance in the bank of £21 3s. 9d., was adopted.

The Secretary said she could not undertake much work for the association at the present time.

After a short discussion it was suggested that the annual meeting might suffice to keep alive interest during the troublous days of war, and Miss Willers was, therefore, re-elected general secretary and treasurer, with Mr. T. R. Dennis as auditor.

The committee were re-elected en bloc as follows: Messrs. A. J. Abrams (Chatteris), A. T. Chenery (Cambridge), R. W. Crofts (Elm), C. Cousins (Torrington St. John), H. Fields (St. Neots), E. G. Hibbins (Cambridge), F. W. Lack (Great Staughton), W. Seekings (Chatteris). Messrs. Cook and Worrington were re-elected representatives to the Central Council.

It was decided to send £3 3s. as usual to 'The Ringing World' to pay for notices, and to show, in a small way, the association's appreciation of the journal, which is of such untold value to the Exercise.

Some members wanted to make a formal protest against the ban on ringing, and the hon. secretary was asked to write to Mr. Fletcher, hon. secretary of the Central Council, urging him to go on pleading for its removal. Votes of thanks brought a happy conclave to an end.

A WANDERER ABROAD.

MORE RINGERS VISIT DURBAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On leaving the mother country I felt a little sad about our bells and bellringing. War had brought about silence, association meetings were heavily curtailed, and of necessity, therefore, we felt that the curtain was rung down until our victory peals echo throughout the land.

I was quite resigned to all this, and determined to just keep the theory in my head if that should prove possible.

On my first visit to the Cathedral Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone, I met the Bishop, who told me that the only 'bell' is a long iron tube, which is struck with monotonous regularity on all occasions. A scheme was mooted in 1939 for the provision of bells, but owing to the war this proved abortive. I observed several small bells hanging outside places of worship, and Bishop Horstead told me that some of these were from the old slave ships, which were only too plentiful in West Africa.

Later on I was inspecting the Parish Church of St. Paul at Durban and to my joy found a peal of eight bells by Taylors, of Loughborough (tenor 14 cwt. in F). They were hung in 1921. I went along on Sunday evening and was welcomed in the very sincere South African way by the captain, Mr. J. S. McNeil. We proceeded to ring call changes under the watchful eye of Mr. G. E. Haupt, and, in addition to myself, Mr. J. Hart, of Burton-on-Trent, took part.

Mr. McNeil tells me that they cannot keep a band together long enough to learn a method, as the war and movements of population cause many changes of personnel. But the present ringers are all young and keen, and if they only persevere they will soon have a good band.

Time did not permit an inspection of the bells, but from the 'go' of them and from the spotless cleanliness of the ringing chamber it is obvious that they are in capable hands.

Another point impressed me. The service for belfry use was reverently read before pulling off. Wouldn't it be a good thing to follow this example in more of our home towers?

We stayed to evensong, at which His Grace the Archbishop of Cape Town preached an impressive sermon.

(Continued on next page.)

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

By W. TAYLOR.

(Continued from page 440.)

I now give the plain lead of London Surprise Major, and for easy reference I have numbered the rows 1 to 16 in the first half-lead and 16R to 1R in the second half-lead. The R denoting reverse. The method splits up into five divisions or sections and these are marked A, B, C, BR, AR.

A	1	12345678
	2	21354768
	3	12537486
	4	21573846
	5	25178364
	6	52713846
	7	52178364
	8	25713846
	9	52731486
	10	57234168
B	11	75321486
	12	73524168
	13	37254618
	14	32745681
C	15	23476518
	16	24367581
	16R	42637851
	15R	46273815
BR	14R	64728351
	13R	67482315
	12R	76842135
	11R	78641253
AR	10R	87462135
	9R	84761253
	8R	48716523
	7R	84175632
	6R	84716523
	5R	48175632
	4R	41876523
	3R	14867253
	2R	41682735
	1R	14628375

14263857

In Section A in rows 1 to 5 inclusive (hereafter inclusive is understood) 3 makes the peculiar case of B.S. with 5 and 7, i.e., 3rd's place, then snap in 6th's, changing the C.O. of these three bells from 357 to 573 as seen at the 10th row. In rows 3 to 7, the 5th makes a C.S. with treble. In rows 4 to 9 the 7th makes a C.S. with treble with a dodge between places. In rows 5 to 10 the 3rd makes a rather more obscure C.S. with treble. The snap blow in 6th's of row 5, as stated previously, has the same effect as making 5th at rows 5 and 6 (substitute the tenor making 5th's at these rows), then we have the dodge of the T.B. hunt and finally 4th's under treble at rows 9 and 10.

With row 10 is completed the first section of the work. This has been a B.S. on 357 and C.S. with treble by 5,723 all taking place at more or less the same time, so that the result is not seen until row 10. The C.S.'s are made in the order 5-7-3 because the B.S. being made first upset the normal order 3-5-7. Now look at the C.O. of row 10 and compare with the C.O. of rounds. You will see that 213578642 has become 257318642. You will notice (a) that the C.O. of 8642 remains unchanged; (b) that the treble has moved three steps in C.O., viz., to the third lead head after rounds of Bob Major 17856342; (c) that the 3rd has crossed over the 5th and 7th in C.O., i.e., it has made a B.S. (To be continued.)

A WANDERER ABROAD.

(Continued from previous page.)

So 'Thank you,' Mr. McNeil, and 'Thank you,' Vicar, for allowing us to practise our ancient art with you.

Before closing, one word about the people of Durban. They are wonderful and most kind to us all. Everybody is loyal and patriotic and they are eager for news of the mother country. We say 'Thank you' to them for a wonderful time.

Greetings to all readers of 'The Ringing World,' and especially to my colleagues at St. Mary's, Kelvedon, and All Saints', Feering.

Let us hope we shall all soon be able to hear that peal which we are all so anxious to hear.

R. W. PYE.

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Although the methods of the Cambridge group share general characteristics, they differ considerably in their individual qualities. Cambridge is more markedly symmetrical than either Yorkshire or Pudsey, but does not retain the natural coursing order in the interior of the lead, and is far more liable to internal falseness. For peal ringing it is the least musical of the three.

Yorkshire S.

Pudsey S.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 4 6 3 8 5 7
2 1 6 4 8 3 7 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 8 5 7
2 1 4 3 8 6 7 5

2 6 1 4 3 8 5 7
6 2 4 1 8 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 8 7 3 5
6 2 4 1 7 8 5 3

2 4 1 8 3 6 5 7
4 2 8 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 1 8 3 6 5 7
2 4 8 1 6 3 7 5

6 4 2 7 1 8 3 5
4 6 7 2 8 1 5 3
4 6 2 7 1 8 3 5
6 4 7 2 8 1 5 3

4 2 8 6 1 7 3 5
2 4 6 8 7 1 5 3
2 6 4 8 1 7 3 5
6 2 8 4 7 1 5 3

4 6 7 8 2 5 1 3
6 4 8 7 5 2 3 1
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3
8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1

2 6 4 8 7 5 1 3
6 2 8 4 5 7 3 1
6 8 2 5 4 7 1 3
8 6 5 2 7 4 3 1

6 8 4 7 2 5 3 1
8 6 7 4 5 2 1 3
8 7 6 4 2 5 3 1
7 8 4 6 5 2 1 3

6 8 2 5 4 7 3 1
8 6 5 2 7 4 1 3
8 5 6 7 2 4 3 1
5 8 7 6 4 2 1 3

8 7 4 5 6 1 2 3
7 8 5 4 1 6 3 2
7 8 4 5 6 1 2 3
8 7 5 4 1 6 3 2

8 5 6 7 4 1 2 3
5 8 7 6 1 4 3 2
5 7 8 6 4 1 2 3
7 5 6 8 1 4 3 2

8 5 7 1 4 6 2 3
5 8 1 7 6 4 3 2
8 5 7 1 6 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 3 6 2 4

5 7 6 1 8 3 4 2
7 5 1 6 3 8 2 4
7 5 6 1 8 3 4 2
5 7 1 6 3 8 2 4

5 1 8 7 6 3 4 2
1 5 7 8 3 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

5 1 7 3 6 8 4 2
1 5 3 7 8 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

Pudsey is inferior to Yorkshire because, while in the latter the natural coursing order of the bells is not broken above the treble, in the former it is retained for only a portion of the time. Below the treble, the natural coursing order is kept better than in Cambridge, but not so well as in Yorkshire.

Pudsey is comparatively free from internal falseness, more so than Yorkshire, and much more so than Cambridge. The first, third and fourth sections give a clear proof scale, but in the second two coursing bells make places together in 1-2. That produces the false course end B24365, with the incidence of the falseness in the third and fifth leads. For ordinary purposes the method has the same capacity for producing peals as Yorkshire, and compositions with the tenors together will apply to both alike. (To be continued.)

NOTICES.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chertsey on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Churchroom 5 p.m. The larger the attendance the more the officers will be pleased.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting will be held at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, September 20th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Uttoxeter on Saturday, September 20th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent (D.V.), Saturday, September 20th. Bells (8) available for silent practice from 3 p.m. Short service 4.45 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers, etc., to follow, and usual evening arrangements. Outstanding subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained at this meeting.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, September 20th. Business: Appointment of branch secretary in place of Mr. Sharples, who is removing back to Oswaldtwistle in the near future. A good attendance is desired.—C. Sharples, 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Heptonstall on Saturday, September 20th. Ramblers meet at Hebden Bridge Trackless Terminus at 3 o'clock for walk to Heptonstall. Tea at Co-operative Cafe, Town Gate, at 4.30 (2s. 3d.). Business meeting in schools at 5.30. Handbells during the afternoon and evening. Subscriptions now due.—Frank Rayment, Greenhill Road, Bramley, Leeds.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A meeting will be held at Long Buckby on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Bells (5) will be rung silent.—C. Green, Hon. Sec., Murcatt, Long Buckby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Preston, Saturday, September 27th. Handbells in vestry and ringing room. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in school after at 1s. 9d. each to those only who send in their names to Mr. C. Crossthwaite, 114, Oxford Street, Preston, not later than Wednesday, the 24th. Meeting in the same school afterwards. We hope as many as possible will try to attend.—W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, September 27th. Tea at the Westbrook Memorial Hall, 1s. 8d. per head. Hall available from 2 p.m. As it has been

necessary to guarantee an attendance of 20 for tea, it is very much hoped the attendance will be a good one. Notice for tea must be sent to Mr. H. C. Chandler, 44, New Heston Road, Hounslow, not later than Sept 25th. Handbells available. Reports ready. Subscriptions due.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxborne (8 bells, silent) on Saturday, September 27th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at the Welcome Cafe, near church. All are welcome. Please come.—A. Laurence, 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Bradfield on Saturday, September 27th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m., most probably in the Village Hall. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Village Hall. Owing to catering difficulties, those intending to be present must bring their own teas for all meetings while the war lasts. This parish is clear of the defence area, provided people travel via the Harwich Road from Colchester and enter Mistley end of the village. There is a good bus and rail service.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th. Tower bells (silent), if possible, 2.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Coffee Tavern 4.45 p.m. Please note change of date of meeting. Please write Albert G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, about numbers for tea.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, Sept. 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in the Parish Room (Vicarage, side entrance). Business meeting 4.30 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the church. A good muster is desired.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Sept. 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Silent practice on tower bells from 3.30 to 4.30; short service 4.30; tea 5.15. Business meeting and handbell ringing to follow. All requiring tea must notify by Oct. 1st at latest.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Further announcement next week.—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A special general meeting will be held at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Saturday, October 4th, in conjunction with local meeting. All committee members who can are urgently requested to attend. Financial matters will be discussed. Meet in Church Vestry 4 p.m.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. Albert G. Harrison is now 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, Norfolk.

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No. 1,592. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1941.

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AGE.

Ringers are said to be long-lived folk, but whether there is any justification for so sweeping a claim or not, there is plenty of evidence just now that quite a number of ringers are enjoying the honours of that 'old age which, though despised, is coveted by all.' The Exercise will join in congratulating those members of it who in recent days have reached particularly memorable milestones along life's road. Especially will they congratulate Mr. Robert Brundle who, a few days ago, passed his ninetieth birthday. Robert Brundle has been a remarkable man, for his active ringing, which ceased only with the ban, has been spread over nearly sixty-five years, and has included some remarkable achievements, among them peals in new Surprise Maximus methods after he was eighty and a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at eighty-seven, to say nothing of the numerous long peals which he rang in his younger days. Indeed, he achieved fame fifty years ago when he took part in the record peal of Oxford Treble Bob at Debenham in 1892. He is the kind of man who through good times and bad is not only a buttress of his own company, but forms the salt of the Exercise. He is honoured to-day by all his friends, those who have known him in St. Mary-le-Tower belfry and those who know him only by name.

But there are others who occur to us as having greatly served the Exercise in their day and generation, of whom it can be said, 'old age has crept upon them unperceived.' Last week Mr. W. H. Fussell, a great enthusiast, joined the band of octogenarians whose careers have marked a trail through the history of ringing for more than half a century. Names like those of Canon Coleridge, George Williams, James George, the Rev. William C. Pearson, W. J. Nevard and Tom Miller occur to one, and there are doubtless others, now in the eighties, whose birthdays are not just yet. These men in their different ways have contributed their share to the maintenance of our art, and we delight to think they are still with us and able to retain the interest which has inspired them through their long life. We value them also in another direction. To many of us they form a living link with a past which belongs to a different age in ringing matters.

They have seen the evolution of ringing from a comparatively modest standard of accomplishment to the high level which it has now reached as a science, and they have watched the development of ringers from an unorganised collection of companies with few aspirations to the carefully planned body which has been welded into half a hundred associations and guilds united under one central organisation. This has all taken place in the lives of

(Continued on page 458)

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these men, and from their standpoint as ringers these years have been worth living through. What is more, some of them, like Canon Coleridge, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, are still actively identifying themselves with the organisation of ringing affairs and taking their share in the work. In this spirit they are carrying on in these difficult days an example to many who seem so easily to become depressed because ringing at the moment is under a cloud. They at least are not among the pessimists.

And behind this group of octogenarians there marches another larger band, the men in their seventies, who but for the enforced silence of the bells would be giving a lead in the towers of the land. It is amazing when one casts a look around to see how many ringers there are in the septuagenarian stage who are, as it were, 'fighting fit' for the belfry, and, to mix the metaphor, straining at the leash. Age is one of the things which is no bar to ringing and, as has so often been said, there seems no limit at either end of the scale. Youth and age can blend in the tower, and youth does not necessarily rob age of the honours to be gained at the rope end. Ringing is one of the things that keeps a man young in spirit, and it is that spirit which wards off the chilling hand of the passing years. Let us then salute age when we meet it in the belfry and honour those among us who have done so much to raise the standard of our art.

DEATH OF IPSWICH RINGER.

MR. ALBERT DURRANT'S HANDBELL PERFORMANCES.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Albert E. Durrant, an old and respected member of St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, which took place on September 8th after a long illness.

He was at one time a very noted double-handed handbell ringer, and took part in, among other performances, the following first peals on handbells by the Norwich Diocesan Association: March 12th, 1888, 7-8 to Bob Maximus at Ipswich; April 14th, 1888, 5-6 to Grandsire Triples at Sproughton; March 8th, 1889, 5-6 to Grandsire Caters at Ipswich; December 25th, 1895, 3-4 to Double Norwich Court Bob Major at the residence of Mr. F. J. Tillet, the conducting being shared between Mr. Charles Mee and the late Mr. James Motts.

During the present century Mr. Durrant did not do much peal ringing, but was an extraordinarily neat handler of the rope and a good striker. His peal records in the N.D.A. report show 62 on tower bells and 13 on handbells. In later years he took great interest in listening to peals rung on St. Mary-le-Tower bells and enjoyed hearing Forward Maximus more than the ringers did.

After he had left handbell practice for about 20 years the writer saw him ring 3-4 to Double Norwich Major in his own good style. Thus passes to his rest another of the fine old ringers. G. E. S.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD. JANUARY MEETING ABANDONED.

Members and friends of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford met at Codsall on Saturday, September 13th, in beautiful weather. The number of 22 included a welcome visitor from Banstead, Surrey, in the person of Pte. A. J. Adams, R.A.O.C. Apologies were received from Staff-Sergt. B. G. Key, R.A.O.C., Mr. Fred Bennett, who has recently joined the Tank Corps, Messrs. W. Walker, H. Butler and B. Horton.

Handbells were made use of up to the time of the service, when the Rev. C. H. Barker read the prayers and the Rev. M. Spinney, Vicar, who gave an address, also accompanied the singing on the organ.

After welcoming the company to Codsall, the Vicar said how sorry he was that the bells could not be used. He hoped the time was not far distant when they might meet under happier conditions.

Adjournment was then made to the Parish Hall, where a nice tea, provided by local friends, had been prepared, including tomatoes, lettuce, sugar, etc. The Vicar presided over the business.

On the proposition of Mr. R. Pickering, seconded by Mr. I. Evans, it was agreed to give the sum of one guinea to the 'John Perry Memorial Fund'.

Mr. C. Wallater proposed and Mr. W. Fisher seconded that the next meeting be held in April, and that the one usually held in January be omitted.—This was agreed to.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address, etc., and to Mr. A. G. Richards and his lady helpers for providing and serving tea, concluded the business.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ROCHESTER, KENT.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, September 13, 1941, in Two Hours and One Minute,

At St. Peter's Vicarage,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... | JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 3-4
 (St. John's) ... 1-2 | REV. JOHN SHEPHEARD-WALWYN
 (Oriol) ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Doubles. First peal on handbells by the ringer of 5-6, who is totally blind. This is the first handbell peal to be rung by the society.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 13, 1941, in Two Hours,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor size 15 in C.

*JAMES S. WEBB ... | JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4
 †WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.' † First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor. The ringer of 5-6 was elected a member of the association prior to starting.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, September 20, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

IN THE CRYPT OF ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

GEORGE W. STEERE ... | GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5-6
 ALFRED H. POLLING ... | JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

Umpire—William J. Robinson.

Rung in honour of the 80th birthday of William H. Fussell, of Slough, and of his completion of 60 years' membership of the society.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

At THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings.

Tenor 14 in D.

*GERALD BROMLEY ... | JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4
 Miss MARIE R. CROSS ... 5-6

Conducted by Miss MARIE R. CROSS.

* First peal 'in hand.' First peal as conductor. Mr. G. Bromley is totally blind.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*Miss O. D. HAIRS ... | E. A. BARNETT ... 5-6
 FRANK I. HAIRS ... | Mrs. F. I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Conducted by FRANK I. HAIRS.

* First peal.

REMARKABLE PERFORMANCES.

PEALS BY TWO BLIND MEN.

A very remarkable and interesting feature of the handbell records this week is that in two of the peals one of the performers was totally blind.

Mr. Bromley learnt to ring with the O.U.S.C.R. and later with the All Saints' band and the Llandudno band. Mr. John Shephard-Walwyn was fired by his example, and learnt to handle a bell at New College, and to ring changes at St. Nicholas', Abingdon. Both have rung peals on tower bells—Mr. Bromley, Bob Major, and Mr. Shephard-Walwyn, Minor and Grandsire Triples. Men who have rung with them have often been surprised to learn that they are blind.

The University peal of Doubles was arranged because one of the band happened to be staying in Kent, where the Rev. Shephard-Walwyn has a curacy ten miles from the conductor's home. The Bob Minor was arranged quite by chance. Mr. Bromley happened to be in Oxford for the week-end and wanted some ringing, so it was decided to start for a peal. Only after the event was it realised that both had scored their first 'in hand' within eight days of each other.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

(Continued from page 464.)

If the previous statement shows what has taken place, then you ought to be able to produce the 10th row of London 57234168 by making the 3rd B.S. with the 5th and 7th in the first lead of Bob Major and carrying on Bob Major work to the point where the treble strikes 6th in the lead commencing 13876542, which would have been 17856342 in the absence of the B.S. if you try this you will find the 2nd's places at the lead end are made in order by the 5th, the 7th and the 3rd as in London Surprise. If you wish, you could have taken Bob Major in the ordinary way to the lead head 17856342, then made a B.S. on 357 at first opportunity and continued until the treble strikes in 6th place. This time I will show you how it is done. Later examples you may be able to work out yourself.

12345678

21436587

24163857

42618375

46281357

64823175

68432715

and Bob Major on
to lead heads.

15723486

17358264

13876542

Now continue this
lead until treble
strikes in 6th.

31785624

37158264

73512846

75321486

57234168

or commencing at
the third lead head
of Bob Major

17856342

71583624

75138264

75312846

57321486

57234168

So you see that the 10th row of London Surprise is really the result of making a B.S. on 357 and added C.S.'s on 5, 7 and 3. Indeed, there is only one other way of producing the row 57234168 and that is by working in the opposite direction by successive C.S.'s on 2,4,6,8 with the treble and introducing at any convenient point a B.S. on 3, 5, 7. Q set laws cannot be broken.

At this point if you are smart you will say, 'Ah! Have you forgotten the C.S. that 2 and 5 make in the Extreme position at rows 6 and 7?' No, it is not forgotten. Look more closely. It is only apparently a C.S. and not one in reality. Write down rows 3 to 8 as follows and you will see that the London way has the same result at row 8. The London way obscures the C.S. blows of 5, but it is necessary to prevent repetition of rows in the treble bob hunt.

3 12537486

4 21573846

5 25178364

6 25713846

7 52178364

8 25713846

Here it will be seen clearly how 5 makes the C.S. with the treble, but it cannot be allowed in this form because (a) the 2nd lies on lead three consecutive blows, and (b) row 8 is a repetition of row 6.

So you see 2 and 5 have not made a C.S. If they had you could not have produced the row 57234168 after the lead head 17856342 in the way shown above. This is one of the traps you have to guard against. Now let us proceed to Section B. In this section 3, 5, 7 leave the picture and the work is taken up by the even bells 2, 4, 6, as shown in the skeleton lead. You will observe that the 2nd, 4th and 6th make places in quick succession. The 2nd makes the place in rows 11 and 12. The 4th in rows 12 and 13, and the 6th in rows 13 and 14. The 2nd plain hunts up to the treble and returns to lead, whilst the 4th and 6th each cross the treble before making the place and continuing in the same direction. In fact, they appear to behave somewhat similar to 3,5,7 in Section A where the 3rd turned back, whilst 5 and 7 proceeded onwards after the place. In Section B the results are quite different and much more surprising. Although at a casual glance the treble appears to have been moved three steps in C.O., in reality it has only moved one step as a careful examination of row 14 will show and as I have indicated by the Bob Major lead head 18674523. As I have just said, the effect of these three places in Section B is surprising. It may even be responsible for the term 'Surprise' which this method carries in its name. In the first of these places of Section B, rows 11 and 12, the 2nd is moved in C.O. from after the 4th to after the 3rd. In the second, rows 12 and 13, the 4th is moved in C.O. from after the 6th to after the 2nd, and in the third, rows 13 and 14, the 6th is moved in C.O. from after the 8th to after the 6th, so that the combined effect of the three places, neglecting for the moment the treble, is to change backward coursing order of 38642 to forward C.O. 32468! Although these bells are in forward C.O. they make their whole pulls at lead backstroke and handstroke contrary to the general rule.

To make these results a little clearer, compare the C.O. of row 14 with rows 10 and 1 and with forward C.O. of rounds, thus:—

Backward row 1 864213578

,, 10 864257318

,, 14 246185732

Forward row 1 246875312

(To be continued.)

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 449.)

RECORDS AND NOMENCLATURE.

In 1932 the Analysis Committee, which in 1912 had taken over the work of the Peal Values Committee, absorbed another committee which had done good and lasting work. At Northampton, following a resolution by Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, a committee was appointed to compile a record of the first and longest peals rung in various methods, and A. T. Beeston, Law James and Hervey Beams were entrusted with the work. As a result they prepared a schedule of the first peals in the various methods on all numbers and of progressive lengths of Major, Caters, Royal, Cinques and Maximus. This schedule is printed in Mr. Morris' 'History.' It was a job which entailed a very large amount of patient research work and was excellently done. Inevitably there are a few additions and corrections that need to be made, but they are surprisingly few.

Outsiders can never be quite certain who really does the work for which a committee is nominally responsible, but in this case it is fair to give almost the entire credit to Beeston.

A. T. Beeston stands very high among the parson ringers and as a practical and method ringer probably has no superior among them. He was born at Wirksworth in Derbyshire on December 2nd, 1861, and was at first intended for a commercial career, but he took orders in 1890 and spent the best part of his life as curate-in-charge of New Mills in Derbyshire. He learned to ring at a very early age, but did not take much active interest in change ringing until 1895. His first peal was Bob Triples in March, 1898, and his second 8,288 Kent Treble in the following May. Altogether he rang over 400 peals, many of them of outstanding merit, including spliced Minor and the first in several Surprise Major methods. For twenty years he was the secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild, which he represented on the Central Council from 1911 until 1926. He was made an honorary member in 1927, but three years later his health began to fail, and he retired. He died on June 30th, 1933, at the age of 71.

During the last ten years the schedule of records has been kept up to date, mainly by Mrs. Fletcher, who joined the Analysis Committee in 1932. Whenever a peal in a new method, or a longer length in an old one, is rung, the full particulars of method, composition, and performance, are type and added to a loose-leaved book which thus affords an authoritative account of the record peals.

When I left the committee in 1910 my place was taken by the Rev. E. W. Carpenter. Mr. George P. Burton had replaced Mr. Borrett some time before, and shortly afterwards Mr. George Williams was added.

Edward Westall Carpenter was one of two brothers, both of whom were original members of the Council and did good work for it. They were the sons of a Croydon doctor, and the elder brother, Arthur, followed in his father's profession. I have already mentioned him in connection with the Peal Collections Committee. He was a graduate of Oxford University. The younger brother, who was born in 1855, went to Cambridge and, after taking orders, was curate at Milton-next-Sittingbourne, in Kent. In 1883 he was appointed Vicar of Bobbing,

and as his church had six bells he turned his attention to ringing, which was not difficult, since his elder brother had already taken up the art with enthusiasm. Edward learned most of his ringing at Croydon, and his first peal, one of Bob Major at Carshalton in 1887, was conducted by Arthur. In 1890, Edward became the secretary of the Kent County Association. He spent the last years of his life as the Rector of Boothby Pagnall in Lincolnshire. From 1891 to 1902 he represented the Kent County Association on the Central Council, and from 1903 to 1932 he was an honorary member. He was a most attractive person, both to look at and to deal with.

When change ringing began to revive after the Great War, the influence of the first edition of the Minor Methods Collection began to be widely felt. Many bands were practising the new methods in the book, and were giving them names, as they were invited to do. Up to a point things went according to plan, but it was not long before difficulties appeared. The bands were expected to publish the names in 'The Ringing World,' and, generally speaking, they did so, but the information was widely scattered over many copies of the paper, and at any given time it was almost impossible to say which methods had been named and which not. Many people did write the names as they appeared above the figures in their own copies of the book, but that was not much use to the general public, and some official action was necessary. C. W. O. Jenkyn, the Council's librarian, undertook to get the information up to date and to publish lists from time to time. That helped matters, but still there was a lot of confusion and many methods were given different names by separate bands, and some three or more.

The Analysis Committee naturally experienced the inconvenience more than anyone else, and they began to call for some action to settle the matter definitely. In 1921 at Westminster, A. T. Beeston asked the Council to give them authority to supply names to the many methods still unnamed as the only way out of the muddle. It was, in so many words, an assertion that the plan of leaving the naming to the bands which first rang the methods had proved a failure. Law James proposed that for six weeks people should still be allowed to supply names, and after that the Analysis Committee should take the work in hand. On my suggestion the time was extended to six months so as to give everybody a reasonable chance, and the Council agreed.

The Analysis Committee published their proposals in 'The Ringing World' of May 26th, 1922. They had gone carefully into the matter and tried to do the naming according to a consistent plan. Plain Methods were called after lakes. Treble Bob method after flowers, fourth's place Delight methods after abbeys, and third's place Delight methods after castles.

These proposals were not well received in the Exercise generally. Six-bell ringers objected to the words 'castle' and 'abbey' in the titles, and especially to the floral names. There has seldom been such unanimity in the Exercise as there was in the condemnation of the floral names. The committee were rather taken by surprise, and evidently thought the criticism was largely artificial and insincere. Tulip and Primrose had been familiar to ringers as names of methods for scores of years; what objection could there be to Hyacinth and Geranium? E. W. Carpenter, who had given much thought to the matter,

declared himself unrepentant; and Beeston sought to consolidate the position by getting his own band to ring the methods and so claim a further right to name them.

But the feeling in the Exercise was a real one, even if it was not altogether logical, and when the matter came before the Council at Westminster in 1924 a proposal to appoint a committee to deal with the whole question of nomenclature met with approval and was agreed to.

Mr. George P. Burton was the prime mover in the matter, and he took the lead in the new committee. The others were all estimable persons, but their known qualifications were not such as would create any great confidence in their ability to deal with a subject which was partly historical, partly literary, and partly æsthetic.

I did not begin the agitation against the floral names (the Editor of 'The Ringing World' was almost the first there), but after a while I took a hand, because I had in my mind that a second edition of the Minor Collection would shortly have to be prepared, as well as collections of Triples, Plain Major and ultimately Surprise Major methods. I wanted the matter settled before the new publications appeared, and I also wanted to get the control of everything connected with the books, including the naming, back into the hands of the Methods Committee, who, I felt should never have let it slip.

Long experience has convinced me that if you want to produce a good book on any subject you must not have too many cooks all claiming equal authority to mix the broth. A committee very often is bad enough, and we were faced with a worse prospect, for here was a second committee, very active and self-reliant, who would claim (and have a right to claim) an overriding authority on what was after all an essential part of the new books.

Fortunately they played into my hands, for, instead of recommending a conservative revision of the disputed Minor methods names, they advocated a root-and-branch reformation of all the names and sub-titles which had come down from the ages. Many of those names carried history with them, such as London Scholars' Pleasure and Double Norwich Court Bob, and some were really good poetical names like Morning Star and Evening Star. The committee's plea was utility, but utility is not everything, and we cannot afford to sever the links with the past history of the Exercise. I set myself to thwart their scheme and, having secured the rejection of their report at Ipswich, in the next year I induced the Council to give back the control of the names to the Methods Committee.

But that was not the end of the controversies on naming. I had to justify my action and publish for criticism the final list of names as they were to appear in the second edition of the Minor Collection. I had sense enough to try to give what ringers wanted, and to leave untouched the good work others had done; and so the matter went through all right.

Meanwhile I persuaded Law James to agree to the naming of the Plain Major methods and the Alliance Minor methods without making any fuss or doing anything which might provoke controversy, and when the books appeared they were accepted by all without comment.

I hoped it would have been the same with the Surprise Major methods, but as will be remembered, the old controversies flared up again, and incidentally were the cause of the book not being already in print.

John Taylor & Co.

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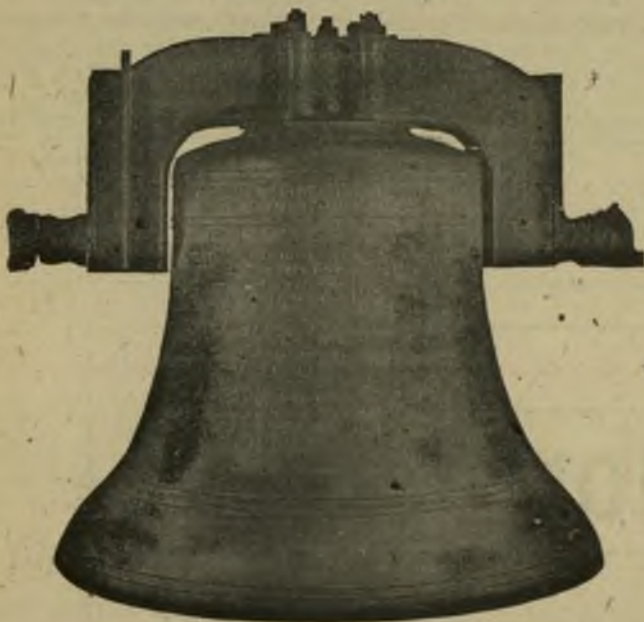
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among the many churches damaged in the German attacks on London last October was St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton. The roof and windows were shattered, the building rendered unusable, and at one time it was feared the tower and eight bells had suffered. Last Saturday the Vicar asked two of the officers of the Middlesex Association to have a look at the bells and say what they thought. They disclaimed any expert qualifications, but so far as they could see the bells have suffered no damage whatever. Some of the wheels have been smashed by woodwork blown down from the windows, and the presence of pigeons has made a lot of cleaning and overhauling necessary before the bells can be rung. But if peace comes suddenly there seems to be no reason why these bells should not play their proper part.

We are pleased to report that Mr. Thomas Hurd is now at home and is well on the way to recovery.

Matthew A. Wood, for many years one of the leading ringers in London, was born at Church Row, Bethnal Green, on September 22nd, 1826. He died in 1912.

William Shipway printed Double Norwich Caters in his 'Campanalogia,' but it was not until September 22nd, 1894, that the first peal was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol. Even now the method has not received the attention its great merits warrant.

The first peal of Major on the sea was rung on the Mediterranean on board the S.S. 'Barrabool' seven years ago last Wednesday. The method was Bob Major, Mr. Rupert Richardson rang 3-4 and conducted, and the rest of the band was: Mrs. Richardson 1-2, Rev. E. B. James 5-6, and J. S. Goldsmith 7-8.

John Cox was the first man to compose a peal of Stedman Caters with the sixty in-course tittum course-ends. He called it at St. James', Bermondsey, on September 25th, 1845.

The first peal of Dublin Court Major was conducted at Gosforth by Mr. W. H. Barber on September 27th, 1913; and on the same date in 1924 the first peal of London Surprise Major in Scotland was rung at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh.

The first course of Grandsire Triples in Natal was rung on Sunday, September 9th, 1923.

Fifty years ago to-day two peals were rung, one was Bob Major, the other Grandsire Triples. The latter was Holt's Original at Southover, Lewes, conducted by Mr. George Williams, and was Mr. A. J. Turner's first peal in the method.

Eighteen years ago to-day Mrs. Frank Hairs rang 1-2 to a peal of Superlative and thus became the first lady to achieve a peal in a Surprise method on handbells.

Mrs. Hairs felt very proud last Sunday when her daughter, following in her footsteps, rang her first peal on handbells. Miss Hairs did not start ringing until last May, so she has done very well indeed. She is a night nurse in Hove and her time for practice is very limited. Was this the first time that father, mother and daughter have rung a handbell peal together?

Mr. Spice writes to say that his colleague, Mr. I. Emery, is still detained in hospital owing to a very painful complication, but is improving and now hopes to be home shortly. He sends his kind regards to all ringing friends.

LONDON SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your headline, 'London Societies,' surely should be 'National Societies.' Years ago they were London, but now you will see peals rung right up in the North by resident College Youths, and in Bucks my own association has a local Cumberland band, thanks to one member.

With regard to the rule in question, will it affect our main duty (let us never forget that)—Sunday ringing? No, the two main towers, St. Paul's and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, would still have their own bands and quite right. It simply boils down to peals, and surely when it comes to pleasure, some other arrangement can be made than scrapping an age-old rule and tradition.

One of my pleasant memories is ringing a handbell peal with three stalwart College Youths, Messrs. Cockerill, Winney and Bert Langdon. As soon as we met they suggested my own Guildford Guild. I thanked them, but said, 'No,' and suggested a guild which was a friend to all of us, the Oxford, and it was rung for that. Personally, I ring peals entirely for pleasure, and the name of the guild it is rung under is immaterial. Surely if a mixed band of both societies met in London for a peal there are plenty of societies right outside London they could ring it under to avoid jealousy.

I am quite willing to admit that these old societies, like old buildings, have their inconveniences. I have personal experience of one such building, but with all its faults I would not have it altered and I would say to both societies, 'Hands off that rule.'

In your last paragraph you suggest killing tradition. It will be a bad day for all of us when tradition is killed in our national life. Where should we be but for the Navy, and they live and thrive on it.

A. H. PULLING.

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

THE 'GRAND OLD MAN' OF RINGING.

MR. ROBERT BRUNDLE CELEBRATES HIS 90th BIRTHDAY.

Events in Ipswich Veteran's Career Recalled.

On Thursday week, Mr. Robert Brundle, whose home is at 5, Wellington Street, Ipswich, celebrated his 90th birthday. He is in excellent health, with all his faculties unimpaired, for his hearing is perfect and he can find papers and notes without glasses. The Exercise will join in congratulations to this 'Grand Old Man' of ringing, for he has had a long and, as a ringer, an eventful life. His peal ringing, for instance, began in 1878 and ended, at any rate temporarily, only in October, 1938, when he took part in a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus—yes, Cambridge Maximus—in honour of his eighty-seventh birthday.

Bob Brundle has been a great ringer, as witness the fact that he has taken part in numerous historical performances and in the later years of the Ipswich Society's progress shared in the first peals in a number of twelve-bell Surprise methods. But, like most great ringers, Mr. Brundle is loth to talk about himself. At last, however, through the good offices of Mr. George Symonds, we are able to give our readers some of the facts from his long career in the belfry. He prepared the notes with his own hand and himself searched the ringing papers for his facts. It must have been a laborious task, because he has not got a complete record of his peals.

Mr. Brundle, a joiner by trade, has visited many parts of the country in pursuit of his work, which was particularly connected with the building and equipping of flour mills. Thus, having learned to ring at St. Matthew's Church, Ipswich, he travelled at different times as far north as Dundee and Edinburgh, south to various places on the coast, and west to Bristol. Always he rang on the bells of every church available.

At one time he lived in London, near St. Peter's, Walworth, and married his first wife at Holy Trinity Church in the Borough. He has numerous great-grandchildren, scattered in various parts of the country and some in East Africa.

Mr. Brundle has, of course, seen much of the social and mechanical revolutions of this age, but one thing can be recalled with special interest. He saw the birth of the pedal cycle. He made his own wooden bicycle shod with a flat iron tyre. His inventive mind soon told him that a round tyre would be better in contact with the stones of the rough roads of that day, and he applied it to his own machine. One of his home-made 'bone-shakers' is now in the museum at Lowestoft.

Mr. Brundle's membership of the College Youths goes back nearly 63 years. His certificate is dated October 22nd, 1878, and is signed by George Dorrington, Master; George A. Muskett, Hon. Secretary; Samuel Reeves and William Cecil, Stewards. In the course of his long career he has rung between eighty and ninety peals of Maximus and is the oldest man ever to ring a peal of Maximus. He was always blessed with considerable physical strength, and up to quite late in life was usually found at the heavy end in any peal in which he took part, especially if the going was bad. His friends tell an amusing tale of him on one occasion when he took on a bad-going tenor. He instructed his wife to sew buttons on his shirt in order to hold up his trousers, but the buttons broke away from the shirt through his exertions and—well, the trousers failed to stop where they should have done and the peal failed in laughter.

But let Mr. Brundle tell his own story as he has compiled it. It was written by his own hand, and in order that it may be preserved the manuscript has found a place in the library of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, of which he is so honoured a member:—

Some of my ringing friends desire me to send a record of my ringing to our worthy paper, 'The Ringing World,' to which I have been a subscriber from the first to the last publication. The leading articles are always interesting with fair comment; the articles from great men of the Exercise, the correspondence, Belfry Gossip, etc., are all very interesting. The time and goodwill of clever men given to educate some who are living and those to follow on are most instructive and helpful to all who wish to become bellringers. Looking at the

records of some of those past and gone and some living, I did not think my record of sufficient importance to find a place in 'The Ringing World,' but I feel I must comply with my good friends' wishes.

If spared till Thursday, the 18th of this month September (this was written earlier in the month), I shall be 90 years of age, for which I thank God. Not long ago I passed through a serious illness and lost my dear good wife on April 30th, 1939, so I must be like your correspondent who signed himself 'Not Too Tough,' although I find him looking well, just as clever, just as genial, as tough as ever, with the best of interest in the old society of St. Mary-le-Tower at heart.

My trade as a joiner took me long distances from home and gave me the opportunity of visiting many fine churches and some cathedrals in which I am much interested, and the opportunity of a nice touch or a peal.

In reference to my peal ringing, I find recorded in Norwich Diocesan and Suffolk Guild Reports about 350 in all, rung mainly at St. Mary-le-Tower and St. Margaret's Churches, Ipswich, under those distinguished conductors the late Mr. James Motts, Messrs. George Symonds, Charles Sedgley and William Brown.



MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.



ST. MARY-LE-TOWER, IPSWICH,
where Mr. Brundle achieved many of his best performances.

The peals of Maximus include Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Old and New Cambridge, Superlative, Duffield, Yorkshire, Pudsey, Little Albion, Forward and Double Norwich Court Bob. The Cinques and Caters are Grandsire and Stedman, and the Royal consist of Plain Bob, Kent, Oxford and Double Norwich Court Bob. In connection with the Caters, I find that on October 22nd, 1878, 5,021 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 26 minutes, the first peal on the present St. Mary-le-Tower bells, was rung, and this was also my first peal. It was composed by John Cox and conducted by Daniel Prentice.

I have rung peals of Major in Plain Bob, Kent, Oxford, Double Norwich, etc., including Marven's 6,000 Plain Bob at St. Margaret's, (Continued on next page.)

WAR-TIME MEETINGS.**SECRETARIES' THANKLESS TASK.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Eric B. Hartley, has indulged in a general attack on associations' war-time activities which makes a reply imperative.

He complains that associations hold as few meetings as possible, and then not on the dates prescribed in the rules. Surely the officials have no choice but to hold meetings, many or few, as the members demand, and if there is no demand to be answered there will be no meetings. The time of officials is no less valuable than that of any other individual, and to-day may be better spent in aiding the national effort than on aiding the disgruntled ringer whose forte is destructive criticism. Moreover, if the rules demand a meeting on Saturday, the 16th, is the secretary expected to desert from his post as warden or Home Guard to satisfy regulations which were drafted in peace time?

Naturally a secretary will apologise for the shortcomings which are inevitable in war-time meetings and explain the difficulties of arranging them. Anyone who has had that thankless task will know that it was difficult in normal days and is a thousand times worse now. In my association, successful meetings have been held, helped in no small measure by one or two enthusiasts who have gone to considerable expense and trouble in taking over arrangements on the spot. We also issue an annual report and balance sheet in an abbreviated form, and all ringers who were members in 1939 remain so for the rest of the war, irrespective of whether subscriptions are paid or not. They are also qualified for application to the Benvolent Fund, and those advantages are only due to the policy of wise finance carried out over a number of years with the idea of preparing for a rainy day—which has now arrived. During the last year the customary allowance of rail fares to meetings has been suspended as a temporary measure until complete stock has been taken of financial workings under the new order.

Your correspondent's suggestion of holding monthly meetings at a particular place is excellent, but he does not realise the fact that meetings are for practice with those not so well advanced in ringing, and are often deliberately arranged in out-of-the-way places as a missionary measure, not as a social gathering of jolly old pals, nor yet to ring Surprise for the first time on the bells.

I have a grave suspicion, Mr. Editor, that your correspondent has never held office as secretary in an association long enough to realise the difficulties involved. Rather do I gather from his first paragraph, when he speaks of 'bagging' towers, that he is what is known in official circles as the secretary's curse. These gentlemen arrive at meetings unheralded by the customary postcard 20 minutes before tea, hold up operations while they take off the inscriptions of the bells (if allowed), modestly admit they can 'ring anything except Grandsire' (thus ensuring there will be no duds in their touch) and patronise the locals.

I presume the idea is to ensure a good obituary notice in 'The Ringing World'—'Mr. Thingummy had rung at one, or two, or three thousand and odd towers, and exasperated one, two or three hundred and odd secretaries.' These campanological parasites then eat a hearty and sustaining tea, boast of their feats of athleticism in cycling to meetings, and lastly depart cheerily among the exacerbations of those assembled.

S. E. ARMSTRONG, Hon. Gen. Sec.,
Sussex County Association.

Brighton.

SOME QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED.

Dear Sir,—Before people find fault with association secretaries because they do not arrange enough meetings, they ought to consider one or two things and ask themselves some questions.

The questions are what have the people who complain done to help and what are they doing now? It was very nice in the days before the war for these people to turn to their 'Ringing World' and decide where they would go every Saturday, but do they think that those meetings were arranged for them or that they were doing anybody any good by going to them? Some people when they talk about 'supporting' an association mean getting out of it as much as they can in return for nothing.

In the dark winter nights coming it will not be possible to have meetings in many places and not right to have them. If the blitz starts again people away from home except on urgent business will be a nuisance. Besides it has been announced that travelling facilities are to be cut down. Most secretaries are trying to do what they can, and little thanks and support they get for it.

LOCAL SECRETARY.

SUCCESSFUL SHROPSHIRE MEETING.**VISITORS AT COALBROOKDALE.**

The Shropshire Association meeting at Coalbrookdale on Saturday week was a great success. Visitors began to arrive about three o'clock from Eardisland, Hereford, Prees, Market Drayton, Wellington, Malinslee, Stockton and Dawley. The ten bells, silenced by the use of stretchers, were kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major and Grandsire and Stedman Triples, as well as rounds on the ten for the learners.

The Rev. T. Eland (Vicar) welcomed the visitors, who enjoyed a very good war-time tea turned out of various pockets and parcels, while the local ringers had arranged ample tea, sugar and milk.

The Vicar presided at tea and took the chair at the short business meeting which followed.

It was proposed to try and hold a meeting at Wellington on Saturday, November 1st, and the annual meeting at Shrewsbury one Saturday in January, 1942.

Some fine handbell ringing took place in the tea room, also at the tower, especially the Grandsire Caters on the largest ten (tenor size 22 in C). This was the first time all the tower bells had been swinging since the ban was put on ringing. All the ringers taking part were delighted with the go of the bells, and naturally wished they had been sounding aloud. The bells were kept going until well after 8 p.m.

Several of the visitors went up to see the bells actually working and swinging. The tower inside is only about 14ft. 11in. square, and the ten bells are all hung on one level, and one visitor exclaimed, 'Gosh, aren't they a picture!' It was agreed that every effort should be made to arrange more meetings at other churches in the county.

MR. ROBERT H. BRUNDLE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Ipswich, 6,608 Double Norwich at Debenham, 8,064 at Leiston, 10,080 at Henley, Suffolk. There are many peals of Grandsire Triples and one attempt by the Edinburgh Cathedral Society at the Old Steeple, Dundee. Of the Stedman Triples there was notably the veterans' peal at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London, conducted by that wonderful gentleman of our art, the late Mr. Challis Winney. On October 19th, 1889, there was a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, and in 1893 three twelve-bell peals in a week: October 26th, 5,014 Stedman Cinques in 3 hours 47 minutes at St. Mary-le-Tower; October 28th, 5,040 Kent Treble Bob Maximus, in 3 hours 46 minutes, at St. Mary's, Cambridge; October 31st, 5,082 Grandsire Cinques, in 3 hours 40 minutes, at St. Mary-le-Tower.

Among other peals outside Ipswich were: September 24th, 1888, 5,120 Kent Treble Bob Royal, in 3 hours 44 minutes, at Manchester Cathedral; December 23rd, 1901, 5,024 Double Norwich, in 3 hours 10 minutes, at All Saints, Newcastle; May 19th, 1902, 5,079 Stedman Caters, in 2 hours 59 minutes, at Christ Church, Bristol. In addition to the peals above mentioned, my other peals above 6,000 are two of 7,000, one of 8,000, two of 10,000 to the 16,608 of Oxford Treble Bob Major on those harmonious bells at Debenham, Suffolk, in 10 hours and 32 minutes, on June 6th, 1892. Three of the band are still living, Messrs. F. Tillet, W. Crickmer and myself. Those who have passed on are ever remembered with pleasant memories, as are also the good old folk of Debenham for their hearty cheer.

On January 13th, 1912, I was invited to take part in a peal of Stedman Cinques on the famous Bow Bells, Cheapside, London. A good peal was accomplished in 3 hours 52 minutes: Edwin Horrex 1, Samuel E. Joyce 2, Challis Winney 3, Herbert Langdon 4, Alfred B. Peck 5, Archibald F. Harris 6, Robert H. Brundle 7, Ernest G. Tibbings 8, William E. Garrard 9, James R. Mackman 10, Richard T. Hibbert 11, Thomas Groombridge, sen. 12. Composed by C. H. Hattersley, conducted by W. E. Garrard. This peal had the 6th 24 courses at home and was the first published with these qualities. I also rang in two peals of Maximus, one of Kent, one of Oxford and one of Stedman Cinques on those famous bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in one of Maximus at Yarmouth Parish Church, Cambridge Maximus and Stedman Cinques at Chelmsford and the septuagenarians' peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Pulham Market, Norfolk.

My last peal on Saturday, October 15th, 1938, in 3 hours and 48 minutes, at the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, composed and conducted by George E. Symonds, was rung as a birthday compliment for my 87th year of age.

I wish to return my grateful thanks to Messrs. George E. Symonds, Charles J. Sedgley, William Brown and all my comrades at St. Mary-le-Tower for their good wishes and kind regard for me.

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ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.**TEMPORARY REPAIRS TO FAMOUS CHURCH.**

On Sunday week a thanksgiving service, in conjunction with the harvest festival, was held at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, to mark the completion of the work of temporary repair. Happily, in the raids there was no substantial damage to the tower or bells, but nearly all the fine stained glass windows were blown out. The church is now glazed with plain glass, which has this advantage, that in daylight the beauty of the interior is shown up better than ever before.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress represented the city, and among others present was Alderman S. J. Grey (Deputy Regional Commissioner). Prebendary J. H. Carpenter (Vicar of Walsall) preached the sermon.

Although the pillars and walls still carry the scars left by the Easter 'blitz,' the church is 'wind and water proof.' Through the kindness of the Feeney Trustees, the effigies of the Lords of the Manor of Birmingham have been removed from the nave and are safely housed at Warwick. The Burne-Jones window has also been removed to safety.

At the thanksgiving service, the Rector, Canon Guy Rogers, expressed gratitude to the Lord Mayor and the City Surveyor for enabling the work of repair to be undertaken immediately. He added: 'We are indebted to two citizens (Alderman Pritchett and Alderman Cadbury), who have most generously, aided by other friends, raised £1,000 towards the repair fund. The congregation has raised some £600.'

A letter of congratulation and good wishes has been sent to St. Martin's by the members of Carrs Lane Congregational Church. Carrs Lane contributed officially to the restoration fund.

Alderman T. B. Pritchett is a nephew of the late Alderman J. S. Pritchett, who was for many years Master of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham.

DAMAGE TO CHURCHES.**A DISTURBING FEATURE.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst apparently we must resign ourselves to the continuance of the ban on church bell ringing, the letter sent by the Minister of Home Security to the M.P. for Doncaster, as published in 'The Ringing World' dated September 12th, has at least one disturbing feature.

The following is stated: 'Admittedly churches in urban areas have suffered seriously from enemy action, but it has been in the course of an indiscriminate attack, and does not indicate that they have become military objectives because their bells might be used for giving a signal.'

Is this quotation an indication of official 'wriggling' as to liability of restoring damaged or destroyed churches, including their bells, over the whole country, or is it confined to churches in urban areas which have been subject to an indiscriminate attack? I suggest the former, because if one church with its bells does not become a military objective, no church will no matter where its situation.

It has appeared in the columns of 'The Ringing World' before that, in view of the fact that bells can now be rung only as a warning of invasion, following instructions from the local military authority or chief of police, both the bells and the tower at least must become military objectives.

Firstly, could not the hon. secretary of the Doncaster and District Society make further representations, to his local M.P. and to the Ministry of Home Security to keep the 'ball rolling,' and, secondly, could not the Central Council manage to meet next year in order to consider this most important matter and protect the interests of bell-ringers?

T. J. LOCK.

North Mimms.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**GOOD ATTENDANCE AT SEVENOAKS MEETING.**

A bi-meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, September 12th, when there was a good attendance of members of the district. Mr. and Mrs. E. Barnett, of Crayford, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Housden, Miss H. Oakshott and Mr. H. E. Audsley were also present. The bells (silent) were made good use of during the afternoon, various touches in different methods being brought round. A pause was made at 4 o'clock to attend a short service, conducted by the Rector, who in an address extended a welcome to all present and went on to speak of the great service the ringers had given to the Church in the past, and how that service would be more appreciated when the ban on ringing was lifted.

At the conclusion of the service the organist played Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary, which was much enjoyed by those present.

Further 'ringing' followed until 6 o'clock, when tea was served. An apology was received from the acting district hon. secretary, and Mr. A. Batten (Tonbridge Wells) moved a vote of thanks to the Rector for conducting the service and for the use of the bells; to the organist, especially for his rendering of the Trumpet Voluntary; and to the local hon. secretary (Miss D. Colgate) for making all the arrangements.

Mr. E. Ladd (District Master) reminded those present of the annual meeting, to be held at Tonbridge on the first Saturday in October.

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

Twenty members and friends were present at Upper Clapton on Saturday last at a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild. Weather conditions were favourable and the programme commenced with handbell ringing. At 4.30 p.m. a short evensong, with organ and choir, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. W. Thompson), who also gave an informal address. In this he extended a hearty welcome to the members of the association and remarked that, in general, ringers nowadays must feel very sad at the restriction imposed on bellringing, also very sad at the thought that so many churches and peals of bells have been destroyed or damaged by enemy airmen. He hoped that so long as the Restriction of Noise Order is still operative it may please God that we shall never hear the church bells ring, but expressed an earnest desire that we may soon be in a position to return to our rebuilt churches and restored peals of bells as part of a normal and peaceful existence.

A very enjoyable tea was provided, after which the business meeting took place. Mr. G. W. Fletcher (vice-president) was welcomed back to the chair. The death of the Rev. A. H. Lloyd, St. Giles-in-the-Fields, an honorary life member, was reported, and the meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect. The minutes of the last meeting were read, and arising out of them there was a discussion, with some ventilation of views, concerning bells and towers as military objectives, but there was no resolution.

More than one tower was mentioned as the place for the next meeting, but it was decided to leave this in the hands of the secretary.

Thanks were accorded to the Rev. Thompson and Mr. D. E. Campbell and other helpers for their part in ensuring a successful meeting.

Further handbell ringing took place, and methods were rung including Grandire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, St. Clement's Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Stedman Caters and Cinques, the latter with tenor size 22 in C.

The visitors included Mr. P. A. Corby and the Rev. Malcolm Melville, and everyone was especially glad to meet Mr. Bob Pye, whose health has not been too good lately.

MR. W. H. FUSSELL'S 80th BIRTHDAY.**A HANDBELL CELEBRATION.**

Had there been no ban on church bells it is quite certain there would have been much ringing last week in Buckinghamshire and maybe elsewhere to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, which, as our readers are aware, took place on September 16th.

It was felt, however, that the event could not be allowed to pass without some attempt to honour it, and a handbell peal, specially arranged for the purpose, was happily rung last Saturday at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, the headquarters of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, of which Mr. Fussell is one of the oldest members. He completed sixty years as a member on the day after his birthday, so that the peal was a double commemoration. It was, of course, rung by Cumberlands, and the Master and Hon. Secretary and Treasurer were in the company, the peal, a 5,024 of Bob Major, being composed as well as conducted by the Master.

Incidentally, the peal served also as a compliment to two other participants in the proceedings, for Mr. A. H. Pulling (61) and the umpire, Mr. W. J. Robinson (60) celebrated their birthdays during the same week.

Afterwards congratulations and good wishes were expressed to Mr. Fussell, who was absent, and the others.

The peal was rung in the choir vestry, which is situated in the crypt of the church, and was not entirely free from interruption. Although the door had, by permission, been locked, it was fortunate there was an umpire in the room to open it when there came a loud and imperious knocking. A gentleman, carrying tools, marched through, and banged the door at the other end of the room, then repeated the process when he came back. And every door-bang in that underground apartment sounded like a bomb explosion. However, this and sundry other distracting noises were survived, and the peal came round in just over two and a half hours. It is to be hoped that Mr. Fussell's next birthday may be celebrated on tower bells.

THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—What is the sense of talking about the 'Cambridge' Group? Here are the first 12 Round Blocks of the Cambridge Minor. The first six Round Blocks are the same in both methods 'Cambridge' and 'Yorkshire.' I suggest that you add 7-8 to the starred rows and then compare them with the corresponding rows of 'Yorkshire' Major Round Blocks and see what sort of a mathematical progression you get. I have tried it so I know what I am talking about. You can find space for Mr. W. Taylor's twaddle, but I shall be very much surprised if you find space for these mathematical truths.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

The methods we have called the Cambridge group are not merely a number allied in construction; they are closely related in the actual practical work of the belfry, and the man who rings them will get a good deal of help and interest if he understands what the relationship is.

In all of them the normal work of a bell is Treble Bob hunting, which (apart from the places always made above the treble on the lead and below the treble at the back) is only varied by two items of work, or rather by one operation which is shared by two bells.

These bells are always two which, at the time, are next each other in coursing order, and the operation consists of the first one making places round the second which runs through it. The result is that the two are reversed in coursing order. The work can be done either when the bells are hunting up or when they are hunting down, and always, after one of these operations has reversed two bells in coursing order, another similar operation is made, later in the lead, on the same two bells, to restore them to their original positions in coursing order.

The operation is exactly similar to what takes place in Double Court Minor when the bell which is turned from the front or from behind by the treble makes places round it, and courses after it instead of in front of it.

000608	608000
006080	060800
006800	006800
008600	008600
080600	008060
806000	000806

In the first of these examples the 6th is hunting down in front of the 8th, but stops to make places round it; the 8th runs through the 6th and the two bells are reversed in coursing order. In the second example the 8th is hunting up in front of the 6th, but stops to make places round it; the 6th runs through the 8th, and the two bells regain their original positions in coursing order.

The man who knows where these places and these run-throughs have to be made can at once go and ring Cambridge, or Yorkshire, or Pudsey, or any other of the kindred methods on any number of bells, not merely on eight, or ten, or twelve, but also on fifty, or a hundred, if it were physically possible.

We do not suppose that men will ring these methods so; at any rate not entirely so, especially on eight bells; for every ringer finds many and varied hints to make up the rules he uses, and no two men, perhaps, ring any method in exactly the same way; but the more a man knows and understands the work of a method, the easier and the more interesting it becomes, and a knowledge of the relationship of the works of all these methods on all numbers of bells cannot fail to be of use to him.

As we have already indicated, the positions of the operations are decided by the treble, for they are the means by which paths of the working bells are adapted to the path of the treble.

In Cambridge a bell always makes a double set of places—two before meeting the treble and two after passing it. And it always makes a double run-through—before it reaches the treble, through its course bell, and after it has passed the treble, through the bell which at the time is next in coursing order. The two bells it works with on its way down are the same two that it works with on its way up, but it comes to them in reverse

order. If, going down, it makes places first round its after bell A and then round B, when it goes up it will first run through B and then through A. Similarly if, going down, it runs through its course bell A and then through B when it goes up it will first make places round B and then round A.

Now, since there is a definite relationship between these operations and the bells which make them, it is obvious that the man who knows what the relationship is will be able to find his way and pick out his bells very much easier than if he did not know. He will also be able to say with certainty what bells should be working with him. Knowledge of this sort is very useful on the higher numbers.

In Cambridge, after a bell has made second's place at the lead-end, all the run-throughs are made hunting down and all the place-making is done hunting up, until at the half-lead-end the place is made beneath the treble. Then, during the second half of the course, all the run-throughs are made hunting up and all the place-making is done hunting down until second's place again is made over the treble at the lead-end.

The catch phrase for the order in which the place-making and run-throughs are done is 'furthest first.' When you are place-making from the front you make those in 9-10 (on twelve bells) first, then those in 7-8, then in 5-6, and then in 3-4. Alternately with this place-making from the front, from the back you run through 3-4 and 1-2; then through 5-6 and 3-4; then through 7-8 and 5-6, and so on according to the number of bells. When you begin the place-making from the back (after you have made the place under the treble at the half-lead-end) you first make the places in 3-4, then those in 5-6, then those in 7-8 and so on; while the run-throughs from the front are made in the reverse order, first through the highest positions. On twelve bells you run through 7-8 and 9-10; then through 5-6 and 7-8; then through 3-4 and 5-6; and then through 1-2 and 3-4.

In Yorkshire the place-making and run-throughs come in just as regular a manner. There directly after a bell has made places in any one position it runs through the next, or if the run-through comes first the place-making follows in the next position. For instance, directly after you have made places in 7-8 down, you run through 5-6, and directly after you have run through 3-4 up you make places in 5-6. As already explained, place-making and run-throughs are done with the same bell.

After seconds is made at the lead-end, and until the place is made under the treble at the half-lead-end, the run-throughs precede the place-making, and the bell always works with its course bell. After the place is made under the treble at the half-lead-end and until seconds is made at the lead-end, the place-making precedes the run-throughs and the bell always works with its after bell.

As the number of bells increases, so does the number of methods in the Cambridge group. Constructionally they are all interesting, but for practical purposes none except Cambridge, Yorkshire and Pudsey is of any particular value, and of those three Yorkshire is by far the best.

(To be continued.)

Have 'The Ringing World' sent to your ringing friends abroad; 4s. 4d. per quarter from 'The Ringing World' Office, Lower Pyrford Road Woking.

NOTICES.**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Preston, Saturday, September 27th. Handbells in vestry and ringing room. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in school after. Meeting in the same school afterwards. We hope as many as possible will try to attend.—W. H. Shuker and T. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District. —A meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, September 27th. Tea at the Westbrook Memorial Hall, 1s. 8d. per head. Hall available from 2 p.m. As it has been necessary to guarantee an attendance of 20 for tea, it is very much hoped the attendance will be a good one. Handbells available. Reports ready. Subscriptions due.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, Ealing, W.13.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Broxborne (8 bells, silent) on Saturday, September 27th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Tea at the Welcome Cafe, near church. All are welcome. Please come.—A. Laurence, 6, West Goldings, Hatfield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Bradfield on Saturday, September 27th. Handbells available at 2.30 p.m., most probably in the Village Hall. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Village Hall. Owing to catering difficulties, those intending to be present must bring their own teas for all meetings while the war lasts. This parish is clear of the defence area, provided people travel via the Harwich Road from Colchester and enter Mistley end of the village. There is a good bus and rail service.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th. Tower bells (silent), if possible, 2.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at the Coffee Tavern 4.45 p.m. Please note change of date of meeting.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, Sept. 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. in the Parish Room (Vicarage, side entrance). Business meeting 4.30 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the church. A good muster is desired.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, Sept. 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—A meeting will be held at Chailey, 36, Dean Park Road, Bournemouth (by invitation of Rev. C. A. Phillips) on Saturday, September 27th. Handbells from 2.30 to 5. Service at St. Peter's Church 5.30. Tea at Parsons' Restaurant 6.15.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, Birm-

ingham, on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Silent practice on tower bells from 3.30 to 4.30; short service 4.30; tea 5.15. Business meeting and handbell ringing to follow. All requiring tea must notify by Oct. 1st at latest. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at the Carlton Cafe at 4.45 (free). Will all members coming to tea let Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, know not later than Wednesday, October 1st. —T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — A special general meeting will be held at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Saturday, October 4th, in conjunction with local meeting. All committee members who can are urgently requested to attend. Financial matters will be discussed. Meet in Church Vestry 4 p.m.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Tunstall on Saturday, October 4th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly notify the Rev. S. F. Linsley, The Vicarage, Stanley Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, on or before September 30th?—Andrew Thompson, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Leicester on October 4th. Ringing at St. Margaret's. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. Tea (2s. 6d.) and meeting at George Hotel (near Clock Tower) 5.15 p.m. Social evening and entertainment at the George Hotel, 7 to 9 p.m. Only those who notify me by October 1st will be provided with tea.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Braintree on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available from 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. It is essential that all intending to be present should notify me not later than Wednesday, October 8th. Please come and make this meeting a real success. A good bus service from all parts.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watgate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

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HOME RINGING CIRCLES.

The other day a well-known ringer remarked, apropos the attempts which are being made to keep life in the ringing organisations, 'Whatever we do we shan't be able to start again after the war just where we left off.' That, unfortunately, applies to most, if not all, things. The war has cut right across everything, even our mode of life, and nothing, we imagine, will restart just where we laid it down when this nation took up arms. It will take a long time to bring order out of chaos, and ringing, like many other pleasurable pursuits of man now surrendered in the common cause, will require a long and steady effort to put it on its feet again. We have been warned that we have not seen the worst in this country, so that it is useless to speculate upon what the position is likely to be when peace once more returns to the stricken lands of Europe. The ultimate prospects for the survival of our art may be immeasurably worse than they appear at present, although everyone devoutly prays that may not be the case. Is it not, therefore, desirable that redoubled efforts should be made, even in the face of present discouragements, to prepare for the day when the bells may once more be rung throughout the land?

There seems to be considerable divergence of opinion as to whether it is worth while doing any recruiting at this stage. But in this we do not agree with the pessimists. We believe that now is the time to seek to widen the interest in the art, wherever it is at all possible, and one way in which this can be done is in the homes of the ringers, among their neighbours. It is amazing what interest can be created with a set of handbells and a modicum of patience. An instructor does not necessarily have to be an accomplished 'double handed' ringer to impart knowledge to his pupils. If he knows anything about change ringing, teaching by means of 'single-handed' ringing would, we are sure, lead to good results. There is a strange fascination about change ringing for the novice as well as for the finished ringer, and we suggest that there is great scope in the coming long evenings for these 'home circles' of ringing, not only for the entertainment they will provide, but for the possibilities they open up of bringing in ringers to the belfry later on. Indeed, when they get interested in the art on handbells it is almost certain these newcomers will be equally keen on learning how to ring a church bell, and there will be at least the opportunity of teaching them how to handle one. Ringers might therefore persuade their neighbours to come in one evening and let them have 'a turn on the handbells.' Not every ringer, of course, has got a set of

(Continued on page 470.)

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handbells, but there is generally one belonging to the belfry which might be borrowed.

The fading interest of the members of the local company—such as are left of them—might also be revived by the institution of handbell practices at home where they do not already exist. Single-handed handbell ringing may be thought by some to be a poor substitute for the double-handed variety, but it can lead on to greater things, and double-handed ringing should always be the goal before the company. Even if all the band are new to the 'game,' given a good working knowledge of a plain method, a little study and perseverance will quickly overcome the initial difficulties, and a great deal of enjoyment will be got out of the pursuit, even if the results do not reach peal standards. There ought really to be much more double-handed ringing done than there is. Unfortunately many ringers have got the idea that it is too much for them. It is a mistaken notion to imagine that only super-ringers can manage a pair of bells. Properly approached and given concentration and regular practice, such difficulties as there are soon fade away. May we, therefore, borrow a popular slogan and say to all who haven't yet tried double-handed ringing, 'Go to it'?

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT.

By using five-lead courses, Mr. E. C. S. Turner has produced the following peal of Spliced Cambridge, Rutland, Superlative and Yorkshire Surprise Major, in which there are 1,280 changes of each method. Although a one-part composition, the arrangement of the bobs is fairly simple, and a conductor who studies the arrangement of the methods will find many hints as to how to memorise their order. The peal is not strictly on the five-lead course plan: four courses with bobs Before each contain four leads, and eight courses each with two leads of Rutland are on the older three-lead course plan.

THE PEAL.

5,120.

23456	B	M	W	R	Methods
23564	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
52364	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
35264	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
26354	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
32654	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
63254	—	—	—	—	R Q S Y C
45236	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
24536	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
24365	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
32465	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
43265	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
26435	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
42635	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
64235	—	—	—	—	R Q S Y C
52436	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
43526	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
54326	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
62345	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
53246	—	—	—	—	R X R
25346	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
32546	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
64523	—	—	—	—	C Y S Q R
35426	—	—	—	—	R X R
42356	—	—	—	—	C Y S X R
42563	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
54263	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
25463	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
46253	—	—	—	—	R X R
24653	—	—	—	—	R Q R
62453	—	—	—	—	R Q R
34256	—	—	—	—	R X R
34562	—	—	—	—	C Y Y C
53462	—	—	—	—	R O S Y C
45362	—	—	—	—	R X S Y C
64352	—	—	—	—	R O R
23456	—	—	—	—	R X R

ERNEST C. S. TURNER

X = Cambridge, Superlative, or Yorkshire.

Q = Cambridge or Superlative.

If Yorkshire is used for 8 of the leads marked X, Superlative for 16 of those marked X or Q, and Cambridge for 8 of those marked X or Q, the peal will contain 1,280 changes of each method.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, September 13, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,***A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

*MRS. J. THOMAS...	...	1-2	|	JOHN THOMAS	...	...	5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	...	3-4	|	ISAAC ATTWATER	...	...	7-8
				† HAROLD HOWSON	...	...	9-10

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS,
* First peal of Bob Royal 'in hand.' † First peal on ten bells.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,***A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;**

MRS. J. THOMAS	...	1-2	|	JOHN THOMAS	...	...	5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	...	3-4	|	*REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	...	...	7-8
				ERNEST C. S. TURNER	...	...	9-10

Composed by E. GUISE. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.
* First peal 'in hand' on ten bells and first peal of Caters, completing peals on all numbers from Doubles to Maximus.

FELKIRK, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

AND BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

*On Sunday, September 21, 1941, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,**IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,***A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

DANIEL SMITH	...	1-2	|	PETER WOODWARD	...	...	5-6
HAROLD CHANT	...	3-4	|	*RAYMOND FORD	...	...	7-8

Composed by JOHN CARTER (C.C. Coll. 98). Conducted by H. CHANT
* First peal. First peal of Major 'in hand' by all except the conductor.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Tuesday, September 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,**At the School House,***A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different callings. Tenor size 14 in D.

*REV. J. SHEPHEARD-WALWYN	1-2	|	† JOHN E. SPICE	...	...	3-4
			MISS MARIE R. CROSS	...	...	5-6

Conducted by MISS MARIE R. CROSS.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.' † Twenty-fifth peal.

ENFIELD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Wednesday, September 24, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes**At 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,***A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

MRS. J. THOMAS	...	1-2	|	JOHN THOMAS	...	...	5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER	...	3-4	|	GEORGE W. FLETCHER	...	...	7-8
				REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE	...	...	9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE
First peal 'in hand' on ten bells as conductor.

WELSH CLERICAL RINGER BECOMES DEAN.

The Vicar of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, the Rev. J. T. Davies, M.A. (Examining Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of St. David's), has been offered and accepted the appointment of Dean of Bangor, and left at the end of September.

He was keenly interested in ringing and learnt to handle a bell rope in his first curacy at Talgarth, Brecon. He made good progress in the art, for a board in the belfry at that tower records that he took part in a peal of Grandsire Doubles. He was a member of the band of ringers of his church at Carmarthen, and always joined them in their outings, etc., and took a rope in the tower if the band was short.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

(Continued from page 459.)

A critical examination of the three C.O.'s given in our last issue shows (a) the treble has been moved four steps in C.O., i.e., to the Bob Major lead head 18674523. (b) The backward C.O. of row 1 has been changed to the forward C.O. of row 14 with the exception of 5 and 7. (c) The B.S. on 357 of row 10 has been reduced to a C.S. on 57 at row 14. We can, therefore, describe row 14 as the combined result of 3.5.7.8 making C.S.'s with the treble and an added C.S. on 57.

As at row 10, this can be proved by making a court shunt on 57 in the first lead of Bob Major (which, if made by adjoining places in 78, will cause the treble to dodge in 34), then proceeding as Bob Major until the treble strikes its second blow behind after the lead head 18664723 (which is 18674523 with 57 reversed). As at row 10 the C.S. on 57 could have been made after the lead head 18674523 and you will arrive just the same at the 14th row of London 32745681 at the second blow of the treble's whole pull behind. I don't think I need waste space by showing the figures here. No one should have any difficulty in writing them out. Now we come to Section C. This section acts somewhat similar to a turning course in Stedman Caters. It plays on the two course bells (5 and 8) of the 7th together with the treble and leaves the C.O. of 3246 undisturbed. The three course bells each make a place in the order 5.7.8. (Notice how each section plays on three course bells: Section A, 357, Section B, 246, and now Section C, 578.) The combined effect of the three places is to change the C.O. (leaving out 2 and 4) from 618573 at row 15 to 678513 at row 15R.

On examination it will be found that the result is twofold. (a) The treble has been moved three steps forward in C.O., i.e., from the C.O. corresponding to the Bob Major lead head 18674523 to that corresponding to the lead head 13527486. (b) At row 15 the C.O. is direct with the exception of 5 and 7; at row 15R it is direct with the exception of 7 and 8, i.e., the C.S. on 57 has been exchanged to one on 78. As at row 10 and row 14 you can show that row 15R 46273815 can be produced by making 78 court shunt in the first lead of Bob Major and continue the second lead (from 13528476) until the treble is in 7th's.

(To be continued.)

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

NORTHANTS CLERGYMAN'S OUTSPOKEN COMMENT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—You may be interested to hear that at least one clergyman has found himself in complete disagreement with the announcement of the Peterborough Diocesan War Damage Committee, that church bells and church organs are considered 'luxuries' and should not be insured under the Government scheme.

Bells, said the committee's statement, are 'luxuries,' provided by the generosity of churchpeople in the past, and, if destroyed, should be replaced by similar generosity in the future; they should not be insured against war damage. Organs should, the committee goes on to say, be treated in the same way as bells.

Writing in his parish magazine, this is what the Rev. A. A. Liney, Rector of Church Brampton and Rural Dean of Haddon Second Deanery, has to say on the subject:—

'So bells and organs are "luxuries"? Relatively it is to be supposed, since it is possible to hold services without either just as it is possible to sleep elsewhere than on a bed, and to produce music by means of a comb and a piece of thin paper. The quarrel,' he says, 'is not with the question as to whether bells and organs should or should not be insured; it is with that word "luxuries" as applied to them. In regard to organs, it can be affirmed confidently that all the plainsong in the world can never supplant the accompanied harmony beloved by English people, and the organ never found its way into our churches, ousting the old scraped fiddle in the gallery, or bells replacing trumpets to be dubbed "luxuries" in the estimation of the English temperament and character. After all they are the kings of all instruments invented for the worship of God and the pleasure of man; totally unlike the bastard contraptions to be found in cinemas and similar places.'

Church Brampton in the county of Northants has but a ring of four bells, tenor 10 cwt., in a minor key.

In view of these facts, will Messrs. Smith, Parkinson, Bunce, etc., still say there is no organised or other opposition? These statements, I contend, completely knock the bottom out of their argument.

'ANTI-SILENT.'

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A COLLEGE YOUTHS MANUSCRIPT.

VALUABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Among the books and papers belonging to the Ancient Society of College Youths which were destroyed or badly damaged in the fire raid on London in December, 1940, was a manuscript book which contained an account of the early history of ringing. This account was of considerable interest, for it supplied the material from which most of the description of the society given in the official handbook was taken. It has never been printed in full, but fortunately Mr. E. Alexander Young had made a transcript of it which we now produce. It reads as follows :—

An Historical Account. The most authentic records extant prove that the College Youths are the oldest Society of Ringers in existence; they began to be a Company November 5th, 1637 (in the Reign of Charles the 1st), and met to ring on a peal of six at St. Martin's, Vintry, on College Hill, London, and so took the name of College Youths.

For a short time they rang nothing but rounds and set changes, but at length attained to ring a plain six-score on five bells; and it is thought to be about 96 years ago since changes were first attempted to be rung, which was in 1642. About 1667 they began to practise Double Changes on five and six bells, for in that year there was published a book by Fabian Steadman which contains many five-bell peals and Grandsire bob on Six—which we call Plain Bob.—In 1671 that book was again reprinted by Steadman, with many more peals added, and we have an account that Steadman's principle was first rung at St. Bennett's, in Cambridge, by the College Youths, March 30th, 1671.

Thus they went on for many years practising on five and Six bells, and the first great performance we have any account of was at St. Mary Overys on the six largest bells as follows—November 18th, 1684, the College Youths rung three 720's, being the first time that ever so much was rung without standing; the peals were Oxford Treble Bob, College Single and Oxford Single—the whole number of changes were 2,160. In those days when they rung 8 bells they used to ring six-bell peals and keep the 4th and 8th behind, or sometimes dodge the 7th and 8th behind, and when they rang 10 they likewise rung six-bell peals and kept 1, 2, 3, 10 behind.

The first account we have of Triples being rung was at St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate, London, March 4th, 1684-5. The College Youths rung two eighteen scores of Grandsire Triples, and two days after that 700 Triples at the same place. On January 7th, 1689-90, the whole peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate, London, in 3 hours and forty-five minutes (and the first trial), being the first 5,040 that ever was rung.

Soon after the ringing of this peal they began to practise Grandsire Caters, but we have no account of any long peal of Caters till the London Scholars rang 5,040 at St. Bride's in Fleet Street on January 11th, 1716-17. (There was a frame for this peal containing the performers' names, etc., in St. Bride's steeple which was taken [down] and destroyed when the Church and Belfry was repaired in the year 1796 to the great regret of all lovers of the exercise.)

The first peal of 5,060 Cinques was rung by the College Youths at St. Bride's, January 19th, 1724-25.

The first peal 5,200 Bob Maximus or all 12 in, in plain method, was rung by the College Youths February 26th, 1725-6, in 4 hours and 4 minutes at St. Bride's. There were twelve bells at Bow in Cheapside before the fire of London, but they did not use to ring above six or eight and chime the others.

St. Bride's in Fleet Street had two trebles added to make Twelve in 1719 and cast by Abraham Ruddall who also cast the 10 largest in 1710. (These two trebles were the gift of the College Youths and London Scholars as appears by a board fixed in the church.)

St. Martin's in the fields, London, was made a peal of twelve in 1727, the two trebles cast by Abel Ruddall.

The first time of ringing the 12 bells at St. Michael's, Cornhill, cast by Richard Phelps in Whitechapel, was on December 4th, 1728, the same evening that Prince Frederick came to England to St. James'.

The first time of ringing the 12 bells of St. Mary Overy's, Southwark, was August 2nd, 1735, cast by Samuel Knight and hung by Robert Catlin.

This account was taken from the Oxford Ringers' Register Book and communicated by Mr. Scarsbrook, 1796.

* * *

From internal evidence it is clear that this account was compiled by joining together statements from different sources, the editor adding here and there a few words and comments of his own. The date is almost the middle of the nineteenth century, certainly not before 1840. The writer is unknown, and it is difficult to hazard a guess at his identity, but one name suggests itself as not unlikely. Samuel Austin was a solicitors' clerk and presumably rather better educated than his fellows. He was an excellent penman, and some of his work is still to be found in the peal books of the time. For some time he was secretary of the Society of College Youths. Some of his letters are extant, and show that he had a very high idea of the dignity and importance of the College Youths, but no great sense of historical values.

The account preserves some genuine traditions of the College Youths. The statement that they became a company on November 5th, 1637, did not come from any outside source: The society had long forgotten the names of its early members and who they were, for the old name book was still undiscovered in the West of England; but this was remembered, and no doubt had been kept alive by the annually recurring feast.

The references to College Hill and St. Martin's Vintry come from Shipway and Osborn. The account of the London Scholars' peal of Caters probably from Osborn, for his words are closely followed, or there may have been a source common to both. The editor's comments can easily be recognised—'in the reign of Charles the 1st'; 'which we call Plain Bob'; 'to the great regret of all lovers of the exercise'; and the like.

But the greater part of the account consists of extracts from the Oxford Ringers' book, made by George Scarsbrook, a prominent London ringer in the second half of the eighteenth century. The original is lost, but it evidently was written in the year 1738 by a man who had, or professed to have, intimate knowledge of the College Youths, and who was a University man, not a townsman. We come to the latter conclusion from the fact

that the dates are given with the double style, old and new. In 1738 the Oxford ringers used the old style, as did the College Youths and the generality of people; but the more educated, such as University men, were either using the new style, although the law had not yet been altered, or else were using both.

The writer of the manuscript, whoever he was, clearly was interested in the doings of the College Youths. It was not Hearne, for he seems to have known nothing about London ringers apart from Annable's visit in 1733; but though ringing had largely disappeared in Oxford as an undergraduate sport, there were still some University men who took a great interest in the art. Such a one was John Sacheveral, a gentleman who lived at Cumnor. He was a member of the Society of College Youths, and had been steward in 1702. He had a great reputation in Oxford as an authority on bells, and may well have been the author or inspirer of the manuscript.

It is the extracts from the early manuscript that make the later copy valuable. The writer first of all gives what was more or less tradition, but as he comes to events within the personal knowledge of people to whom he had talked, he writes with more certitude and gives fuller details. Here he may be taken as a first-rate authority.

The statement that 'there were twelve bells at Bow in Cheapside before the fire, but they did not use to ring above six or eight and chime the others' shows some confusion in the mind either of the original writer or his copyist. It reads as though the ringing and chiming were done at the same time, but actually there was a ringing peal of ten and two others, probably saunce bells. We have here most likely a misreading of Peter

Munday's manuscript (an Oxford manuscript be it noted) in which there is a reference to 'the 10 bells in St. Michael's in Cornhill—2 were tolled the rest rung'; and to the '12 bells of bow whereof 10 bee rung and 2 toll'd.'

The statement that the College Youths 'at length attained to ring a plain six score on five bells' in 1642 is usually taken to mean that in that year they rang the first 120 of Plain Bob Doubles. It probably was so, but that is not what the words actually say. A plain six-score is not a 120 of Plain Bob, but of Plain Changes, a very different thing; and whatever the original tradition or authority was, the Oxford writer meant Plain Changes. He thought that 'double changes on five and six bells' were introduced by the publication of the 'Tintinnalogia,' and there, as we know, he was wrong.

Very interesting is the statement that Stedman's Principle 'was first rung at St. Benet's in Cambridge by the College Youths on March 30th, 1671.' Shipway, we remember, says it was rung there 'in the summer of 1657.' Both dates cannot, of course, be correct, and of the two, 1671 is much the more likely; but even that probably is too early; and we have another example, and a good one, of the futility of blindly accepting any statement or any date that may occur in old books and manuscripts.

The College Youths' manuscript, if properly understood and used, is a valuable and reliable source of information, but it can be, and has been, very misleading.

COALBRÖOKDALE.—On Sunday, Aug. 24th, at the Technical Institute, 1,200 changes of Doubles 'in hand,' being five six-scores of Stedman and five of Grandsire, each called differently: W. Saunders 1-2, T. R. Butler (conductor) 3-4, T. Butler, sen. 5-6. Arranged for Messrs. Butler, from Liverpool and Ellesmere respectively, who were visiting 'the Dale' on 'Bellringers' Sunday.'

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rev. John Shephard-Walwyn, who, as most of our readers know, is blind, rang another peal last week—his first peal of Minor 'in hand'. It was also a test for the other two ringers, for the last two and a half 720's were rung in the dark.

Another example of the excellent work that can be done by handbell tuition comes from Barnsley, where Raymond Ford has rung the tenors to a peal of Bob Major—his first peal. Before taking up handbell ringing he had only rung the treble to the plain hunt on tower bells.

William Shipway was born in the city of Bath on September 29th, 1760. 'The circumstance,' he tells us, 'which introduced him to a knowledge of the Art of Ringing was his being apprentice to a Mr. Handcock, cabinet maker in that city, who, having been appointed sexton of the Abbey, the author gained access to the steeple. He then formed an acquaintance with the ringers and soon became much attached to the Art itself.'

In the late eighteenth century there was a very energetic band at Oldham, who rang some long peals of Bob Major, and among them 10,080 changes on September 30th, 1783.

The first peal of Bristol Surprise Major on handbells was rung on October 1st, 1907, at Romford, by the three brothers Pye and Mr. William Keeble.

On October 1st, 1793, the Aston men rang 15,360 changes of Bob Major, at the time the longest peal by one set of men. Joshua Short, a farmer, of Witton, rang the tenor, and as it weighed over a ton, it was a very fine heavy bell feat. The length was not exceeded in the method until 1933, when 18,144 changes were rung at Benington in Hertfordshire.

The Eastern Scholars rang the first peal (one of Bob Major) on the new bells at St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, on October 1st, 1749. The church stands by the river in the dock area, but so far as our information goes it has escaped damage in the air raids.

Henry Bagley, a famous seventeenth century bell founder and one of a numerous family who cast many bells, was baptised at Chacombe on October 2nd, 1608.

The first silent peal of Kent Treble Bob Major on record was rung at Liversedge on October 3rd, 1863.

On the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang a peal of Bob Major on handbells on the Arabian Sea.

Thomas Hattersley was born on October 5th, 1839.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one Grandsire Caters and one Bob Major.

THE CARE OF BELL ROPES. INFORMATION SOUGHT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Could you give me any information regarding the care of bell ropes? During these months of non-usage are they likely to deteriorate? An article in 'The Ringing World' would be greatly appreciated on this subject.

A ringer from a neighbouring tower found his ropes were beginning to have just a slight touch of dry-rot, so they have taken them down, bees-waxed and then stored in a place with the same temperature. He has put on an old rope for the tenor, as the Home Guard have only made arrangements for this bell to be tolled, if it is ever needed.

I think this arrangement of tolling just one bell for invasion is pretty well general around here, so if it is detrimental to ropes hanging over a long period without use, it seems worth while to take them down, leaving, of course, the adequate means for the Home Guard if needed.

I would greatly appreciate an answer to this from someone who can speak with expert knowledge.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

PECULIAR !

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. E. Barnett, may be interested to know that St. Margaret's Church, Leicester (where I have the honour of being verger) was a 'Peculiar.' In our instance it is a Prebendal one, and is founded in the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lincoln and extends over the parish of St. Margaret's and its chapelry of Knighton. The dignity this church sustained in Leicester was an Episcopal See, and it was exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Leicester, and its parish entirely governed by a Prebendary as Ordinary.

A 'Peculiar' is a church and parish which was exempt from the jurisdiction of the Bishop and Archdeacon of the diocese and archdeaconry in which it stood. In former times there were nearly 300 'Peculiar' in this country and they were of some importance, but modern Acts of Parliament have deprived them of almost all their jurisdiction.

St. Margaret's, Leicester, also still retains its 'select vestry'—one of the very few still remaining—and the present writer is vestry clerk to the governors, who are selected annually by the Justices at a special sitting for the purpose. At one time a former Leicester ringer—Lawrence Staines—held the position. My work in this connection consists in disbursing the income from many ancient charities, amounting to roughly £1,000 yearly, and also the care of the inmates of the former ancient 'Cock Muck Hill' Almshouses.

ERNEST MORRIS.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. MANY UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Preston on Saturday last. There were two sets of handbells available, one in the vestry and the other in the ringing chamber, and both were well used until 4 p.m., when service was held in one of the chapels. The service was conducted by the Rev. I. G. Jones, M.A., curate, and the address was given by the president of the association (the Rev. A. Scott, M.A.).

Tea followed in the schools, presided over by Mr. Scott, supported by the Rev. D. Railton, Rector of Liverpool, and the Rev. I. G. Jones.

At the business meeting which followed the president occupied the chair. There were about 50 ringers present, representing 20 towers and a few visitors.

The committee's report was read and showed that there were 78 hon. members, 337 non-resident members, and 956 ringing members. Only 334 had, however, paid their subscriptions. Of the unpaid 86 were three years in arrears, 68 two years. The death roll was 20. Among those were 10 life ringing members, including Mr. J. H. Banks, the leader of the Surprise band at Helmsore, who was also branch secretary for three years, vice-president two years, ringing secretary 18 years and a representative on the Central Council 15 years. There are over 60 members serving in the Forces.

The balance sheet showed a loss of £18, but as three branches had not sent in their returns in time, the loss was not quite as bad as appeared on the surface.

Two nominations were received for the office of vice-president, and Mr. J. Ridyard, Southport, was re-elected. Out of three names submitted for two auditors, Mr. F. R. Williams was elected for two years and Mr. A. Barnes for one year.

The choice of place for next year's annual meeting was left to the committee.

The election before a peal attempt of Mr. J. H. Crampion was confirmed.

The Rev. D. Railton feelingly spoke of the ban on ringing and suggested that a note be sent from the meeting suggesting that it be lifted for Sunday service ringing during daylight hours.

As no interest on the moneys in the bank was shown on the balance sheet, it was decided to transfer some of it to the Post Office account.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector of Preston (Canon Wallis), the Rev. I. G. Jones and the local ringers.

TWO GUILDS CO-OPERATING

ACTIVITIES OF BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT RINGERS.

A combined meeting of the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild and the Wimborne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held on Saturday in the garden of the Rev. C. A. Phillips' house at Bournemouth, proved to be very successful.

The ringers began to arrive shortly after 2.30, and the handbells were soon going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, etc., as well as to 'Crazy' Doubles. The Methods Committee need not get alarmed, as this latter is merely a Morris' 240, the new name being the idea of one of the participants after a rather rapid performance.

Cooling drinks were provided by Mr. Phillips and much appreciated by the company, who afterwards attended evensong at St. Peter's. The service was conducted by the Rev. Nevil Tucker, who gave the ringers a short address of encouragement.

During tea the party were cheered at the news that the annual meeting at Poole would take place, all being well, towards the end of November.

Mr. George Preston mentioned the question of subscriptions to the Winchester Guild, and it was decided to ask members to continue to pay them as usual.

The conversation that took place at the gathering revealed a determination to keep going, and one detected much disappointment at the decision made by the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild. The Exercise is very much alive in the district, and the co-operation between the two neighbouring Diocesan Guilds is doing much to keep it so. A weekly practice on handbells takes place at St. Peter's Hall and is well attended, much progress having been made. The combined meetings take place quarterly and are well attended by all ringers in the district from Ringwood and Christchurch to Poole.

The handbell ringers hope before long to record a performance or two. Attempts have been made, but have been so far unsuccessful.

BOCKING AND ITS DEANS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must apologise to your readers for missing the point Mr. Barnett brought up in his letter.

In some ways it is true that there are two Deans of Bocking, although in fact this is not really the case. A definition would be to state that there are two parsons, but only one Dean.

Under the patent of the deanery, if the Rector of Hadleigh resigns or dies, the Rector of Bocking ceases to be a Dean and loses all his rights and privileges as such, and the same thing applies to the Rector of Hadleigh if the Rector of Bocking dies or resigns, until a new Rector is elected.

Mr. Barnett is right in his statement that a Peculiar is outside the jurisdiction of the diocese.

RONALD SUCKLING.

11, Alice Cottages, Bocking Church Street, Braintree.

TRADITION.

ITS VALUE AND PITFALLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am supposed to have upset many old traditions, but I do not think I have done so really. As an historian, I am interested in traditions, and value them, if they are genuine and not baseless legends masquerading as traditions.

A genuine tradition is knowledge of some event, some custom, or some belief which has been handed down by word of mouth without a break from the time it happened. The spurious traditions are inventions of a much later date and usually have arisen in guesses, more or less plausible, by people to account for things they only partially understood. We may be sure that there is always some truth in a genuine tradition, and nearly always some distortion of truth. A spurious tradition may sometimes be true, but it has no historical value, apart from any contemporary corroboration.

The statement that the College Youths got their name because they rang at a church on College Hill is not a tradition of the society. It came from Parnell, a Sheffield man, through Shipway, a Cumberland Youth, and did not appear until nearly two hundred years after the event. It is contradicted by what we learn from contemporary sources.

The statement that the College Youths rang the first five thousand ever accomplished at St. Sepulchre's in 1690 is not a tradition. It is an historical statement, which has come down through the written word, not the oral, from almost contemporary times. It is inherently probable, and may be accepted as true.

Rather curiously the first of these has been widely accepted and the second almost universally rejected.

The rule which says that any member of the Cumberlands who joins the College Youths ceases to be a member (and vice versa) is not a tradition. It was a new rule passed about one hundred years ago, first (it would appear) by the Cumberlands, and afterwards adopted by the College Youths. But it was based on an old tradition of the whole Exercise. That tradition was that no man, anywhere, could, at the same time, be a member of two societies. Even to-day we expect a man to be loyal to one band, and in those days a society was a band. But the rule was much more stringent then, and if the tradition still survived I, as a Middlesex man, would be barred from both College Youths and Cumberlands, and London County Association as well.

The tradition had begun to be outworn when the disputed rule was passed, and was no doubt an attempt to maintain it.

The position of the St. James' Society has been very much misrepresented. It was not founded as a neutral ground on which the members of the two old societies could meet in friendly social intercourse; nor did it ever serve that end, though it suited some of the more energetic members, who wanted to ring peals together, to use it for the purpose of dodging the rule.

It is all right to rely on tradition, but let us be sure that it is tradition and tradition worth following. Not everything that has come down from the past is good. Some things were always bad and some have become outworn and useless. True progress means keeping contact with the past, but adapting it to the needs of the present.

Ealing.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

DEATH OF MR. HORACE WHITEHEAD.

WELL-KNOWN DOVER RINGER.

It is with regret we record the death of Mr. Horace Whitehead, of Dover, at the age of 55 years. He passed away at his residence on Sunday, September 21st, after an illness lasting nearly six months.

He commenced his ringing when a lad at Bredgar Church, Sittingbourne, and for a time was at Canterbury, where he rang at the Cathedral. Some 25 years ago he moved to Dover.

He served in the Royal Artillery in the last war and on returning he travelled Kent and Sussex for the Pearl Insurance Company and became well known to ringers in the two counties. He had taken part in many peals.

Ten years ago he was elected representative for the Canterbury District on the committee of the Kent Association.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Cemetery on Thursday, September 25th. There were many relatives and friends present at the graveside, and Messrs. H. J. Saunders, T. Robinson and C. Turner represented the bellringers. Among the many beautiful floral tributes was a wreath from the St. Mary's bellringers, Dover.

THE PEAL IN TAPESTRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the 'composer' (or should I say 'compositor'?) of the 'Peal in Tapestry' referred to in your issue of September 19th of 'The Ringing World', I am naturally gratified by the kind remarks made about it. At the same time, I would like to point out that my name is not Henderson!

I may add that I have worked diagrams of plain courses of more than one Surprise method, including London, Cambridge and Ipswich.

D. F. FERGUSON (lately of Repton).

Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

The Editor regrets that by a slip of the pen, Mr. Ferguson's name was wrongly given. This also answers the letter on the same subject from Mr. T. M. Roderick, of Newton, Porthcawl.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BRADFELD.

A district meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association took place on Saturday at Bradfield. Seventeen ringers attended from eight towers, viz., Great Bentley, Harwich, Mistley, Thorington, Manningtree, Ipswich and Dedham. Handbells were loaned by the Harwich and Mistley companies and were rung in the Scouts' Hall preceding the service in church. This was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. — Johnson). The service was choral, the robed choir being in attendance as well as quite a good muster of church folk who had been invited by the Vicar to attend to help with the singing. They thus had the privilege of hearing Grandsire Triples rung in Bradfield Church for the first time in history, both before and after the service.

The ringers afterwards returned to the hall for tea and the business meeting and, later, further ringing, which was kept going well after the black-out.

The business meeting was presided over by the District Master (Mr. G. Waterman), who was supported by the district secretary (Mr. L. Wright). A few moments' silence was observed for a departed brother in the person of Mr. G. Jennings, late of Tendring.

For the next meeting, which will be the annual meeting of the district, an invitation from the Vicar of St. Peter's, Colchester, was accepted with pleasure, and it was decided to hold it some time in January, it being left to the secretary to fix a date.

The present tea arrangements were discussed and it was agreed to continue on the same lines for the duration of the war, that is that everyone attending further meetings must bring their own eatables.

One or two members asked the reason why the names of the two life members from Mistley (Messrs. A. Fuller and W. Honeywood), who were elected at the annual general meeting, were not mentioned in 'The Ringing World' report of the meeting, and why the death of an honorary member from Harwich (Mr. Woodward) was not mentioned.

Mr. C. A. Ellis spoke strongly against such omissions and thought that those responsible for the report should exercise more care. These three gentlemen, he said, had been great supporters of the art for many years, and it was only right and fitting that their names should be recorded in the columns of their treasured weekly paper.

The District Secretary said he would see what he could do in the matter. Although this was not his work, it concerned his district.

This concluded the business, and the Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the meeting to take place in his parish, for the lovely service and the address he had given; also to the organist and blower and the members of the choir.

Later in the evening the Vicar returned to the hall, and, having replied to the vote of thanks, spent quite a while chatting with the members.

An outstanding example of loyalty to the cause was shown by a visiting ringer from Ipswich, who cycled 15 miles each way with only 24 hours' notice of the meeting. Best wishes were sent to Miss Frost, who is now serving in the A.T.S. 'somewhere in England.'

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The September meeting was held at Cawthorne. Members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Hoylandswaine, Sandal, Wath and the local company. The Parish Room was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening and good use was made of handbells.

The business meeting was held after tea, the Vicar (the Rev. F. Greenwood) presiding.

Three new members were elected, viz., B. Burkitt and E. Cooper, of Arksey, and J. Wardle, of Barnby Dun.

Mr. W. Moxon offered the best thanks of the members to the Vicar for the use of the room and for presiding, and said they appreciated the time he had spent with the ringers. He also thanked the local company for all the arrangements they had made.

The Vicar, in reply, welcomed the society once more and said he was pleased to know the work of the society was being carried on. He felt it was his duty as Vicar to attend these meetings.

Further handbell ringing followed, in which the Vicar took keen interest. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Little Bob Major and Plain and Double Bob Major Spliced.

It is hoped to arrange the next meeting at Monk Bretton on October 11th.

THE ANALYSIS AND ITS HISTORY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope has been giving us the interesting story of the Analysis in your last three numbers, and Mr. George Williams writes on the same subject in your current issue. In the opening paragraph of the first article (page 424, September 5th) Mr. Trollope is made to say, 'It was started as far back as the year 1896.' I think the date is a misprint and should have been 1886. This squares with the rest of his contribution, as Mr. Trollope mentions the tables for 1886 onwards, and this is endorsed by Mr. Williams this week.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON TO BE HELD.

At the meeting at the Whitechapel Foundry on Saturday last the attendance was well maintained, and the Master had the pleasure of welcoming several well-known ringers from the provinces, viz., Messrs. J. W. Jones (Newport), A. Prince (Bath), J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), P. Cross (Bowden, Cheshire) and J. Thomas (Edmonton).

Five new members were elected, viz., Mr. A. B. Wiffen, of Stamford Brook, London, Mr. A. W. Heath, of Cardiff, and the three sons of Mr. James Bullock. The election of the last three was rather unique owing to their youth, James being 17, Thomas 14 and Leonard 12 years of age. James and Thomas, together with their father, rang an excellent touch of 360 Bob Minor and also took part in two courses of Bob Major.

A well-preserved copy of the 'Clavis' was presented by Major J. H. B. Hesse to the society to replace that lost in the fire at the Coffee Pot. A vote of thanks was accorded to Major Hesse for his generous gift.

Mr. R. Stannard stated that he had the good luck to call on Mr. R. H. Brundle, of Ipswich, on the eve of his 90th birthday and had conveyed to Mr. Brundle the good wishes of the members.

Mr. E. A. Young formally moved that a luncheon be held to commemorate the 304th anniversary on Saturday, November 8th, and the treasurer offered to make preliminary enquiries.

The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Albert Durant, whose death occurred recently.

A nomination for membership and further handbell ringing brought another happy meeting to an end.

WELL-KNOWN RINGERS MARRIED.

Q.M.S. HAROLD ROGERS AND MISS OLIVE ASHBROOK.

At Halesworth, Suffolk, on Saturday evening, to celebrate the wedding of Armt. Q.M.S. Harold Rogers, R.A.O.C., of Chediston, Halesworth, and Miss Olive Ashbrook, of Isleworth, both well-known ringers in London and Halesworth, and also as a welcome home to Sergt. J. Jennings, R.A.S.C., a member of the local company, the Halesworth ringers rang on handbells many courses and short touches of Bob Major and Triples, also Whittington's, Queens, Tittums and rounds on the 12 bells. The following took part: Mrs. Melville Hocken, Sergt. J. Jennings, Messrs. F. C. Lambert (conductor), A. Foster, W. Barber, J. Jolly and W. Kemp.

A plain course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells as the bride entered the church, and Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' was played on the organ as the bridal couple left.

The band all join in wishing the newly-married couple a long and happy wedded life. Miss Ashbrook is acting secretary of the London County Association and is tower secretary at Isleworth, of which tower Q.M.S. Rogers is also a member.

PUDSEY SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your contributor is not quite accurate in saying that Pudsey 'has the same capacity for producing peals as Yorkshire, and compositions with the tenors together will apply to both alike.' Actually any such peal of Pudsey will not necessarily go to Yorkshire, and an example of this, a composition of the writer's, was published in 'The Ringing World' of August 25th, 1939.

About seven years ago, as far as my knowledge permitted, I examined Pudsey with a view to composing the extent with the tenors together, which, speaking from memory, is, I believe, 10,336, and though I never obtained such a peal (Mr. A. G. Driver afterwards pointed out how one could be obtained from the Rev. H. L. James' extent of Cambridge Royal), I nevertheless put together several long lengths, of which the following is an example.

E. A. BARNETT.

9,600 PUDSEY SURPRISE.

23456 B M W H

43526 2 —

32465 —

26354 —

65243 —

65432 —

65324 —

52643 —

24536 —

43265 —

36452 3

36524 —

35264 —

25463 —

56234 —

23564 —

Twice repeated.

The exact wording of our article was: 'for ordinary purposes Pudsey has the same capacity for producing peals as Yorkshire.' The reference was to peals in full natural courses and the intention (badly expressed) was to exclude compositions like Mr. Barnett's.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DIVISION DECEMBER MEETING CANCELLED.

Members of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association met on Saturday week at Hebden Bridge and walked up to Heptonstall. Those who were not acquainted with the district had an agreeable surprise and could well understand why it is called the 'Yorkshire Switzerland.' Fortunately the weather was fine and not too warm, for the ascent is extremely steep in parts. As the official guide failed to turn up, the party were fortunate in having amongst their number ringers from nearby towers. Though at times there appeared to be a doubt about the best way, everyone arrived quite safely. Some thought that the vice-president, and other members who were built more for comfort than speed, might be lost on the way, but they turned up perhaps fresher than some of the younger ones.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar, the Rev. A. T. Wellesley-Greaves, was moved by Mr. J. F. Harvey and seconded by Mr. L. W. G. Morris, who spoke of the great hospitality which they always enjoyed at Heptonstall. Although the Vicarage was very near to the bells, the Vicar never refused permission for the bells to be rung.

The Vicar, replying, said that he was always pleased to welcome ringers, as he always felt that the bells were there to be rung, and a nice peal of bells could only be for the good of the Church. He felt that the ban on ringing was sheer nonsense and a great mistake. He valued the efforts of the association to carry on in spite of difficulties, he would always welcome ringers who are carrying on the work of the Church and he hoped that the association would come again in happier times and help them to obtain new interest and new ringers.

Miss L. K. Bowling was elected to fill the vacancy on the district



HEPSTONSTALL'S TWO CHURCH TOWERS.

All were ready for tea and were able to do full justice to a spread which would have delighted our eyes in times of peace. One can only wonder at the kind of a table which would be in evidence if times were normal. The church commands an excellent view of the whole valley, and it was a pity that the bells, which are reputed to be among the finest in the county, could not be enjoyed.

At the business meeting in the Church Schools, the chairman (Mr. P. J. Johnson) referred to the great loss the society had sustained by the death of Mr. F. W. Dixon, of Guiseley, and paid tribute to the work he had done for the association. An outstanding ringer, a very able conductor and above all a man of sterling character, his place would be very hard to fill.

It was decided that in view of the difficult travelling conditions in December the next meeting should be left until March. This would be the annual meeting of the district, and it is hoped that a joint meeting will be held with the Leeds and District Society at Christ Church, Upper Armley, Leeds.

committee, and Mr. W. H. Senior was elected to a seat on the General Committee of the association. After a course on the handbells, the party visited one of the beauty spots and then returned to Hebden Bridge via the 'Bank.' During the day members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Halifax, Headingley (St. Michael's), Shipley and Sowerby, as well as very welcome friends from Cross Stone and Todmorden.

It was at Heptonstall on Easter Monday, April 18th, 1927, that a record peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung by well-known members of the Lancashire Association. The previous Treble Bob record had been made in 1923, when 17,230 of Kent was rung at Over, Cheshire. The Heptonstall peal was 17,824 and occupied 10 hours 51 minutes, as against the ten hours at Over, the tenor at Heptonstall being 4 cwt. heavier at 18 cwt. 1 qr. The peal was rung by Ernest Cutsforth, Thomas B. Worsley (the composer), Peter Laffin, Joseph Leatherbarrow, Edward Jenkins (conductor), Titus Barlow, Gabriel Lindoff and Arthur E. Pegler.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MONTHLY MEETINGS TO CONTINUE.

The Leeds and District Society's September meeting was held on Saturday last at St. Chad's, Headingley. Handbells were rung from soon after 3 p.m. until 4.30 p.m., when tea was partaken of at a nearby cafe, by the kind invitation of Canon C. C. Marshall.

Afterwards the business meeting was held in the Parish Room. The president (Mr. J. F. Harvey) occupied the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley and the local company.

A vote of thanks to Canon Marshall for so generously paying for tea and for the use of the room, also to the local company for the other arrangements was carried on the motion of Mr. L. W. G. Morris, seconded by Mr. Sam Helliwell.—Canon Marshall acknowledged the vote of thanks.

A short discussion on the question of continuing to hold the meetings was quickly disposed of, and the unanimous answer was 'We shall carry on.'

The next meeting is due to be held at Shipley, and although the society has made one visit this year, it was agreed that, if arrangements can be completed, the next meeting shall be held there, to enable the members to 'have a go' on the clapperless bells.

Further handbell ringing was afterwards enjoyed.

ARTHUR T. KING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope's account of Mr. King recalls an occasion when a few of us were together and he related an incident which had happened a few days before which is worth repeating.

He was, as Mr. Trollope says, a great churchman, and many of the leading clergy had been at Winchester with him. He was walking along with one of these, who was a suffragan bishop, when Harry Flanders came along.

Harry was a rough diamond. He was a typical Cockney and a carman. He drove a van which collected grease and offal for a firm of soap manufacturers where he was employed, and Harry's van could be smelt for miles.

When he saw Mr. King he pulled up his horses and called down from his seat, as only a Cockney can, 'Wotcher, Mr. King. How are yer?' He got down, they talked for a few minutes, and each went their respective ways.

These were not the democratic days we now live in, and when Mr. King rejoined his friend he was asked, 'One of your friends, King?' Mr. King told us he did not like the tone of the question, and replied, 'Yes, that is one of my dearest friends, and I think as much, if not more, of him as I do of you.'

E. B.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

VARIATION.

When we talk about two things being variations of each other, we assume that, on the one hand, there are some definite features which are common to both, and, on the other, there are some definite features which are peculiar and individual to each; and the larger the proportion of the common features the closer we say the variation is. It follows, therefore, that variation is an indefinite thing, a matter of more or less, and so long as there is some common feature, no line can be drawn between what is a variation and what is not.

That is how we use the word in ordinary speech; but in change ringing there has been for many years a tendency to use it in a much more restricted sense. One of the ambitions of ringers was to be known as composers, and to produce peals which they could claim as their very own. It was necessary that these should be 'original' and that the composer should get the credit of having produced something which was quite independent of anything other people had done. Naturally, therefore, men shut their eyes to the features which were common to peals or methods, and stressed the features which were individual and peculiar. This was the easier because composers deliberately neglected to investigate the general mathematical laws which control change ringing, and concentrated on solving particular problems.

When we turn to the correspondence columns of 'The Bell News' of forty or fifty years ago, we find many controversies between men who argued whether such-and-such a peal was or was not a variation of another, but the point at issue was always whether the 'rights' of one of the contestants had been infringed. In order to decide such controversies many attempts were made to define straitly what is a variation and what is not. In his 'Treatise on Treble Bob' (1878) Jasper Snowden finally convinced the Exercise that reversal and transposition do not affect the essential nature of a composition and no 'originality' belongs to any peal so produced. In 1898 the Central Council issued a pronouncement which attempted to settle the question on broad lines.

Consciously or unconsciously, these were all attempts to safeguard the 'rights' of composers, and to say how far a man might go when he put his name to a peal. The things which differentiated peals were the important ones, not the things which linked them; and, to be fair to the composers of the time, we must remember that they did almost always try to produce their peals independently of what others had done. They felt it was not playing the game to take another man's work and deliberately use it for their own purposes.

During the last quarter of a century a great change has taken place, or rather is taking place, in the views of composers. The more advanced of the younger men no longer look on peals as isolated independent things; and they are much more inclined to study and understand the general laws of composition, and the ways in which peals are related. For them originality no longer means what it did to their predecessors. In peal composition the change of opinion is, so far, only partial; but in method building it is almost complete, and it is not possible now for a man to look on a method, even a new method, as something he has himself made and which is his.

Opinions once widely and strongly held naturally die slowly, and here and there among older men there is still the feeling that the methods they worked out are theirs, and just as John Carter resolutely refused to admit the connection between Darlaston Triples and College Single Minor, so they refuse to see any relationship between their methods and others. A not unnatural attitude, but of no interest to outsiders.

A correspondent recently told us that in saying that Brighton Surprise is more or less a variation of New Cumberland we had made 'one more big blunder'; and in saying that Cambridge, Yorkshire and Pudsey are variations of each other we were pretending that 'something is what it is not.' There are (so we were informed) some mysterious things called Round Blocks and Transpositions (things 'evidently beyond our mental capacity') which conclusively proved our critic's case. We are not greatly disturbed, for since by the same 'proof' Oxford and Kent Treble Bob would appear to have nothing to do with each other, we are inclined to suspect that 'Round Blocks and Transpositions' are largely tosh, especially as they further "prove" that two peals which contain the same Q Sets, the same course ends, and the same lead ends are not the same composition.

What concerns us for our present purpose is not the differences in methods, but the things they have in common; for if we study and understand the inter-relations between methods we shall not only know a good deal more about the science of change ringing, but we shall be greatly assisted in our actual practice in the belfry.

At one time it used to be the custom to treat every method as a separate thing for the purposes of ringing, and to learn its rules without any reference to those of any other method. No doubt it often is so still, but the great development of method ringing in recent years has shown many men that it is very helpful to consider methods as variations of each other and to adapt the rules of one to another. If the development is to continue still further and to become more general it will be largely because of a wider understanding of the relationship between methods. How this can be done we have given several indications in these articles and most recently in the cases of Cambridge, Yorkshire, and Pudsey. A study of variation cannot fail to be of practical value.

While we should recognise that variation is a somewhat vague thing—a question of more or less—we ought not to ignore the attempts made from time to time to define strictly some forms of it, so long as we avoid the mistake of thinking that these strictly defined forms are all the variation there is.

That has been the tendency in the past. The opinion was that a method exists on various numbers of bells, and in three distinct forms—single, reverse and double. All these variations must be called by the same name, and when it is settled according to rule what are the correct reverse and double variations of a method, and its proper extension to the higher numbers, the whole system has been worked out, and anything beyond is not a variation.

Shipway was mainly responsible for this opinion. In many ways he was in advance of his time, and he did good by thus pointing out the relationship between

(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.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Quarterly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Silent practice on tower bells from 3.30 to 4.30; short service 4.30; tea 5.15. Business meeting and handbell ringing to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at the Carlton Cafe at 4.45 (free).—T. Saunders, Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Tunstall on Saturday, October 4th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Short service at 5 p.m.—Andrew Thompson, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — A special general meeting will be held at St. Margaret's, Leicester, on Saturday, October 4th, in conjunction with local meeting. All committee members who can are urgently requested to attend. Financial matters will be discussed. Meet in Church Vestry 4 p.m.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Leicester on October 4th. Ringing at St. Margaret's. Bells (silent) from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. Tea (2s. 6d.) and meeting at George Hotel (near Clock Tower) 5.15 p.m. Social evening and entertainment at the George Hotel, 7 to 9 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, on Saturday, October 11th, at 3 p.m. A luncheon to commemorate the 304th anniversary will be held on Saturday, November 8th. Further details will be given at a later date.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

methods. Leading men of the last generation, notably Law James, adopted his views, and they find a place in the Methods Report of 1904. The drawback was that other and equally important variations were ignored. On the whole, perhaps, it would have been better if Single and Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Double Norwich Royal and Maximus had all been given different names.

One practical advantage of knowing the strictly defined variations of a method is that it enables us to refer to them without having to give them in full. This is a great advantage in a printed text book where space is limited, and it has been used in the new Surprise Major collection. In the book 150 methods are set out in full, and a considerable number more are clearly indicated by saying that such-and-such methods can be varied in such-and-such ways.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Braintree on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available from 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. It is essential that all intending to be present should notify me not later than Wednesday, October 8th. Please come and make this meeting a real success. A good bus service from all parts.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilminster on October 11th. Handbells and tower bells (silent) available from 3.15. Owing to rationing difficulties the usual tea cannot be arranged. Bring your own food; a cup of tea will be provided for those who send names to D. G. Taylor, Braeside, Ilminster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next silent ringing meeting will be at Barwell on Saturday, October 11th. Bells 4.30-7.30. No tea. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available Church Hall at 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m. for all who notify me not later than Wednesday, October 8th. All will be welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The autumn meeting of this district will be held at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service at 3.30. Tea at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. in tower. Special business, so may we have a good attendance? Derby district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) only for those who send their names to Mr. T. Groombridge, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst, not later than Tuesday, October 21st. Business includes election of officers.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 1941.

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THE VALUE OF TEXT BOOKS.

Our article last week has brought to light an excellent example of what can be done in a home ringing circle. Elsewhere we give some details that have been sent to us of the achievement of a youthful band formed at Sundridge, Kent, by the daughter of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson, who, during his lifetime, was one of the leading ringers among the clergy. Miss Brenda Richardson and her sisters had made some progress in ringing before their father's lamented death, and their interest, thus stimulated, has now resulted in putting in some excellent spadework among their youthful neighbours. This report bears out what we said last week about the possibilities of awaking a wider interest in our art. Moreover, what can be done among young people can also be done among older men and women, and there are, we believe, gratifying prospects for the future of ringing in those places where home circles can be started.

In this connection, too, we would recommend those who start such little companies to give some thought to employing text books to help them and to give their pupils something to study in their spare time when they are not actually practising with the handbells. There are several elementary treatises in which beginners can take an intelligent interest and which can be relied upon to add to their store of learning. For instance, there are the publications of the Snowdon series which have been the standard text books of instruction now for two generations. 'Rope-sight' has been the 'vade mecum' of thousands of ringers. The greatness of the service which this book has rendered to the promotion of change ringing will never be known and its usefulness is as great now as it was when first written by Jasper Snowdon more than sixty years ago. Elementary change ringing has never been better explained than in this volume, and it is always safe to turn a would-be ringer loose among its pages. Snowdon had an extraordinary gift of exposition and 'Rope-sight' is something of a classic among books of instruction. This volume at least should be in every beginner's possession.

There are other books which can be confidently recommended as 'instructors' for those just setting out to explore the art of ringing. 'The Ringers' Handbook' (by E. S. and M. Powell) is one of these. It covers a wider field than 'Rope-sight,' and deals most admirably with the four 'standard' methods. It is not to be expected, of course, that as purely a beginner the young, or even the not-so-young, ringer will require at first to know how to ring more than one method, but there may well come a time, not too long delayed, when curiosity will prompt him to turn over the pages to discover

(Continued on page 482.)

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'what comes next.' At this stage interest is definitely established, drudgery, if any there has been, is forgotten, and the new ringer is well on the way to that stage from which, given encouragement, there will be no going back. That is one of the advantages of using a book which goes beyond a single method, and, as it were, opens the next door.

Here we can go back to the Snowdon series and point to the value of 'Standard Methods' as a text book for this purpose when once the beginner has some mastery of the common language of ringing. Another of the great advantages of 'Standard Methods' is that it introduces by its diagrams a different way of learning to ring changes, a way in which advanced ringers all eventually digest the most complicated methods. With these three books, supplemented perhaps, by Roe and Broome's pamphlet on 'Grandsire Doubles and Triples,' the beginner has in his possession a series that will take him far into the realms of change ringing. But if these home circles are to be successful, 'book' learning, indispensable as it is, is not in itself sufficient. The 'instructor' must be ready to 'instruct' and to give help and encouragement. It is the personal element in the teaching that counts. Nothing educates so much as the direct question and answer, but the beginner can enlarge his knowledge and expand his questions if he takes the opportunity which the ringing text books offer of furthering his studies.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—If Mr. Armstrong will read my letter again he will not find anything which can be described as destructive criticism, but will discover that it can be conveniently divided into three parts: (1) A review of things as they are; (2) a practical position; (3) a warning.

It is significant that Mr. Armstrong did not (or could not) deny the substantial truth of part one, gave qualified approval to part two, and entirely ignored part three. His notes on the activities of the Sussex County Association are very interesting, but hardly relevant, since my letter was intended for those associations who do not hold meetings. From the tone of his letter one must assume that they were included to forestall any suggestion of the 'cap fitting.'

The rest of his letter, to quote another Brighton correspondent, is 'twaddle.'

ERIC B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park, Middlesex.

5,120 DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

By CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

23456 1 4 5 6

32654	—	—
36254	—	S

65234	—	—
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53264	—	—
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23465	—	—
34265	—	—

35248	—	—
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42536	—	—
25436	—	—
54236	—	—

43256	—	—
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32546	—	S
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Three times repeated, calling bobs for single in 2nd course of 2nd and 4th parts. This peal has the 6th 12 times wrong and 24 times right with 4.5.6 only in 6th's.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE.—The following notice is said to have been posted on the church door of a rural parish: This is to give notice that no person is to be buried in the churchyard but those living in the parish. Those who wish to be buried here are desired to apply to me.—J.B., Parish Clerk.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE ... 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | CADET A. J. BRYAN WAYMAN ... 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Umpire—C. T. Coles.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT 106, GAY GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

L. W. BULLOCK ... 1-2 | J. BULLOCK ... 3-4
T. H. BULLOCK ... 5-6

Conducted by J. BULLOCK.

Umpire—J. A. Bullock.

Rung as a birthday compliment to G. L. Newman.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Friday, October 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

IVOR C. N. BELL ... 1-2 | W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 5-6
JACK S. ROBERTS ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

Umpire—H. W. Bishop.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3-4 | WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

* First attempt for a peal on handbells. First peal of Major as conductor. A birthday compliment to the Rev. M. C. C. Melville and to the Rev. J. Shephard-Walwyn.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT 92, BUTCHER'S ROW,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*GEORGE W. MASSEY ... 1-2 | EDGAR R. RAPLEY ... 3-4
CECIL R. LONGHURST ... 5-6

Conducted by E. R. RAPLEY.

* First peal 'in hand.' The ringer of 1-2 was elected a member before starting for the peal.

AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY GUILD PEAL.

The peal of Grandsire Doubles by the Oxford University Society rung at Rochester on September 13th should be credited in the Analysis to the Oxford Diocesan Guild to which the other society is affiliated. The University Society is not at present affiliated to the Central Council.

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LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.**ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.**

(Continued from page 471.)

I don't think that the second half lead need be described in detail. In the Section BR 324 act reverse to 246 of Section B, changing forward C.O. 51324 at row 14R to backward C.O. 42361 at row 11R, at the same time moving the treble one step back in C.O. to correspond with the Bob Major lead head 15738264 at row 11R and increasing the C.S. on 78 of Section BR to a B.S. on 678 at Section AR, row 10R. In Section AR, 6, 7, 8 C.S. with the treble moving the treble three more steps backward and the B.S. on 678 completed at row 11R completely restores backward C.O. with the treble between 6 and 4 corresponding to the Bob Major lead head 16482735, finally the C.S. of 4 and treble at the lead end moves the treble still one more step back in C.O. and produces the first lead head 14263857.

Thus every single place of London Surprise plays its part in producing the first lead head of the method and each is part of the partial plained Q set of the lead. Sections A and B move the treble step by step to the 4th lead head of Bob Major 1867, etc. Section C moves the treble back to the first lead head 1352, etc. Sections BR and AR move the treble step by step to the 5th lead head 1648, etc., and 2nd's place at the lead end moves the treble one more step to 14263857. Strictly speaking, there are no Q sets of composition, but the Bob shunt on 357, the places of 578 in Section C and the B.S. on 876 are made up of three interlocking Bobbed Q sets on the five course bells 35786 somewhat similar to the two interlocking Bobbed Q sets on the four course bells 5324 in the Bob Major touch W. H. repeated, but not exactly so.

I hope I have been able to make this analysis of London Surprise Major clear, intelligible and interesting to some at least of those who read it. I know many will find it dry and condemn it as a waste of valuable space and energy. Those who are interested in composition will see why the false course ends affect Section A of one lead and Section AR of another lead and that similar relations couple Section B of one lead with Section BR of another lead. Now a problem for the student: Is London Surprise Major an extension of London Surprise Minor? You can solve it by trying to analyse the Minor as I have analysed the Major. If you decide they are the same, it will follow that London Royal and Maximus are impossible. Why this is so I cannot discuss now. If you decide they are not the same method you can attempt to extend London Major to Royal and Maximus.

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite fail to see what point there is in the remarks of your correspondent who calls himself 'Anti-Silent.' Whether bells and organs are luxuries or not depends on what people mean by luxuries, but any sensible person must agree that bells are not a necessity for church life, and big and costly organs are not a necessity either. Wherever it is possible to do it, bells and organs should, of course, be insured against enemy action, but anyone who knows anything about the finance of an average church knows that it is not usually possible, because there is not the money to do it; and after all there have not been many bells destroyed considering the number there are. The risk is worth taking.

If a parish is so unfortunate as to lose its bells, what must be done is to hope that after the war some generous person will come forward and find the money to replace them. There can be little doubt that in most cases it would be done. It would be just the sort of thing to appeal to the sympathy of the same class of people who found the money in the first instance. This is the view taken by the diocesan authorities in the Peterborough and other dioceses, and it is a thoroughly sensible view.

'Anti-Silent' quotes what a Northamptonshire clergyman wrote in his parish magazine. We can sympathise fully with that clergyman's feelings, but what he says is not very convincing. You can get all the musical accompaniment you need with far smaller and less costly organs than are usually found in churches, though everyone would prefer the luxury of the full instrument.

And the same with bells. We ringers naturally like peals of eight, or ten when we can get them, but for country churches three are sufficient for ordinary purposes, and for town churches one bell is sufficient or even none at all. By all means let us have luxuries when we can afford them, but they are luxuries and not necessities.

The Rev. A. A. Liney was altogether wrong when he talked about bells replacing trumpets. Trumpets were never used in the service of the Church. And he was wrong when he talked about organs 'ousting' the old scraped fiddle in the gallery. Organs were used in some churches long before the village orchestra, and what replaced the latter was the barrel organ turned by a handle and grinding out only half a dozen tunes. It was a pity the village orchestra did disappear. If it had survived it might have done much for music and church life in the country parishes, but the hand of the reformer was heavy. The old musicians and the old ringers were very much alike and many clergymen tried their best to get rid of all of them.

'Anti-Silent' keeps talking about organised opposition to church bells. There is no such organised opposition outside his fancy. Some people don't like church bells near them, and sometimes they have good reason; but there are not, I am sure, half a score of people in the country who have any intention of doing anything to stop or even curtail the general use of church bells.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 461.)

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Now that half a century has passed since the Central Council was founded it is almost inevitable that we should have to face the same question (but with a difference) as was asked fifty years ago. Then it was: What good will it do? Now it is: What good has it done?

No one can deny that in almost every way there has been improvement in the Exercise since 1891; improvement in the art of change ringing, in the condition of bells and belfries, in the status of ringers, and in their relationship with the Church and the clergy. Would that improvement have taken place in like measure had there been no Council? The question is impossible to answer, and probably is a futile one. The correct way is not to look on the Council as an independent body, but as representative of the whole Exercise, the keystone and apex of its organisation. And if that be so, then its real value lies not so much in what it has done as in its actual existence. It is, in fact, a visible sign and reminder that the Exercise is one; that ringers are joined together in a bond of fellowship and common interest, and that even more than with ordinary people is it true that none of us liveth or can live to himself.

All this may sound very much like a platitude, but if we study carefully the history of the Exercise we shall find that it has been kept alive by two main influences (apart from the fascination of change ringing as a sport). Both of these influences are social, but while one is exclusive the other is inclusive.

When ringing first began as a secular athletic sport in the sixteenth century the ringers (or at any rate those of the better class) formed themselves into companies not merely for the purpose of ringing, but as social clubs, and for a couple of centuries the social life was at least as important as the activity in the belfry.

These clubs in their organisation, their spirit, and their outlook were exactly similar to the many other clubs formed for various purposes which were a very marked and very important feature of the general social life of the times. One feature was common to all—they were small and they were exclusive. Inside the club there was (in theory at any rate) equality, and the members in turn and in proper order filled the various offices up to that of Master. Admission to the club was jealously guarded. Every member's loyalty was due to his own club, but did not (for the immediate purposes) extend beyond, or to other clubs; and in the case of ringers, did not entail any obligations to the Church or to any outside body.

That was the way in which the best of the Exercise was organised in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; and the leading societies of the time—in London the College Youths, the Esquire Youths, the London Scholars, and the rest; and in the provinces many more, such as the Union Society of Shrewsbury, the St. Stephen's Company of Bristol, the Hertford College Youths and others—kept alive and developed change ringing. Between the members of the various clubs there was little intercourse, and outside was perhaps the majority of ringers, lower in social status, lower in technical skill, and including not a few of those who in all ages earned for ringers a very bad name among ordinary people.

Such organisations served their purpose well enough in the eighteenth century, but in the nineteenth, following the industrial revolution and the Napoleonic wars, a great change came over the people of England. There were alterations in social conditions and one minor result of them was the disappearance of the ringing clubs. In some cases, notably the College Youths, the forms survived, but taking the country as a whole, the forces and influences which had created the Exercise and kept it alive had largely worked themselves out and become bankrupt. It is quite certain that change ringing as a sport was doomed unless some new vivifying influence could be found.

But where was it to come from? Not from the old societies or what was left of them. They had an important part to play, which was to maintain what had come down from the past; without them change ringing could hardly have survived, and if it had died out it would never have been revived. But left to themselves the societies could have done nothing to arrest the general decay. Salvation came from those few men who had the courage and the devotion which made the great territorial associations possible, from the work and books of men like Jasper Snowdon, from 'The Bell News' and 'Church Bells,' and from all those influences which gave ringers a common outlook and a sense of common interest. And of those influences the Central Council is the apex and the focus.

Some people may, perhaps, doubt whether change ringing was in such jeopardy as I have said. They will point to the steady succession of peals through the century, to the presence of skilled bands in London, Birmingham, Sheffield, and elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was a steady decline. Things move very slowly in the ringing Exercise, but they do move, and for many years during the mid-nineteenth century it was a move downwards. It was very fortunate that those years were years of peace and social stability, for change ringing would hardly have survived such a cataclysm as we have twice experienced during the last twenty-five years.

Since, then, the value of the Council consists largely in its being the focus of the forces that unite ringers, its social side cannot fail to be of the utmost importance. By the social side I do not mean merely the very pleasant outings and entertainments which for some years past have been provided by the associations whose cities and towns have been visited, though they have a far greater value than the pleasure they immediately give. I mean the opportunities that men from all parts of the country have of meeting together and enjoying each other's society on terms of equality for the time being.

Looking back over the fifty years it is very noticeable how great an advance has been made in this thing. It is not, of course, all due to the Council. Much is due to the changes in the general social life of the people at large, to the widening of education and the disappearance of class distinctions.

The boast is often made that in England there has never been the chasm between the great people and the common people that there was in most Continental countries. In the sense that Englishmen have never been divided into people who belonged to the nobility and those who did not, that is true; but it is also true that society here was divided into a considerable number of classes, each of which had its own class feeling and prejudices, and did not mix with those below it.

These class distinctions were reflected in the ringing Exercise. We cannot imagine the College Youths of the seventeenth century meeting or associating with ordinary ringers. Nor can we imagine the College Youths of the eighteenth century treating the average ringers as their equals. In the nineteenth century it so happened that ringers were, as a whole, of the lowest class socially. The men who started the reform movement and founded the territorial associations did not belong to the same class as the rank and file, nor to the class just above them. There was a clear break, which, with all the goodwill in the world, prevented full understanding and sympathy.

Fifty years ago the gap was not filled up. Ringers as a body belonged to the working class, and many of their leaders belonged to the university class. The lower middle class was not very well represented. In the peal records of 'The Bell News' we often come across a man's name with 'Esquire' tacked on to it—a significant sign of class distinction and snobbery.

To an older member of the Council, perhaps the most significant change which has taken place is the disappearance of class distinction. It would be wrong to say that it was obtrusive or objectionable in the old days, but it did exist, and it is all to the good that it exists no longer. The leading men to-day are no better, probably they are not so good, as the leading men of forty years ago, but the average members in education and intelligence show a distinct advance.

HANDBELLS BEFORE SERVICE.

At Thorington, Essex, on Sunday, September 21st, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, for matins, 720 Bob Minor: Alan R. Andrews (conductor) 1-2, William J. Nevard 3-4, George A. Andrews 5-6.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FUTURE MEETINGS IN SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT.

A pleasant and successful meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, September 27th, at Heston. A beautiful afternoon and a free aerobatic display by members of the Royal Air Force added to the enjoyment and interest of those present, even though the proceedings were at times practically washed out by ear-splitting roars as numbers of the above-mentioned gentlemen engaged in games of leapfrog over the Westrock Hall and nearby dwellings.

Twenty-one members and friends attended from Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Heston, Hillingdon (St. John's), Ruislip and Twickenham, welcome visitors being Messrs. W. G. Wilson (assistant secretary) and F. W. Garner, of Ealing, both arriving from their depots and looking very fit and smart in khaki. Ladies present included Miss I. Hastie, of Ealing, Miss Brenda Richardson from Sundridge, and Mrs. Kilby from Ruislip.

Two sets of handbells were available, and some good (and bad) ringing was accomplished in Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Plain and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Tea was presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. G. Craggs). Grace was preceded by a well-struck course of Grandsire Triples.

A short business meeting followed. The Vicar was welcomed by the vice-president (Mr. J. A. Trollope) and suitably responded.

A considerable discussion ensued on policy regarding future meetings. A kindly offer was made by the Vicar to the local company and any others who could join in to allow a weekly handbell practice at the Vicarage; and there was a suggestion by Mr. W. H. Coles for a meeting at Hayes, which he thought might be arranged.

Mr. J. Herbert was strongly of the opinion that meetings should be held.

In the end it was decided, in view of the coming dark evenings, to leave the matter in the hands of the secretary, who promised to co-operate if any definite suggestions should come forward.

The secretary (Mr. J. E. L. Cockey), after extending a special welcome to Mr. W. G. Wilson, made the usual appeal for the payment of subscriptions, and again urged tower secretaries to keep him posted with the latest information, especially in such matters as names of those serving in H.M. Forces and any other happenings.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the local company and especially to Mr. H. C. Chandler for the excellent arrangements made, and to Mrs. Pocock for a very enjoyable tea.

Further handbell ringing followed and an enjoyable meeting closed just before black-out.

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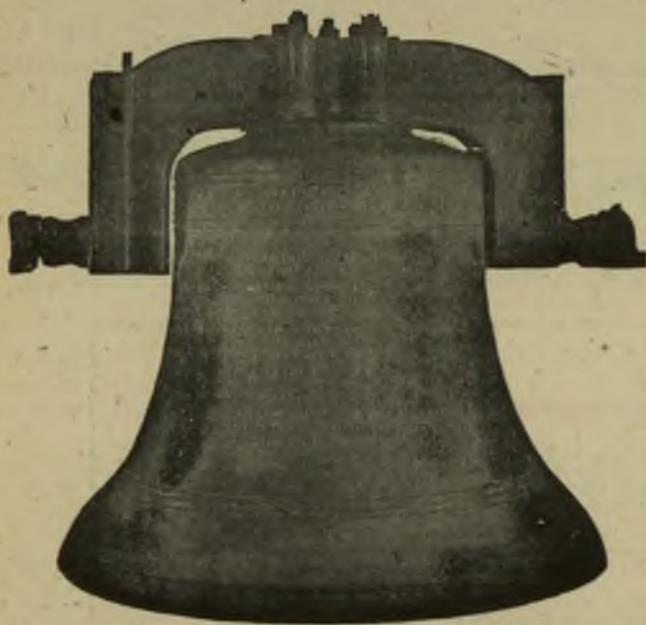
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The various text books referred to in our leading article this week will be found advertised on the back page of this issue.

The first peal of Stedman Cinques was rung by the College Youths at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on October 6th, 1788. The band included some of the most famous of the eighteenth century London ringers, among them being John Povey, Christopher Wells, John Inville, William Lyford, Samuel Lawrence and Thomas Blakemore. The composition is lost, but the number of changes, 6,204, show that it evidently was a peal of 5,076 Caters applied to eleven bells, and very likely one of those in the 'Clavis.' The board which records the performance is now in the crypt at St. Martin's.

William Booth, a leading Sheffield ringer and grandfather of Charles and Thomas Hattersley, died on October 6th, 1849.

On the same date in 1902 the first peal at Exeter Cathedral was rung. The bells were then a ring of ten and the method was Grand-sire Caters. Mr. George Williams conducted, Canon Coleridge rang the tenor with the help of a strapper, Mr. Richard T. Hibbert rang the ninth, and the band included Mr. A. W. Brighton, Mr. C. R. Lilley, Mr. W. W. Gifford, the Rev. F. E. Robinson and the Rev. H. A. Cockey.

The Australian tourists rang Bob Major in hand on the Indian Ocean, on Sunday, October 7th, 1934. It was Mr. George Martin's first handbell peal, and the first double-handed peal in the Southern Hemisphere.

Henry Hubbard, the author of a text book on change ringing which went through four editions, died on October 9th, 1881.

To-morrow is the thirty-first anniversary of the first clerical peal on ten bells. The method was Stedman Caters and it was rung at St. Mary's, Warwick. C. D. P. Davies was the conductor.

The Society of Cumberland Youths, with George Partrick as conductor, rang Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples at Shoreditch on October 12th, 1754. This is usually said to be the first performance of this celebrated composition, but it is more than doubtful if it were so.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, two Grandsire Caters, two Stedman Triples, and one each of Bob Triples, Darlaston Triples and Canterbury Major. The Darlaston was the first rung in the method, which was introduced by John Carter and consisted of the old College Single Minor with a bell in the hunt.

A SURFLEET RINGER'S DEATH.

GALLANT ACTION IN SYRIA.

Some weeks ago we reported the death of L.-Cpl. Ernest T. King, one of the band of ringers at Surfleet, Lincolnshire. We understand that he was serving in the same unit as Lawrence W. Dean, the son of Mr. Charles Dean, for so many years the secretary of the Surrey Association and member of the Central Council. Rifeman Dean was wounded at the same time, but is progressing favourably.

The action, we believe, was the one for which Acting Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Charles Tasker Keyes, son of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes, M.P., has been awarded the Military Cross, the storming of a strong fortified line on the River Litani, which the French had been ordered to defend 'to the last man and the last shell.'

The French had blown up the bridges across the swift-flowing river and the Imperial troops were held up by a withering fire. Col. Keyes, with men of his unit, crossed the river in a boat, and although suffering a number of casualties from mortar and machine-gun fire, held the position on the north bank.

Ernest King and Lawrence Dean had met and knew each other.

THE LONDON SOCIETIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr Trollope's letters are always interesting, but he has not advanced any reason to scrap the rule excluding from one of the old London societies any member who joins the other. At the present time it is not advisable to scrap anything which belongs to the past. It may be before this war is over we shall not have anything left but tradition. Everyone regrets the loss of the College Youths' possessions, because while you can rebuild you cannot replace. I agree that if it would improve ringing and friendship the rule might be cut out, but would it? College Youths and Cumberlands—all receive a hearty welcome at each other's meetings. We ring with each other, go to the dinner or luncheon, and I hope, if health and Hitler permits, to go this year and shall enjoy the friendliness of the College Youths' gathering.

I admit the College Youths have a strong draw with a young ambitious ringer with the possibility of St. Paul's for a peal, but by the look of the neighbourhood the authorities will have to be thoroughly satisfied before a peal is rung there again. May I say here that the finest gesture we have seen was when St. Paul's ringers gave up their peal attempt to the country ringers.

No one wishes modern societies to build their rules on the old style any more than modern buildings are built like the old, though they could improve on the outside of some modern ones. Those two old societies are the only ones to have that rule, so leave it alone.

A. H. PULLING.

Guildford.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION TO BE HELD.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, held on Saturday last at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, fully justified the proposal to attempt a meeting away from the Guild's headquarters, and, if possible, to arrange a tea. The attendance was good, 28 sitting down to a good tea, consisting of meat sandwiches, all kinds of cakes, and sugar. No one bothered to ask how it was done, but all thoroughly enjoyed it. It even did one good to see ringers gossiping in the church porch when they ought to be in their places in church for the service, which usually is a source of some little irritation to the secretary, and to the Ringing Master, who would rather have them in the ringing chamber.

The bells were rung silent before the service, Cambridge, Stedman and even rounds and the cross change being practised. The Vicar, Canon Blofeld, a vice-president of the Guild, conducted the short service, and in his address spoke on the subject of stimulants, remarking that we all hated the Germans like poison, and the more were killed the better we liked it. That was a stimulant in the war effort for more tanks and munitions of all kinds; all kinds of sport were a stimulant to keep up the morale of the people; alcohol was a stimulant at least for a time, but we all knew if taken in excess was very detrimental to health and wellbeing; and so if the peace we were all longing and hoping for was to be just and lasting, then it would have to be worked for and Christian principles applied to it.

After tea the secretary proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens, who had kindly provided the tea; to the ever jovial and obliging beadle, Sydney Freemantle, for having everything ready, and to his good wife and helpers for arranging and serving tea. This was seconded by Mr. Albert Walker and carried with acclamation.

The Vicar responded and in the course of his remarks stated that he now had one son in Iceland and another a prisoner of war in Germany. He was pleased to see the happy spirit and fellowship which had brought them together, although the bells could not be rung open. Whilst the silent ringing had been in progress he had walked round the church and had distinctly heard the sound of each bell (which would be the sound of the stay coming in contact with the slider), and if tears had not come into his eyes he had felt a decided gulp in his throat.

Mr. Vice-President A. Walker presided over the short business meeting. The secretary apologised for the absence from the meeting of Vice-President Councillor Paddon Smith, who, although present earlier in the afternoon, had to leave before the meeting owing to another engagement. He also announced an apology from Mr. W. C. Dowding, who sent best wishes to all his old friends. Two new life members were duly elected: Messrs. Bernard C. Ashford, of Stourbridge, and Walter Yeend, of Cheltenham.

It was proposed by Mr. Fred Price, seconded by Mr. F. W. Perrens and agreed 'That the Henry Johnson Commemoration be held on the first Saturday in March, 1942, on similar lines to that held in March last.' It was also agreed that the next meeting, being the annual, should be held at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms.

Mr. John Jaggar announced that he had recently visited Messrs. James George and Tom Miller and had found them very well. They sent kind regards to all their old friends of the Guild and would be pleased to see them whenever they could visit them.

The handbells were then brought out and several good touches were brought round, including a course of Stedman Cinques. Later a move was made to headquarters, where the visitors were further entertained.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

HANDBELL RINGING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY?

A meeting of the Chertsey District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Chertsey on September 20th, and commenced soon after 3 p.m. with the ringing of handbells under the tower. The methods were only Grandsire and Stedman, but a good amount of practice was put in until the service at 4.30 p.m., which was conducted by the Vicar, who afterwards accompanied the ringers to tea.

Previous to the service the Vicar inquired of Mr. J. B. Hessey, one of the local ringers and Ringing Master of the district, whether it would be possible to ring handbells at the church for matins on Christmas Day. If it is found possible to get a band together, this will be attempted.

The attendance at the meeting was good considering the fact that only handbells were possible and that handbell ringing is not much practised in the district. About twenty ringers put in an appearance during the afternoon, including visitors from Guildford, Slough and Haslemere. Another old friend also turned up and was welcomed in the person of Mr. W. Sheppard. He promised to make one for handbell ringing at Chertsey on Christmas Day.

The business meeting after tea was very brief. The hon. secretary (Mr. F. Hawthorne) was instructed to endeavour to hold a meeting at Chobham on November 1st.

Mr. Simmonds (Hersham) raised a question in connection with a statement made by the general hon. secretary, and the district secretary was instructed to look into the matter and report at next meeting.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and all who had by their presence made the meeting a success. Further handbell ringing took place in the Church Room afterwards.

SUSSEX PEAL COMPETITIONS.

A CHALLENGE BELL AND THE QUESTION OF PEAL POINTS.

By THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The history of the rise and decline of the competitions for the Challenge Bell of Sussex gives an interesting sidelight on a branch of ringing which once commanded an important place in the association activities, and influenced in no small measure the policy of the Central Council with regard to point scoring for the analysis.

The association was founded on January 24th, 1885, mainly on the instigation of Mr. George F. Attree, of Brighton, and a representative gathering of the county clergy whose churches possessed bells. At the time only some five or six towers in the county practised change ringing, and it was for the extension of the art and belfry reform that the first meeting was called.

In 1882 a new peal of eight had been erected at St. Peter's, Brighton, by Warner, replacing the three bells which had done duty for 50 years, and it was to this tower that Mr. Attree was attached. By 1885 the band was able to ring Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Single, Plain Bob and Stedman, being with Warnham about equally advanced in the art.

Two years after the foundation of the association a discussion took place to find some means of stimulating change ringing by competition, and the firm of Warner were approached on the subject of supplying the trophy. This eventually took the form of a model bell, and was presented to the band ringing the greatest number of peals in each year. For the first four years country towers won the bell by large numbers of peals in mainly plain methods, and, by the unrestricted use they were able to make of their bells, obtained an apparently unfair advantage over the town towers. In 1888, for instance, out of a total of 98 peals rung, Warnham scored no fewer than 33, followed by the Angmering branch with 20, and Brighton (two towers) 8. Obviously something had to be done in order to even out the chances or the town towers, which had to consider the population, and were, in general, practising the more difficult methods, might never come within reach of the trophy.

A TABLE OF POINTS.

•In April, 1889, at the annual general meeting a resolution was passed for the setting up of a sub-committee to make out a table of points values relative to the complexity of the method rung. As a result, in May of that year the sub-committee met in Brighton. It was composed as follows: F. Luxford, Arundel; C. Hills, Angmering; J. Gasson, Balcombe; J. Newnham, Crawley; W. Gibson, Cuckfield; H. Weston, St. Peter's, Brighton; J. Searle, St. Nicholas, Brighton; T. Hart, St. Mary's, Eastbourne; T. M. Smith, Christ Church, Eastbourne; H. Burstow, Horsham; G. Williams, Midhurst; G. Smart, Steyning; H. B. Chandler, Warnham; and F. W. Rice, Worth, the chair being taken by Mr. G. Williams.

In view of the results of the competition under the points valuation, the place of meeting and the composition of the sub-committee might well have been viewed with suspicion by those unacquainted with the facts. The sub-committee, however, was quite fairly representative of the peal ringing hands then in the county, and the place of the meeting an obvious one from the point of view of convenience. The railway services radiate from the town, and it is equally accessible from all directions. Whatever system that was decided upon for the allocation of points was an undoubted success in evening out the handicap of the town towers in one instance, for St. Peter's, Brighton, took the trophy for the next five years, with no near rival. In this respect the sub-committee had overlooked the advantages which St. Peter's possessed by scoring points for complexity of method. Mr. Attree was a churchwarden and a man of considerable standing in the town, so could use the bells when he liked with considerable latitude. Also, among his employees were most of the best change ringers in the town, and thus the band was not so independent as it otherwise might have been.

The competition continued on this footing until in 1898 there seemed to be no possibility of any other tower seriously challenging the position, and, no doubt a good deal of discontent growing up, St. Peter's offered not to compete the following year. In 1900 Heene (Worthing) secured the bell by a margin of two points, and the question of the bell not being held for two years in succession by the same band was settled by a resolution at the annual general meeting. From 1900 to 1908 the competition (if it may be so called) swung to and fro between St. Peter's and Heene, first one winning and disqualifying for the next year, and then the other.

In 1906 the Mayor of Brighton, presenting the bell at the luncheon on the occasion of the annual meeting, remarked that he wished that he could have the pleasure of presenting the bell to some other tower than St. Peter's and Heene. Whether as a result of this rather pointed remark or for some other reason, Heene announced in 1907 that although they would continue to ring peals, they would no longer compete for the bell, and the contests settled down once more to alternate years St. Peter's and another tower, usually Christ Church, Eastbourne. Heene, however, did again enter the competition, winning the bell in 1914, and then finally withdrew.

The war which followed this date did not help on the declining fortunes of the contest, and the trophy does not seem to have been revived until 1919, when it was won by Salehurst.

That the point system was at fault was at length recognised in the next year, when a resolution was carried restricting the points score (Continued on next page.)

A VILLAGE RINGING 'CIRCLE.'

GUILD OF YOUNG RINGERS AT SUNDRIDGE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here in Sundridge, Kent, a band of ringers has grown up despite the ban, and, strange to say, there has been more ringing in the village and more keenness shown recently than there ever was before the ban or even before the outbreak of war.

In February I started teaching several boys and girls to ring handbells, and we have now formed ourselves into the Sundridge Guild of Young Ringers. The members are Heather Chatfield (11 years), Peter Chatfield (13 years), John Finch (12 years), Joyce Mumford (14 years) and my three sisters, Dorothy (15 years), Christine (12 years) and Monica (15 years).

We are able to ring handbells every Sunday for about half an hour before the morning and evening services. Our tower is situated at the west end of the church so that the congregation pass under it as they enter the building. There is a small lancet window in the west wall of the ringing room, and opposite a low door opens up to a narrow ledge which is completely open to the church. Our handbells can, therefore, be heard both inside and outside the church, and although we do not ring any advanced methods, the ringing is very much appreciated.

Every week we hold a handbell meeting, practising Bob Minor, and recently we have tried Bob Major. We also ring rounds and call changes as practice for good striking.

We have taken out the clappers of the second and third bells, and all the band can now handle a tower bell. Under the existing circumstances they cannot go further than this, but being able to vary the handbell practices with the tower bells serves to maintain interest, and provides valuable ground work in preparation for the time when they will be able to learn change ringing on tower bells, which, I trust, will be very soon.

Any ringers who find themselves in the vicinity will be welcome at Beechcroft on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and on Fridays at Sundridge Church at the same time. We hope to continue these practices all through the winter.

BRENDA M. RICHARDSON.

DEATH OF MR. A. G. DRIVER.

We deeply regret to announce that Mr. A. G. Driver, of Belvedere, Kent, passed away very suddenly on September 29th and was buried on the following Thursday.

Mr. Driver was not a practical ringer, but he had a deep knowledge of the science and especially of some branches in which he specialised. Few, if any, knew as much as he did about the composition of Minor methods, both as extents of separate methods and as extents of many methods spliced together. He also made investigations into the composition of Surprise Major methods and Spliced Surprise Major peals. In the past he was a fairly frequent contributor to our columns.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A HINT TO MEMBERS IN ARREARS.

The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held jointly with the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association at Clent and was very well attended. The ringers made good use of the 'silent' tower bells, which were at the disposal of the members from 3 p.m., touches in various methods being rung as well as rounds for a few learners. Tea was served in the Parish Hall and afterwards a brief business meeting was held, over which Mr. C. H. Woodberry presided.

It was decided to include in this report a request that the secretaries of the towers which have not paid their subscriptions should get in touch with their members and see what they can do to get them sent to the hon. secretary.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Sedgley in December, subject to the usual permission being given. Failing Sedgley, Bilston was suggested as an alternative.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the ladies who so kindly prepared and served the excellent tea, also to Mr. W. Short for having the bells in such good going order and making all the arrangements for meetings and tea.

SUSSEX PEAL COMPETITIONS

(Continued from previous page.)

to one for any method. The reform was too late. Enthusiasm was not to be revived, and in 1921 the bell was won for the last time by St. Peter's. Two years later it was decided finally to end the contest and offer the bell to Brighton Museum, but unfortunately the museum was no more anxious to acquire it than the association was to hold it, so the relic remains, unhonoured and almost forgotten in the tower which won it so often.

Lastly, a word about the trophy may not be out of place. It has been described as 'a small model bell,' which is true so far as it goes. The bell itself is actually of quite massive proportions, some 13 inches diameter, mounted in a wood frame, with wheel, fittings and rope, with few pretensions to correct scale. The whole weighs probably half a hundredweight, and is calculated to prove more of a source of embarrassment than one of pride to any band confronted with this formidable piece of ironmongery and the problem of its transportation.

DARLASTON BOB TRIPLES.

THE JUBILEE OF A METHOD.

Fifty years ago to-day, namely, on Saturday, October 10th, 1891, John Carter called at Darlaston in Staffordshire the first peal in a seven-bell method, which he named Darlaston Bob Triples.

1234567	Bob
2143576	3564721
2415367	3657412
4251376	6375142
4523167	6731524
5432617	
5346271	7613542
3564721	7165324
3657412	
6375142	Single
6731524	3564721
7613254	3657412
7162345	6375142
1726354	6731524
1273645	7613524

A few peals have been rung since, here and there, but, apart from Grandsire and Stedman, Triples ringing has received little attention of late years, and even such good methods as Oxford Bob and Court Bob are seldom practised.

Darlaston is not so good as those are, but if ever there is a demand for simple seven bell methods it might serve a purpose.

It is not given in the 'Collection of Triples Methods,' published by the Central Council, for it has not got the correct Bob Major Lead Ends and is not, strictly speaking, a regular method. The defect, however, is not of any great consequence, since Bob Major Lead Ends have not the same value for seven-bell methods as they have for eight or even six-bell methods.

As given, the plain course is the old College Single Minor with a bell in the hunt.

As a composition there are several interesting things about the method. The single John Carter used, as shown above, can only be used with peals on the 3-lead-course plan similar to the Bob and Single peals of Grandsire. In those peals the real plain course is the B block, when the method is College Single Triples with a treble and six working bells. If the bob in that course is made by moving fifth's to third's at the lead end the method becomes Oxford Bob, with plain lead for bobbed lead and vice versa.

In peals of Darlaston other than those in the 3-lead-course plan it is necessary to have in-course singles in which the bells in 4-5 and 6-7 lie still.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ELECTION OF TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on Saturday and was attended by over 30 members from the following towers: Brasted, Leigh, East Peckham, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Shipbourne and Sundridge, with T. E. Sone, Paddock Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Housden from St. John's, Leytonstone.

A short service was held and a most interesting address was given by the Vicar, who extended a very hearty welcome to the ringers. He said he was going to call them 'the silent party,' but he could not do that after the way they had sung the last hymn.

A collection was taken after the service for the association's Benevolent Fund and amounted to 7s. 4d.

Tea was served at the Carlton Cafe, after which the business meeting was held. The Vicar, being unable to stay to the meeting, wished the Tonbridge District 'good luck' and said, 'Come again.'

Mr. W. Latter was then voted to the chair.

In connection with the election of the district officers, Mr. T. Saunders was asked if he would carry on as district secretary if he was elected. To this he agreed and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Medhurst and Mr. W. Batten were elected as district representatives on the committee and Mr. E. Ladd as Ringing Master.

Four new members were elected from Sundridge, which brings a fresh tower to the district and the association.

Tunbridge Wells was selected for the next meeting place, where eight 'silent' bells will be available.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Vicar for his most interesting address, to the organist, and to Mr. J. Medhurst for making all the arrangements.

During the afternoon and after the meeting some members enjoyed ringing touches on handbells.

CHURCH BELLS AND HUMAN LIFE.—We need not be surprised at the affection for bells and their music, for not only do they summon all—as well the denizens of the crowded city as the scattered inhabitants of the rural hamlet—to the House of Prayer; not only are they heralds of the Festivals of the Church's year with their joyous and heart-stirring music, but they are also connected with every marked epoch of human life; the birth in some instances, the marriage in more, the death in all, are marked by the joyous peal or the solemn toll of our church bells.—Thomas North.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS IN 1869.

A VISIT TO ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

Here is a further extract from the article in 'All the Year Round,' of which we have already given portions:—

We descend to the floor below, where we find ten ringers ready. A glance round from the conductor, who with his two assistants rings the tenor; 'go'; and they start. The tower rocks, the bells clash, tenor booms at appointed intervals. After some little time one gets used to the noise, which is not so great as might be expected, and begins to pick out the rhythm of the chime. The ringers all have an earnest fixed expression; attention is written on every face. Occasionally a slight wandering look betokens that the ringer is a little vague as to his place in the change, but he soon seems to pick it up and come right again. The work is severe, especially on the arms and muscles of the back, but it is done with an ease derived from long practice. The rope is pulled down at the sally, and falls to a loop on the floor; as it begins to fly up again the ringer checks it, the bell is balanced against a wooden stay that prevents its falling over, and the clapper falls; then he lets it run up, round goes the wheel above and with it the bell, and presently the bell's mouth comes up on the other side, and the clapper sounds again. It is a delicate operation, checking the bell on the poise; if done too late, the bell breaks away the restraining stay, the rope flies up and probably disappears through the hole in the ceiling, drawn up round the revolving wheel, and disgrace is the portion of that youth. Disgrace and pecuniary penalty for a fine is inflicted for a broken stay.

We are informed that a touch is being rung, and find on enquiry that anything short of a peal is called a touch. In a touch the changes are simply rung according to the recognised forms, and when the order of bells comes round to that of the first round, the touch stops. Comparatively few changes can be rung in this way, but there are many ways of introducing a fresh change, by which the ringers, instead of pursuing and completing the system in which they began, take up some other combination of bells. The signal for such a change is given by the conductor, who calls 'Bob' or 'Single' upon which the desired change is made and the touch lengthened. The conductor must necessarily have the whole science of change ringing at his fingers' ends, and must know exactly how to work his bells. Bobs or singles in the wrong place would upset the whole arrangement, and the bells would get so clubbed that they would probably never get round to their proper order again; and as no good ringer ever thinks of leaving off until that state of things occurs, it is difficult to imagine what would happen. A peal consists of not less than five thousand changes, though many more can be rung, and the arranger of a given combination is said to have composed or invented it. He may or may not conduct and call the changes; if he does not the conductor has to learn the peal, of course.

Until the time of one Fabian Stedman, who flourished as printer and bellringer at Cambridge about sixteen hundred and eighty, change ringing was in its infancy. Stedman greatly extended, and indeed revolutionised, the art, and his system, though far more complicated and intricate than the old method, is generally adopted by practised ringers. The old style is called the Grandsire method, whether from its antiquity or no does not appear, and is tolerably simple. On eight bells, under either system, the ordinary changes are five thousand and forty, but Stedman arrives at this result by much the more tortuous path. Although it is easy enough to see that the peal is made by altering at stated and understood intervals, the order in which the bells follow each other, and that these alterations are ruled by fixed laws, it is impossible to understand the scientific principles of change ringing without practical teaching and illustration—as impossible as it would be to attempt to explain in the same way the science of music. Enormous handbooks on the subject exist, it is true, but the endless rows of figure with which they are filled are, to the novice, bewildering in the extreme. Patient application and constant practice are the only means by which safe and steady change ringers are made. Besides the difficult task of learning to follow the windings of a peal, the technical terms are many and curious. We are told in explanation of some of them, that Doubles are rung on six bells, Triples on eight, Caters (or Caters—there seems to be some doubt about the spelling) on ten and Cinques on twelve.

The touch comes to an end. Two of the ringers leave their ropes and two novices take their places. Two older ringers stand behind them to prompt and keep them straight; but the conductor, who this time has left the weighty tenor and taken a bell easier to handle, has his work cut out for him, and may be heard occasionally admonishing the neophytes in gruff tones.

Half a dozen boys have found their way up into the tower, and gaze at the performers with eager eyes, probably looking forward to the happy days when they too will be ringers. The audience has also gradually increased by the advent of stray Collegians until the room is now pretty full.

We find that change ringing is not without its dangers. We are told of a man who the other day in a country church caught his foot in the loop made by the falling rope and was presently taken up by it and pitched across the room; we hear awful whispers of another victim who was caught by the neck and hung by his bell; but the date and place of this latter tragedy are not forthcoming. It is, however, a legend much in favour among frequenters of steeples, partly perhaps because of a wild statement with which it concludes

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DISS.

At the meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at Diss on Saturday, September 27th, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative, etc., were rung during the afternoon on the fine eight with clappers tied, while handbells were rung in the church.

The new Rector (the Rev. J. A. Appleton) and the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (general secretary of the association) shared the conducting of the service, the Rector preaching the sermon. A good tea, with lots of jam, followed at the Coffee Tavern, and afterwards the business meeting, presided over by the chairman of the South Norfolk Branch, Mr. W. L. Duffield. Owing to present conditions, this was looked on as both a general and a branch meeting, so the chairman had to splice two sets of agendas together, and the meeting had to hear two sets of minutes. Correspondence included an interesting letter from the late general secretary, Mr. Nolan Golden, now in the R.A.F.

The Rev. A. St. J. Heard, late Rector of Bergh Apton, could not be present, but Bergh Apton was nevertheless well represented. Other towers represented were Attleborough, Botisdale, Dickleburgh, Fornett, Garboldisham, Hitchin, Mulbarton, Norwich, Palgrave, Shelfanger, Long Stratton, Winfarthing and Wymondham, and, of course, Diss. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Norwich on Saturday, January 10th, 1942. The new Rector of Diss was elected an honorary member.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells and for giving the address at the service; to the organist, Mr. Marshall; to the verger, Mr. W. H. Harrison; to the branch secretary, Mr. Albert G. Harrison, for the energetic way in which he had tackled war-time difficulties to produce such a good meeting; and to the branch chairman, Mr. W. L. Duffield. Further ringing on tower and handbells brought a very successful and well-attended meeting to a close.

Handbell ringing is being done for service on Sundays at Diss, and has just been started for Sunday services at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, to which visitors are welcomed. Visitors are also welcomed at 52, The Close, by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, general secretary of the association.

PEALS IN THE OXFORD DIOCESE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am compiling, with the sponsorship of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, an inventory of the bells of the diocese, including an analysis of all peals known to have been rung in the various towers. May I, through your columns, make an appeal to the secretaries and officials of other guilds and associations to supply me, of their charity, with details of any peals rung in the counties of Oxon, Berks and Bucks by their respective associations? I need only the date, tower and method in each case.

When completed this inventory will contain details of all the rings of five bells and upwards in the three counties, in addition to a list of the peals rung on them, and after publication it will be available to anyone who wishes for a copy, at a reasonable price. Cheersley Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. C. ELLIOT WIGG.

THE LATE MR. L. GREEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Seeing in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World' a paragraph noting the death of Mr. L. Green, of Green Point, Cape Town, South Africa, I would like to state that it was through Mr. Green's endeavours that the only peal ever rung in South Africa was accomplished at Woodstock, Cape Town. Mr. Green came to live at Caversham in 1907 to give a delicate child a chance to grow up, and returned to South Africa in 1910 or 1911. During his stay at Caversham he rang about 30 peals, comprising Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major. These peals were rung for the St. Peter's Society, the Oxford Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths, he having become a member of the A.S.C.Y. before he left London for South Africa. He was a good striker and a good companion.

R. T. HIBBERT.

MR. ROBERT BRUNDLE'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On arriving home from a few days' holiday in the country, I found my 'Ringing World,' September 26th and October 3rd, with numerous letters and greetings from many brother ringers and friends from far and near with kind congratulations on my 90th birthday. Will they kindly accept this intimation for the present, as I hope to reply to all individually in the near future? Thanking all for their kindness and good wishes. R. H. BRUNDLE.

(Continued from previous column.)

that government claimed but without success the manslaughtering bell. Excoriated hands are very common and violent jerks and strains not unknown; but on the whole it seems safe enough.

The second touch being brought to a harmonious conclusion, the two smallest bells hitherto are brought into play, and a third and last touch is rung with great spirit. Then we file down the corkscrew stairs, not without an uncomfortable feeling that if we were to slip or stumble an avalanche of College Youths is behind certain to be precipitated on to our prostrate body.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

VARIATION.

The new book on Surprise Major Methods contains a short chapter on variation. A good deal of what is said in it we have referred to in these articles, but it may be well to give the chapter as it stands so that our readers may see, and (if they think fit) criticise, the line taken in the book.

No method (whether we consider it as a means of ringing church bells or as the mathematical production of rows) stands by itself alone; it is related to other methods in many ways. The Exercise has been slow to recognise this. A composer likes to think that the figures he has written down are original and his very own; and both when they are dealing with the composition of a method and at practice in the belfry ringers seldom realise that the problems of ringing are much the same in all methods. Shipway tried to reduce methods to a system. Every Plain method in his book has its odd and even bell variation, and each of them is subdivided into single, reverse, and double variations. Up to a point that was a good thing, but not altogether so, for it stabilised and limited the idea. Men did recognise that there were variations, but they assumed that anything outside the single reverse and double versions was not a variation. They admitted that Single Norwich Court was a variation of Double Norwich Court, but Double Oxford Bob they treated as an independent and original method. Yet, actually, both in its construction and in its practice, Double Oxford is an even closer variation of Double Norwich than Single Norwich is.

The Surprise Major Collection contains many methods which are variations of each other. As the ways in which they are related differ, the variations could not well be grouped together, and it has not been thought necessary or advisable to give the same name to methods which happen to be (say) the reverse of each other.

Many variations are not given because they can be got readily from the figures given in the book by more or less mechanical processes.

Every method has two variations; one with second's place at the lead end, the other with eighth's place. Some of these variations are of no practical value, for they either bring the bells round at the first lead end (e.g. Bristol with second's), or they have a bell lying still for more than two blows in one position (e.g. London with eighth's place). The actual rows are the same in both variations, but the lead-ends come in a different order. The liability to falseness is exactly the same, and the False Course Ends are the same, but the incidence of the falseness is different. Often one of the two variations is distinctly superior to the other, for one may produce excessive dodging and stagnation (cf. Norfolk and Imperial) or one may produce too little dodging (cf. Cambridge and Primrose). Sometimes there is little to choose.

Where the working bells are in the same coursing order at the half-lead-end as at the lead-end, the method has two variations; one with first's, the other with seventh's (cf. Bristol and Premier). The same is true in a few instances where the working bells are in a different coursing order at lead-end and half-lead-ends. The conditions and practical limitations stated in the last paragraph apply equally to these variations.

In many methods, sixth's place is made at the second cross-section and seventh's at the half-lead-end. When the same three bells are in 6-7-8 in the first instance and in 5-6-7 in the second, eighth's place may be substituted

for sixth's at the cross-section and fifth's for seventh's at the half-lead-end. Usually this improves the method by reducing excessive dodging in 7-8; but sometimes it results in a bell lying still for more than two blows behind, and it may remove the method from the Surprise class. The alteration has no effect on the False Course Ends, and the incidence of the falseness is the same. An example of this style of variation was given in 'The Ringing World' of April 18th last.

Wiltshire S.	Pembroke S.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 1 3 5 4 7 6 8	2 1 3 5 4 7 6 8
1 2 5 3 7 4 8 6	1 2 5 3 7 4 8 6
2 1 5 7 3 8 4 6	2 1 5 7 3 8 4 6
2 5 1 3 7 8 6 4	2 5 1 3 7 8 6 4
5 2 3 1 8 7 4 6	5 2 3 1 8 7 4 6
2 5 1 3 8 7 6 4	2 5 1 3 8 7 6 4
5 2 3 1 7 8 4 6	5 2 3 1 7 8 4 6
2 5 3 7 1 4 8 6	2 5 3 7 1 4 8 6
2 3 5 7 4 1 6 8	2 3 5 7 4 1 6 8
3 2 7 5 1 4 8 6	3 2 7 5 1 4 8 6
3 7 2 5 4 1 6 8	3 7 2 5 4 1 6 8
7 3 5 2 4 6 1 8	7 3 5 2 4 6 1 8
3 7 2 5 6 4 8 1	7 5 3 4 2 6 8 1
3 2 7 6 5 4 1 8	5 7 4 3 6 2 1 8
2 3 6 7 4 5 8 1	5 4 7 6 3 2 8 1
3 2 7 6 5 4 8 1	4 5 6 7 2 3 8 1
2 3 6 7 4 5 1 8	4 6 5 2 7 3 1 8
2 6 3 4 7 5 8 1	6 4 2 5 3 7 8 1
6 2 4 3 5 7 1 8	6 2 4 3 5 7 1 8
2 6 3 4 5 1 7 8	2 6 3 4 5 1 7 8
2 3 6 4 1 5 8 7	2 3 6 4 1 5 8 7
3 2 4 6 5 1 7 8	3 2 4 6 5 1 7 8
3 4 2 6 1 5 8 7	3 4 2 6 1 5 8 7
4 3 2 1 6 8 5 7	4 3 2 1 6 8 5 7
3 4 1 2 8 6 7 5	3 4 1 2 8 6 7 5
4 3 2 1 8 6 5 7	4 3 2 1 8 6 5 7
3 4 1 2 6 8 7 5	3 4 1 2 6 8 7 5
3 1 4 6 2 8 5 7	3 1 4 6 2 8 5 7
1 3 4 2 6 5 8 7	1 3 4 2 6 5 8 7
3 1 2 4 5 6 7 8	3 1 2 4 5 6 7 8
1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8	1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8
1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6	1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6

When seventh's place is made at the half-lead-end and backstroke first's and sixth's are made in the fourth section, handstroke first's and sixth's (twice) may be substituted for the latter giving sometimes a more difficult method. The lead ends, False Course Ends, and the incidence of the falseness are the same in both variations.

Yoxford and Londonthorpe (both of which have been rung to peals) are examples of this kind of variation, and we give another example. Wiltshire and Pembroke are both good methods with plenty of varied and difficult work. The bells always come up behind in the natural coursing order and the methods will produce reasonably good music, but the natural coursing order is not well maintained in the interior of the lead. There is but one False Course End B 24365 with the incidence at 4-3, 5-4, and 1-7. Cambridge can be varied in this manner.

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.**

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, White-chapel, on Saturday, October 11th, at 3 p.m. A luncheon to commemorate the 304th anniversary will be held on Saturday, November 8th. Further details will be given at a later date.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Braintree on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available from 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Please come and make this meeting a real success. A good bus service from all parts.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead, Essex.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be held at Ilminster on October 11th. Handbells and tower bells (silent) available from 3.15. Owing to rationing difficulties the usual tea cannot be arranged. Bring your own food; a cup of tea will be provided for those who send names to D. G. Taylor, Braeside, Ilminster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next silent ringing meeting will be at Barwell on Saturday, October 11th. Bells 4.30-7.30. No tea. Handbells, etc.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells available Church Hall at 3 p.m. All will be welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, Yorks.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The autumn meeting of this district will be held at St. Paul's, Burton, on Saturday, October 11th. Handbells in tower at 3 p.m. Service at 3.30. Tea at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. in tower. Special business, so may we have a good attendance? Derby district members especially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow, 4.15 p.m. St. John's also available.—A. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—All members and friends are invited to attend a ringing practice and meeting to be held at Friezland on

Saturday, Oct. 18th. Tower bells, with ringing apparatus, will be available from 3 p.m. Don't miss this treat. Bus or train to Greenfield Station. — Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Daventry, Saturday, Oct. 18th. Handbell ringing. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, Oct. 14th?—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry. Northants.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) only for those who send their names to Mr. T. Groombridge, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst, not later than Tuesday, October 21st. Business includes election of officers.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Ewell on Saturday, Oct. 25th, at which nominations for district officers for 1942 will be received. Full details next week. — G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

SITUATION VACANT.

SECOND GARDENER wanted, change ringer; cottage with electric light, etc.—E. C. Lambert, Church Cottages, Cosgrove, Bletchley, Bucks.

ROUND BLOCKS AND TRANSPOSITIONS.

OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the table of coursing order I sent you four months ago Kent Treble Bob Major was fourth from the top, Oxford Treble Bob Major was thirtieth from the top. From this fact you ought to have realised there was a big difference between the two methods, in spite of the fact that the constructional moves are almost but not quite identical, as there are ten moves in 'Kent,' but only eight in 'Oxford.'

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

To prove his contentions, Mr. Baker has sent us a great mass of figures. They are too voluminous to print.—Editor 'Ringing World.'

J. A.
TROLLOPE'S

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TWO LOSSES.

We record to-day a brief summary of the careers of two men who, we regret, have quite recently passed from among us—two men whose services to the Exercise have been on completely different lines, but to both of whom much is due. James Hunt was the practical ringer who, through a long life, devoted much of his time to instructing others, and furthering the improvement of rings of bells by advice born of a lengthy experience, not only in the belfry but in a bell foundry. A. G. Driver's services to ringing were in a different category. He had never become a practical ringer but had devoted his talents to composition, particularly in the difficult field of method splicing. Through every generation, the Exercise has had the benefit of the brains of clever men in solving some of its problems, or expanding its knowledge, but with the possible exception of W. H. Thompson, whose exploration of Grandsire Triples nearly sixty years ago finally proved that a peal of Triples could not be obtained without the use of singles, no non-ringer has contributed so much to the advancement as Mr. Driver.

Attracted by the mathematical field offered by our art, Mr. Driver not only worked on the production of Surprise methods and peals on eight bells, but turned his attention to the complex problem of splicing Minor methods into true extents, and it was largely due to his efforts that the present record of a hundred or more methods was brought within the limits of seven true 720's. He was painstaking in all he did, and at one time was helping first one band and then another to raise the number of methods rung. Through it all he had but restricted opportunities for this kind of work, for his employment kept him from home often during very late hours. Figures, however, became a fascination with him, as they have become with many others, but comparatively few have turned them to so much advantage. The fact that he was never a practical ringer made his interest in the mathematics of ringing all the more remarkable, but it took possession of him to such an extent that it became his one and only hobby, if we except his experiments in the production of a ringing machine.

James Hunt, as we have said, served the Exercise in a totally different direction; indeed he served it in many ways, not least of which had been his constant readiness to instil the art of ringing into beginners. In Guildford, London, and afterwards in Somerset, Mr. Hunt spent much of his spare time in teaching. Particularly in Somerset he rendered great service to the Diocesan Association by acting for over twenty years as

(Continued on page 494.)

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Ringling Master of Taunton Deanery Branch. His practical experience gained in a London bell foundry, as well as his knowledge won at the end of a bell rope, made him invaluable as an adviser on bell restorations, and in this capacity he served on the Advisory Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocese and the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council. There was something about James Hunt, which endeared him to all who knew him intimately. The Central Council meetings were the fresher for his genial presence and for his speeches. Not that everyone always agreed with all he said, but of the sincerity of the opinions which he expressed no one had the least doubt. He was a man without the slightest malice in thought or deed, and we have known him to be the first to congratulate an opponent who had beaten him on a vote after a debate. Men like James Hunt are the salt of the Exercise, they can ill be spared, but Time is inexorable; they pass across the stage and make their exits. We miss them and hope that the Fates will provide worthy successors—and yet wonder whence they are to come. Driver and Hunt, each has made a name which will always find a place in the history of ringing in the first half of the twentieth century. Each in his own sphere served the Exercise truly and well, and we mourn their deaths.

HANDBELL PEAL.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 35, ALBANY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES!

HERBERT A. HOLDEN ... 1-2 | GEORGE H. CROSS ... 5-6
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 3-4 | THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. ... 7-8

Composed by C. H. MARTIN. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

Arranged as a birthday compliment to T. Groombridge, sen., who celebrated his 74th two days previously, and received the congratulations and good wishes of the band for 'more to follow.' H. A. Holden's first attempt 'in hand.'

A QUARTER-PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a quarter-peal of Bob Major which may be of interest to some of the handbell bands now practising the method.

In constructing it I had simplicity rather than musical quality foremost in mind, but I think a glance will show it exhibits a little of both properties. There are five courses with 5.6 at home, one course in the tittums and the 2nd is only once above 4th's place at a course end.

I expect the figures have been obtained by others before now, but I should like to bring them to the notice of those who, like myself, are in the elementary stages of handbell ringing.

K. ARTHUR.

1,280

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3

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65243

62543

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45263

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM

BELLS AS LUXURIES.**RINGERS MUST BE PREPARED.***To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bunce has certainly made a point that bells are luxuries. Any sensible person will agree that they are not a necessity, or organs either, but why stop there when the same sensible person will also agree that churches, as we know them, are also a luxury.

Any doubt on this issue can soon be settled by a very brief run over the history of the Christian Church. Back kitchens, outhouses, barns or any shelter from the elements (and the eyes of would-be persecutors) served the purpose. It might also be found that the spirit of Christianity was then more virile than now, at least, no sensible person will fail to agree that the Church was *getting* a grip in those days despite highly organised opposition, whereas to-day, when Sunday opening of cinemas is under discussion, the big question is, 'Is the Church *losing* its grip?'

Now to carry our luxury argument a bit farther, we are agreed that bells are a luxury, so, I think we will also agree, are Pullman coaches and other modern railway innovations. The powers that be have taken these over for the duration, and while I am no business expert, I do think that I read at the time that railway shares jumped at the news.

It is just possible that this same attitude will be adopted to luxuries in the railway world, that the companies will be required to replace their luxuries themselves after they have been worn out or destroyed by enemy action, and that our usually astute investors have overlooked this point. Miss Eliza Doolittle alone can answer that question adequately.

I would, therefore, offer this point for consideration, whether bells are a luxury or not, they have been taken over (perhaps confiscated would be a better term) for 'the duration,' made a bona-fide military objective for enemy aircraft, all for the 'national good'! Therefore, the responsibility of restoration likewise lies with the nation at large and not with some impoverished parish that just happens to be unlucky.

One more word with Mr. Bunce if you can spare the space. 'There is no organised opposition outside his fancy.' I was always given to understand that it was the prerogative of the ostrich to bury his head in the sand. The history of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, may, of course, be excused on business grounds, but I have in the past known of deputations to the incumbent in country villages to stop peal ringing, and if a clique combine to stop peal ringing, what is this but organised opposition? This, however, is mild compared to the opposition one meets when a new peal is opened, especially in an expanding district where one meets a number of budding landowners on the basis of £30 down, balance as rent. I would like to ask an old colleague, I. Emery, if he remembers any incidents of St. Luke's, Bromley Common. Mr. Bunce would no doubt be enlightened could he be shown the local paper after the new bells were opened at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst (and these are a model job as far as outside interference is concerned). How is it that Dartford, which were noisy, enjoyed the monthly peal without any quibble up till about 10 years ago, yet now are restricted to mid-week peals, despite the fact that the locals doctored the louvres with real good effect, and no doubt others can multiply these instances by scores.

There is yet another aspect to consider. Bells are now in their second year of enforced silence, and when we do attempt to re-start is there no danger that these objectors, who have had their own sweet way for a period, will be any quieter than they were in pre-war days?

To sum up, all ringers have a duty, to keep the Exercise alive during these dark days, and to be prepared for a successful reopening when the boys return to the towers: therefore, do not ask, but demand, as any business concern would, that luxuries taken by the nation for the nation shall be replaced by the nation at large after the cessation of hostilities, and still further be prepared to meet the further hostilities of those who would rejoice to see the ban on ringing become a permanent institution.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Dear Sir,—Apart from the opinion as to bells (in peace time) being luxuries or not, the fact is that at the present time they are instruments of war under the jurisdiction of the Government for the sole use of the armed forces, the Home Guard. Our church bells were commandeered or forcibly loaned to the Government for the specific purpose of notifying the Home Guard in the event of air invasion. Being commandeered by the Government for use of the armed forces of the Crown as an alarm (not to the public, but the Home Guard) therefore they become a charge on the Government for upkeep, preservation and ultimate return in good condition to the Church authorities, or alternatively, if damaged or destroyed, should be replaced in equal condition as they were prior to being taken over, or adequate compensation should be paid to replace them by bells of equal weight, size and number as before.

This question of compensation also applies to church bell towers and frames with their fittings and other contents, as these are the structures in which these instruments, loaned temporarily to the Government, are fixed or housed.

FREDERICK E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

(Continued in next column.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**A VISIT TO MR. W. KEEBLE.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Braintree on Saturday last, when only a very disappointing number of members attended. The visitors included Mr. A. Everitt and Mr. J. Ward.

A service in church was conducted by the Rev. H. Brook, with Mr. T. T. Chapman at the organ. As so few members were present it was decided to dispense with the business meeting, and the company indulged in handbell ringing, while others enjoyed a social chat. It was decided to hold the next meeting (which will be the annual district meeting) at Bocking early in January.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen, Mr. R. Suckling and Miss H. G. Snowden went to Colchester last Sunday to see Mr. W. Keeble at Severalls, and took some handbells with them. By permission of the medical superintendent (Dr. A. Duncan), they were able to ring a 720 of Bob Major: R. Suckling 1-2, W. Keeble (conductor) 3-4, L. W. Wiffen 5-6, Miss H. G. Snowden 7-8.

Mr. Keeble at once settled into his stride in the way all know him and displayed great ability as a conductor. That 'grand old man,' Mr. W. Nevard, was there and took part in a course of Bob Major, and Mr. W. Burgess, who is also a patient, joined in the gathering.

HARRY FLANDERS.**WHAT HAPPENED TO A PEAL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in 'E. B.'s' account of the incident related by the late Mr. King of his meeting with the late Harry Flanders. I had the privilege of knowing both these gentlemen and rang many times with Harry Flanders when living in the South almost forty years ago.

I recall an occasion when I was privileged to take part in an attempt for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Greenwich which Harry was to conduct. He had not called a peal before. Included in the band were the late Isaac G. Shade and F. W. Thornton, and the composition was a well-known three-part, the figures of which several of the band knew. All went well for three hours and twenty minutes, and it looked as though success was a foregone conclusion. However, when we got to the two bobs W. in the last course three were called and made and the peal never came round. This was a big disappointment to Harry Flanders, and to my knowledge, although he rang a great many more peals, he never called one.

'E. B.' says Harry Flanders was a typical Cockney, with which description I agree. Whenever I hear Sid Walker on the wireless I always think of Harry Flanders.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

Liverpool.

THE LATE MR. H. J. TUCKER'S PEALS.

The following is a list of the late Mr. H. J. Tucker's peals: Kent T.B. Maximus 1, Stedman Cinques 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 7 (conducted 3), Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Plain Bob Royal 4 (1), Grandsire Caters 15 (14), Grandsire Triples 50 (36), Stedman Caters 15 (1), Stedman Triples 28, Grandsire Major (6,384) 1 (1), Oxford Bob Triples 6 (6), Darlaston Bob Triples 3 (3), Bob Major 18 (13), Kent Treble Bob Major 28 (14), Oxford Treble Bob Major 6 (3), Double Norwich Court 27 (4), Cambridge Surprise Major 10, New Cambridge Surprise 3, Superlative Surprise Major 27 (7), New Cumberland Surprise 2, Canterbury Pleasure Major 1 (1), Duffield Major 1, London Surprise Major 3, seven Surprise Minor methods 1, seven methods on six bells 1 (1), total 260 (conducted 108).

LUXURIES AND NECESSITIES.

(Continued from previous column.)

Dear Sir,—Some of your correspondents, and perhaps Mr. Bunce among them, seem to think you can divide all thing into necessities and luxuries, and what does not belong to one class must belong to the other. But that is not so. There are many things, perhaps most things which are not necessities, but which certainly are not luxuries. I could drink beer out of an empty salmon tin, and tea out of a jam jar. To that extent glasses and tea cups are not necessities, but I refuse to admit that they are luxuries. Empire tobacco can hardly be called a necessity, but I will go to the stake before I will admit that is a luxury—twice already I have had to leave off writing this letter to light the beastly stuff.

So with church bells. Quite a lot of churches and people manage to get through this world, and a few will even go to heaven without their aid: but for many more, and especially for ringers, they really are a part of their ordinary life to the extent that they do contribute something vital. Much more can this be said of the general life of the people and the Church than of the individual. We must not admit that church bells are luxuries even if we admit they are not bare necessities.

I call luxuries such things as Rolls-Royce motor-cars, champagne, Havana cigars, Spiced Surprise, deer forests, onions, and bread (crusty) and Cheddar cheese after a peal. I could do without all or any of these things, though no doubt it would be a privation.

F. H. SMITH.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 485.)

SOME EARLY ACTIVITIES.

When the early critics of the Central Council asked the question, What good will it do? they had for the most part in their minds (unconsciously, no doubt) the idea, What good will it do me and my band immediately, and in terms that I can understand and appreciate? For them 'good' meant things like more and easier peal ringing or better financial conditions. They did not understand or value the abstruse parts of the science of change ringing, and if they had been told that future generations of ringers would benefit by investigating and discussing such things they would probably have asked what future generations had done for them that they should bother about their good. It was quite natural, therefore, that these people should look with contempt on much of the work of the Council. As one of them sarcastically observed, 'What use are Bob Major lead-ends when a rope breaks in a peal attempt?' And another asked, in what he probably would have called trenchant language, 'Who but a fool would waste his time o'er the pedantic bores who make the annual meetings of the Central Council a dumping ground for their theoretical fads and an exhaust valve for their superfluous oratory?'

To-day we are reaping no little benefit from the 'theoretical fads' of those same 'pedantic bores,' or rather we were before the war put a temporary stop to practical ringing.

But it must not be supposed that, because theoretical questions formed an important part of the discussions in the early meetings that the Council did not interest itself in simpler matters, or try to devise means of improving the lot of the ordinary average ringers. For that neither the wish nor the effort was wanting. The difficulty was that people expected, or said they expected, the Council to do things which the Council could not do, and for which it was not founded.

One of the things it attempted to do was to persuade the railway companies to grant cheap travelling tickets to ringers. Every effort was made, but in the end more harm was done than good, for it led to the withdrawal of the privilege by the one or two companies which had already granted it.

In those days there were many railway companies in England, and each had its own regulations. Nearly all of them granted cheap tickets to any body or organisation which would guarantee a certain number of travellers, the usual stipulation being that at least eight should travel together.

The Kent County Association had got very good terms from the London, Chatham and Dover and the South-Eastern Companies, and the Sussex County Association from the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. A member of these associations who was going to a ringing meeting was given a return ticket for the price of a fare and a quarter if he presented a paper at the ticket office showing that he was a member and stating where he was going. Other companies, such as the Great Western and the Midland, refused to do more than allow the usual pleasure party tickets to eight people.

The matter was brought before the Council by Herbert A. Cockey at the Oxford meeting in 1893, and a committee, consisting of R. S. Storey, Joseph Griffin and Cockey, was appointed.

Next year, at London, Cockey reported that what was wanted had not yet been obtained, but the intention was to collect information as to the number of members of each association and the number of meetings, and put the whole before the authorities of the Railway Clearing House. It was intended to ask for return tickets at single fares to those who could produce their receipt and show that they were travelling in connection with the association to which they belonged. Fishing clubs were granted these privileges, and the committee saw no reason why the same should not be granted to ringers.

The railway companies, of course, looked at the matter from a purely business point of view. They had no intention of doing anything for the benefit of ringers, and would only grant the concession if it led to so many more ringers travelling as would more than cover the difference in the price of the tickets. Return journeys at single fares they flatly refused to consider. The committee, however, stuck to their job, and they promoted petitions from the various associations to the different railway companies. In all, sixty-three petitions, with 6,817 names, were sent to nine companies. That from the Oxford Diocesan Association to the Great Western Railway measured about nine yards long.

The companies, however, refused the concession. The Great Eastern Railway remarked that if they went on granting reduced fares, the time would come when no traveller would pay his full fare. Those companies which had already granted cheap rates to ringers withdrew the concession, so as to fall into line with the other companies.

The Council failed in this attempt, but it had shown that it did seek the good of average ringers. In later years the matter was settled in another way, for the railways have learnt that it pays them to give to the general public the concessions then sought by ringers, and cheap day return tickets are almost universal.

Many men thought that the Council ought to adopt a scheme for the formation of a general benevolent fund for ringers, or form itself into a General Ringers' Benefit Society, and behind the thought was a very real and pressing need. In those days there was no National Insurance scheme for all, worked and guaranteed by the Government, and the spectre of sickness and unemployment was never far from the minds of members of the working class, especially of those who had wives and children dependent on them. It hung like a dark shadow over the lives of many of them, and there were thousands who were—

Like one, that on a lonesome road
Doth walk in fear and dread,
And having once turn'd round, walks on
And turns no more his head;
Because he knows a frightful fiend
Doth close behind him tread.

Anything that could remove or mitigate so gnawing and so widespread an anxiety would be a blessing. Indeed.

The idea that ringers should help their less fortunate comrades was not a new one. It was largely implicit in the constitution of the old societies, and some of them were active in that way. The Norwich Scholars in the early eighteenth century were organised as a 'purse club' or benefit society, and continued so very successfully for a century and a half, on the same lines as were many other benefit clubs in various sections of contemporary society.

But these activities were limited in their scope. They only benefited a few, and outside were the mass of the ringers. When the new ideas began to spread and the Exercise began to be looked on as one body, it was a natural and an admirable thought that something should be done for ringers as a whole. It was natural, too, that the good to be reaped appeared more clearly to some people than the difficulties to be overcome.

This is well illustrated by a scheme which was put forward in 1906 in the columns of 'The Bell News.' The writer assumed that there were 20,000 ringers, and if each paid only one penny a year there would be £83 annually for distribution if needed, and since no one was to benefit at the outset, it would be possible to form a reserve fund of nearly £100 to start with.

It sounded grand, but does anyone believe that it would be possible to run a benevolent fund on such lines? Eighty-three pounds would not go very far in relieving the distress among 20,000 people; and far more dissatisfaction would have been caused among those whose wants were not satisfied than gratification among those whose needs were very partially met. Nor would the cheerful assumption of the writer that the Council could carry on the administration efficiently and cheaply be at all likely to be realised.

The Council had not been so negligent in the matter as the writer professed to believe. Heywood had fully considered that side of the question before he proposed its foundation. He came of a family of bankers, and he knew what financial difficulties would be encountered. Indeed, anyone else must have known who stopped for a minute to think the matter over. When a benefit society was confined to a few people who met together

regularly, the administration and supervision could be carried out by voluntary workers and at little cost, but if it were extended to the whole country the cost of collection would absorb the whole of the revenue; and supervision, which would be necessary to prevent fraud, would be impossible. Even the great national benefit societies like the Oddfellows and the Foresters worked through local and semi-independent lodges.

So before Heywood launched his scheme he got the representative gathering of ringers at the Henry Johnson dinner at Birmingham to pass a resolution declaring that 'this meeting is of opinion that the advantages attending the establishment of a General Ringers' Benefit Society would not be great enough to outweigh the immense difficulty of collecting and administering the funds in a satisfactory manner.'

For that reason the question was not brought forward at the earliest meetings of the Council. It was, however, discussed at London in 1894, and at Sheffield in 1895. Nobody seemed to wish to speak against any proposal, but nobody thought any scheme was practicable, and nothing was or could be done.

In 1906 at Exeter the question of the establishment of a labour bureau for the benefit of members of the Exercise was debated. The difficulties as well as the advantages were stressed, and R. A. Daniell, who was a solicitor in practice in Bucklersbury in the City of London, offered to receive at his office the names of either employers wanting employes or of ringers wanting employment, and to bring suitable persons into touch with each other. At the next meeting he reported that he had received half a dozen applications for employment, but not one for an employe. So the scheme died a natural and expected death.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We regret to say that Mr. Gabriel Lindoff is now in Dublin Hospital in a very weak condition following a short illness. Mr. Lindoff, who is 72 years of age, has been hon. secretary of the Irish Association of Change Ringers for over 43 years.

We have received an airgraph letter from Sergt. John Freeman, of Lincoln, who is serving with the Forces in the Middle East. His ringing friends will be glad to know that when this letter was written he was 'keeping pretty fit up to the time of going to press,' and had 'no complaints,' except that there was no ringing. He was then on detachment away from the unit living under canvas in what might be described as a desert camp.

Mr. Isaac Emery, who has now been in hospital for nearly three months, underwent a further operation last Saturday. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

The wedding of Q.M.S. Harold Rogers and Miss Olive Ashbrook, reported in our issue of October 3rd, took place at Isleworth, not at Halesworth as the report seemed to suggest.

On October 14th, 1854, the Birmingham men, with Henry Johnson as composer and conductor, rang 7,020 changes of Stedman Caters at Aston. It was not the longest length that had been rung in the method; but it was probably the longest true length, though the ringers did not know it, and though it was beaten a month or two later.

The history of Stedman Cater peals is a rather curious one. In 1805 the Cumberlands rang 6,129 changes at St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, composed and conducted by George Gross. This remained the longest length for nearly forty years, for it was not until 1842 that it was beaten by 8,105, which was rung at Painswick, composed and conducted by William Estcourt. This peal was found to be false, and an 8,081 of Grandsire Caters rung on the same day at the neighbouring town of Stroud was also false.

Meanwhile in 1844 the Cumberlands had rung 7,025 at Poplar, not as a record length, but as containing the full 60 courses (between singles) with the big bells in the tittums.

In its particular quality this was beaten in 1845 by John Cox and the College Youths, who rang 6,701 at Bermondsey with the 60 course ends and no singles. Then in 1854 came the Aston peal mentioned above, and in the same year 7,023 by the Cumberlands at St. Clement Danes.

The Birmingham men in 1859 settled the matter for 25 years by ringing 10,047 changes at Aston.

The Birmingham Amalgamated Society rang on October 16th, 1883, on handbells, 10,176 Grandsire Major, composed and conducted by John Carter. It remained the record length in hand until 1894, when Mr. C. E. Borrett called 11,200 Bob Major at Norwich.

On October 17th, 1726, the College Youths rang the first peal at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. It was Grandsire Caters and evidently the founders had not yet succeeded in casting two satisfactory trebles.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one Bob Major, one Kent Treble Bob Major, one Stedman Caters, and one in four Minor methods.

A DEVON CHANTRY TOWER.

INFORMATION SOUGHT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Serving in H.M. Forces has brought me from my home in Kent to 'Sunny Devon,' and in my travels through this county I have seen some picturesque and interesting towers and churches. There is one, however, situated in Slapton, which seems to me a little bit out of the ordinary, and I cannot find any sound evidence of what the tower was in actual fact. Since Mr. Barnett's query with regard to St. Michael's Mount brought out something of interest to ringers, I send my poser on in hope that something more of interest about Slapton tower may appear in your columns.

The remains of this old tower stand in the village, which is about midway between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, and as far as I can gather from inhabitants it is part of the remains of a college or college church. It is described as the Chantry Tower and is still fairly intact, with the stonework in a good state of preservation.

Only the coping at the top of the tower has crumbled and the upper third of the spiral staircase. The latter has been replaced by iron ladders. It can also be seen that two floors at one time existed above what might have been the 'nave,' and it is this factor that prompts me to write to you.

I wonder if any readers can give any details of the original building and any characteristics relating to this tower. I am sure that whatever comes out will be of interest not only to Devon ringers, but also to 'tourists,' as no doubt many have passed through this corner of Devon.

I receive 'The Ringing World' every week through the generosity of a ringing friend at home, and although my movements amongst ringers are, of course, very few, I am glad to keep in touch with ringing generally through the medium of the paper. I have found it very interesting of late, and I hope to continue to do so. I take this opportunity of wishing you and 'The Ringing World' a safe and sound journey through the present trouble to a happy conclusion.

R. G. RAYFIELD.

Greenhithe, Kent.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES HUNT.

INTERESTING RINGING CAREER.

Famous Handbell Performances.

His many friends throughout the country will learn with surprise and deep regret of the death of Mr. James Hunt, of Taunton. He passed away last week after an unfortunate accident. For some little time he had suffered from a weak heart, and on his doctor's advice had remained in bed. Then, on Monday week, he got up about 11 p.m., put on some clothes and went out, to be knocked down by a motor-car. He was taken to hospital with head injuries and succumbed during the night of Thursday. He was 70 years of age, having been born at Tiverton, Devon, on May 29th, 1871, and during his long ringing career had rendered yeoman service to the art in many directions.

He began ringing at St. Mary's, Taunton. Later, when living in Guildford, he became leader of the band at St. Nicolas' Church and was one of the handbell company which 30 years ago made ringing history in the Surrey town. Always an enthusiast, Mr. Hunt joined with Charles Willshire, Alfred Pulling and others in building up the band which went on to ring double-handed peals by the score. His first peal in hand was in April, 1909. It was Grand-sire Triples and A. H. Pulling's first handbell peal as conductor. Eventually new double-handed record lengths were rung which still remain unbeaten.

Before doing this, however, they had made another record, of which James Hunt, we are told, was the instigator. In October, 1911, Messrs. Pulling, Willshire, Blondell, Smither and Hunt set out to ring a peal of Stedman Caters every evening for a week—and they rang them all, in a different place, on a different set of handbells and with a different composition each night. They did not make two bites at any one of the peals, until the last, when, presumably for want of practice, or maybe some other reason, they had to have more than one try at the going off course. Later in the same year peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques were rung all in one week.

In 1912 it was decided to attempt a record length of Stedman Caters, and the outcome was first a peal of 14,031, rung on June 1st, and on August 31st a peal of 19,738. As we have recently recalled, this latter was an attempt for 22,222, but owing to a late start the peal was curtailed shortly before midnight. The band that rang these two peals comprised Arthur Shepherd, Alfred Pulling, William Shepherd, James Hunt and Frank Blondell. At one time Mr. Hunt rang 61 handbell peals in succession without a tower bell peal intervening. Altogether he rang 158 peals on handbells.

After living in Guildford for many years Mr. Hunt removed to London, where for a time he was employed by Messrs. Warner and Sons at the Spitalfields Bell Foundry. He rang peals with the Royal Cumberland Youths and on one or two occasions took part in a peal rung by a foundry band.

Eventually Mr. Hunt returned to Taunton and became associated with St. James' tower, where he was instrumental in building up an excellent band. For 21 years he was Ringing Master of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, and during all this time he did his utmost to cultivate change ringing and to encourage young conductors. As an example of what he achieved it may be mentioned that between 1919 and 1939 thirty-seven peals were rung at St. James', Taunton, by Deanery men. Ten conducted peals, each conductor having, curiously, called some method he had never called before, while 73 ringers rang something they had never rung before. That is a mark of the progress made by Mr. Hunt's help and encouragement.

When he retired from the office of Deanery Ringing Master Mr. Hunt was presented with a silver bell inkstand by the members in appreciation of his long and devoted service.

Among the many interesting peals in which Mr. Hunt took part were the first peal of Stedman Caters by a resident band of the old Winchester Diocesan Guild, a 'grandfather's' peal of Stedman Caters by members of the Royal Cumberland Youths, the first peals of

(Continued in next column.)



THE LATE
MR. JAMES HUNT.

A KENT VETERAN.

FIFTY YEARS AS CAPTAIN, AT ONE TOWER.

Mr. Philip Hodgkin's Record.

Mr. Philip Hodgkin, of Headcorn, has a record of which any ringer might be proud.

Born at Aldington, the home of the late Mr. Charles Slingsby, on April 11th, 1865, he started his ringing career at the tower in that village in June, 1877, at the age of 14, and was soon ringing 720's of Minor. He was present at the foundation meeting of the Kent County Association, held in the Chapter House at Canterbury on June 18th, 1880, and is now one of the two surviving foundation members, Mr. E. S. Ruck, of Willesborough, being the other.

Mr. Hodgkin removed to Headcorn in 1891 and immediately started to teach change ringing to the company at that tower. He was appointed captain of the band, a position he still holds, and has thus completed half a century's work in that office.

Mr. Hodgkin has rung 65 peals in all, on eight and ten bells. One outstanding peal was that of Bob Major at Tenterden on April 8th, 1912, in three hours and fifteen minutes, when he rang the tenor of 30½ cwt., this being the first time the tenor had been 'turned in' to a peal. At this time the bells were not going too well, and many ringers, including the late Mr. William Pye, had attempted the task, but without success. Mr. Hodgkin is proud to recall the performance, more especially as he walked nine miles from his home to ring, and then had to walk the same distance back after the peal.

In those days this journeying of long distances on foot was taken in the ordinary course of events, and to digress from the subject of this article for a moment it may be mentioned that another Kent stalwart once went to London to ring a peal on a Saturday evening, lost the last train and walked home, a distance of 22 miles. He had breakfast and walked about another six miles to take his usual place at Sunday morning ringing at Gillingham. Gabriel Lindoff and William Haigh will perhaps remember this feat of the late Charles Waterman.

But to return to Mr. Hodgkin, it is worthy to record that up to the present he has not yet had to resort to artificial aid—in the way of 'specs'—to read 'The Ringing World' regularly every week, nor when he is writing. He has been a vegetarian all his life, and in this respect the writer remembers an amusing remark passed on one occasion when arranging the dinner at the annual meeting of the association. He asked the caterer to provide a meal for a life-long vegetarian. On seeing Mr. Hodgkin, the man remarked, 'However has he grown up to such a fine man on grub like this?'

Mr. Hodgkin still enjoys good health and does a 'bit of work' as he terms it. He is looking for peace to come so that he can take his usual place in the belfry where he has so faithfully served.

Well done, Philip! May you long be spared to serve the association of which you are justly proud, and hearty congratulations on completing the half-century as captain at Headcorn. F. M. M.

DEATH OF A BEENHAM RINGER.

It is with great regret that we record the death of a Beenham ringer, Mr. Edward W. Richardson, who passed away very suddenly at his work on Friday, October 3rd, at the age of 57.

He had been a ringer for over forty years and rang regularly for the Sunday services at Beenham. He attended many meetings in the district and had rung in many peals. He spent 22 years of his life in the Navy.

He was buried at Beenham on Wednesday, the Rev. W. Hunt conducting the service. The coffin was led out of the church by members of the Newbury Branch of the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association, with banner and bugler, who sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the graveside.

(Continued from previous column.)

Double Norwich Major and of seven Surprise Minor methods for the Bath and Wells Association, the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by a resident band west of Bristol, and the first peal of Bristol Surprise Major by a band resident in Somerset. Altogether he had rung something over 550 peals.

James Hunt took a good deal of interest in matters connected with the theoretic side of ringing, and although he had no pretensions to be a composer of the first rank, he produced several peals, especially of Double Norwich, which had distinct merits. We recently published one of them. Their merits were such as would be appreciated by the practical peal ringer. Mr. Hunt also had usually definite and decided opinions on the controversial questions of composition which came before the Central Council, and most of the members, while not always agreeing with what he said, always listened to him gladly and with interest and respect.

Mr. Hunt was elected in 1920 to represent the Bath and Wells Association on the Central Council, which made use of his practical experience in connection with bell hanging by appointing him one of the members of the Towers and Belfries Committee. His knowledge in this direction was also taken advantage of in his own diocese, where he served on the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Thus Mr. Hunt, whose enthusiasm for ringing was unsurpassed, gave his talents ungrudgingly for the benefit of the art, and he served his church as a sidesman and a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years.

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

COMPOSER BUT NOT A RINGER.

A Gifted Investigator.

Mr. A. G. Driver, whose death was briefly referred to in our last issue, was an almost unique example of a composer who was not a ringer. He was born at Lewisham 52 years ago and was educated at St. Dunstan's College, Catford, where he won a scholarship at an early age.

On September 28th he complained of feeling unwell, and, despite medical aid, passed away in the early hours of the next day from cerebral hæmorrhage.

Mr. Driver's interest in bells began in his youth, not as a ringer, but as an antiquarian, and he spent much of his time in copying inscriptions and taking rubbings. His introduction to ringing was in 1915, when a new peal of bells was dedicated at Christ Church, Erith. The late Mr. E. Barnett, sen., who was endeavouring to instruct a band there, made one or two attempts to teach him to handle a bell, but without success. The theoretical side of ringing, however, fascinated him, and for the remainder of his life this was almost his only hobby. Unfortunately, circumstances prevented him from devoting very much time to it. He was a tram driver and he often said that it was not until the early hours of the morning that he could settle down to uninterrupted work. His output was, therefore, not what more favourable conditions would have allowed, but what he did do was enough to ensure that his name will live.

It was in Minor ringing that his chief interest lay, and he supplied much of the material for the bands under Mr. Albert Relfe, at Lamberhurst, Kent, for the Spliced Surprise Minor record, and those under Messrs. Vernon Taylor, in Lincolnshire, and C. K. Lewis, in Cheshire, who included in peals numbers of methods formerly thought impossible. 'The Ringing World' of September 11th, 1936, speaking of one of these, in which Mr. Driver had increased an extent from ten to twelve methods, said, 'The bare announcement of it is "Arranged by A. G. Driver," and to Mr. Driver are due several other of these extents which contain a large number of methods. Many people may reasonably ask, "Who is Mr. A. G. Driver?" His name never appears in peal reports: in the past when he has entered into print on any question relating to methods, he has done so under a nom-de-plume ("The Mad Hatter"). Thus he has never sought the limelight, but the work which he has done has put six-bell ringing on an entirely different footing. . . . Mr. Driver's genius has carried Minor Splicing far beyond the bounds of anything that was conceived possible a few years ago. In him we have a rare phenomenon: almost a non-ringer who has carried a branch of composition far beyond anything that expert ringers have done. It is, we imagine, the fascination of figures and a mathematical mind which are responsible for all the work he has done in the interest of ringers. . . . Mr. Driver's work deserves to rank with anything done by great composers of the past.'

All his work, however, was not concerned with Minor ringing. He was the first to produce a system of splicing Kent and Oxford Treble Bob at the lead ends, and thus rendering the previous unsatisfactory systems of interchanging Kent and Oxford places entirely obsolete. The first peal on this plan was rung at Willesden in July, 1935, and one differing only slightly at Crayford a month later. For Mr. Alan Pink's band he supplied a number of methods and more compositions, and for him also a peal of Spliced Painswick, Pudsey, Yorkshire and Superlative Surprise in seven lead courses. For a band in Leicestershire he produced a peal of Spliced Surprise in seven methods, also in seven lead courses—one lead of every method in each course. It is not unreasonable to suppose, therefore, that had he been able to devote the necessary time to the task he could have made valuable contributions to the current problems of Surprise Major Splicing which are occupying the attention of many other leading composers of to-day.

He was most unselfish, and the writer remembers with gratitude the interest and help given by Mr. Driver to his son when the latter first became interested in composition as a boy. It was with equal gratitude, therefore, that he learned from Mrs. Driver that her husband had expressed the wish that 'little Teddy' should have his manuscripts.

Apart from composition, Mr. Driver had one other ringing interest and that was in ringing machines. During a long period of unemployment after the last war he had designed one, but family and financial reasons prevented him from ever constructing it, but a number of his ideas found expression in one of Mr. G. F. Wodehouse's later machines after the two had corresponded as a result of Mr. Driver having received Mr. Wodehouse's booklet describing his own first machine. Later Mr. Driver was appointed by the Central Council as one of the demonstrators of the Carter Ringing Machine.

One thing more must be said; it is sad that the foregoing has had to be Mr. Driver's obituary, for it had long been the writer's intention to try and persuade him to write his ringing life—a difficult job, for no one disliked publicity more than he did—or alternatively to supply the material for me to try and do so.

Nothing now remains but to take leave of a quiet, clever, unassuming man, whose passing leaves us all the poorer, and to express the deepest sympathy with the bereaved.

E. B.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

EDWIN BARNETT BECOMES A MEMBER.

The meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Saturday last was again well supported and two new members were elected, Edwin Barnett, of Crayford, and Ivor C. N. Bell, of Swindon, the latter being a ratification of his election previous to ringing a peal of Bob Major at Swindon on October 3rd.

The provincial members present were the Rev. Ll. Edwards, Kington Magna; B. P. Morris, Kettering; H. V. Young, Leatherhead; H. Cashmore and E. Jennings, Watford; and F. G. Cole, Cheltenham.

Sympathy was expressed with Mr. E. Murrell, one of the society's staunchest supporters, in his indisposition, and all present hoped that he would soon be able to get about again.

Mr. G. M. Kilby's collection of reports of notable peals rung by famous bands during the last 40 years caused much interest among the older members.

The Treasurer stated that he had booked Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, for the commemoration luncheon on November 8th at 1.30 p.m.

One of the branches of H.M. Forces is generally represented at the College Youths' meetings, and last week it was L.-Corpl. Frank Shorter, who was cordially welcomed. Greetings were received from Mr. T. Myers, of Plymouth, who is now back in civilian life.

The Master thanked the members for their continued support and closed the business meeting until October 25th.

Refreshments and handbell ringing then followed, ringing by members from Watford and Beddington being much appreciated.

BELLS AS DEODANDS.

AN ANCIENT LAW.

The legend referred to by the writer in 'All the Year Round,' and which was mentioned in the article on the College Youths in our last issue, is not so improbable nor so wild as he supposed. He said he had heard 'awful whispers' of a victim 'caught by the neck and hung by his bell,' and that 'the government claimed, but without success, the manslaughtering bell.'

That at some time and in some place in the course of the ages a ringer has been killed by his rope catching round his neck is not unlikely nor improbable; neither need any particulars beyond a vague tradition have survived. And if such a thing happened it is almost certain that the question of the confiscation of the bell and the rope did arise.

It was the law and the custom of England throughout the ages that if the death of any man or woman was caused by a personal chattel, then that chattel must be considered as devoted to the service of God, and must be taken over by the authorities and sold for the benefit of the poor. Anything so confiscated was called a deodand.

In the course of time quite a complicated amount of law grew up about deodands. For instance, if a man was killed by a horse and cart, whether both of them, and under what conditions, were liable to forfeiture. The usual thing was that the chattel was redeemed by the owner by paying a fine fixed by the coroner's jury, and in course of time the amount of the fine became a nominal one, generally not more than a few pence. In the old elaborate indictments when a man was charged with murder, the value of the weapon with which he did the deed was always stated.

Only those things could be deodands which were 'chattels,' that is personal movable property. If a tree was blown down and killed a man, that was not a deodand; in law it was reckoned as an 'act of God.' A pinnacle falling from a church tower would not be a deodand.

We can easily see that if a bell did cause a man's death a nice point of law would arise. Was a bell a 'chattel' and therefore a deodand? And we can easily see what the answer of the coroner's jury would be; for it is not likely that the question ever went beyond them. They would be parishioners and ratepayers, and therefore the owners of the bell. They would not have much difficulty in deciding that a church bell is not in law a 'chattel.'

Deodands were abolished little more than one hundred years ago.

TOWERS WITHOUT BELLS.—The love of bells is still so universal in this country that if after admiring a church tower of goodly proportions, fair design, and which carries its glorious spire tapering heavenwards, we are told it contains no bells, a feeling of disappointment is mixed with our admiration, and we are tempted to exclaim, 'How sad that a case so magnificent is without its music!—that a structure so grand and imposing is without the usual means of proclaiming the passing events of human life by means of its iron-tongued melody.'—Thomas North.

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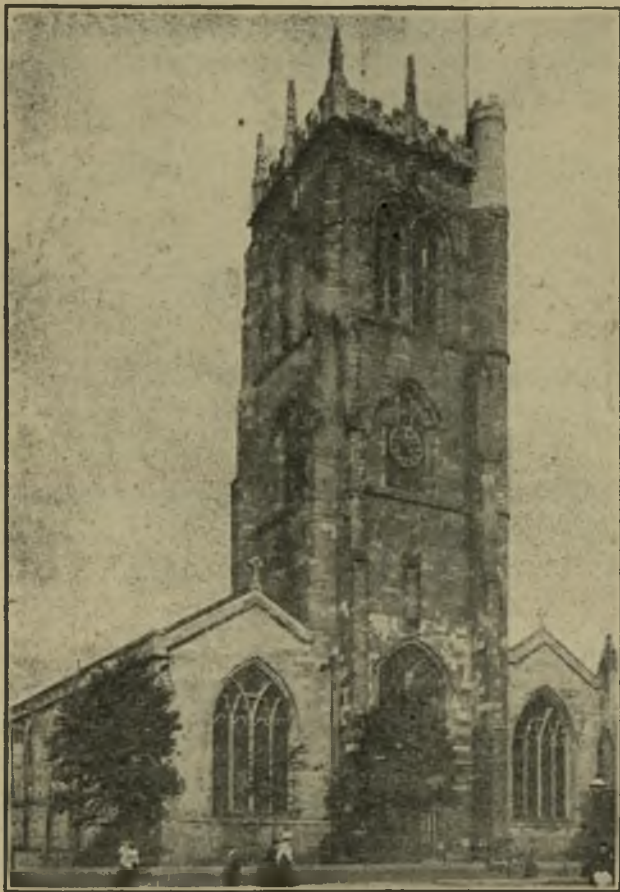
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MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LEICESTER.

Mr. William Willson Honoured.

On Saturday, October 4th, a special general meeting of the Midland Counties Association took place at St. Margaret's, Leicester. It was held in conjunction with the local quarterly meeting, and proved to be a great success, both from a ringing and social point of view. The front eight bells were rung clapperless to a variety of methods, starting off with a nice musical touch of Stedman Triples, called by Joe Fenton, jun., the 567's rolling up in silent majesty! A course of Cambridge Surprise only needed a 'Fidler' to bring it successfully round! During the afternoon a variety of touches and courses were rung more or less complete by ringers representing the following



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

towers: Ashby, Burton, Belgrave, Burbage, Broughton Astley, Croft, Derby, Chesterfield, Leicester, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Nottingham, Overseal, and Handsworth, Birmingham.

The general meeting of the association was held in the choir vestry of the church, and in the absence of the president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, who sent a letter of apology and greetings, the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, took the chair. He was supported by the hon. treasurer, Miss I. B. Thompson, and the general secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Harrison explained that although it was decided at the last general annual meeting not to hold any general meetings until the next annual meeting, a position had arisen in connection with a vacancy in the trusteeship of the association's invested funds, which the hon. secretary and treasurer thought advisable to be filled by calling a special general meeting for the purpose at the earliest possible date.

Seven new ringing members were duly elected, and a matter of advertising in the 'Leicester Diocesan Calendar' was left to the secretary to deal with.

A letter from Mr. William Willson, one of the trustees of the association, was read, in which he stated that, owing to continued ill-health, he felt unable to carry on in the position and asked the association to accept his resignation. Mr. Willson sent his greetings and expression of goodwill for the association's continued prosperity in the days to come when things return to normal again.

(Continued in next column.)

PECULIAR!

BY THE EDITOR.

We shall have to be more careful in future. In printing, a fortnight ago, Mr. Ernest Morris' letter on the subject of 'Peculiars,' we turned an 'i' into an 'e' and made him a verger instead of a 'virger,' and we have been 'told off' accordingly, but in very kindly language.

Mr. Morris reminds us that he carries the 'virge' or staff of office and is a member of the London Virgers' Guild. Of course, we meant no slight upon Mr. Morris' ancient and honourable calling, but we shall have to tell the compilers of our office dictionary about it too, for they have, we find, ignored the ancient spelling and given us too 'verger,' defined as 'official in a church who shows persons to their seats; officer who bears staff before bishop.' Even the staff itself is spelt 'verge' in our dictionary—and it's an authentic one, too, emanating from a great seat of learning. We shall also have to tell our Vicar, for on our parish church notice board he or someone slipped up and spelt the multiple offices of his factotum thus, 'Parish clerk, verger, sexton and gravedigger.'

We can only assume that time in this, as in other things in a degenerate age, has wrought changes which are not for the better. For instance, quite casually the other day we came across this in some documents relating to the year 1570—it doesn't quite conform to the modern spelling—'Paid to the Ryngars the first daye of ye chaunge of the qvenes Rayne,' and in 1571, 'Ryngars at the qvens conyng at her first goyng in to bare feld ijs; second time when her bott came by xixd.'

So if we, in our innocence, misspelt the ancient 'virger,' may we be forgiven

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

REPLY TO MR. E. B. HARTLEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My letter in reply to Mr. Hartley on the above subject was designed with two objects, and I am much gratified by the results.

The first object was to ascertain whether your correspondent held, or had held for any appreciable time, association office. The charge was passed by default, and I am not unsatisfied. Secondly, as a general challenge had been made against the organisation of war-time meetings, I gave a reply so far as it concerned by own association. I am no more qualified to give a general answer than your correspondent is to make a general accusation.

Now Mr. Hartley makes an amazing volte face by saying that his letter was addressed to those who do not hold meetings. So he was not criticising the secretaries who apologise for the shortcomings of their meetings, point out the difficulties of their arrangement and have the temerity to ask for subscriptions. Then why mention them?

Whether I answered his letter point by point is a matter of opinion. His last paragraph is just a matter of bad taste. A quotation from what appears to be a private letter written to him by 'a Brighton correspondent' would carry more weight if accompanied by the author's name, and dispel the unfortunate impression of an attempt at mischief making.

S. E. ARMSTRONG.

Brighton

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. William E. White, of Cotgrave (late hon. treasurer), senior trustee (although he had recently passed through a very severe and critical illness and had made a marvellous recovery), expressed a wish to carry on. It was, therefore, unanimously decided that Mr. John Oldham, of Loughborough (who is already a trustee of part of the association's funds), should be elected as joint trustee with Mr. W. E. White.

At the subsequent local meeting Mr. Willson was proposed an honorary life member of the association, and the secretary was asked to convey to him the members' thanks for his past great services to the association, and good wishes for better health than he had enjoyed of late.

Mr. Willson, who is now 73 years of age, has held various offices in the association, including those of hon. treasurer, vice-president and representative on the Central Council, as well as trustee.

A long discussion on a point in the president's letter with regard to the formation of diocesan guilds within the area of the association's activities closed the meeting.

The company then adjourned to the George Hotel for tea, which was followed by the local quarterly meeting, Mr. George Walker, of Syston, the district chairman, presiding. In the unavoidable absence of the district secretary (Mr. H. W. Perkins), the general secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris, read the minutes of the last two meetings, which had been successfully carried through in spite of the ban on ringing.

St. John's, Leicester, was chosen as the place for the district annual meeting, to be held in January at a date to be decided later.

This concluded the business, but there followed a social evening, which was enjoyed by all present. There was handbell ringing on a large number of bells performed by the 'Merry Optimists,' ably conducted by Police-Inspector H. J. Poole (Harold to most of his ringing friends, 'Pooley' to the R.S.M.). A conjuring performance was given by Mr. Len Styles (who, by the way, is a respected member of St. Margaret's choir), and various touches of change ringing were brought round on handbells and concluded a most successful 'double event.'

E. M.

THE STANDARD METHODS.

VARIATION.

(Continued from page 490.)

In quite a large number of Treble Bob and Surprise methods there are what are known as Kent places. These are made within a section and consist of two handstroke places made together followed immediately by two others on the same two bells. The most familiar example is in Kent Treble Bob, whence comes the name.

12345678	12345678
21346587	21435687
12435678	12346578
21436587	21436587

Wherever these places are made they serve one purpose only, which is to prevent the repetition which would occur if all the bells did the normal Treble Bob hunting of the principle. They affect one section only, and when they have been made the bells are in the same positions as they would have been had they all hunted Treble Bob fashion and there been no place making at all.

It follows that in any section in any method whenever two bells dodge together Kent places may be substituted for the dodging without causing any alteration in the work of the method apart from the actual section, and so we get a simple form of variation by moving the position of the Kent places within the section.

We could if we wished ring Kent Treble Bob with the place-making in 5-6 instead of in 3-4, and there is no reason why we should not do so once in a while as a novelty.

The method which perhaps best illustrates the nature and use of Kent places is Albion Treble Bob.

In construction, Albion is one of the simplest of methods. We first write out a lead of Plain Bob and then turn it into a Treble Bob method by repeating every pair of rows thus:—

12345678
21436587
12345678
21436587

Then to get rid of the falseness we make Kent places in 5-6 in the first two sections, and in 3-4 in the third and fourth sections.

Albion was first produced by Hugh Wright, of Leeds, and appeared in the 1845 edition of Hubbard's 'Campanalogia,' the author of that work declaring it to be 'the most even and regular of any Treble Bob method extant.' It is a perfectly double method, the natural coursing order is maintained throughout the lead practically unbroken, and there are no false course ends with the tenors together.

It would appear, therefore, to be one of the very best of methods, but, though it has been before the Exercise for so long and has been well spoken of by many, it has never become popular, and only a few peals of it have been rung.

The cause undoubtedly lies in the way the places are made. The handstroke thirds and fourths, or fourths and thirds, in Kent Treble Bob are not particularly objectionable because they come at comparatively long intervals; but in Albion we get sixths and fifths and fourths and thirds, on the way down, followed immediately by thirds and fourths and fifths and sixths on the way up. We never go from front to back or back to front without making at least one pair of Kent places, and four times

within a course we make two pairs. It is too much. It is difficult to see why it should be so, but undoubtedly a succession of backstroke places such as we get in Superlative or Cambridge, or even in the slow work of Kent Treble Bob, is nicer and more interesting to make than a succession of handstroke places as in Albion. Handstroke places to be interesting should come irregularly as in London, or be mixed with backstroke places as in Bristol.

Albion T.B. X a Variation.

12345678	12345678
21435687	21346587
12346578	12435678
21436587	21436587

24163857	24163857
42613875	42613875
24168357	24168357
42618375	42618375

46281735	46281735
64287153	64287153
46821735	46821735
64827153	64827153

68472513	68472513
86475231	86742531
68742513	68475213
86745231	86745231

87654321	87654321
78653412	78564312
87564321	87653421
78563412	78563412

75836142	75836142
57831624	57831624
75386142	75386142
57381624	57381624

53718264	53718264
35178246	35178246
53712864	53712864
35172846	35172846

31527486	31527486
13257468	13524768
31524786	31257486
13254768	13254768

13527486	13527486
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Several variations of Albion are obvious. In every section there must be one set of Kent places, but so far as getting rid of repetition is concerned, it does not much matter where, within the section, we make it. We should not choose 7-8, for that would turn the tenors up the wrong way, and we must not choose 1-2, for that would cause a bell to lead for three consecutive blows. There are many methods where in the fourth section Kent places may be made either in 1-2, 3-4, or 5-6.

We give one variation of Albion with the Kent places of the first section in 3-4 instead of in 5-6, and in the fourth section in 5-6 instead of in 3-4. Two other variations can be had—one above the treble as Albion, and

(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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—All members and friends are invited to attend a ringing practice and meeting to be held at Friezland on Saturday, Oct. 18th. Tower bells, with ringing apparatus, will be available from 3 p.m. Don't miss this treat. Bus or train to Greenfield Station. — Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Daventry, Saturday, Oct. 18th. Handbell ringing.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) only for those who send their names to Mr. T. Groombridge, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst, not later than Tuesday, October 21st. Business includes election of officers.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Shipley on Saturday, October 25th. Bells (clappers removed) available from 3 p.m. Tea can be obtained near the church. Business meeting in the tower.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open 3 p.m. Handbells and eight silent bells. Tea for those who notify Mr. E. J. Ladd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells, by Tuesday, October 21st. Come along and make this a good meeting. There is a good train and bus service.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

below the treble as X; the other above the treble as X, and below the treble as Albion.

The forms of variation we described last week made no difference to the internal falseness of the method; the variations have the same false course ends as the originals. But that is not so with the variations produced by altering the positions of Kent places. When they are made in 3-4 in the first section of any method the two false course ends A32546 and D46253 are always produced; but when they are made in 5-6 there is (so far) a clear-proof scale.

Similarly, moving Kent places in the third or fourth sections may increase or diminish the number of false course ends.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Ewell on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells available in the tower from 3 p.m. and after meeting. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea (4.45) and business meeting. Names for tea to Mr. C. E. Read, 58, High Street, Ewell, by Wednesday, October 22nd. All ringers heartily welcome.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.; G. W. Massey and A. T. Shelton, Dis. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, on Saturday, October 25th, at 3 p.m.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Latest date for application Tuesday, November 4th.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Any ringers who may be coming up next term are asked to communicate with J. E. Spice (Master) at New College, or W. L. B. Leese (secretary) at St. John's.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—The secretary of this district is now Mrs. C. Guy, Merrie Meade, Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

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SITUATION VACANT.

SECOND GARDENER wanted, change ringer; cottage with electric light, etc.—E. C. Lambert, Church Cottages, Cosgrove, Bletchley, Bucks.

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PRESERVATION OF MSS.

The statement that the manuscript work of the late Mr. A. G. Driver is saved for future reference is gratifying news, for there is, we gather, much useful matter among the papers which, in days to come, may be turned to advantage for the benefit of change ringing. The importance of preserving anything of value in this direction cannot be overstressed, and in this connection it need hardly be pointed out the risk of losing manuscripts is even greater than that of losing printed books. The latter have a chance of survival, even in the hands of those who do not know their real value, but manuscripts are more than likely to go into the fire, or the waste-paper basket when a clearing-up takes place, after the death of the owner for instance. They are treated as just so many 'old bits of paper' that have been hoarded up and now need to be disposed of and disposed of quickly. In this way, doubtless, many a manuscript which might have proved a valuable contribution to ringing knowledge has gone up in flames or been thrown out as rubbish.

Not every ringer, of course, has manuscripts worth preserving; indeed, the number of those who have anything of real value must be comparatively few, while even among those who possess something which may be a contribution to knowledge, probably only a small portion of their MSS. is worth preserving. Nevertheless, the fact remains that there are here and there manuscripts which it would be in the interests of the art to save from destruction. In years to come they would be cherished, if not for the use which could be made of them, at least for the light they would shed on the development of ringing in these days. What, for instance, would we not give now for some of the original manuscripts of Stedman or Holt, Reeves or Shipway? We know how valuable and interesting, from the historical angle, is Annable's notebook, which is in the British Museum, and how important are the Osborn MSS., which are also in safe keeping there. The latter are perhaps the best and most valuable collection of ringing papers which we have, and it is upon them largely that we have to rely for the early history of the Exercise. There are, too, some other important MSS. similarly preserved, such as the manuscript books of the Scholars of Cheapside, dating from the early seventeenth century, of the Union Scholars and the Eastern Scholars, as well as of the College Youths, and the rules of that now obscure society, the Esquire Youths, which were discovered by Mr. J. A. Trollope written in the back of a book evidently borrowed, to put it mildly, from the library of King Charles II. These are some few instances of manuscripts saved from destruction in the past which,

(Continued on page 506.)

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in their several ways, have helped to build up a picture of the Exercise in other centuries and to indicate the growth of the art in days now long since past.

In the same way the original work of writers in these later years may prove of considerable importance in time to come, not particularly in the near future, perhaps, although in the case of Mr. Driver's MSS. there may prove to be something of immediate value. But fifty or a hundred years hence, some of the products of to-day may prove a useful indication to the ringers of future generations of the standards reached in the first half of the twentieth century. In addition to general manuscripts, what are also, of course, of value are the individual peal records of ringers. These, in days to come, will be full of historic interest, not because of the particular ringers' performances, excellent as they may be, but because they may be linked up with others and together show the trend and expansion of the art, from the practical aspect, just as the other documents will indicate the development of the scientific side. What matters at the moment, therefore, is that those who know of the existence of such MSS. and documents should take steps to see that they are preserved by bringing home their importance to the existing owners, or to those who may have the handling of them when the present owners are gone. This is one way in which the records of our times may be safeguarded for the benefit of those who will follow.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION* AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, October 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS	1-2	*ISAAC J. ATTEWATER	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	† HAROLD HOWSON	7-8

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Kent 'in hand.' † First peal of Treble Bob Major.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 18, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

*R. W. HAYWARD	1-2	W. H. LLOYD	5-6
*A. H. REED	3-4	*W. G. GIGG	7-8

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

* First peal 'in hand.' Rung to the memory of James Hunt, who was always present to guide and help at the practices.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 18, 1941, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

GEORGE W. MASSEY	1-2	EDGAR R. RAPLEY	3-4
* CECIL R. LONGHURST	5-6		

Conducted by E. R. RAPLEY.

Witness—Rev. Cecil J. Wood.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Edwin A. Barnett.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 497.)

DEBATES ABOUT MANY MATTERS.

In the early years the Council used to debate matters affecting ringers and ringing without passing any resolution or attempting to reach any definite decision. The idea was to ventilate opinion and give the Exercise the benefit of the experience of leading men. It was quite a good plan, though there were seldom any very striking speeches made, and the debates did not create anything like the amount of interest as was taken in those subjects

band, although he was not sure that it was a good mode of instructing. The reason why he did not like it was because you could fumble on after a breakdown. That could not easily be done double handed or in the tower. Single-handed handbell peals were miserable performances. The Council, however, decided to give them as many points as tower bell peals.

At the same meeting F. E. Robinson moved a resolution declaring that 'in the opinion of the Council it is desirable that promising ringers should be given the opportunity of learning how to conduct.'



THE LATE REV. C. W. O. JENKYN.
Many Years Librarian of the Council.

which in some quarters were supposed to be the monopoly of the faddists and the bores. Among the subjects discussed were such as the best way to teach learners, the need for more than one conductor in a band, steeple-keepers, truth in peal ringing and the like.

Sunday peal ringing was also debated, and as nineteenth century sabbatarian ideas were still strong, there were members who desired the Council to condemn the practice. It was discussed at London in 1897, at Bristol in 1898, and again at Worcester, but opinion was very much divided, and no formal resolution was passed. On one occasion the Council shirked the issue by passing to the 'previous question.'

In 1904, at York, William Snowdon moved that, 'while the Council did not desire to encourage single-handed peals on handbells, it offered no objection when they were rung under special circumstances.' This led to an expression of strong opinion from Heywood. He said he did not think they should be encouraged. He had himself done single-handed ringing in teaching a young



THE LATE MR. ROBERT STOREY, OF NEWCASTLE,
An Active Member Forty Years Ago.

It was a somewhat platitudinous motion, and the object (which was really Heywood's) was rather to have something round which opinion could be expressed, than to lay down any novel or startling proposition. It seemed there was a feeling that there was a good deal of selfishness among older men, who kept the conducting to themselves and did not allow younger men a chance.

C. D. P. Davies said a great change had taken place during thirty years. There had been a time when there never was more than one conductor in a tower. Conducting was a sort of masonic secret which only occasionally leaked out, and young men had to thrust through obstacles in order to make any progress. But such a thing had come to an end, and it was then rare to find a company with only one conductor. When he was conducting he was thankful to have someone taking part who could give assistance in the case of a late call, and so perhaps save the peal.

Robinson said it was desirable to have more than one conductor, but as to how many it was desirable to have

in a peal, that was another matter. He considered there should be only one. When he went into a strange tower and was asked to call, he consented to do so if other people kept quiet. That was very characteristic of Robinson.

William Wakley said he always felt more certain of a peal when he was calling with half a dozen men in the band equally as capable as himself. He would like to see every member in a band capable of calling a touch. Calling peals was another matter, but the comrades of a young man who had shown he was sufficiently advanced would not hesitate to start for a peal under his conductorship.

E. W. Carpenter came perhaps nearest reality when he said that if an attempt was made to teach the whole band conducting, the work would not be so well done as if it were confined to one or two. There was a danger of reducing it to a low level. It was better to select those with talent and to make the most of them.

It was not a debate which threw much light on the matter, but the subject was worth discussing.

'Is too much stress laid upon peal ringing by ringers of the present day?' was a question the Council was asked to consider by H. J. Elsee at the Exeter meeting in 1907. It was a matter on which people could say a great deal, but not very much that was definite. All agreed that service ringing had the first claims on ringers, and A. T. King said that if the bells were not rung for divine service they ought not to be rung at all. Most ringers to-day will agree, and carry out the idea in practice, but it was an opinion that an earlier generation did not share. H. T. Ellacombe strongly objected to ringing on Sundays, and held that the proper thing to do was to chime for services and keep ringing for festivities, celebrations, weddings and sport. That was the traditional English custom everywhere except in the North.

Heywood agreed with Elsee that too much stress was laid upon peal ringing, yet he had himself for a few years been one of the most active peal ringers in the country. He complained of the way in which many so-called peals were rung. Some, he said, were undoubtedly so badly struck that those who rang in them ought to be thoroughly ashamed to call the performance a peal. What justification he had for so sweeping a charge I do not know, though, of course, he was doing good by calling attention to the need for good striking.

Good striking was debated at Cambridge in 1908. The item on the agenda invited the Council 'to discuss the question whether the present fashion of ringing a large variety of methods is responsible for decreased attention to accurate striking and, if so, whether any steps can be taken to encourage greater pride in this respect.'

Herbert A. Cockey was entrusted with the opening of the debate, but Heywood was really responsible for the matter being brought forward. He said he had done so because a large majority of peals were badly struck. People overlooked the fact that perfect striking was perfect pleasure in ringing. He was afraid that a great deal of the old pride in having good striking had died out, whether it was in advanced methods or not. He attached great importance to good striking, just as many of the old ringers of the past day did, who were very severe on bad striking. There was not then much chance for the beginner if he did not quickly show signs of progress in the art of striking.

Charles Henry Hattersley did not consider the striking then was as good as it had been formerly. Good striking was of far more importance than the number of methods. Bad striking had not only a bad effect on the general public, but it led to dishonesty. Some of the peals recorded were a fraud on the Exercise. He quoted with approval what the president had said at Exeter: 'If many who took part in peals would have the honesty inside the tower that they had when outside listening to other ringers there would be a great improvement and not so many unworthy peals recorded.'

C. W. O. Jenkyn said one cause of bad striking was that the same man did not always ring the same bell. Where that was done the striking usually was better. This was rather a startling opinion coming from such a source.

George F. Attree did not agree that striking generally was worse than it had been, pointing out quite fairly that there were then fifty bands where in the older times there had been but one. Several members expressed the opinion that the advanced methods could not be rung unless they were well struck which, of course, is a complete fallacy, though many people still hold it.

In the end a resolution was passed declaring 'that the Council desires to call the attention of the associations generally, and of conductors in particular, to the desirability of encouraging the greatest possible accuracy in striking.'

Anything to encourage good striking was, of course, well worth while, and not only the Council but everybody connected with the Exercise should lose no opportunity of stressing the point, but one rather wonders whether the striking in old times was generally so very excellent. Some of it was certainly, and there was a greater tendency among the leading bands to be stern and even savage with the beginner who failed to come up to their standard. But there was a lot of bad ringing, too, in places. There was more stoney rung, which can be struck fairly decently by inexperienced men, and not so many bands trying to ring changes before they had learnt to ring rounds. But taking the country as a whole, the average striking of change ringers is probably as good as it ever has been, perhaps better. Not that there is no room for improvement.

HATING THE GERMANS.

A DANGEROUS STIMULATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am reported in your issue of October 10th as saying at a meeting of St. Martin's Guild that 'we all hated the Germans like poison and the more we killed the better we liked it.'

I need only say that I spoke of the danger of giving way to such feelings and deriving our stimulation from them.

Edgbaston.

(Canon) STUART BLOFELD.

DEATH OF MR. JESSE J. MOSS.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Jesse J. Moss, of Bolsover, who passed away in his sleep during Sunday night, October 12th, without any previous illness. He had taken part in handbell ringing with some of the Bolsover band in the belfry of the Parish Church the same evening.

Mr. Moss, who was a farmer, was a native of Thornham in Suffolk, where probably he learnt to ring. Thirty-six years ago he went to Bolsover and helped a very progressive band in many ways. He was regular in his attendance at service ringing and on practice nights. Mr. Moss rang about 200 peals, including many in about nine different Surprise methods. When he rang his 100th peal he had scored peals with 100 ringers.

He was laid to rest in the Parish Churchyard on Thursday, the 16th, after lying in his beloved belfry during Wednesday and Thursday. He was borne to his last resting place by his brother ringers, and many others attended from Treeton, Chesterfield, Staveley and Eckington. He was 57 years of age.

FELKIRK D.F.M. RINGER MISSING.

Sergt. John Copley, R.A.F., a Falkirk ringer, has been reported missing. He belonged to the Stirling Bomber Squadron and had taken part in a great number of raids over enemy territory. He was awarded the D.F.M. on December 15th, 1939, for his skill and bravery as a rear gunner during a raid on enemy ships off Heligoland on December 3rd, 1939. A peal of Minor was rung at Falkirk on January 1st, 1940, in honour of this award.

Sergt. Copley joined the R.A.F. before the war as a mechanic and later became a rear gunner and instructor, after which he became flight engineer. He was a member of the Falkirk Parish Church company of ringers and a member of the Barnsley District Society and the Yorkshire Association.

Hopes are still held that news may come in the near future that he has been spared and is alive and well.

ALBION TREBLE BOB.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We do not usually call a false peal a variation of a true peal, why, then, call a false method a variation of a true method? A better plan would be to call X Variation Albion Treble Bob Spoiled.

I have always looked on Albion Treble Bob as a single method, but we were told in last week's 'Ringing World' that it is a 'perfectly double method.'

It is nearly seventeen years since I first disclosed the fact that Round Blocks and Transpositions exist in methods, principles, and systems; and five years since in peal compositions also.

GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton.

[It was wrong, of course, to call Albion a perfectly double method. It is double only so far as the interior of the lead is concerned.—Editor, 'The Ringing World']

A DUBLIN QUARTER-PEAL.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) was rung in 49 minutes on the bells of St. George's Parish Church, Dublin, before the evening harvest thanksgiving service on Sunday, October 5th: Arthur Worrell 1, Fred E. Dukes (conductor) 2, Miss Ada C. Dukes 3, William E. Hall 4, Mrs. Fred E. Dukes 5, Ernest Davidson 6, William McGregor 7, Mathew Doolan 8. The ringers of the treble and fifth scored their first quarter-peal, which was rung on the front five bells, with 7.6.8 covering.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcester and Districts Association was held at Clent on Saturday, September 20th, when 61 members and friends were present. The tower bells were available for silent practice from 3 p.m., and were kept fully occupied with Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Bristol, London and Cambridge Surprise, and Spliced Surprise.

At the business meeting after tea, the officers were re-elected en bloc, viz., Mr. John Lloyd, Master; Mr. B. C. Ashford, secretary; and Messrs. William Short, John Bass and Charles Woodberry, Central Committee representatives. Mr. George Smith, of Cheltenham, was elected a performing member, and a vote of thanks to Miss F. Thatcher, of the local band, and her helpers for serving the tea brought the proceedings to a close, when some of the members made tracks for the tower, while others indulged in handbell ringing.

Later an adjournment was made to a place well known to visiting ringers for a social evening, which, as usual, included change ringing and tune playing on the handbells, interspersed with refreshments and many reminiscences.

Members were present from Bilston, Birmingham, Brierley Hill, Bromsgrove, Cheltenham, Clent, Coalbrookdale, Coventry, Cradley, Dudley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge, Upton-on-Severn, Wollaston and Wolverley.

VERGERS OR VIRGERS?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am afraid the London Vergers' Guild (and Mr. Morris) are more pedantic than accurate. It is true that 'verge' and 'verger' come originally from the Latin 'virga,' but—they come by way of the French word 'verge,' the change from 'i' to 'o' taking place in Merovingian Latin a thousand or more years ago. (One of many similar examples is 'verdant' through the French 'verdoyant' from Latin 'viridans').

So that, in fact, 'verge' and 'verger' are the original English spellings: 'virge' and 'virger' only appeared many years later, and according to the Oxford English Dictionary are merely 'obsolete variants.'

H. T. WISDOM.

43, Hampstead Road, Brighton.

Mr. Ernest Morris writes: 'Virger' is not the *old* way of spelling like 'rynger' or 'vyrger,' but it is the correct Latin way. But 'verger' is also O.K.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The ringers who rang the handbell peal at West Grinstead on Saturday would like to thank the Rev. and Mrs. Wood for their kindness in inviting them to ring at the Rectory, for the interest they took in the ringing, and for the refreshments they provided afterwards.

The N.U.T.S. will doubtless be interested to know that Mr. R. A. Reed, of Eastleigh, a member of North Stoneham band, is shortly to be married to Miss Alice M. Scott. The wedding will take place at Bishopstoke on November 1st.

The Bromley Youths rang the first John peal, one of Grandsire Triples, at SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley, on October 15th, 1828.

Thomas Tolladay died on October 18th, 1843, and a muffled peal for him was rung at St. Clement Danes' in the following January.

The College Youths rang 6,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on October 19th, 1766. The composition probably was false.

On Monday, October 20th, 1794, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang on the old ring of bells at St. Giles', Camberwell, John Reeves' peal of Oxford Treble Bob, containing 6,720 changes and with the 120 course ends. George Gross conducted, and Shipway, who was in the band, says it was the first time a peal of Treble Bob containing the 120 course ends had been rung, but there is good reason to think that the College Youths had already rung the same peal at Kensington.

The first and only peal of Stedman Royal was rung at Aston Parish Church by the St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham on October 21st, 1876. It was composed and conducted by Henry Johnson. The figures of the method were given in a recent issue of 'The Ringing World.'

Charles Henry Hattersley died on October 21st, 1915.

On October 21st, 1891, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at Saffron Walden, the first by the ancient Saffron Walden Society since 1817. Four members of the famous Pitstow family took part as well as John F. Penning, well known as a composer of Grandsire Triples.

The veterans' peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Olave's, Hart Street, on October 21st, 1933. The total age of the band was 612 years. Four members, Messrs. H. W. Smith, E. H. Brundle, F. E. Dawe and James George, happily, are still alive.

On the same date in 1911 the first peal by eight brothers was rung by the Bailey family at Leiston.

On Sunday, October 23rd, 1791, James Bartlett with a band of the College Youths mostly belonging to St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, rang Holt's Original at St. Giles' in-the-Fields. Bartlett was for long supposed to be the first man to call the peal and ring at the same time, but the feat had already been performed three or four times, including a performance at St. Giles', Norwich, exactly 39 years before. The College Youths rang the peal non-conducted for the first time on the anniversary in 1884.

The first peal of Little Albion Treble Bob Major was rung at Pulford in Cheshire on October 24th, 1913; and on the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the first peal of Bob Royal outside the British Isles.

The first peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on October 25th, 1731, and on the same date in 1790 the Birmingham men rang at St. Philip's in that town the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung at All Saints', Wakefield, on October 26th, 1822. The composition was true.

On the same date in 1837 the St. James' Society rang 7,325 changes of Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; and in 1867 the Liversidge band rang 6,240 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major.

Fifty years ago to-day four peals were rung. Two were Grandsire Triples, one Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and one Kent Treble Bob Major. One of the peals of Grandsire was by the Society of Cumberland Youths at the Curfew Tower, Windsor Castle. George Newson called Holt's Original, Arthur Jacob rang the tenor, and Mr. W. H. Fussell rang the fifth.

PHILIP HODGKIN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The account by F.M.M. of Mr. Philip Hodgkin's record was very interesting, especially to myself, who have known him all my ringing life.

Unless I am very much mistaken (and I do not think I am), after the peal of Bob Major mentioned was published as the first peal of Major on the bells at Tenterden, a record of one rung there in 1771 by James Barham was found and published in 'The Ringing World.'

In fairness to the late Mr. W. Pye, it should have been stated that when he rang the bell it was hung in roller bearings, and when, after ringing it for two hours to Superlative, he gave up, it was found that three out of four rollers were crushed.

E. BARNETT.

TENTERDEN TENOR.

Dear Sir,—The reason why the late Mr. William Pye did not ring Tenterden tenor was just bad luck. She was then hung with roller bearings, the rollers broke and that caused the failure.

R. D.

THE LATE MR. JAMES HUNT. FUNERAL AT TAUNTON. His Peal Record.

Mr. James Hunt, of Taunton, whose death was reported in our last issue, was buried on Wednesday, October 15th, the coffin having rested overnight in the belfry of St. James' Church.

The funeral service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Walter Green, and Mr. Philpott was at the organ. The hymns sung were 'Jesu, lover of my soul' and 'Abide with me,' and as the cortege left the church the organist played the Dead March. The service was largely attended, and many of deceased's friends also gathered at St. Mary's Cemetery, where the burial took place.

The family mourners were Sergt. C. J. Hunt, R.A. (son) and Miss V. Hunt (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. T. Hunt (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. Clarke (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. S. Clarke (brother-in-law) and Mrs. L. Snow (niece).

Ringers from many parts of the Taunton Deanery were present and also representatives of the Diocesan Association, including Mr. T. Taffender (London) and Mr. D. G. Taylor (Ilminster).

Messrs. W. Gigg, S. Jarman, F. Morris, W. Priddle and J. Roy, St. James' ringers, and H. Churchill, Trull, acted as bearers, and after the coffin had been lowered into the grave a course of Grand-sire Triples was rung on Mr. Hunt's own handbells, those on which the record peal of Stedman Caters was rung: R. W. Hayward (Wilton) 1-2, A. H. Reed (St. James') 3-4, A. H. Lloyd (St. Mary's) 5-6, and W. Gigg (St. James') 7-8.

It will be remembered that Mr. Hunt died in Taunton Hospital after having been knocked down by a motor-car. He had been in bed, by the doctor's orders, since October 2nd, but on the night of October 6th got up, put on his coat and trousers over his pyjamas, and went out into the street. When taken to hospital it was found that he had sustained bruises on the scalp and forehead, but the skull was not fractured.

A verdict of 'Death from natural causes' was returned at the inquest, the post-mortem examination having revealed that death was due to a leakage of blood from the aorta and cerebral hæmorrhage, both caused by degeneration of the heart muscle, and a clot of blood from the heart extending to the lungs.

The Coroner stated that even if the accident had not occurred Mr. Hunt would have died within two hours.

Among those who sent wreaths were the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association; St. James' Guild, Taunton; bellringing friends at Ashbrittle; the ringers of Trull; his ringing boys; St. James' Parochial Church Council; and the children of Bishop's Hull School (where Mr. Hunt did duty every day in giving them safe conduct across the road).

Mr. Hunt's peals, which numbered 554 and were rung for 18 associations, were as follow:—

	Tower bells		Handbells	
	Rung	Conducted	Rung	Conducted
Grandsire Doubles	3	2		
Stedman Doubles	2	1		
Bob Minor	5	3		
Two to seven methods	9	5		
Combined Kent and Oxford Minor	1	1		
Cambridge Surprise Minor	1	1		
Seven Surprise Minor Methods	1	1		
Grandsire Triples	57	24	13	1
Stedman Triples	97	6	32	
Bob Triples	1	1		
Bob Major	42	19	7	
Kent Treble Bob Major	20	3	4	
Oxford Treble Bob Major	2	2		
Combined Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major	1	1		
Double Norwich	38	9		
Norfolk Surprise	1	2		
Superlative Surprise	32	2		
Cambridge Surprise	9	1		
New Cambridge Surprise	1			
Bristol Surprise	7	1		
London Surprise	2			
Grandsire Caters	13	5	4	
Stedman Caters	34	5	79	
Bob Royal	2	1	5	1
Kent Treble Bob Royal	5		2	
Cambridge Surprise Royal	1			
Stedman, Cinques	9		12	
	396	94	158	2

Total rung 554; conducted 96.

OLD COLLEAGUE'S APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should like to express my appreciation of my late friend James Hunt, whose death all who knew him will greatly deplore. Forty years ago there were two men, Charles Willshire, now in (Continued in next column.)

RINGING IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE.

BASINGSTOKE'S BRIGHT SPOT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have, unfortunately, only lately had the September 19th copy of 'The Ringing World' in my possession, but better late than never. I would like to support Mr. C. W. Munday in his defence of the northern districts of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

I challenge your statement that 'in the territory farther removed from the sea enthusiasm has long been less marked,' for it is indeed a fallacy. To the contrary, I suggest that enthusiasm in the Basingstoke District was, at the outbreak of war, at a much higher level than any other district. My reason for saying this is that I am, I believe, the only 'outsider,' apart from, perhaps, Mr. L. A. Tremear, who knows to the full what efforts the young ringers of that district are putting forth for the advancement of campanology. They are mostly young men, of an average age of about 22, and, apart from attending every meeting within their range, they cycle everywhere, because, as Mr. Munday says, travelling facilities are bad.

They also attempt peals at every opportunity. In 1939 I started to keep a record of all peals lost, and it opened my eyes to the real activity of these ringers. Every time I met Mr. Munday or one of his fellow ringers I was handed a list of lost peals. It must be remembered that they have no G. Williams or F. W. Rogers to encourage them and guide them through their first peals, as we, in the south, have had! A peal of Bob Major by the Basingstoke band is, I feel, of far greater value than a peal of London by the North Stoneham or Portsmouth band, both to the ringers and the Exercise. I remember inviting Mr. F. A. Munday, of Basingstoke, to stand in a peal of Cambridge Major at Romsey in 1939. He rang it with scarcely a trip and told me afterwards that he had rung only one course ever before and had never made a bob! They are all as keen as that, but their keenness is not generally recognised—because they do not have peals published every other week or so.

I hope I have made it clear that the 'indifference' and 'lack of interest' in that district are purely mythical, and that, with so many young and enthusiastic ringers in our Guild, the spirit of ringing cannot be dead, and it will be we young ones who will raise the flag after the war.

R. A. REED.

FEW ACTIVE CENTRES.

This testimony by Mr. Reed to the activity of the Basingstoke band is heartening, but, splendid as has been the enthusiasm of this young band, may we quote the old adage to point out that 'one swallow does not make a summer'? The Basingstoke band are a great asset to the Diocesan Guild and will, we hope, become more so in the future, but we referred in our article generally to the large area of North Hampshire. Draw a line across the county, say, from Romsey in the west to Petersfield in the east, and, with the exception of Basingstoke and just one or two other scattered places, where has there been any real enthusiasm shown in recent years? It is a good thing for the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild that there are these one or two bright spots, otherwise the outlook might be poor indeed, but, speaking generally, we still feel our comment was justified.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

THE LATE MR. JAMES HUNT.

(Continued from previous column.)

Canada, and James Hunt, who were really the means through which we others in Guildford had our enthusiasm stirred and from whom we received so much assistance. Jim Hunt did all the arranging and a favourite visitor was the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, who came to the towers round this neighbourhood. Then we started handbell ringing, and I think it was the practice we put in while travelling in trains that developed the quick ringing. Jim used to say as we started, 'Now we have so long, so shove them along and see how much we can ring.' When we used to go straight from work and had no bells, we had to use our thumbs. We often laughed and wondered what other passengers thought of us.

My own tower of Holy Trinity succeeded in getting a Surprise band together, and Jim Hunt, who was leader at S. Nicolas', was big enough always to meet us outside the tower to congratulate the band on all our first peals. I may add that he was always in the next peal in the method.

It was always his wish to ring the 'four fives,' 'four sevens,' 'four eights' and 'four nines' of Stedman Caters, but all this did not materialise, as he moved to London. As you have recorded, we rang the 14 thousand, and after that it was the 'five twos' we wanted to ring. It was only bad luck in one of the band being kept at work on the railway that the peal was not rung.

To see and hear Jim Hunt ring 7-8 was a treat. He had a flair for that pair once they were turned into the handstroke position, and he swung them along as if they were tower bells.

The older members of the Winchester Guild will recollect those two enthusiasts, Charles Willshire and James Hunt, and the annual meetings at Winchester or the meetings of our own district were always interesting when they were present. All will admit that their ideas were always of progress.

While memory lasts Jim Hunt will always be remembered by

A. H. PULLING.

BELLS AS "LUXURIES." "THEY BELONG TO ENGLAND."

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. F. H. Smith is pleased to be witty, but he does not add anything to the discussion, and I need not waste any time trying to reply to his letter.

Mr. T. Groombridge and Mr. F. E. Pitman talk more sense, but I think both of them are largely wrong.

The question is: Should parishes treat bells as 'necessities' and insure them against enemy action? or should they treat them as 'luxuries' and trust to good fortune? Diocesan authorities seem in most cases to recommend the second course, and I think they are right.

Of course, where there is plenty of money it is the proper thing to insure everything to the full, but there are not many parishes where they have not a great difficulty to make ends meet, and usually if the money is to be found for insurances, something else must go short. After all, considering the number of bells there are in the country, the number that have been damaged or destroyed is small, and though we must expect further raids when Hitler thinks he has got a freer hand in Russia, the number is not likely to be so very large. In many of the cases where the bells do suffer we can confidently expect that the same spirit and the same generosity that supplied the bells in the first instance will in due time replace them, though there are a lot of other things that will have to come first.

But Mr. Pitman and Mr. Groombridge say that the Government have confiscated the bells and turned them into military objects; and, therefore, if they are damaged or destroyed, the Government should replace them with others equal in size and quality.

I think that is a wrong way of looking at the matter. The Government have not confiscated or even commandeered the bells. They have reserved the use of them to act as warnings in the case of invasion, and they have a perfect right to do so. The bells are not private property. In a sense they do not belong to the local church authorities except as trustees. They certainly do not belong to us ringers. They belong to England, and if England has need of them in her hour of danger, she has every right to use them, asking no man's leave. One of the reasons for which some of them were originally put up was to sound the alarm in time of danger. We ringers must not complain if our personal wishes and conveniences have to stand by in the national interests, and much as we regret the ban we do not complain. What we do point out is that bells are not in the least likely to fulfil the purpose the Government intend. With our experience we know that they would be largely ineffectual. It is a pity the military authorities did not realise that before they imposed the ban, but in fairness there are one or two things to remember. We know now, though we did not at the time, how very serious was the danger of invasion in June, 1940, after the collapse of France and the loss of all the equipment of our expeditionary force. We know something of the effort that had to be made to prepare the country for defence. And we need not wonder that the authorities turned to the only means of giving an alarm that lay to their hands—the ancient one of church bells. Probably they thought it might not be a good one, but there was nothing else. They were not, I imagine, thinking of towns and places where news would spread faster than men could get up into the steeples, but the remoter country districts where air borne invaders might be expected to be dropped. I doubt if, now, they attach much importance to the warning by church bells.

When the war is over every effort should be made, and no doubt will be made, to replace damage done by enemy action, but church bells have no particular claim to priority because they have been set apart to act as warnings. We hear a lot of talk about military objectives, but much of it is meaningless. The Government order has not increased in the slightest the risk of bells being damaged. We may be perfectly sure that not one German bomb has ever been dropped with the actual intention of damaging a church tower and its bells because they are military objectives. In totalitarian war every thing and every civilian, man, woman or child, is a military objective, if the Germans think they can get their way by bombing them. They are not at war with the English army and air force only, they are at war with England and the English people.

I did not say that there is no opposition to church bells. I was contradicting the assertion made by a correspondent in your paper that there is an organised body of persons with influence in Government circles and high places who are trying and intend to try to prohibit or curtail the general use of church bells. Opposition to some bells there is, always has been and probably always will be; but the opposition is always local and temporary. A man often objects to ringing from a tower close to his house and sometimes he objects very loudly indeed. But when that is stopped he does not care twopenny what happens in the next village. Often enough when he is on holiday and hears bells in different circumstances he is quite charmed with them.

Very often he is quite a reasonable person, for some bells, hung as some bells are hung, and rung as some ringers ring, can easily be without much stretch of imagination a nuisance to the people who live near. Generally speaking in residential neighbourhoods bells are out of place unless their sound is properly regulated, and the ringing is good and at the proper times.

Church bells have not yet lost their appeal to the ordinary Englishman.
LESLIE W. BUNCE.

THE "QUISLINGS" OF THE EXERCISE.

DANGERS OF CARELESS TALK.

Sir,—Mr. Leslie W. Bunce says he fails to see what point there is in any of the remarks contained in my previous letters, to which I would ask—Does he want to see? It is no exaggeration to say that some people see no point in anything except what they write themselves, and Leslie W. Bunce strikes me as being one among these, as his remarks also about the Rev. A. A. Liney go to prove. Would anything or anyone convince your correspondent? I doubt it!

A careful survey of his last letter scarcely reveals two sentences which go together, and I imagine some of your readers must have had a good laugh from certain passages. For instance, he says, 'You can get all the musical accompaniment you need with smaller and less costly organs than are usually found in churches, though everyone would prefer the luxury of the full instrument,' and he goes on to say, 'And the same with bells.' Perhaps Mr. Bunce will tell the Exercise how to get all the campanological methods it needs on three bells which he advocates putting in village churches and one bell for town churches, or even how to play all the hymn tunes one requires to get on the same numbers (even if stationary hung, and I am no advocate of this type of bell)? Whether with wheels and ropes or hung 'dead,' I am afraid the majority of people would soon get 'fed up' with hearing 'Three blind mice,' or a monotonous ding, ding, ding, for very long at a stretch. It is not (as commonsense tells us) a question of preferring the 'luxury' or full instrument as the fact that you must have it to get all the musical accompaniment you need. The only alternative is to lay down our 'arms,' so to speak, and refuse to see the expansion of our art to newly-built churches or those reconstructed in blitzed areas altogether.

I am aware that there are 'Quislings' in everything, and those members of the Exercise who favour this system I am afraid I can refer to them in no better terms. Mr. Groombridge rightly says 'All ringers have a duty to keep the Exercise alive during these dark days,' to which I would add 'and to act as missionaries to the newly-constructed areas in the post-war years,' but many Smiths, Parkinsons and Bunces will do neither. Careless talk which is likely to give secrets to the 'enemy' is a typical description of these three individuals' letters. To talk about 'what must be done is to hope that after the war some generous person will come forward and find the money to replace them' is sheer careless talk and just the kind of remark to put some church councils off from insuring their bells against war damage. And to talk of three bells being sufficient for village churches and one bell for town churches is just as careless and a remark which any loyal campanologist ought to be wholly ashamed of.

There are two things which the Christian Church stands for—spiritual administration and the social uplifting of the people; and anything which goes to further either one or both of these things must be a necessity and certainly not a luxury. Thirty years ago bells might have been looked upon as luxuries more than to-day, for in those times people needed nothing to remind them of the prayers of the Church—they worshipped as a matter of duty. Any one thing which to-day can bring to the minds of the people the thought of the Church and all it stands for is surely serving a spiritual purpose: better still if it can entice them inside, as the fascination of campanology does—and no single bell or ring of three, Mr. Bunce, can do this! I like Mr. Groombridge's retaliatory remark, 'if a clique combine to stop ringing, what is this but organised opposition?' It should give Mr. Bunce something to think about, but I don't suppose even that would convince him. Finally, here is something which Mr. Bunce cannot deny. He says trumpets were never used in the service of the Church. Either he made the remark in ignorance, or he is not very conversant with his Bible, for in several places mention is made of trumpets for calling the people to solemn assembly—for instance, Joel, chapter ii, verse 15: 'Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.' Again in Numbers, chapter x, verses 1-2: 'And the Lord spake unto Moses saying—Make thee two trumpets of silver, of a whole piece shalt thou make them, that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly.' If Mr. Bunce and others of his type want to see the financial side of the Church righted, I suggest they bear in mind the words of Dr. Berry which I spoke of in one of my previous letters—that where things are right internally a great work is still being done despite all the difficulties: that the watchword of many of our present-day Church leaders has been 'Go!' rather than 'Come!' I personally believe there to be as much religion in minds of men and women to-day as ever. But that flower of religion needs the right soil and atmosphere in which to grow and flourish.

'ANTI-SILENT.'

EFFORTS TO STOP BELLS.

Dear Sir,—I was astonished to read a ringer's letter patronising the idea that bells are 'luxuries.' Surely no ringer with a genuine love of bells and bellringing can hold such views, or, if he does, would be foolish enough to express them for all to read.

While I am inclined to agree that there is no *organised* opposition to bells, to say there are only half a score of people who have any intention of trying to stop the bells is sheer nonsense. I can quote several instances where definite efforts were made to stop the bells being rung in various places, and no doubt there are many ringers with much wider experience than myself who can quote very many more cases.

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

AN APPRECIATION.

Mr. Alan R. Pink, of Oxford, who is now serving in the Royal Navy, writes expressing his great regret at the lamented death of Mr. A. G. Driver. He says: As you know, I ranked him among my greatest friends and benefactors in the Exercise, and I feel that, although I am not in a position to collate all the evidence of his genius, I must pay tribute to his memory by giving you a short summary of how his influence has touched me. In this way, and perhaps with others doing the same, we can arrive at some idea of his contribution to the art.

I have been in correspondence with him over a period of years, and I value it so highly that I have kept it all, and indexed it for future reference. It includes, I am certain, ideas of his which are not generally known, among them a full exposition of his system of proof, which is much simpler and shorter than that recently published in 'The Ringing World.' There are also many methods not rung, compositions, and ideas for developing methods. If considered necessary, I would lend it to a responsible person, in order that the Exercise should benefit permanently, but I should want it all back, as it was given to me through our friendship.

In our series of successes at Windsor we have him largely to thank for his help and advice. I find that I called a peal of Spliced Double Oxford, Plain Bob and Double Norwich, 5,008 changes, of his arrangement at Warfield, and the first peal of Belvedere Surprise Major at Staines. This was his method, as was also the composition. The footnote to the peal is typical of the man when it says that he did not wish to claim it as his own. I remember this peal as being one of the best I ever rang, and we rang it at the first attempt without practice. If it were possible we would ring it again, half-muffled, to his memory.

I have called several of his compositions of Ashted Surprise. Another outstanding achievement was the peal of Spliced Painswick, Yorkshire, Superlative and Cambridge at Old Windsor, the only one rung. This plan of splicing in separate leads was his. Cranbourne Surprise Major was worked out by him and also the composition.

His exploits in the splicing of Minor methods are better known to others, and I will leave that to those who have rung them. He was in his lifetime a man of modesty, who never wished for the limelight, but I feel that now he is gone the least we can do is to make the Exercise aware of the magnitude of their loss.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SMALL MEETING, BUT GOOD PRACTICE.

The October meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Monk Bretton on the 11th instant, when members attended from Eastwood, Felkirk, Wath and the local company. The Church Hall was placed at the disposal of the ringers during the afternoon and evening, and handbells were made good use of. A splendid tea was very much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

At the business meeting the Vicar (the Rev. G. Hodgshon) presided, and was elected an honorary member of the society.

The Vicar said how pleased he was to meet the ringers once more. The best thanks of the society were given to the Vicar for the use of the hall and for all he had done in connection with the meeting, and to the ladies for providing the tea.

Further handbell ringing followed in Minor, Triples and Major methods. Although the attendance was rather small, some very good ringing was enjoyed.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, November 8th.

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

(Continued from previous page.)

If we accept the fact that there are such people about, surely it is up to us to do all we can to see that they do not get away with the 'luxury' story as a means of preventing bells from being replaced. After all, the bulk of the public are 'neutral' when it comes to bells and bells in existence they take for granted.

A few agitators, talking about money wasted on 'luxuries,' would almost certainly rouse some of the 'neutral' public to support them.

I hope no one will start saying I am being chased by the now famous 'bogey,' because I am not a bit frightened that the anti-bell agitators will get their own way, but let us never patronise any idea which is against bells or bellringing.

J. E. BAILEY.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

War time conditions made impossible the issue of the usual report of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and instead what is termed an unofficial pamphlet has been circulated to the members by the Master (Mr. George Williams) and the hon. general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers).

In his introductory remarks Mr. Williams says: At their annual meeting at Winchester on Saturday, September 6th, the Guild decided not to print an annual report for 1940 owing to war conditions. Hence this small pamphlet is issued (unofficially) by myself, with the whole-hearted support of our hon. treasurer and hon. general secretary. My reason for so doing was that, having the first fifty years' reports bound up in two volumes, and the remaining years to 1939 intact, to make sure of getting some kind of 1940 record; this was my only alternative of keeping a record of the Guild's continuity.

On getting an estimate as to costs of an eight-page pamphlet, I found little difference as to cost up to 200 copies. Therefore I hope to have enough to go round so that each affiliated tower can receive a copy, hoping my action will be appreciated not only by those who were at the annual meeting, but by the much larger number who were unable to attend.

This being an unofficial report, I make no comment on the year's activities, beyond regrets at there being no official reports for 1940, and an appeal to all members of the various towers to support the Guild under most trying circumstances (no ringing, meetings, etc.) by co-operating locally for silent tower or handbell ringing if possible. With these few remarks I have the hon. general secretary's approval for his name to be associated in the usual way.—George Williams, Master; Fredk. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec.

A list of the affiliated towers is given with the tower secretaries, and the reports of the seven peals rung by the association in the early months of 1940. These consisted of 2 Cambridge Surprise Major, 1 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1 Bob Major, 2 Bob Minor, and 1 in three Minor methods.

Concerning these performances the Recorder of Peals writes: Little comment is needed on the seven peals rung during the first five months of 1940, before the ban on open ringing was imposed; but a glance at the statistics will show that, although the peals were few and far between—due, presumably, to transport and other war-time difficulties—they were most encouraging, with a good variety of methods, and that the majority of the participants are resident members of the Guild. The young band from St. Michael's, Basingstoke, played a very prominent part, being responsible for three of the peals. This band, however, like most others, has now lost some of its members to H.M. Forces and other necessary war work, but we must all try to keep touch with the intricacies of our art, as far as possible, in order to be ready for the ultimate peals of victory.—Reginald A. Reed.

Home Forces, July, 1941.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

USEFUL MEETING AT ILMINSTER.

A meeting was held at Ilminster on Saturday, October 11th, when ringers came from Taunton (St. Mary's, St. James' and Wilton towers), also from Yeovil, Drayton, Martock, Lyme Regis (including the ringing Vicar, the Rev. C. Carew Cox) and Ilminster. The tower bells were kept going, silently, of course, to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Cambridge Surprise and Superlative Surprise and Double Norwich Major until about five o'clock when a move was made to the communal kitchen (a war-time institution where evacuee children have their meals while their foster parents are at work) to consume the eatables the ringers had been asked to bring with them owing to rationing difficulties. They were, however, supplied with cups of tea gratis. The tea arrangements were in the hands of the Misses Wigzell and Taylor.

Mr. T. H. Taffender, of London, now living in the neighbourhood, was really the moving spirit in getting the meeting arranged, so the local captain (Mr. D. G. Taylor) installed him as ringing master for the occasion, a post which, with his long experience as Master of the London County Association, he carried out exceedingly well.

Though there was no business to transact, various ringers got on their 'hind legs' and did a bit of talking. The Vicar, the Rev. G. G. Hickman, welcomed the visitors and expressed his appreciation of the good work done by the association in the cause of ringing.

A sad note was struck when it was announced that Mr. James Hunt, the well-known Taunton ringer, had passed away the day before as a result of being involved in a motor accident on the previous Monday. The meeting stood in silence for a moment as a mark of respect to his memory.

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THE STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from page 503.)

GLOUCESTER AND NEW GLOUCESTER SURPRISE.

In their nature and uses in method construction, Oxford Places are very similar to Kent Places. Sometimes the two sets are interchangeable, and this is useful in forming variations, but there are definite limitations to so doing. A good example of the use of these places is given by Gloucester Surprise.

Gloucester S.	New Gloucester S.
12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587
12435678	12346578
21346587	21436587
<hr/>	
23145678	24135678
32416587	42316587
23146857	24136857
32418675	42318675
<hr/>	
23481657	24381657
32846175	42836175
32481657	42381657
23846175	24836175
<hr/>	
32486715	42386715
23847651	24837651
32846715	42836715
23487651	24387651
<hr/>	
24378561	23478561
42735816	32745816
24738561	23748561
42375816	32475816
<hr/>	
24735186	23745186
42371568	32471568
42735186	32745186
24371568	23471568
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42317586	32417586
24135768	23145768
42315678	32415678
24136587	23146587
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21435678	21345678
12346587	12435687
21345678	21346578
12436587	12436587
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14263857	14263857

Gloucester, which was first published by Mr. E. Bankes James in 1897, was one of the earliest attempts to produce a new Surprise method on sound lines and, indeed, except for Bulwer's New Cumberland, it was the first of the modern Major methods. It was designed to give all those qualities which men like Sir Arthur Heywood had decided were necessary for a good and musical method, and to a very large extent it fulfilled its author's intentions.

Perhaps the principal quality aimed at was double dodging in front and behind on bells in their natural coursing order. Heywood had laid it down that double dodging is the finest movement in change ringing, and

there is much to be said for that opinion, which finds confirmation in Double Norwich Major and Stedman Triples and Caters. But in method construction it is a general rule that we cannot have one good quality without paying for it by the loss of other good qualities; and in methods on the Treble Bob Principle a rather excessive price has usually to be paid for double dodging. Single dodging is natural to the principle, and three-pull and five-pull dodging; but to get double dodging the natural coursing order of the bells in the interior of the lead usually has to be very much broken.

Gloucester, however, strikes as good a compromise between the rival tendencies as is possible, and though it cannot be ranked with the best of the Surprise methods comes well up in the second class.

The construction of the method is rather a complicated one, but is easily understandable with a little trouble and thought. By 'construction' we mean the different shunts or Q Sets which break and regain the natural coursing order.

The method has in each lead three distinct shunts or operations which affect the position of the treble in coursing order and produce the lead-end.

The first is the Court Shunt made at the first and second cross-sections, in which the bell next in front of the treble makes fourths and thirds round it, with the result that the two bells change positions in coursing order. This shunt by itself would produce the lead-end 3527486.

The second is a slow work, similar to the slow work of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, but made by three bells. The three bells immediately behind the treble in coursing order are retained on the front until it returns, when they take up the positions in coursing order in front of the treble. This shunt by itself would produce the lead-end 8674523.

The third is the Court Shunt in the second half-lead complementary to that in the first half-lead.

3527486, transposed by 8674523, transposed by 3527486, gives 4263857, which is the actual lead-end of the method.

All the rest of the work in the method consists of operations on some of the working bells which break their coursing order and regain it within the lead. Of these operations the simplest and most easily understandable is the Oxford places in 3-4 in the first section.

The work these places do is obvious. It is simply to prevent repetition of rows in the first section. Last week we saw that the Kent places in Albion serve a like purpose; but there is this difference that, whereas Kent places break and regain natural coursing order within the section, Oxford places leave the two bells reversed in coursing order, and it is necessary to make another pair of them, later in the lead, to restore it. In Gloucester, as in Oxford Treble Bob, this is done in the last section. The natural coursing order is regained, but for nearly the whole lead 3,4, are doing each other's work.

In the fourth and fifth sections of Gloucester we get two bells making places side by side. These look like Oxford places, but really they are not so; they are caused by the three-bell slow work.

Gloucester Surprise has many good qualities, but it also has serious defects. The lead-end is the same as Kent Treble Bob, the false course-ends are the same, and a fourth's place bob with lengthening lead can be used.

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 3.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, October 25th. Tower open 3 p.m. Handbells and eight silent bells. Come along and make this a good meeting. There is a good train and bus service.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at The Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5.30. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Ewell on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells available in the tower from 3 p.m. and after meeting. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea (4.45) and business meeting. All ringers heartily welcome.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec.; G. W. Massey and A. T. Shelton, Dis. Secs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, on Saturday, October 25th, at 3 p.m.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Latest date for application Tuesday, November 4th.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Brierley Hill (D.V.), Saturday, October 25th. Tower bells 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Social evening, handbells, etc., to follow.—Bernard C. Ashford, 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 1st, at 3.30 p.m. A cup of tea will be provided, but members are requested to bring their own sandwiches. Will those attending kindly notify T. W. G. Jones, 46, Harley Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs? All towers are requested to send a representative.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Donington on Saturday, November 1st. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the Dial Hall at 4.30 p.m. Will all those intending to come please let me know by Tuesday, October 28th?—W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, November 1st. Tower open at 3 p.m. for handbells. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at old National Schools, 6 p.m., at 1s. per head. Please let me know by the 29th inst. how many for tea.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chobham on Saturday, November 1st. Handbells ready 2.30 p.m. Time of meeting will be arranged to fit in with local requirements.

Nominations for officers for 1942 at this meeting. Subscriptions for 1941 are now overdue.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Linton on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar) and business meeting. Please send your names in by Wednesday, November 5th.—C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone, Kent.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—W. H. Shuker, general secretary of the Lancashire Association, has removed to 36, Colwyn Avenue, Kingswood Estate, Fallowfield, Manchester.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED.—A set of 12 (or more) handbells (Mears for preference), in good condition.—Send particulars, including size, maker's name, etc., to J. S. Roberts, 134, Croft Road, Swindon, Wilts.

STANDARD METHODS.

(Continued from previous page.)

But few peals of Kent will run true to Gloucester; for the incidence of the falseness is different in the two methods. In Kent there is no liability to internal falseness in the Middle, Wrong and Home leads, but there is in Gloucester. That very much restricts composition and makes the use of a sixth's place bob almost a necessity. Can this defect be removed by some more or less simple variation?

The Oxford places in the first section could be made in 5-6 instead of in 3-4, but as that would result in the bells coming up behind out of their natural coursing order, it would ruin the musical qualities of the method.

Kent places instead of Oxford places in 3-4 would get rid of the liability to internal falseness in the Middle, Wrong and Home leads and make all peals of Kent Treble Bob with the tenors together available; but, unfortunately, since fourths must be made at the first cross-section, a bell would strike three consecutive blows in that position, and that, of course, is not allowed.

We have another alternative. In the first section we can make Kent places in 5-6 instead of Oxford places in 3-4. That will give a clear-proof scale for the first section and also for the fourth section where the worst of the trouble lay. The only section now liable to internal falseness is the third, where two bells, next each other in natural coursing order, make places side by side in 1-2. This gives the false course-end B24365; but otherwise the variation has a clear-proof scale.

This amended version was published by Mr. Banks James and called by him New Gloucester. Perhaps it would have been better if it had been given a distinct name so long as its relationship to the original Gloucester was pointed out and acknowledged. That, however, is no great matter.

For the purposes of composition, New Gloucester is a great improvement on old Gloucester, but it is not so comfortable a method to ring. Our experience of it is confined to leads included in spliced peals, but we found, as did the whole band, the place making in 5-6 awkward and uncomfortable, though not particularly difficult.

The first peal of Gloucester was rung at St. Michael's, Gloucester, in 1897, with Mr. John Austin as conductor; the first peal of New Gloucester was rung at All Saints', Edmonton, in 1926, with Mr. James Parker as conductor.

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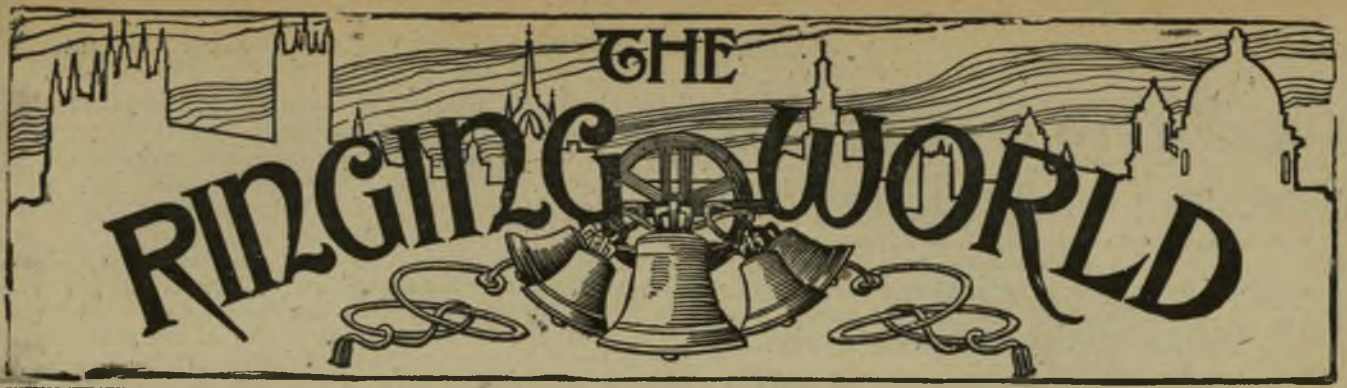
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No. 1,597. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1941.

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FUTURE OF LONDON BELLS.

During the pause which we have been enjoying from widespread air attack on this country, it has been possible to take some stock of the damage which has been suffered by churches and of the losses among the bells. It is a sorry list, but the most amazing thing about it is that, while churches have proved one of the most vulnerable targets for indiscriminate bombing, the actual loss of bells, sad as it is, is comparatively small. In many cases the churches have been destroyed, but the towers, presumably because of their extra strength, have withstood the shock and, except where fire has eaten up the contents, the bells have remained intact.

Unfortunately London city churches suffered badly in this respect, and the fires which have resulted from air raids have robbed us of many noted peals, among them three famous rings of twelve. Whether they will all eventually be restored to their former glory remains to be seen, and everyone will hope that when the time comes for the rebuilding of the churches the bells will arise from the ashes and devastation shorn of nothing of their earlier completeness. There is, however, some reason to doubt whether, for instance, the twelve bells of Bow will be replaced either in number or weight. The fabric of the church is in ruins, and the beautiful spire is apparently shaken by its ordeal. Its preservation is already being taken in hand, but whether it can safely carry again a ringing peal of twelve with a tenor of more than fifty hundredweights is a matter for experts to decide. Its structure has always provided something of a problem for bellhangers, and it may be that the architects will find that the effects of the bombing will make necessary a reduction in the swinging weight of the bells when their future is considered. One thing that ought to be carefully watched is that no attempt should escape unchallenged if it is sought to reduce Bow Bells to the status of a carillon or chime. We have not yet heard this suggested; it is the kind of thing which might be put forward as a solution of an architectural problem, and should be carefully watched. Better a lighter ring of bells than that Bow should be overtaken by the fate of Coventry Cathedral.

Similarly we hope that the future of other bells will not be left to chance. There have been reports that St. Bride's are to be restored to their former state by the newspaper men of Fleet Street, whose 'Parish Church' this is. If this proves to be true, as we hope it may be, St. Bride's will be saved, and perhaps become more readily available for ringing than in recent years, when the strain of work in this nerve centre of the world of

(Continued on page 518.)

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journalism was the reason given for the enforced and almost complete silence of the bells. Let us hope that the gift of the newspaper men, if it materialises, will provide a desire for the ringing of the bells in proper times and seasons. What will happen in those other London churches where the bells, so seldom rung in recent years, have now crashed into an inferno, is on the laps of the gods. Some, we fear, will never be restored. It is not being pessimistic to face facts. Can we, for instance, expect that the long silent ring of ten at Horsleydown, or the eight at Coleman Street, will be replaced? If they are, we shall all rejoice, but ringers will have small cause to complain if they are not, for these, and many other peals of bells in the heart of London, have long remained neglected.

Naturally, ringers will look anxiously to see that the famous bells which have been in regular use are restored eventually, even though their replacement may be delayed, and we have no doubt that the London ringing societies will make it their special charge to keep in touch with all that goes on in this direction. We feel, however, that their position will be a weak one unless they can support their advocacy with some kind of undertaking that the bells will be put to their proper use. No one can foretell what the future has in store, and there may be further damage to our cherished churches and bells before the war is over. What we would like to see, therefore, is collaboration between all the societies operating in the London area in using their combined influence with Church authorities to ensure the replacement of such bells as fall to enemy action. It is not too soon for consideration of the problem, so that some settled joint policy can be arrived at. In this matter none can afford to ignore the rest, and co-operation is the only method likely to carry any weight.

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some time ago a correspondent enquired about bells in the Isle of Man, mentioning in particular the peal at St. Thomas', Douglas. As I have recently had occasion to visit the island, I was able to obtain details of these bells, which are now a chime of eight by Taylor, the tenor weighing 12 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. An inscription on the tenor records that the original six bells, installed in 1852, were destroyed by fire in February, 1912. They were recast in that year as a peal of six, but hung 'dead' in a steel frame and fitted with an Ellacombe chiming apparatus. Two trebles to complete the octave were added in 1926.

The eight bells at Peel are hung for ringing, but it would now be impossible to swing the back six owing to the position of the outside hammers—two to each bell—of the carillon machine. My recollection of these bells, which I saw three years ago, is that they would otherwise have been ringable, but as the wooden frame is of light construction and six of the bells swing the same way, there would probably be considerable movement. In any case I observed a distinct hostility to any suggestion of ever ringing these bells again.

There are now five bells at the Government Chapel on Tynwald Hill, which also serves as the Parish Church for the village of St. John's, but only the largest is hung for ringing. The other four bells, which were added two years ago, are for the Westminster quarter chimes.

The Parish Church of Ramsey, the second largest town on the island, has only two bells, while the most imposing tower on the island, that of King William's College, contains three bells by Taylor for use in connection with the clock.

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A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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Tenor size 16.

ROBERT C. HEAZEL ... 1-2 | PTE. H. TURNER (Essex Regt.) 3-4

EDWARD T. STITCH ... 5-6

Conducted by H. TURNER.

Witness—William T. Porrester.

First peal on handbells by all.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, October 19, 1941, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2 | HAROLD J. POOLE ... 7-8

PERCY L. HARRISON ... 3-4 | FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 9-10

GEORGE S. MORRIS ... 5-6 | JOSIAH MORRIS ... 11-12

Composed by FREDK. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE

Especially arranged and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Milner, of Kirklington, on the tenth anniversary of their marriage. It was also a birthday compliment to the conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

(ELLOE DEANERIES BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT GLYN GAETH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

*ENID M. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 3-4

†MRS. R. RICHARDSON ... 5-6

Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

Witness—Mrs. D. L. Tomlinson.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal of Minor 'in hand' away from the trebles.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(HIGHCLIFFE SOCIETY.)

On Friday, October 24, 1941, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT HIGHCLIFFE, 81, COUNTY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*DENNIS W. S. SMOUT ... 1-2 | †W. BERRYAM KYNASTON ... 5-6

†JACK S. ROBERTS ... 3-4 | †IVOR C. N. BELL ... 7-8

REV. MALCOLM C. C. MELVILLE ... 9-10

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

* First attempt for a peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal 'in hand.'

MR. J. J. MOSS' PEALS.

Mr. Jesse J. Moss, of Bolsover, whose death we recorded last week, had rung 183 peals, many of them in a variety of Surprise methods. The following is the list: Minor, in one method 1, in three methods 1, in five methods 1, Grandsire Triples 2, Bob Major 12, on handbells 2, Bob Royal 1, on handbells 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 19, on handbells 2, Kent Treble Bob Royal 5, on handbells 1, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Double Norwich Major 37, on handbells 2, Forward Major 1, Forward Royal 1, Little Bob Major 1, Little Bob Royal 1.

Surprise methods: Superlative 37, Cambridge 4, New Cambridge 5, London 9, Bristol 1, Norfolk 14, Yorkshire 16, Rutland 2, Pudsey 3.

STEDMAN'S PRINCIPLE.—When this system was first produced it is highly probable that the author of it was unacquainted with its merits farther than five bells, for in the old 'Campanalogia,' in which it was first introduced to the Exercise, there is nothing farther concerning it than the original on five. It seems to have been most practised on seven in the city of Norwich, where the art of ringing appears to have flourished at an early period by boards and frames of peals in the steeple of St. Peter's, Mancroft. Latterly the system has been practised to a great extent in the metropolis on seven, nine and eleven bells: being much admired for the amusement it affords the ringer and the music it produces; but as it is too intricate, for common practice it is confined to a few select performers.—William Shipway.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 508.)

LONDON SURPRISE ROYAL.

The debates which created the greatest interest were not those on general and somewhat academic subjects, such as I referred to last week, but those which arose out of some discussion or dispute among ringers at the time. Of these debates an outstanding example is that on London Surprise Royal at Cambridge in 1908.

When the development of method ringing began to extend to Royal, soon after the opening of the century, it was natural that ringers should first turn their attention to the ten-bell variations of the methods which were most esteemed on eight bells, and especially Double Norwich and Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise.

For the first two there were already acknowledged extensions. Cambridge was satisfactory in every way; Double Norwich was not nearly so good from a practical point of view, but none better was to be had. For Superlative, Shipway had produced an extension to ten bells, and the first peal of it was rung at Wakefield in 1826. Law James revived the method and called one or two peals of it. He was very insistent that it was the only true Superlative Royal, and tried to induce the Council to say so and to refuse to recognise any rivals. I was not impressed by his arguments, and, judging from my experience in two abortive peal attempts, each over three hours in length, I think it very poor stuff indeed.

For London, no ten-bell extension had come down from the past, but London Major held the highest place in the estimation of ringers, and it was natural that, as soon as there were bands capable of attempting a peal of London Royal, they should set themselves the task.

At least three bands made the attempt, but only one had any success; and on November 11th, 1907, a band of the College Youths rang at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 5,040 changes of a method which was published as London Surprise Royal. Mr. George Price conducted, and about half the band came from his belfry of Oxhey.

The figures of the method, which was produced by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, were published in due course, and almost at once a strong controversy began in the pages of 'The Bell News.' One thing was quite evident. Though everybody seemed to have a general idea of what London Surprise Royal should be, no one could prick such a method on paper. All they could do was to get as near to it as possible, and since each man thought his own version was the nearest, there was not much chance of any agreement, or of any sound conclusion coming out of the controversy.

The men who took part were all clever and experienced composers, but not one of them knew anything about the mathematical laws which control extensions of methods. It was a matter which had never been explored. Men worked entirely by experiment, and their arguments were only attempts to justify the figures they had produced. I took part, though I did not put forward a version of my own. I wrote one or two letters and a fairly long article, but though I was rather more impartial and detached than some of the others (having no axe to grind) I did not then understand the nature of the problem of extension, for I accepted the theory that 'places are the method,' which I have since found to be unsound. My most sensible contribution to the discussion was to point out that since by common consent

an exact London Royal did not exist, if we had to choose between those that were somewhat near, then the method which had been rung and which was in possession had the best title to the name. But that view pleased nobody.

The battle was really for the possession of the name. Not one of the rival methods would have attracted much attention apart from its claim to be London Royal, nor did anyone contend that they had any particular merits in actual practice. It was another illustration of the fact that ringers have always been influenced by names. Call a method 'Surprise' and they think it must be worth ringing. Call a method 'Plain' and they hardly deign to give it a thought. London Surprise Major is the premier eight-bell method; London Surprise Royal must be the premier ten-bell method. In this they do not differ very much from ordinary people. Shakespeare, we remember, made Juliet ask, 'What's in a name?' and go on to say, 'That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.' But Juliet was an inexperienced girl, fourteen years old, and very much in love. She can hardly be taken as an authority on the matter, and very few of the thousands who quote her realise that almost the whole of her tragedy was due to the fact that there was very much indeed in a name.

Law James, John Carter, Henry Dains, William Snowdon, Gabriel Lindoff, and others took part in the newspaper controversy. Of course, it settled nothing, and proved no more than that each thought he was right and the others wrong, which is the way of such controversies.

Then the subject came before the Central Council. It was raised by Frederick G. May, of Bristol, who had started the correspondence in 'The Bell News.' His action in the matter was due to the fact that he had received some years before an extension of London Surprise to ten bells from Mr. Bankes James, and his band had practised it though without being able to ring a peal. He was, therefore, an interested party in much the same way as most of the other contestants were.

The debate was a long and keen one, but it did not add much to the general knowledge of the question. Law James, W. L. Catchpole, W. T. Cockerill, William Snowdon, Joseph Griffin, the president, and others took part, and in the end a resolution, moved by G. F. Attree and seconded by J. S. Pritchett, was passed which declared that 'the Council declines to recognise any method hitherto rung or published as being entitled to the designation of London Surprise Royal.'

In the circumstances it was the only course to take. The subject was so highly technical that the Council would hardly have been able to form a definite opinion even if the so-called experts had really understood it, and that, as I have said, they did not.

The one conclusion which did clearly come out of the whole controversy was that the London Surprise Royal ringers were wanting, and looking for, does not, and cannot, exist. With increased knowledge we can now say why that is so; and we can say what are the possibilities and the limitations in the extension of the method. That, however, is outside my present subject.

At Canterbury in 1905 the Council debated the question of Bob Triples and Grandsire Major. It arose out of the Methods Report which had condemned them as 'illegitimate.' This had led to some feeling in the Exercise, for there were a number of persons who thought

these methods useful for teaching and as steps in progress towards better things. At least two associations, the Chester and the Essex, had passed resolutions objecting to them being ruled out; and other people thought that the Methods Committee were attempting to dictate to ringers what they should practise, and they resented the dictation. (The committee really had only carried out the work entrusted to them by the Council.)



MR. FRED G. MAY

who was a member of the Council from 1900^a to 1908 and at that time a leading conductor. Afterwards he went to South Africa.

To bring the matter to a head, and to give everybody an opportunity of expressing his opinion, I moved that 'Bob Triples and Grandsire Major, not being legitimate methods, are not worthy of being practised, and that peals in them should not be booked.'

In doing so I referred to the contention that the Council had no right to say what ringers should ring and what they should not, and said I agreed with it, but I did maintain that the Council had undertaken to try to raise the standard of ringing, and if it thought these methods should not be rung, it should say so. There were scores of better methods, and there was no real necessity for these for purposes of teaching. The adoption of the resolution would help to raise the standard of ringing.

Heywood was always anxious that the Council should confine itself to advice and should avoid anything like

an attempt to give directions, especially to the associations as to how they should act; and he suggested that the reference to booking the peals should be struck out. I was quite prepared for that, and agreed at once.

C. D. P. Davies strongly supported me, though his reasons probably differed a good deal from mine. T. L. Papillon and W. W. C. Baker urged the necessity for considering the needs of beginners, as did one or two others, though all of them expressed themselves as desirous of discountenancing the methods. To Law James the resolution was not strong enough. He wanted to substitute 'all methods not legitimate' for 'Bob Triples and Grandsire Major,' but the Council would not agree, and my resolution without the final sentence was carried without dissent.

Since then Bob Triples and Grandsire Major as peal-ringing methods have died out. Not one peal has been rung of the latter and only one (or perhaps two) of the former. Perhaps I am getting more tolerant in my old age, but I do not think much harm would be done if an occasional peal of Bob Triples were rung now and then. I used to be rather proud of one I called on the back eight at Mancroft.

A matter on which many ringers have from time to time expressed strong opinions is the question of umpires for handbell peals. Some still think that no such peal should be accepted unless its truth is vouched for by an independent witness. The Council debated the question on one or two occasions, and in 1895 decided that 'where practicable there should be an umpire to every handbell peal.'

It was a very tame and non-committal decision, but time and custom have settled the matter outside the

Council. Of course, it is quite possible for a band to say they have rung a peal on handbells when, as a matter of fact, they have done nothing of the sort. So far, the advocates of compulsory umpires are justified. But why should people make false claims of that sort? They gain nothing by it, for the only reward of ringing a peal is the satisfaction of knowing you have done it. There are a few people, perhaps, whose standards in the matter of truth in peal ringing are not too high, but they exist (so far as they do exist) among tower bell ringers as much or more as among handbell ringers. From ordinary bands, if they say they have rung a peal, we accept their word. If Mrs. Fletcher or Ernest Turner told me they had rung a peal on handbells I should believe them, and the sworn testimony of a dozen witnesses would add nothing to my belief. I see no particular reason why I should not have like confidence in other bands.

STEDMAN CINQUES IN CHURCH.

On Oct. 19th at St. Margaret's Prebendal Church at Leicester, a service for the nursing profession was held, and at the commencement a special touch of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Alfred Ballard 1-2, George S. Morris 3-4, Percy L. Harrison 5-6, Ernest Morris (virger) 7-8, Inspector H. J. Poole (conductor) 9-10, Josiah Morris 11-12. The sermon was preached by Canon H. E. Fitzherbert, late president of the Midland Counties Association.

JAMES HUNT. STERLING QUALITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I pay a small tribute to the memory of James Hunt? He was a man of honest and independent mind, and sterling worth and character. At Central Council meetings I could almost always depend on him being in opposition to me. He usually spoke and voted against me, but the more he opposed me the more I learnt to like and respect him, and I am happy to know the feeling was reciprocated.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

■■■■■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

It will be remembered that after the destruction of the Church of St. Mary-le-Port, Bristol, thieves carted off the broken bell metal, and eventually received long terms of imprisonment for their pains. We are now informed that practically all the metal has been recovered and restored to the churchwardens to be recast into bells when the war is over.

The death of Stephen Wood, during a raid on Bristol, is sadly recalled by the announcement that his brother, serving in the R.A.F., was recently killed in action.

It is interesting to note that a peal of Stedman Cinques has been rung on handbells at Leicester. We hope it is the precursor of many more performances of a similar kind. The peal was a wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Milner, and also a birthday compliment to Police Inspector Harold Poole, the conductor, whose many friends will be glad to see him back in the role in which in the past he has so greatly distinguished himself.

Another peal of interest is also recorded this week—Bob Minor at Surfleet, Lincs, rung by Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and their daughter Enid. The latter had rung one peal on tower bells before the war began, but this was her first peal on handbells, and the family will be congratulated upon adding this performance to their ringing achievements.

Enid, then only ten years of age, was the youngest member of the party who made the trip to Australia in 1934, but her limited ringing experience at that time did not permit of her taking any part in the performances. Since her return home, however, she has been a regular member of Surfleet band.

In the 'Do you know?' column of this week's 'Sunday Times' is the question, 'What is campanology?' Do any of our readers know?

On October 28th, 1876, a very interesting peal of Kent Treble Bob was rung at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds. For many years John Reeves' peal, 8,448 changes, was considered to be the extent with the tenors together. Then John Thorpe produced 8,864, and William Harrison 8,896. These are still unbeaten in the ordinary way, but James Lockwood, of Leeds, composed a 9,120, which came round with a single. It was rung in 1876 as stated above.

Eight members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, all of them over 70 years in age, rang at Pulham Market, on October 28th, 1922. a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

On the same date in 1827, Henry Hubbard, the author of one of the text books on ringing, rang his first peal.

Henry Dains was born on October 29th, 1837.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on October 30th, 1811.

On October 31st, 1791, the Cambridge Youths rang 7,002 changes of Grandsire Quaters in 4 hours and three quarters.

Fifty years ago to-day 14 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 3, Caters 1, Bob Triples 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Oxford Treble Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1.

The last was the first peal in the method at St. John's, Waterloo Road, a steeple which before the last war was very much associated with the method, when Mr. James E. Davis called some dozens of peals of it there.

Fifty years ago next Monday a peal of Woodbine Treble Bob Major at St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was 'the first rung under the electric light in the northern counties.'

INVALIDS.

Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, is, we regret to say, in Faire Hospital, Countess Street, Leicester, where he has to undergo an operation for the removal of an internal obstruction. Everyone will hope for his speedy recovery. He would appreciate letters from old friends.

Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, is still in a very weak condition. He has been removed from hospital to a Home of Rest in the city, where he will remain for the present, and, we hope, regain his strength.

Mr. William Seeley, an old member of the Bushey, Herts, band, is, we regret to say, in University College Hospital, London, where he is undergoing treatment for cancer of the tongue. He will be very pleased to see any of his old friends, who will find him in Ward B2. Visiting hours are Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Fridays, 4 to 5 p.m. Mr. Seeley, who was for some time captain of the belfry at Folkestone, joined the Bushey band in 1909 and shared in many of their former ringing successes.

Another invalid is Mr. John Burford, of Bristol, who has been on the 'sick list' for some time.

MELBOURNE RINGER'S DEATH.

The death has occurred at the age of 73 years of Mr. William H. V. Preston, of Melbourne, Australia, where he was a member of St. Paul's Cathedral band for many years. He was senior technical assistant in the School of Anatomy at Melbourne University, where he had been employed for 45 years, after having been a dresser at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. His whole time spent at the University had been in the anatomy school, and he was known by every medical man who had passed through the university during that 45 years.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING.

To-morrow is the sixty-third anniversary of the opening of the peal of twelve bells at St. Paul's Cathedral, which were rung for the first time on All Saints' Day, 1878.

Up till then St. Paul's had never possessed a ringing peal, which was rather strange considering that London was proud of its bells and had many. In the old Cathedral there was a ring of five in the centre tower, but they probably were lost in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the wood and lead spire, the loftiest in Europe, over 500ft. high, was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. Near the Cathedral was a detached tower with some heavy bells, but they belonged to the Jesus Chapel, a separate corporation which used the crypt of the main building.



THE BELL TOWER OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.]

The tale goes that Henry VIII. staked the Jesus bells on a cast of dice with a man named Partridge and lost. Partridge broke up the bells and sold them. Afterwards (as Sir Henry Spelman relates with satisfaction in his 'History of Sacrilege') he came to a bad end.

For a hundred years, old St. Paul's had no bells of note, and when it was burnt in 1666, although Sir Christopher Wren provided two splendid bell towers to the new Cathedral, the only bells hung were the five-ton clock bell with its two 'jacks,' in the southern tower, and a service bell in the northern tower.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century there was a great revival of life and activity at St. Paul's, brought about by several eminent and devoted men, including Dean Church, Dean Gregory, Canon Liddle and Sir John Stainer, the organist. Among the many improvements were first a splendid ringing peal of twelve bells, and then later the 17-ton bourdon bell.

The design of the ringing peal was largely entrusted to Sir Edmund Beckett, afterwards Lord Grimthorpe, who at the time was the recog-

(Continued in next column.)

WORCESTERSHIRE RINGER HONOURED.

MR. JAMES HEMMING TO BE NEXT MAYOR OF EVESHAM.

By the unanimous choice of the Town Council, Alderman James Hemming is to be the next Mayor of Evesham, Worcestershire. This honour has come to him after many years of devoted public service, which began as long ago as 1904, when he was first elected to Hampton Parish Council. He was elected chairman in 1917 and held the office until 1933, when the parish was absorbed into the borough of Evesham. He was then elected alderman for the newly-formed ward. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1935.

Mr. Hemming was a member of Hampton Parochial Church Council from its formation until two years ago, when he resigned, and he has served on other semi-public bodies.

He has had a long connection with church bellringing, and in 1911, on the formation of the Southern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, was elected hon. secretary and treasurer of the branch. He held the office for 25 years, and on his retirement was presented with a grandfather clock, with Westminster chimes, in appreciation of his long and valued service. Throughout the 25 years and right up to the present time he has served the association on the committee. He has rung 194 peals for the Worcestershire Association, conducting 58, and has also rung a number for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

Ringers will join in congratulating Mr. Hemming on this crowning honour of his civic career and wish him and Mrs. Hemming a happy and successful year of office as Mayor and Mayoress of Evesham. We hope it may be signalled by bells of victory and peace and that 'Mr. Mayor' may be able to take his part in the ringing.

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

MR. C. K. LEWIS' TRIBUTE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I add a few words to the eloquent tribute to Mr. A. G. Driver published in your issue of October 17th. I never had the privilege of meeting him, but we had corresponded for some years.

When I first became interested in the splicing of Minor methods, Mr. J. Wath put me into touch with Mr. Driver, who provided me with tables, explanations and criticism, always kindly and constructive, of my efforts. He was quite unselfish and would explain the construction of his extents, laying bare their secrets, and he was the first man, I believe, to construct an extent with only eight bobs and also one with 27 bobs.

If any new idea was submitted to him or a new splice discovered he was the first to congratulate the discoverer. His whole attitude seemed to be that whatever knowledge he had acquired through hours of patient study and research should be passed on to those interested in the clear and concise style of which he was a master. His ideals as regards the standards required in splicing were very high, but nevertheless were such as would allow ample scope while yet maintaining a standard which would stand up to any criticism. No extent, however ingenious, would be admitted to his collection unless it conformed to the standards he had laid down.

The writer acknowledges with gratitude his debt to Mr. Driver and trusts he may be able to carry on, along with others more capable, the work and ideals of our late friend.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

P.S.—It should be pointed out that the extents in the 104-method peal conducted by Mr. G. E. Feirn were largely the work of Mr. Driver.

WIDOW'S THANKS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I (Mrs. A. G. Driver), through 'The Ringing World,' take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those kind friends who have written to me in my sad bereavement.

60, Coleman Road, Belvedere, Kent.

D. M. DRIVER.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS

(Continued from previous column.)

nised authority on clocks and bells. Much of Grimthorpe's ideas are now discredited, but at St. Paul's he apparently had not quite a free hand, and the bells, cast by Taylors, of Loughborough, turned out to be an exceptionally noble ring. They are not the style of bell now aimed at by founders, but, taking them as a whole, they have no superior in the country. The tenor is 62 cwt.

The cost of the bells was a little over £2,800, and another £1,300 or £1,400 was spent on preparing the tower and belfry. To-day these figures would be about doubled.

The ringing was entrusted to the Ancient Society of College Youths, who then stood as the unchallenged leaders of the Exercise, not only in London, but throughout the country. Since then they had not failed to ring twice on Sundays until, at the start of the present war, the Cathedral authorities decided to suspend ringing until peace returns. By common consent the standard of ringing his always been worthy of the Cathedral and the great city it adorns. The method rung is invariably Stedman Cinques, for Sir John Stainer, who took a great interest in the bells, forbade the tenor being turned in on Sundays.

The band which rang the opening touch on November 1st, 1878, stood as follows: H. W. Haley, sen. 1, H. C. Haley, jun. 2, W. Cooter 3, J. Pettit 4, G. Mash 5, J. R. Haworth 6, G. Ferris 7, J. Dwight 8, E. Horrex 9, G. A. Muskett 10, M. A. Wood 11, J. M. Hayes and S. Reeves tenor.

CHURCH BELLS AND AIR RAIDS.

ENGLAND'S LOSS.

Although anything like complete information is still unavailable, it is now possible to form some estimate of the damage to church bells caused by the air raids of last autumn and winter. The worst, like the worst of the destruction in general, was in London, where many famous rings have been lost, as well as a number of single bells.

During a short walk through the City recently we noticed that steps are being taken to render safe the steeples of some of the destroyed churches. Both St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Augustine's have scaffolding to the top. Extensive repairs are going on at St. Bride's, and the sound windows are being filled in with what looks like solid and permanent stone work. This probably is to strengthen the structure, but will prove a good thing when the new bells are hung. It seems likely that no attempt will be made to replace the destroyed bells of Bow with a similarly heavy ring.

In the provinces Bristol has suffered most, and the loss of the fine Rudhall ten at St. Nicholas' is particularly regrettable. We must be thankful that a large number of prominent and well-known rings are safe, although the churches to which they belong have been destroyed or damaged. These include St. Nicholas', Liverpool; St. Andrew's, Plymouth, St. Martin's, Birmingham; St. John's, Waterloo Road, London, and others.

Here is a list of the bells we know to be destroyed. It is probably incomplete, and we shall be glad to hear any definite information of other rings.

London:

St. Mary-le-Bow	...	...	12
St. Giles', Cripplegate	...	...	12
St. Bride's, Fleet Street	...	...	12
St. John's, Horsleydown	...	...	10
St. Clement Danes'	...	...	10
St. Stephen's, Coleman Street	...	...	8
St. Lawrence Jewry	...	...	8
St. Andrew's, Holborn	...	...	8
St. Dunstan's-in-the-East	...	...	8
All Hallows', Barking	...	...	8
St. Mary's, Bow, Stratford	...	...	8
St. Mary's, Matfelon, Whitechapel	8
Christ Church, Blackfriars Road	8

Bromley:

SS. Peter and Paul's	8
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Bristol:

St. Nicholas'	10
St. Mary-le-Port	8
St. Peter's	8
St. Andrew's, Clifton	8

Liverpool:

St. Luke's	8
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Plymouth:

Charles Church	10
Stonehouse	8

Southampton:

St. Mary's	10
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Swansea:

St. Mary's	8
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Dibden (Hants):

All Saints'	8
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Clyst (Devon): St. George's

Also an Essex 5-bell tower.	6
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ANCIENT OAK BEAMS.

WHERE DID THEY GROW?

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some time ago a series of articles appeared in 'The Ringing World' on the development and construction of early bell frames. Being interested (sentimentally) in English timber, especially oak, I hoped that someone would have described one of the really big jobs carried out in this, and tell us especially how the frames were carried in big towers, such as the great central towers of cathedrals, which are used as belfries.

Are these towers spanned squarely by oak beams, and, if so, where did they grow?

We know that foreign and colonial timber can now be obtained which would easily span any tower. I have seen baulks of presumably Oregon pine enter our local works which required eight railway wagons to take the length, but this was not available for the old cathedrals and churches.

One afternoon recently I was looking at some of the churches, and especially towers in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, among them Ledbury and Tewkesbury. I took no measurements, but from some pacing I did in the nave at Tewkesbury I concluded that the tower would be about 45ft. square, and, allowing for more than usually massive walls, would be probably 35ft. internally. I have never seen oak beams which would span this, and there are doubtless bigger towers.

A few years ago H.M. Office of Works carried out some restoration work at Tretower Court, an old fortified farmhouse mansion near Crickhowell in Breconshire. I paid several visits while the work was proceeding. One feature was the repair of a balcony on one side of a quadrangle, which, I believe, had received no attention for centuries, probably 400 years. The old timbers were scarfed in many places, but two new beams were used. They were splendid pieces of oak, 33ft. long and 15in. square.

Perhaps some reader familiar with big towers, or any ancient construction work, will be good enough to say if these beams are exceptional and what manner of timber was used, or by what means frames with heavy rings of bells were supported in towers such as I have mentioned.

I have spotted several big oaks in my rambles. I have a snap of one here which would, I think, cut seven, perhaps nine, beams such as I have mentioned up to, say, 22ft. in length, but not one of 33ft.

R. ALSOP.

Ebbw Vale, Mon.

RINGING IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In quoting another centre of activity amongst ringers in the Northern District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, I suggest, sir, when making your comment that 'enthusiasm has long been less marked' in this area you were not fully aware of all the facts. If your remarks referred only to peal ringing or reports reaching your office for publication I agree with you, but if it was a general reference I do not agree.

Church bells were hung primarily to be rung on Sundays and festival days, and I suggest that there were but very few churches with peals of bells in this area which were silent on such occasions.

One of the most northern villages of the diocese is named Woolton Hill, and what an example it would set to some other bands, in the South of England at any rate. The light peal of six was rung by a young band twice every Sunday and on every other available occasion; the ringers were enthusiastic and punctual. District meetings have been held there, but it is not an ideal place, as the tower is small and it is 'in the wilds.' I might add, too, that they were supporters of 'The Ringing World.'

Some years ago the local band rang a peal of Bob Minor, and when it was published in your paper enquiry was made as to whether they were the youngest 'locals' to ring a peal, but, I understand, no reply was given. In my opinion they are entitled to hold such a claim.

This is but a 'second swallow,' and I do not doubt that if a report was submitted from each tower in North Hampshire there would be enough to make a 'summer.'

T. J. LOCK.

57, Holloway's Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

DEATH OF AN IPSWICH RINGER.

The death took place on October 22nd at his residence in Spring Road, Ipswich, of Mr. James Smith, a well-known local ringer, and a member of St. Margaret's company, where he had been secretary of the band for many years. Although not a great peal ringer, he was very regular at the services and on practice nights. He was always willing to meet any visiting bands. He had reached the good old age of 81 years and had been ringing up till the time of the war. His end was rather unexpected, as he was out as usual a few days before. His peal list did not exceed 10 and included a few of Bob Triples at Debenham over 40 years ago.

The funeral took place in Ipswich Cemetery on Saturday, October 25th, after a service at St. Margaret's Church.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

SATISFACTORY RECRUITING CAMPAIGN.

At the beginning of term the Master and secretary of the society were in doubt as to whether many new members would be forthcoming this year, and as a result a vigorous recruiting campaign was made by poster and personal contact through the colleges and laboratories of the university. In addition, on the first Sunday of term the society continued its custom of ringing handbells before the undergraduate service at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

The general meeting was held on the following Tuesday evening, October 14th, at 8 p.m., in Mr. J. E. Spice's room, New College. As zero hour approached, the results of the propaganda drive became apparent. A room built to accommodate one was soon seating 28 people, 20 of whom had never touched a bell in their lives. Among the others were the president (the Rev. C. E. Wigg), the vice-president (Mr. H. Miles), the Master, the secretary and the treasurer.

After coffee had been served, the meeting opened, and the treasurer's announcement of a very satisfactory balance in the bank was received with enthusiasm.

The Master then reported the society's activities during the past year—an account of which has already appeared in 'The Ringing World'—and he added the good news that during the long vacation the society had achieved its first handbell peal.

The president welcomed the prospective members with a special word for one from Cambridge. He congratulated the old members of the society on the way they had kept things going during the last year, and, on behalf of all members, he thanked Miss M. R. Cross for the help she had given the society.

The Master spoke of the mental and physical potentialities of ringing and of its glamour. There was in change ringing something to suit most tastes.

Notice was given of the weekly meetings, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. in New College belfry, Saturdays at 5 p.m., and Sundays at 10 a.m. for handbells in J. E. Spice's room, New College. After a course of Grandsire Triples had been rung, the Master explained the workings of a bell, using a model made by a former member of the society, Mr. W. S. Gibbons. The meeting then adjourned to New College belfry, and for nearly an hour beginners were instructed in the mysteries of managing a bell.

It is said that if 10 per cent. of beginners continue after the first one or two practices, the Ringing Master is satisfied. At each of the four following practices at least three-quarters of the beginners turned up, and the teachers were hard put to it to keep so large a number occupied all the time. But good progress has been made, and the society has every reason to look forward to a prosperous year. W. L.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Like the majority of other associations, the Ancient Society of College Youths have found it advisable to make no change in the officers during the war, and at the meeting last Saturday the Master (Mr. E. G. Fenn), the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck) and the treasurer were nominated to fill another year's office. They will come up for election in a fortnight's time.

The Master was supported by the treasurer, secretary and Messrs. H. C. Alford, E. Lewis-Cockey, H. Hoskins, H. Langdon, R. F. Deal, G. M. Meyer, H. G. Miles, F. C. Newman, G. N. Price, J. A. G. Prior, R. Stannard, J. A. Trollope, E. A. Young, Gunter, T. Fox and Pte. L. Fox.

Messrs. E. Lewis-Cockey and H. Hoskins were elected auditors. Expressions of sympathy were expressed with Mr. W. H. Shuker, of Manchester, who has been bombed out of his home, and with Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, in his indisposition.

The next meeting will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, immediately after the luncheon.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SILENT RINGING AT SHIPLEY.

At the October meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Shipley on Saturday, October 25th, handbells occupied the early part of the afternoon, and then the tower bells (from which the clappers had been removed) were tried in various methods until the business meeting, which was held in the tower.

The president was in the chair, and members were present from Armley, Bradford Cathedral, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle and the local company.

The President referred to the need of new members, as two had been lost by death since the last meeting. Their names were Joseph Bennett, of Headingley (St. Michael's), and Frank Renton, of Leeds Parish Church. As a token of respect the members stood in silence.

The next meeting is due to be held at Birstall on Saturday, November 29th.

After the business meeting further tower-bell ringing took place until 'black-out' time.

Members will be pleased to know that Mr. George Titterton has almost recovered from his accident. He had been thrown from a trolley-bus while assisting some person in difficulty to get on the bus, which had been started suddenly.

VARIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in your articles on the Standard Methods, especially perhaps in what you have to say with regard to variation. In a sense, I suppose all methods are variations of plain hunting, but for the purpose of reducing them to something like order a line must be drawn somewhere, otherwise we might find ourselves in the position of a man who, having realised the unity of the universe, lost all sense of distinction and so became blind, deaf and dumb. The difficulty is to know where to draw the line.

Here is a method you would probably be correct in saying is a variation of Albion Treble Bob, but its work seems a combination of Kent, Double Norwich and Duffield. What do you think of it? It seems interesting in its work and the music is good.

JAMES F. HARVEY.

17, Station Road, Baildon, Yorks.

12345678	68472531
21346587	86742513
12345678	68475231
21436587	86745213
24163857	87654123
42618375	78561432
24168357	87564123
42613875	78651432
24631857	87615423
42368175	78164532
24361857	87614523
42638175	78165432
46283715	71856342
64823715	17853624
46287315	71586342
64827351	17583624

15738264

[This is an excellent method. It should be compared with Earle Bulwer's New Cumberland.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

ROUND BLOCKS AND TRANSPOSITIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The fact that Round Blocks and Transpositions are indisputably established is sufficient proof that every Single Move is part and parcel of the construction of any Method, Principle or System, and it is pure nonsense to pretend that the only function of some Moves is to remove the falseness from the Treble Bob Principle. The Single Moves and Transpositions of 'Gloucester' and 'New Gloucester' give the lie to that false theory.

GEORGE BAKER.

2, North Street Quadrant, Brighton.

A DEVON CHANTRY TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Rayfield's letter in your last issue, the following information occurs in 'Kelly's Directory of Devonshire': 'Slapton is a parish and village on the shore of Start Bay . . . the church was restored in 1905 and was anciently attached to a monastic college, founded here in 1350 by Sir Guy de Brian, knight, standard bearer to Edward the Third and one of the first holders of the Order of the Garter; the gateway tower, 80ft. in height, remains.' It is probable that more details would be forthcoming in the records of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art. If I or any other reader can lay hands on them, your correspondent will, I am sure, be welcome to them.

E. V. COX.

Tedburn St. Mary Rectory, Exeter.

TOWER WAS PART OF COLLEGE.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. R. G. Rayfield's enquiry concerning the tower at Slapton, Devon, this tower is the relic of a monastic college or chantry, which was founded by Sir Guy-de-Brian, who carried the standard of Edward III. at the siege of Calais in 1346. The college was a celebrated seat of learning, and was suppressed by order of Henry VIII. It afterwards fell into ruins, but the shape of the original building may be traced.

The tower did not contain any bells, but was used as a part of the college, and this no doubt accounts for the two floors which Mr. Rayfield refers to.

Sir Guy-de-Brian is frequently mentioned in history, and was the founder of the Ancient Corporation of the Township of Langhorne, which is reputed to be the only one in this country. Langhorne is about 15 miles from Carmarthen on the coast line, and the great novelist, Richard Hughes, resides in the ancient castle. The Corporation holds meetings every fortnight, and these are presided over by the Portreeve. There is also a foreman of the Grand Jury, a Recorder and two Common Attorneys. All the land in the village is owned by the Corporation, and they grant leases, etc. A great day is 'Portreeve Sunday,' when the Portreeve entertains the Corporation.

Carmarthen.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.**THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.**

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

The history of composition is the story of the development of art forms. These art forms may be considered under two headings, the mathematical and the musical. The mathematical is of prime importance, securing truth, which is the first great essential in change ringing. It also comprises symmetry, the extent to which the bobs and singles are distributed in a graceful and systematic manner. Truth is indispensable, symmetry is an asset. Composition on numbers of bells up to and including seven, concentrates, - of necessity, on the mathematical aspect. In touches, efforts are made to secure the greatest number of musical rows, but where extents are desired all rows, musical and unmusical, must be included, so, beyond ensuring that 5-6 are the right way in Minor, little attention can be paid to any musical plan. The merits of these extents are determined by the symmetry of the various plans of the different composers.

From Major upwards the musical aspect becomes of greater importance. Here the process is selective; one may choose the musical and to some extent reject the unmusical. Truth is still indispensable; symmetry is still an asset; but the musical scope is greater. It has been found possible to marry the musical to the mathematical by adherence to the principle of fixing the heavy bells; and for the establishment of this principle, the basis of

5,670.

23456789

53274968

73592846

93785624

83967452

63839275

43628597

97485623

3

Six times

repeated.

11,340.

23456789

53274968

73592846

93785624

83967452

63849275

38649275

86349275

46823597

26458739

56274983

76592348

96735824

36987452

48326597

1

all ringing on the higher numbers, the ringing Exercise is indebted to Benjamin Annable, who was born in 1702 and died in 1756.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in "Stedman," wrote: "In the very infancy of Cater ringing it was soon found that to leave the back bells in their coursing order rounds was intolerable," from which it might be inferred that before Annable's time this was the plan on which Grandsire Caters was rung. But an examination of this composition, given in 'Campanalogia,' 1702, seems to show otherwise.

Here the 4th is the Half Hunt, and is brought home at each part-end. The disposition of the back bells is left entirely to chance.

The same little book gives the following 11,340, in which the 6th is the Half Hunt, coming home every 1,620 changes.

This seems to have been the plan on which early touches and peals were composed, to make the little bells the Half Hunts, bringing them home at part-ends, and leaving the heavy bells to take their chance. So, as Mr. Trollope in "Stedman" points out, it is not generally understood in what Annable's improvement consisted. Trollope says: 'He (Annable) did not adopt the tittum position as an improvement on the hand-stroke, or round at backstroke, or similar positions, for they were not practised or known in his time. He used tittums in place of the original style in which the small bells were the half and quarter hunts, or the fixed bells, and the order of the large bells left mainly to chance.' The

'Clavis,' commenting on Annable's improvements, says: 'He saw no necessity for parting the tenors in a peal of either five or six thousand. He made the six perform her proper revolution in five courses, and five-six come home together every fifteen. This was undoubtedly a very great addition to Bob Major, for those who did not admire the music of it before now confessed that it was considerably improved. Caters and Cinques, which he found in a rude and jumbled state, he threw into the harmonious tittums where they still continue, and most likely ever will remain.'

5076.

23456789

43627589

52493867

43526978

35426

45623

65324

53624

36524

56423

46325

35467289

1.4.

1

78

78

89

89

78

78

89

89

89

Four times repeated from the line, omitting the last part, produces 62453.

Round with bobs at 3.8.10.17.

B. Annable.

A comparison of Annable's 5,076, given here, with the two peals above, reveals very clearly how order was established out of the 'rude and jumbled state.' The peal falls into five fairly regular parts, each part having one bell fixed behind the 9th. The pairs of long courses with their calls on 78 and 89 alternately, form a feature of all the early peals. The plan provided in the simplest way for a fairly long block of changes, and it complied with the convention that ordained as few calls as possible. A good many years had to pass before the short-course plan was received into favour.

Annable had, as we can see, an acute sense of form, and the advantages of his innovation were threefold. The musical gain was such that it has never been surpassed; composition was simplified and given the means of expansion and development; and the actual ringing must have improved considerably in quality, the regular paths of the great bells leading to better listening and consequently better striking.

5,076.

23456789

43627589

52493867

43526978

35426978

45623

65324

53624

36524

56423

46325

63425

34625

65347289

1.4.

1

78

78

89

89

78

78

89

89

89

In 1750, two years before he joined the College Youths, John Holt called his 5,076 of Grandsire Caters for the Society of Union Scholars at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, London. The composition, given here, is upon Annable's original plan, and shows no marked advance. The solid block of long courses still forms the basis of the peal. Each part has been lengthened by two courses so that the peal becomes a four-part composition. This peal contains no courses with the 5th behind the 9th, whereas Annable's 5,076 has eight such courses. The musical advantage may therefore be said to rest with the older peal.

One or two special points regarding these early peals are worth noting. The plan of calling pairs of courses alternately

Three times repeated from the line across gives 42657389 Round with bobs at 1.3. 8.13.14.15. John Holt.

89 and 78 fixed a bell behind the 9th for a long period, but no particular attention seems to have been given to the musical value of that bell. The Tittum Position itself was satisfying enough, and the value of the 6th behind the 9th was not greatly heeded. Later in the century, John Martin, as we shall see, realised the value of the 6th and stressed it.

Secondly, the method of changing the bell behind the 9th should be observed.

The calling of a bob after the 89 lead, a call that cut out the course-end, is characteristic of the period. Lastly, the means of returning to rounds was a very clumsy process, and was the only blot upon the beauty of the Tittum Position. The big bells had to be split up, and one of them was obliged to remain in the hunt for as many as five leads. The two homing courses given here reveal how cumbersome the process was. Each of them takes 306 changes, and each of them scatters the heavy bells.

Annable.		Holt.	
62453978		42657389	
78638452	3	35492867	1
69785324	5	78369254	2
43628597	2	39785642	5
23456789	7	75394826	5
		89765234	1
		26849375	1
		23456789	2 (P)

Other ways of bringing the bells round at backstroke were used by later composers, among them the plan of calling the 8th and 9th before, starting from 23456978. This brought rounds in 12 leads (168 changes). But none of these methods compares with the beauty and simplicity of the Round-at-Handstroke plan.

This great discovery is credited to Francis Roberts. Roberts was apparently the leader of the Fulham band and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Very little is known of him, and none of his compositions seems to have survived. Nevertheless his name will always be remembered in connection with the important discovery that was destined to alter the whole future of ringing on nine and eleven bells. 'New Campanalogia' says: 'Mr. Francis Roberts first made this discovery, but the first peal was called by Mr. George Patrick, at All Saints', Fulham, in the county of Middlesex, about the year 1770.' Too much importance should not be paid to this statement. 'New Campanalogia' contains a great deal of loose information, and Mr. Trollope points out that George Partrick (not George Patrick!) rang no peals after 1766.

(To be continued.)

A DUBLIN PEAL OF TEN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just been looking at Shipway's 'Campanalogia,' published in 1830, and I see that he says there 'is in Dublin a peal of ten, in a small tower erected by a private gentleman, on which change ringing is said to be practised; tenor 7 cwt.' Do any of your readers know anything about these bells? It would be interesting to know what became of them if they ever existed and who the gentleman was.

'ENQUIRER.'

A PRISONER OF WAR.

The wife of Sergt. J. Copley, R.A.F., of Barnsley, who was reported missing, has now received a telegram to say that he is alive and a prisoner of war.

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 ASSOCIATION.—The annual committee meeting will be held at Hanley on Saturday, November 1st, at 3.30 p.m. A cup of tea will be provided, but members are requested to bring their own sandwiches. All towers are requested to send a representative.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Donington on Saturday, November 1st. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea in the Dial Hall at 4.30 p.m.—W. A. Richardson, Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilehurst on Saturday, November 1st. Tower open at 3 p.m. for handbells. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at old National Schools, 6 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Chobham on Saturday, November 1st. Handbells ready 2.30 p.m. Time of meeting will be arranged to fit in with local requirements. Nominations for officers for 1942 at this meeting. Subscriptions for 1941 are now overdue.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec., 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Linton on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar) and business meeting. Please send your names in by Wednesday, November 5th.—C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Latest date for application Tuesday, November 4th. Business meeting and election of officers afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available Church House at 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., Warburton's Cafe. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—W. H. Shuker, general secretary of the Lancashire Association, has removed to 36, Colwyn Avenue, Kingswood Estate, Fallowfield, Manchester.

HANDBELLS WANTED.

WANTED.—A set of 12 (or more) handbells (Mears for preference), in good condition.—Send particulars, including size, maker's name, etc., to J. S. Roberts, 134, Croft Road, Swindon, Wilts.

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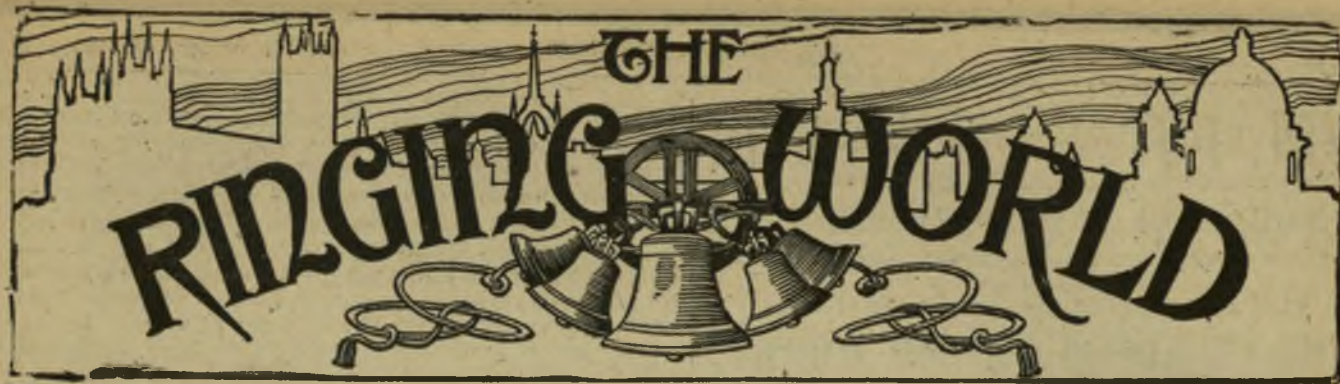
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LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

The future of London's bombed churches is a matter which concerns churchmen generally, and those who are lovers of those historic buildings will learn with some alarm that the Deputy Director of the National Buildings Record has suggested that some, including even the most notable among them, should not be replaced. Mr. John Summerson's official position in this institution gives his views, which were expressed before the Architectural Association at a meeting in London, an importance which cannot be ignored. It is the business of the institution to supplement the existing graphic, photographic and other records of buildings of merit, which have been damaged or are in danger of damage by warfare, by adequate surveys, as well as to make a record of damage to buildings and of evidence of history or construction which such damage often discloses. The urgency and importance of the task has been recognised by the Government, and the Minister of Works and Buildings has promised the full co-operation of his department. That fact alone will give weight to any proposals which may emanate from the officials of the National Buildings Record, and the suggestion that the restoration of any of Wren's churches, except for museum purposes, should not be undertaken, is a disturbing one to those who have regarded these buildings as part and parcel of London itself.

How far the opinions expressed are Mr. Summerson's own, or represent the views of the organisation in which he holds so important a position, is uncertain, but it would, we think, be a tragedy if these churches, hallowed by centuries of Christian usage, should be allowed lightly to pass out of existence. To lose Wren's original buildings by the devastation of war is bad enough, to make this the excuse never to replace them savours of the pagan attitude to religion, which we condemn in our enemies.

When Wren undertook the rebuilding of London churches after the Great Fire, he beautified the city not merely with the vision of an artist but with a practical realisation of the conditions he had to deal with. Where the church was open to the public gaze, such as St. Lawrence Jewry, the whole structure was adorned; where the building was hidden from view he concentrated his skill on the design of the tower, as in the case of St. Mary-le-Bow, or on the interior, as in the case of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, and often on both, as at St. Bride's, Fleet Street. He rebuilt partly with the material that remained, but the vital fact not to be lost sight of is that he also rebuilt on the sites dedicated for hundreds of years to the Christian faith. For this alone it would be a real disaster to our national life to make the present conditions an ex-

(Continued on page 530.)

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cuse for destroying, except here and there as a museum, the age-old centres of London's religious life.

It is true that some of the churches have been, in these later years, considerably denuded of worshippers, but that is not necessarily a proof that in the future the people will not return to the churches in these London parishes, or that to commercialise the sites now might not be a matter for perpetual regret in the years to come. London would not be any better for the wiping away of these churches, and spiritually would be far worse off, for even their silent witness cannot be without effect. It may, of course, prove necessary in some few instances to sacrifice what has been regarded as a precious part of London's heritage, its glorious city churches, but lightly to suggest that there is little or no point in restoring the buildings of Wren's creation seems to us to savour of sacrilege. Once let the idea get abroad in influential quarters that these churches are not needed and that, therefore, there is no necessity to reconstruct them, and a great tie with London's past, its people, its history and its religion may be lost. Once they have gone, gone also will be the cherished bells, which have marked the lives of untold generations of citizens by their pealing. Lovers of London churches will, we hope, watch carefully the trend of events and take appropriate action if any threatened abandonment of these historic buildings shows itself.

THE LATE MR. A. G. DRIVER.

MR. G. F. WOODHOUSE'S TRIBUTE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to add my tribute to the late Mr. A. G. Driver. After I had made a ringing machine and published a pamphlet about it, I got a postcard from him, 'Very nice, but it won't splice.'

Splicing had not even occurred to me, and the machine had to be entirely redesigned so that it was possible to change the method while the machine was running. This took about three years to accomplish, during which time we had a long and interesting correspondence, in which he made many very valuable suggestions. I think we discussed every possible mechanism that could be used.

I cannot be too grateful to him for his encouragement and interest, in fact but for him the machine would never have been altered. I had the great pleasure of calling on him at Belvedere and getting to know this modest, kindly genius.

G. F. WOODHOUSE.

Sedbergh.

THE DEVIL AMONG THE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I remember reading an article in your paper some time ago, 'The Devil Among the Bells.' In my youth I lived at Hindhead, where the devil was mentioned a lot. The place was named the Devil's Punch Bowl, and I must say I was scared a bit in going past it when I went to Bramshott and Haslemere to ring.

Here at Buxton I have come across a book at the public library called 'Herod's Peal or Devil Among the Bells,' which is remarkable for its history of the incidents referring to various towers about the country.

I think ringers would like to read the book. It is a volume of over 300 pages, written by Russel Thorndyke and published by Rich and Cowan, Soho Square, London, W.1.

I may say Grandsire Bob Major, St. James' Change and Herod's Peal always excite the devil and cause him to do acts of violence, hence the sub-title, 'Devil Among the Bells.'

JESSE PUPLETT.

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THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ANOTHER HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT.

Besides the account of the College Youths described in 'The Ringing World' recently, the manuscript book damaged in the fire raid contained another account by a different writer and rather later in date. As history it is quite worthless, but it is interesting as showing how legends grow up and on what insubstantial grounds so many of the so-called historical statements about ringing are based.

It was written in 1849, soon after the society had come into possession of the copy of the original name and peal book, by a man named Francis Marshall, of whom I know nothing. The account reads as follows:—

An Epitome of the Art of Ringing, compiled from unimpeachable sources of information, by Mr. Francis Marshall, a Member, in 1849.

The First Company established for the promotion of the Art of Ringing were the College Youths. They were instituted November 5th, 1637, by a number of wealthy and influential individuals, a fact fully corroborated by the books containing the names of the members and transactions of this society. Lord Brereton was the first Master; he was succeeded by Sir Cliff Clifton, Knight, who in his turn was succeeded by persons of the first distinction.

Who the inventor of the Art of Ringing was can only be conjectured, but there is every reason to ascribe the honour to Mr. Fabian Steadman, who was born in the town of Cambridge in 1631; he afterwards became a member of this Society, he composed various peals on five and six bells; being a printer by profession, he transferred his compositions to paper and distributed round the Country. It is but reasonable to infer that the company which he belonged to would be the first to avail themselves of his discoveries, and they must have made great progress, as they were enabled to ring (on the occasion of a visit paid to Mr. Steadman) on March 30th, 1671, at St. Bennett's, Cambridge, for the first time the beautiful production since known after its author. In 1662 Mr. Steadman published a book styled Campanalogia, or the Art of Ringing, which went through three editions previous to 1680. Before the extension of the Art to 8 or 10 bells, the ringers placed the 4th and 8th behind; on 10 bells 1, 2, 3, 10 behind, or which others might be preferred, a plan even practised to the present Day and styled Mock Triples, Caters and Cinques.

On January 7th, 1689, the whole peal of Plain Bob Triples, containing 5,040 changes, with two singles, was rung at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, in 3 hours and 45 minutes, composed by Mr. Anable, who also composed the first peal of Grandsire Triples, which, though false, was held in great repute until Mr. Holt's peal was produced. At this time there were two other Companies established for the practice of the art, viz., The London Scholars, and the Union Scholars of whom we cannot obtain any account; they do not appear to have existed long.

On Saturday, February 26th, 1726, the first peal of Bob Maximus containing 5,280 changes was rung at St. Bride's, in which a Young Gentleman (Mr. Francis Geary) assisted; he was a Naval Officer and rose to the rank of Admiral, he commanded the Grand Fleet in 1789, and rang several other peals with the company; frequently he met them in after life to amuse himself with the pastime of his early youth.

There was another distinguished member whom we must not forget, viz., Mr. Benjamin Anable, to him we are indebted for the improvements in Caters and Cinques by throwing them into the tittum position (he died in 1755, between 70 and 80 years of age).

The Company appear to have been in great repute up to 1800 being supported by the most wealthy and influential persons in the kingdom; at one time they held their meetings at the Paul's Head Tavern in the City, and on the anniversary day the members walked in procession to Bow Church to hear Divine Service; on this occasion the Company were preceded by their Beadle, dressed in a Blue Great Coat and cocked hat trimmed with broad gold lace, carrying a splendid staff surmounted by a silver bell suspended in a massive frame of embossed silver, representing St. Bride's and St. Martin's Steeples. After divine service they returned in the same state to their Club House, and dined together in company with the Aldermen and other civil authorities.

There was also at this time a branch of the Company called the Hertford College Youths, the members of which met and dined at the Town Hall, Hertford, annually, the chair being usually taken by the Marquis of Salisbury (who was a great patron of the art of ringing) supported by the Nobility and Gentry of the County.

In the year 1787 the company visited the City of York and rung in the Cathedral, on the ten bells, a peal of Grandsire Caters, and was the first peal ever rung in the North of England; on this occasion they were received with marked distinction and Hospitality, entertained by the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Norwich, Oxford, Shrewsbury, and indeed most of the principal Gentry of the County.

The Company have been patronised by the most eminent men, among whom will be found Dean Aldrich, Sir Matthew Hale, S. Blackwell, M.P., Admiral Gearey, Lord Dysart, the late Marquis of Salisbury, the late S. Whitbread and his son, F. Powell, Esq., Judge Park, Lord Brereton, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, etc.

The Company have now a continuous record of all the peals rung by them from their first foundation to the present time, and is well worth the perusal of the Campanologist.

The first three Peals of Minor were rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on November 18th, 1684. The methods were Oxford Treble Bob, College Single, and Oxford Single, total 2,160 changes.

St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill,

On January 7th, 1689,

The Company rang the first Peal on eight bells; the method was Plain Bob Triples (containing 5,040 changes) with two singles; it was accomplished in three hours and fifty-five minutes. Composed and conducted by Mr. Benjamin Anable.

It is quite easy to see where the writer got his information from. Most of it came from the earlier manuscript and from the 'Clavis'; the rest directly or indirectly from Shipway and Osborn, and the more or less vague memories of what old ringers like William Lyford had talked about; while many of the statements are only guesses and glosses by the writer to enhance, as he supposed, the fame and dignity of the society.

He says, for instance, that the founders were a number of wealthy and influential individuals, but he knew

nothing whatever about them beyond the fact that the first two men in the list had titles. He calls the second Master Sir Cliff Clifton, as did all the writers who followed him, but Clifton's Christian name actually was Clifford, and he did not receive his knighthood until 1661, twenty-three years after he held the office of Master of the College Youths.

That mistake is understandable and pardonable, but generally the writer uses his material very badly. He mixed up the account of the 1690 peal of Triples from the earlier manuscript, with the reference to the 1730 peal of Bob Triples at Southwark in the 'Clavis.'

He says (following the 'Clavis') that Annable died in 1755, between 70 and 80 years of age; and a little later that he composed and conducted the peal at St. Sepulchre's, when he would have been something between five and fifteen years old. Actually he was born in 1703 and died in 1756.

This statement has done perhaps more than anything else to discredit the claim of the College Youths to have rung the first five-thousand ever accomplished; but I think the evidence for it is sufficient, and there is good reason for believing it to have been a true peal, though it was not 'with two singles,' and, of course, Annable had nothing to do with it. Strictly speaking, it was not Plain Bob Triples.

The statement that Annable composed 'the first peal of Grandsire Triples which though false was held in great repute until Mr. Holt's peal was produced,' is based on a misreading of what the authors of the 'Clavis' say. They did not know very much about the matter, but the false peal they were referring to was the composition in 'The Campanalogia' of 1702. It is there given as a half-peal and is true, but was often rung doubled by singles when it is false. Annable's peal is true. It is a bob-and-single peal somewhat older than Holt's, and there seems to be no record of it ever having been rung.

The statement that Stedman printed his peals on paper and distributed them throughout the country was made by Shipway on the authority of Parnell. There is no reason to think it was more than a guess, and it is not very probable. There was but one edition of Stedman's 'Campanalogia.' The Society of Hertford College Youths was not a branch of the London society, though it borrowed the name, and the chair at the annual dinner was never once taken by the Marquis of Salisbury, though on one occasion, when he was still only an earl, he was present. Lord Dacre then presided.

All through the manuscript the writer gives rein to his imagination when he thinks he can magnify the importance of the society by bringing in the names of big people, and nowhere more so than in his account of the visit to York in 1787. Osborn tells us what actually happened, and he evidently derived his information directly or at secondhand from William Lyford, John Inville and Joseph Holdsworth, who were in the band.

A new ring of bells was hung in the Parish Church of Halifax, and the College Youths made the long journey down to the north to the opening. They rang a peal of Treble Bob on October 10th, and then went on to York where, two days later, they accomplished a peal of Grandsire Caters at the Minster. The visit attracted some attention in the city and came to the notice of the Archbishop, Dr. William Markham, who sent them a couple of guineas to drink his health. The College Youths ac-

knowledgeed his generosity, but refused the money, because they considered themselves above that sort of thing and did not wish to be classed with the men who rang for what they could get out of it. It was characteristic of them, and the story rings true, but Marshall turns it into a tale of 'marked distinction and hospitality by the Arch-



THE TOWER OF ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, SNOW HILL
Where the first peal was rung.

bishop of York, the Bishops of Norwich, Oxford and Shrewsbury and most of the principal gentry of the county.' One rather wonders where he got all those prelates from, especially as there was not, and never had been, a Bishop of Shrewsbury. Perhaps the explanation is that about this time the College Youths paid visits to the towns named, and the writer, or his informants, muddled up the accounts.

Most of the men who are said to have 'patronised' the society apparently had little or nothing to do with it.

Sir Matthew Hale's name does not appear among the members, but it is not impossible that in his young days he may have belonged to it. Dean Aldrich almost certainly had nothing to do with it; Francis Marshall evidently included his name because the words of his catch, The Bonny Christchurch Bells, are given in the appendix to the 'Clavis.' 'F. Powell' was John Powell Powell, of Quex Park who, after being a Cumberland Youth for almost all his ringing career, joined the College Youths towards its close; as did William Shipway.

Lord Fitzroy Somerset was a soldier, who served on Wellington's staff throughout the Peninsula War, and lost an arm at Waterloo. He commanded the English army in the Crimea and died there in 1855. Judge Park was Sir James Alan Park, a celebrated high court judge in the early years of the nineteenth century. What connection these two latter had with the society cannot be said, but it must have been slight.

Mr. Justice Park was 'a lawyer of the old school, with prejudices of the oldest.' 'He was singularly like His Majesty King George III., a fact of which he was proud. He was well versed in the more abstruse branches of the profession, and was generally respected by the public and the bar.' Deeply, but narrowly religious, hot-tempered, irritable and rather old-womanish, with much self-complacency, he was sometimes led by his failings into ludicrous positions. A good tale is told to illustrate this side of his character. In one of the cases before him a little girl was called as a witness. It was his duty, before allowing her to give evidence, to make sure that she understood the nature of an oath, and, following the usual custom, he began to question her about religion and

(Continued in next column.)

EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT GUILD. MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

On Saturday, October 25th, the East Grinstead and District Guild held a meeting in the belfry of St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, and although the attendance was rather poor, some good practice was obtained on both handbells and the eight silent tower bells. The main attraction was an octave of miniature handbells belonging to Mr. E. J. Ladd.

Tea was partaken of in St. Peter's Parish Hall, and although a rather large party had been catered for, those present soon showed themselves capable of eating double rations.

The main item of business was the appointment of a new treasurer in the place of Mr. R. D. Divall, who is being called up for military duties. After some discussion Mr. E. J. Oliver was appointed for the duration of war, and the moneys in the P.O. Savings Bank were transferred to the joint care of Messrs. E. J. Oliver and A. L. Ryman.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to Mr. E. J. Ladd and Mr. B. Collison for silencing the bells, and to the St. Peter's ringers for defraying part cost of teas. Further ringing in the tower brought the meeting to a close. The following towers were represented: East Grinstead, Hartfield, Penshurst, Lambherhurst, Wadhurst and the local company.

BELLS AS DEODANDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article in your issue of October 17th, Ellacombe's 'Church Bells of Devon' states that at Axminster in 1662 John Brocas, while ringing the present (1864) fifth bell was strangled by the rope. The King claimed the bell as a deodand. The judges differed in opinion, and the bell remained in the church.

In 1898 when the remaining bells were recast by Mears the old fifth was spared from the furnace and hung above the new octave. Doubtless some of my fellow Devonians can confirm whether it still there.

E. J. TAYLOR.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

whether she said her prayers. 'What do you do, my little maid,' he asked kindly, beaming at her with all the animation of his lively countenance, 'just before you get into bed?' The court tittered and the child blushed red with confusion, but the judge in his simplicity noticed nothing and repeated the question. Then he got his answer, but it was not the one he was expecting.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. W. H. Barber, who reached his sixty-fifth birthday last Tuesday.

On November 1st, 1831, the Norwich Scholars rang 6,160 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Michael's, Coslany, in that city. It was for long supposed to be the longest length in the method, but 60 years earlier 6,720 changes had been rung on the same bells.

The first peal by the Middlesex Association was rung on November 1st, 1889. This was one of the two societies which united to form the present Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild.

The first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major in the Southern Hemisphere was rung on Nov. 2nd, 1934, at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, Tasmania. A previous attempt had been lost after nearly three hours owing to the treble slipping wheel. The Rector, Archdeacon Blackwood, was surprised that it did not count, since the bells were going for a longer time than in the previous completed peal.

The first name peal on ten bells was rung by eleven Williams belonging to the Cumberland Youths at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on November 3rd, 1796. William Shipway conducted.

The first peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung on November 5th, 1821, at St. Peter's, Huddersfield. On the same date 34 years earlier 6,048 changes of Cambridge had been rung at Sheffield. That peal was false.

The Australian tourists rang another peal at Hobart (Bob Major this time) on November 6th, 1934.

Fifty years ago to-day 13 peals were rung. They consisted of Bob Triples 1, Union Triples 1, Grandsire Triples 3, Grandsire Caters 2, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1.

One of the Grandsire Caters was at St. Giles', Camberwell, and was Mr. James E. Davis' first peal on ten bells.

The first peal on the heavy ring at Wells Cathedral was rung fifty years ago last Tuesday.

MR. ISAAC EMERY.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Emery will be pleased to hear that a letter was read at the Kent County Association meeting at Chislehurst on October 25th, in which he said that he was leaving hospital that day, though he would not be able to come to the meeting. Mr. Emery has had a long spell in hospital, but we hope he will be permanently better for his recent severe operation.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP OF LONDON SOCIETIES.

A ROLL OF HONOUR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As opinion is divided with regard to the deletion of the rule banning joint membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Royal Cumberland Youths, could not a scheme be devised whereby this ban could be overcome in respect of distinguished ringers who have done well by the Exercise?

I would suggest that membership might be offered to noteworthy ringers of either society without the penalty of resigning or being struck off the other society's books.

Such persons as might be invited to join in this way could be regarded as forming a 'roll of honour' among ringers, and the invitation be looked on as some slight recognition of their services.

Should a scheme of this nature be formulated, perhaps the names of persons so elected could be published at the Central Council meetings annually.

Sutton, Surrey.

G. W. STEERE,
Hon. Sec., Royal Cumberland Youths.

THE PARSON'S JOB.

'NOTHING LIKE IT.'

How would you like a country parson's job? It's a busy life whatever we may think of it. Services, sermons, christenings, weddings, funerals—they are only part of his work. The villagers bring their troubles to him, he has to be something of a Solomon in judgment, he has a finger in nearly every activity in the parish, and he is at it often from morning to night, seven days a week.

What do the parsons themselves think of it? One of them at a recent ringers' meeting in his parish said in the course of conversation, when a reference had been made to his multifarious duties and the calls upon his time, 'Well, it's exacting and strenuous and I feel there is nothing like it, but sometimes, on the other hand—well, I still feel there's nothing like it.'

A CANDIDATE FOR CONVOCATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While parliamentary elections are having a quiet time, the clergy of the Salisbury Diocese have the excitement of a keenly contested election, no less than five candidates competing for a seat in Convocation. Needless to say, each has issued a circular stating his aims and qualifications—one of them indeed two or three circulars.

One of the five has added the postscript: 'I shall also endeavour to look after the interests of "the Exercise."' This is a refreshing innovation and will commend itself to one or two of your recent correspondents. We may well say, 'Other candidates for Convocation, please copy.'

Kington Magna Rectory.

F. LI. EDWARDS.

WELLS CATHEDRAL. A NOBLE PEAL OF BELLS.

Last Tuesday was the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the bells at Wells Cathedral after they had been rehung and augmented to ten. For many years previously they had been the heaviest octave in England, the tenor weighing 56½ cwt. Some of them were cast by Thomas Purdew in 1673, two were by Abel Rudhall in 1757, and the two tenors were by Taylors, of Loughborough, in 1877.

In 1891 the bells had become unringable and the job of restoration was entrusted to Blackburn and Greenleaf, of Salisbury, who supplied a cast-iron frame. The two new trebles were by Mears and Stainbank.

A special band belonging to the Oxford Diocesan Guild was engaged for the opening, and after the dedication a peal of Stedman Caters was started for, with James W. Washbrook as conductor. He called his own composition and he attempted to ring the heavy tenor single-handed.

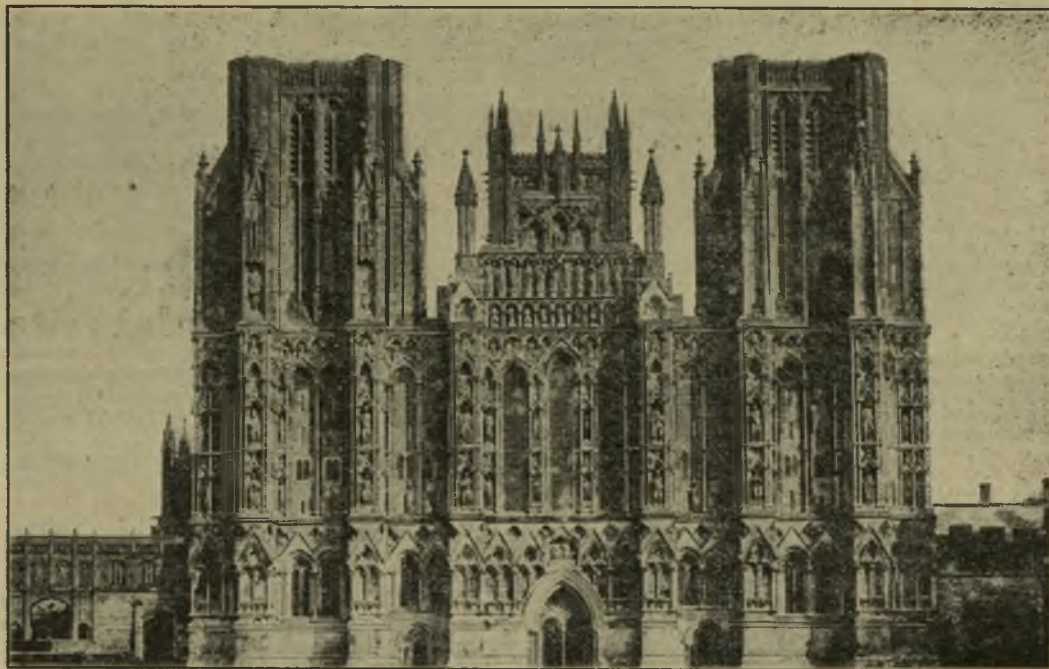
The rest of the band was: Fred White 1, G. H. Philott 2, Charles Hounslow 3, the Rev. H. A. Cockey 4, the Rev. F. E. Robinson 5, William W. Gifford 6, James Hinton 7, and Richard T. Hibbert 9.

The band was a picked one, drawn from several towers. Hounslow and Washbrook came from Oxford, White from Appleton, Blackburn and Gifford from Salisbury, Hinton from Bristol, Hibbert from Reading, Philott from Cheltenham, and Robinson from Drayton. Each was a leading man in his home belfry.

Washbrook rang the tenor single-handed for three and a quarter hours, and then turned her over to William Greenleaf. It was a magnificent heavy bell performance, for with the old style of plain bearings it was very rare indeed for a bell to go well until it had been rung for some time. Four years later Washbrook completely eclipsed this feat and actually turned the bell single-handed in to a peal of Treble Bob Royal. This has often been stated to be the finest heavy bell performance on record.

The day following the Stedman Caters at the Cathedral Washbrook rang the 28 cwt. tenor at St. Cuthbert's to Double Norwich Major. Robinson was at the sixth and Mr. Tom Hibbert at the seventh. On the next day Stedman Triples was rung at Prestbury, and another peal of Stedman Caters at Cheltenham in the evening. All the peals during the visit were composed and called by Washbrook.

Only a very few peals have been rung since at Wells Cathedral, all of them Caters.



THE FINE WEST FRONT OF WELLS CATHEDRAL. THE BELLS ARE IN THE RIGHT-HAND TOWER.

INFORMATION WANTED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Can any reader supply the answers to the following questions: 1. Is there a peal of six anywhere lighter than the six at Tetworth, Bucks, tenor 4 cwt. 2 gr. 25 lb.; if so, where, and weight of tenor? It should be a ringing peal and not a chime or hung 'dead.'

2. Which are the heaviest five and which are the lightest five hung for ringing; weights of tenors?

3. Which is the smallest tower in the country in which a ringing peal is hung, the number of bells contained, weight of tenor, the interior measurements of the bell chamber, the thickness of its walls and, if known, its height? I have heard say it is in Devon or Cornwall.

4. Which is the largest tower, number of bells contained and interior measurements of bell chamber.

5. If another church exists in England besides that at Bromham, Beds, which is dedicated to St. Owen, and, if so, where?

'ENQUIRER.'

IPSWICH RINGERS WED.

The wedding took place at All Saints' Church, Ipswich, on Saturday, October 25th, of Sergt. Ernest A. Hardman, R.A., and Corpl. Bertha Reeve, A.T.S., of Chingford, Essex. The bride is well known as a member of the St. Matthew's Church company and St. Mary-le-Tower Society. Another well-known member of the Ipswich companies of St. Clement's and St. Mary-le-Tower, Corpl. Herbert Shemming, of the Suffolk Regt., was also recently married.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Melbourne St. Paul's Cathedral Society was held in the vestry of the Cathedral on Tuesday evening, Aug. 5th.

The Precentor, the Rev. H. O. Hole, occupied the chair, and the following members were present: Messrs. J. W. Spencer, W. Hall, F. Broughton, A. Reeder, W. Waghorn, E. Behan, T. Trotter, A. Hurford, J. Trotter and E. Knott.

The balance sheet showed a balance of £10 12s. 1d.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Captain, Mr. J. W. Spencer; vice-captain, Mr. A. Reeder; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Waghorn; steeplekeeper, Mr. T. Trotter; committee, Mr. E. Knott, Mr. F. Broughton and Mr. H. Ross.

It was agreed to make Mr. W. H. Preston, an old member of the society, a life member.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Mr. J. Murray would be 80 years of age on February 12th next, and the members decided to celebrate the event, as Mr. Murray is still an active member.

The members were pleased to hear of the recovery of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, a life member of this society, after his operation, and hoped he will permanently be restored to health.

The members of the society wish to convey their best wishes to life members in England.

Since the annual meeting the passing away has been announced of Mr. W. H. Preston, one of the oldest ringers, who had been ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral for the past 40 years, aged 73 years. Mr. W. H. Preston came from Chatham, Kent, England.

A VILLAGE MEETING. DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME. Bells as Warning 100 Years Ago.

A handful of members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild met in the village of Chobham, Surrey, on Saturday, and, small though the gathering was, they did not regret their trouble. Chobham is in the Chertsey District and is not an easy place to get at (for it has no railway station), unless, of course, you have a car and petrol, a bicycle, a good pair of legs or a lot of patience to wait for the bus. Even the planning of the meeting was not easy and Mr. Frank Hawthorne, the district secretary, had his arrangements nearly knocked on the head at the last moment. The ringing 'room,' which is a gallery overlooking the interior of the church, was not available for handbell practice owing to two weddings, so last minute resort was had to a school classroom, where, in the interests of economy, there was no fire. But it served, although two of the early visitors quickly decided they had had enough and went home. They vanished on a bus just as another contingent arrived. The newcomers might have done the same thing, for the change of venue was unknown, and after inquiring at the church and the neighbouring inn without result, they found the secretary scouring the village street for stray ringers. Then another useful hour in handbell ringing was put in.

While this was in progress the secretary visited the four village 'pubs' in turn before at length persuading the landlady of one to provide a tea, which in due course she did, and did well.

The little party attended a special service, which the Vicar (the Rev. F. T. Robinson) kindly added to his numerous engagements for the afternoon. He used a shortened form of the Guild's service, pitched the note for the two hymns (which the congregation of eight ringers sang unaccompanied with great success), and then gave a short address from the chancel step. That service was typical of the spirit which animated the little gathering—sincerity and determination.

The Vicar referred to the fact that the bells had been stopped by the necessities of war and the activities of the bellringers throughout the country had been almost entirely suspended. It was, therefore, a fine thing to find the Guild were doing their best to keep the art and the Exercise going by means of handbells and maintaining interest. The abandonment of ringing was one of the sacrifices which we were having to make, and everyone was looking forward eagerly to the time when, please God, the bells would ring out for victory and peace and resume their place in interpreting the people's joys and sorrows.

After the service the ringers had their hastily provided tea at the King's Arms, being generously entertained by the Guild hon. treasurer (Mr. J. Corbett), who presided over a brief business meeting, at which the retiring district officers were renominated en bloc. The election will take place at the annual meeting in the new year.

Mr. Corbett was also cordially thanked for his kindness.

During the visit of the ringers it was discovered that in Chobham, at any rate, history was repeating itself. An old minute book has revealed that in the troublous days of 1830 a resolution was passed by the 'Chobham Association for Detecting and Prosecuting Rioters and Incendiaries' appointing 'fire watchers' (fire raising being one of the weapons of those who were in rebellion against the existing order of things) and forming a body of men to go in search of the criminals. This 'Home Guard' was to be called out by 'ringing the bells of the parish church confusedly.'

Chobham, like other parishes, has once more got its wardens, its fire watchers and its Home Guard, with the bells ready to give a warning if need be.

The resolution of the Chobham Association was worded as follows: 'That if any tumultuous or riotous assembling of the people should take place alarm be forthwith given by ringing confusedly the parish bells and messengers be dispatched to give information to the representative leaders.'

The Vicar who presided over the vestry meeting in 1830, when that resolution was passed, was Charles J. Jerram, who had been Vicar since 1810. He was followed by his son Thomas in 1834, who in turn was succeeded in 1854 by another member of the family, S. J. Jerram, who was incumbent until 1880. The latter's son, Sir Martin Jerram, who was born in Chobham, commanded the second battle squadron at the Battle of Jutland, and flew his flag in the King George V. He was made G.C.M.G. for his services, and his banner of the Order hangs at the entrance to the chancel in Chobham Church. The portraits of all these hang in the vestry.

There is still a link of more than four hundred years in history in Chobham steeple, for in the present ring of eight is a bell cast by William Culverden, brazier, of London, who died in 1522. It bears his shield, which embodies a bell and a rebus of his name, and an inscription in large crowned capitals, 'Sancta Mergereta Ora Pro Nobis.' There are also two bells by Richard Eldridge from the Wokingham foundry dated 1597 and another cast in 1610, while, when the foundry had moved to Chertsey, William Eldridge, his grandson, cast a further bell in 1684, all these, of course, being replacements, for in the Edward VI. inventory there were already four bells 'whereof the best waies ix. c. and the rest one under another according to the rate.' The 1597 bells are inscribed, 'Oure hope is in the lorde,' and the 1610 bell, 'In trouble and adversitie the lord god heare thee.' The pre-Reformation bell is now the sixth in the octave, an additional bell having been put in in 1684 and the three trebles added within the last fifty years or so.

WREN'S CHURCHES.

REBUILDING CONDEMNED.

St. Bride's as a Museum?

Should Wren's city churches, now in ruins as the result of enemy action, be rebuilt? Challenging views on the restoration of these and other historic buildings were, says 'The Daily Telegraph,' expressed by Mr. John Summerson, deputy director of the National Buildings Record, at a meeting of the Architectural Association in London.

He thought that the City churches, about half of which had now been destroyed by enemy action, should not, generally speaking, be rebuilt except in the few cases where a substantial part of the old structure and fittings had survived.

'The quality of Wren's churches varies enormously,' he said. 'Some were probably merely given a shape by him and the execution left to someone else. The whole world admires St. Stephen's, Walbrook, but I doubt if anybody has seen much to admire in St. Mary Aldermary or St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.'

St. Bride's, Fleet Street, or Christ Church, Greyfriars, might be rebuilt as a Wren museum. Models of all the other churches, vanished or still existing, could be placed there, and the body of the church used as a concert hall.

There was sure to be a great drive from some quarters after the war for rebuilding Wren churches as they were, but 'we must keep in front of our minds the element of futility this would involve.'

Mr. Summerson was not enthusiastic for the preservation of houses in which great men had been born or lived. Birthplaces were usually the least significant structures in a man's life.

CHURCH BELLS AND AIR RAIDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your list of churches whose bells were destroyed during air raids no mention is made of the peal of six at St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool. This church was completely devastated by fire, only the walls and tower being left standing. They were a peal by Rudhall with a tenor of 9 cwt. and for many years were rung by a very excellent local company. They were cast, I believe, in 1736 and sent from Gloucester to Liverpool by canal. The first 5,040 i seven methods in Lancashire was rung on the bells on January 20th, 1891.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

LONDON'S LOSS.

Dear Sir,—In your list of bells destroyed in air raids you omit two London peals which you have already told us have been destroyed. They are St. George's-in-the-East and St. John the Divine, Kennington. Many of your readers would, I am sure, like to know what has happened to the bells at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green; St. Mary's, Islington; St. Vedast's, Foster Lane; and St. Alphage's, Greenwich, all of which churches have been at different times reported as being destroyed. Can you or anyone else give us any information about these bells?

There are also other churches and bells in London that we should be relieved to know are safe. Has anything happened to St. James', Bermondsey; St. Paul's, Shadwell; All Saints', Poplar; Christ Church, Isle of Dogs; Holy Trinity, Newington; St. Mary's, Rotherhithe; St. Nicholas', Deptford; and St. George's and St. Giles', Camberwell? If any ringers could let us know that all or any of these churches with their bells are safe we should be very much relieved.

'LONDON COUNTY.'

BICENTENARY OF A CATLIN PEAL.

The bells in the Parish Church of Horsell, Surrey, will shortly reach their 200th birthday. But unless something happens quickly—which is not likely—they will not ring to celebrate this auspicious anniversary.

At the time of the Edwardian inventory there were three bells in the steeple, 'the best bie extymacion,' 14 cwt. In addition, there was a saunce bell and two sacring bells. Later the three were increased to four, which in turn were taken down on October 23rd, 1741, and replaced by six new ones, which were rung for the first time on December 14th, 1741. They were cast by Robert Catlin and are now the only complete set by this founder in Surrey. They all bear Catlin's name or initials. The tenor has the names of the churchwardens, but the name of the Vicar does not appear on either of them.

Typical of the style of inscriptions of those days are those on the 3rd and 4th: 'Prosperity to the parish of Horsell,' 'Health and prosperity to all our benefactors.'

HANDLING A BELL.—It has been justly observed that an awkward and ungraceful method of ringing is frequently acquired by attempting to ring rounds and changes before the practitioner is capable of properly managing a bell. It would be well for young practitioners to notice such ringers as have an easy and agreeable pull with them, and imitate their example.—William Shipway.

BELLS AS NECESSITIES.

WHAT ARE RINGERS DOING ABOUT IT?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We are hearing a lot in these days about bells as luxuries, or otherwise, but the arguments which we are getting do not seem to lead us anywhere. The discussion seems to give your correspondent 'Anti-Silent' opportunity for belabouring his opponents with a big stick and of flinging at them accusations like 'Quislings of the Exercise,' which are cheap but not very effective. I believe 'Anti-Silent' began this discussion, and he ought not to become so annoyed, as he apparently is, with those who disagree with him. (I suppose I shall now come in for castigation.) But doesn't the whole thing boil down to this: One side looks at the question, 'Are bells luxuries?' from the aspect of ringers, the other side is looking at it from the immediate position of the Church?

To ringers the necessity for bells is as important as the bat and ball to the cricketer or his clubs to the golfer. It is heresy to suggest to ringers that bells are luxuries, and I must admit that personally I am surprised that any ringer has the temerity to suggest that they are. It is the Church authorities, however, who are primarily responsible for this attitude of looking upon bells as luxuries, and it is those and most of all the ringers who do not share this view who should try and convince them otherwise.

But what are ringers doing about it? As far as I can see, very little. Some of them are moaning over the seeming indifference of churchmen in the matter, but in how many cases, I wonder, have serious representations been made to the parochial councils on the subject of the insurance of the bells? How many associations have taken any action to support their local branches in this matter, and what has the Central Council done about it? The Council, surely, as the central authority of the Exercise, ought long ago to have taken this question up through the channels which are open to them. They are in a position to approach the highest ecclesiastical quarters, where, if their representations have any weight at all, they could make their voice heard.

Ringers, associations, Central Council, what have they done? And echo answers, 'What?'

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Ewell on Saturday, October 25th. Handbells were put to good use in the tower in the afternoon, and courses and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples and Bob Minor and Major were rung.

After a short service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. G. Holland, 25 ringers representing Banstead, Beddington, Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Epsom (Christ Church), Ewell, Kingston and Leatherhead in the North-Western District, Bletchingley, Merstham and Reigate in the Southern District, and West Grinstead, sat down to an enjoyable meal despite somewhat crowded accommodation.

Following tea a short business meeting of the North-Western District was held, presided over by the District Master, Mr. D. Cooper.

Before commencing the business those present stood for a few moments as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. F. G. Woodiss, who had passed away since the last meeting.

Messrs. J. Prior, of London, and H. Jones, of Croydon, were elected ringing members, and Mr. Edgar R. Rapley, of West Grinstead, was elected a compounding member of the association.

The following nominations were received for district officers for 1942: Master, Mr. D. Cooper; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Simmons; secretary, Mr. G. W. Massey; auditor, Mr. H. N. Pitstow; committee, Mrs. C. H. Kippin, Messrs. C. Potheary, F. E. Collins, W. Massey and H. V. Young.

It was proposed that Mr. D. Cooper should act as secretary when the present district secretary joins His Majesty's Forces. Those present extended to the secretary their best wishes for a safe and speedy return.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Leatherhead, probably during March. Croydon was chosen as an alternative place.

The subject of the revision of the association's service forms was discussed, and the committee was asked to consider the matter further, particularly regarding the selection of hymns and tunes.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar for conducting the service and for welcoming the association to the parish, to Mrs. J. Beams for the loan of her late husband's handbells, to Mrs. Sycamore for the excellent catering arrangements, and to Mr. C. E. Read for making all other arrangements.

Handbells were again utilised until about 8.30 in methods up to Bob Major and Grandsire Caters.

ANCIENT OAK BEAMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Here are two passages which may provide Mr. Alsop with an answer to his enquiry.

'On the Blackmoor estate there is a small wood called Losel's, of a few acres, that was lately furnished with a set of oaks of a peculiar growth and great value: they were tall and tapered like firs, but, standing near together, had very small heads, only a little brush without any large limbs. About 20 years ago the bridge near Hampton Court being much decayed, some trees were wanted for the repairs that were 50ft. long without bough and would measure 12in. diameter at the little end. Twenty such trees did a purveyor find in this little wood, with this advantage, that many of them answered the description at 60ft. These trees were sold for £20 apiece.'—'Natural History of Selborne,' Penguin Edition, 1941, pp. 16-17.

'... the Gelenos oak ... stood about four miles from Newport, Monmouthshire, cut down in 1810, yielded 2,426 cubic feet of sound timber and six tons of bark, which realised about £600. The timber and bark from this one tree were about equal to the average produce of three acres of oak coppice after 15 years' growth.'—'Observer's Book of Trees and Shrubs,' Warne.

Oaks, of course, may take a matter of centuries to produce timber of any great value, and the maximum height of these trees is only attained in woodland-forest conditions. Oaks growing in the open spread branches laterally and developed thick short boles. The disappearance of the originally extensive oak forests in Britain appears to date back to pre-Roman times, since evidence of iron smelting in the weald of Kent at this period indicates the use of wood in charcoal burning. Ever since this early period increasing demands for timber have greatly reduced the woodland areas, until to-day very few 'natural' woodlands exist, nearly all being plantations.

If planted for timber, the tendency would be to fell much earlier than in natural forest, and hence a decrease in the number of 'out-size' oaks.

An interesting account of the history of British vegetation—especially woodland—occurs in 'The British Islands and Their Vegetation,' A. G. Tansley, Camb. Univ. Press, 1939.

D. G. BROWN.

24, Edward Street, Warwick.

DEATH OF MANCHESTER RINGER.

LEADER AT BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH.

Many bellringers in Lancashire and Cheshire will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Charles Ollier, at the age of 77 years, at the home of his son, 26, Marland Crescent, Reddish, Lancashire, on October 25th.

The funeral service was held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, Manchester, on October 28th, prior to the interment at the Gorton Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. Fred Cottier, who recalled the fact that Mr. Ollier, well-known in bellringing circles, was a member of the Brookfield Church band for over forty years, and up to the time when the war emergency silenced the bells was acting leader of the band.

Mr. Ollier began ringing at the early age of 15 years at the village church of Church-Lawton in the Potteries, where he was born, and was a well-known figure in most of the belfries in the district as a frequent and welcome ringing visitor.

His business brought him to Manchester in the year 1900, and he lost no time in becoming a member of the band at Brookfield Unitarian Church, Gorton. In all he had taken an active part in over sixty peals, one of which was rung on the occasion of the death of Queen Victoria. He was an interested member of the Lancashire Association and Chester Diocesan Guild.

Mr. Ollier was held in high esteem and respect by all who came in contact with him as a tactful leader and proficient ringer. At his funeral it was, of course, impossible for the church bells to be rung, but three of his belfry colleagues, with Mr. A. Barnes, rang rounds on handbells in the church as a token and tribute to a loyal, steadfast and excellent ringer and friend.

F. C.
Mr. Ollier's peals were rung for the Stoke Archidiaconal Association, the Chester Diocesan Guild and the Lancashire Association, and were as follows: Minor in three methods 1, Grandsire Triples 16 (conducted 2), Bob Triples 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1 (1), Stedman Triples 6, Bob Major 9 (1), Kent Treble Bob Major 21 (1), Oxford Treble Bob Major 3, Double Norwich Major 6 (1), Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Grandsire Caters 2, Bob Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, total 69, conducted 6.

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

(Continued from page 527.)

Francis Roberts' discovery of the plan of bringing Grandsire Caters round at hand is of great importance, and great credit is due to the inventor. To be able to bring the bells round in five leads was an immense improvement. The bells could remain in the Tittums until the very last few leads, the clumsy unmusical homing course was avoided, and the peal could roll home with dignity and grace.

The method of bringing the bells round at handstroke used by Roberts we do not know, but the following plans are to be found in common use in the works of George Gross, John Reeves and John Martin. The first of these is the familiar 'Round by 9th in and out at 2,' from 42563978, and the other is 'Round at hand from 62354978 by bobs at 2,9,10.'

The three composers mentioned above, the suave John Reeves, stout old John Martin, of Leicester, and that grand ringer and composer, George Gross, all flourished towards the end of the 18th century, and have left among their works evidence of their labours on Grandsire Caters. John Reeves was part author of the 'Clavis' (1788), and that work contains specimens of his compositions. His well-known 5,040 follows the plan of Annable and Holt, falls into five parts, and comes round from 42356978 by bobs at 3,9,11. More noteworthy, if not so regular, is his 5,003, being the first evidence of a peal of Caters of the minimum length.

The number of changes is 5,003. The peal is in four parts. The first, consisting of 13 courses, starts with bobs at 1,4,5, and then has two 78's and two 89's alternately, and ends with the lead-end 24637589.

The second part has a bob at 1; and then eleven courses with two 89's and two 78's alternately and finishing with three 89's.

The third part, consisting of ten courses, is called as the first ten of the first part, except that it starts with a bob at 1.

The fourth part is as the first, except that the first course has a bob at 7 only. The part-end is 42563978, and from it the bells are brought round by calling the 9th in and out at 2.

Some apology was deemed necessary at the publication of a peal of less than 5,040, for a footnote to the above is given as follows:—

'It was a maxim formerly, not to constitute any number of changes of a peal, that is under 5,040, the extent that seven bells will produce, no practitioner would think of ringing a less number than the whole, for a peal of Triples; but it is no reason why it should be the standard for a greater number of bells, for if 5,600 changes are rung, it is only deemed by the Exercise a five thousand; therefore, why not as near five thousand as possible; this

certainly is reason sufficient to constitute 5,000 changes a peal, and is as worthy of record as 5,040.'

Comforted by this reflection, Reeves goes on to give a 5,021, a 5,039, and several longer lengths all round at hand, including a 5,165, in which the homing course is as given here.

24365978

64293857

89674523

79856342

35729486

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Very little advance is made from the old plan. The alternate two-course method is still followed, the bell behind the 9th regarded as of very little importance, and real use of the 5th still not apprehended. The following comment on the 5,003 shows

this clearly:—

'It may be observed in the above peal there are only four bells behind the ninth, viz., first the fifth, next the third, then the fourth, and lastly the sixth; so that the second is omitted; therefore, as it is unnecessary to use any more in peals of five thousand, we shall vary them, as some prefer the music of one bell behind the ninth, and some another.'

George Gross was a prominent member of the Cumberland Youths. He was distinguished as a composer and conductor in all the standard methods on 8, 10 and 12 bells, and rang 142 peals. To the record of his last peal is added the following tribute:—

'On the third of May died Mr. George Gross, sen., who served the Society as Warner for twenty years, and by his abilities as Composer and bob-caller caused the fame of this Society to be extended through these kingdoms. His compositions in this Art are held in the highest estimation by all admirers of this Exercise: But more especially for his productions in Treble Bob, in which he surpassed all his contemporaries, and which will ever remain a lasting monument to his skill.'

Alas! his Treble Bob compositions have not remained as a monument. They are lost, a regrettable state of affairs, which Jasper Snowdon deeply deplored.

Gross left, nevertheless, a fine peal of Grandsire Caters, a 7,001, which he conducted at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on November 13th, 1773.

7,001.

23456789

34256789

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56472938

64572938

52643

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65243

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26543978

56342

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63542

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The last twelve courses four times repeated, calling the first course 8-3, producing 42563. Round as usual.

George Gross.

It will be seen at a glance that this peal breaks new ground. The use of short courses is the precursor of the modern plan, and the old method of placing a new bell behind the 9th by calling the 7th to dodge in 89 up (and

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so cutting out the course-end) has given place to the more graceful 8-3 course. The peal contains the 60 eight-nines and the 60 nine-seven-eights.

The Tittum position was so excellent and so much admired that it was deeply regretted that not more than some 6,000 changes could be obtained with 789 undisturbed. The only way in which longer lengths could be secured was by introducing sections of non-Tittum music. Reeves and Gross tacked the extra portions on to the front of the peal (as will be seen in the 7,001). John Martin, as we shall see, adopted a plan all his own.

Martin was composer to the Leicester Scholars at the height of their fame towards the end of the 18th century. He composed the 6,012 of Grandsire Caters rung in 1776 and the famous 10,080, rung in 1777. His manuscript book is a most interesting piece of work, not only on account of the compositions, but also for the accompanying comments, which give a clear insight of the composer's mind. He gives two leads of the plain course with the following comment:—

'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.'

A bob block (four leads) is thus labelled:—

'These four leads are to Shoe ye Nature of a bob and how It is to Be Made according to the Method.'

His touches are built on a mixture of the long-course and short-course plans, and he uses 8-2 for placing a new bell behind the 9th; but his peals follow the traditional long-course plan.

A 5,040 by Martin starts with a course called 1,4 bringing up the course-end 43627589. Then follow five equal parts all of eight courses and all called alike, except that the first course of the first has bobs at 1,5 and the others at 7,11. The remainder of the courses are produced by one 8.9 and then two 78's and two 89's alternately.

5,039.

23456789		56234978	
43627589	1.4.	52364	7.12.
43526978	1.6.	23564	78
35426	78	53462	89
45623	89	43265	89
65324	89	32465	78
53624	78	24365	78
36524	78	34562	89
56423	89	45362	78
46325	89	35264	89
63425	78	25463	89
34625	78	54263	78
		42563	78
Repeat the last		Round by 9th in	
10 courses twice,		and out at 2.	
calling the first			
course 7,12, to pro-		John Martin, 1779.	
duce 56234.			

This 5,039 contains what Martin calls 'the Long Twelve Hundred Course with the 6th behind ye Ninth.'

This particular block of courses, to which frequent reference is made in the composer's book, was in his estimation, the very quintessence of Tittum ringing, and, as such, was very much to be desired. John Martin was the first composer to say quite plainly that he considered the

(Continued in next column.)

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.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Linton on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4, followed by tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar) and business meeting.—C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone, Kent.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The 304th anniversary luncheon will be held at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. Business meeting and election of officers afterwards.—A. B. Peck, Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Wath-on-Dearne on Saturday, November 8th. Handbells available Church House at 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. each, 5 p.m., Warburton's Cafe. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. A. Gill, 84, Doncaster Road, Wath-on-Dearne, near Rotherham. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next silent ringing meeting is at Earl Shilton on Saturday, November 15th. Bells at 4.30 p.m. Handbells, etc., at the Plough during the evening. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by November 26th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

BIRTH.

POST.—At the Radcliffe Maternity Home, Oxford, on Tuesday, October 28th, to Dorothy Elizabeth, wife of Richard A. Post, a daughter (Valerie Joan).

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GRANDSIRE CATERS

(Continued from previous column.)

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(To be continued.)

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 1941.

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THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

If there are among us any who are inclined to look despondently on the present state of the Exercise and to despair of its future when the war is over, they would have done well to have been present last Saturday at the anniversary luncheon of the Society of College Youths. The function by its very existence is a source of inspiration, for it carries the mind back in unbroken sequence for more than three hundred years, and seems to give an assurance that so long as ringers are true to their calling their art will not fail. The days are dark and uncertain now, but there have been days just as dark. To the men of those times it must often have seemed that the best of change ringing was over. Yet the storms were weathered and the Exercise came out in the end stronger than ever. It would be idle to pretend that the silence of the bells, now for more than a year, will not seriously affect ringing. It would be foolish to pretend that when peace comes we shall be able to pick up the threads just where we dropped them. Some ringers will be found to have lost their enthusiasm, and some will enter the bell-fries no more. Some, alas, have gone abroad who will never return. Bands will be depleted and all of us will be older.

These things we must face, and we must face them, not in a spirit of pessimism, but as part of the price we are called on to pay for England and for freedom. We are prepared to pay that price, but we must not stop there. We must make up our minds that we are not merely going to put up with difficulties, but that we are going to overcome them, and we shall best do that by keeping our heads high, holding fast to our art, and maintaining contact with our past history and our present friends.

That is where the Ancient Society of College Youths has deserved well of the Exercise. We look to it as the symbol and embodiment of our history and traditions. We look to it to maintain our connection with the great ringers of the past to whom we owe so much. And we are thankful to say it has not failed us. By holding its fortnightly meeting without a break and under very difficult conditions it has done good service not only to the few who are able to attend but also the many who, debarred themselves from meeting other ringers, can yet feel that the life of the London Exercise is still flowing. For this no small praise is due to the officers, Mr. Fenn the Master, Mr. Peck the hon. secretary, and not least to Mr. A. A. Hughes the treasurer.

And here we make a suggestion. Why should not the members of other associations, who are themselves by force of circumstances unable to hold as many meetings

(Continued on page 542.)

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as they would like—why should not they make a point of visiting now and then their friends of the College Youths? We know they would be welcomed, and perhaps a small seed might be sown which would lead after the war to closer co-operation among London ringers and a federation in which, while all the societies kept their own individualities and traditions intact, they would unite for closer friendship and the common weal. Gone, and we hope gone for ever, are the days when one society considered it could prosper only at the expense of others. When the war is over, London ringing will need all the co-operation that is possible, and it can best come about if the other societies are willing (and why should they not be willing?) to work together under the primacy of honour of the senior society, the College Youths.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CHISLEHURST.

The annual meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association was held at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, on Saturday, October 25th, when about 30 members and friends from Bromley, Crayford, Chislehurst, Dartford, Erith and Lewisham attended.

This date being the dedication festival of the church, the members attended the special evensong, at which the Vicar (the Rev. Canon R. S. Greaves) officiated.

Afterwards the Vicar entertained the members to tea and gave them a very warm welcome to Chislehurst. He also presided at the business meeting which followed.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., referred to the loss sustained by the local band by the recent death of its secretary, the late Mr. F. O. Earney.

The Chairman paid tribute to Mr. Earney's memory and asked the meeting to signify its esteem in the traditional manner.

Mr. E. Barnett read a letter from Mr. Isaac Emery saying he was leaving hospital that day, and thanking the members, individually and collectively, for the kind messages he had received while undergoing treatment; also a message from Mr. 'Pat' Murphy, who is serving with His Majesty's Forces abroad.

It was decided that the district secretary should write on behalf of the meeting to both Mr. Emery and Mr. Murphy.

News, without definite addresses, was passed on about other serving members in various parts of the Empire, and training in America, and these also were remembered gratefully.

Mr. A. G. Hill (district secretary), Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., and Mr. E. Barnett (district representatives) and Mr. T. Groombridge, sen. (Ringing Master) were re-elected without other nominations being made. In the case of Mr. Groombridge, sen., this reappointment continues an uninterrupted occupation of office in the district beginning as long ago as 1903.

The next meeting, to be held in January, was left to be arranged as circumstances allow, no definite place being selected. Mr. Wheadon undertook to try to arrange a visit to Dartford, and the chairman assured the meeting that Chislehurst would be available if desired.

Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., expressed the opinion that the decision that church bells must be regarded as luxuries when the time comes to consider what rebuilding should be undertaken at the close of the war was deplorable. He was quickly aware that he enjoyed the backing of the meeting. After hearing a lucid explanation of the difficulties surrounding this question, given by the Vicar, who had attended the proceedings of the body appointed to consider its various aspects, there was a discussion, and it was decided that the district secretary and representatives in collaboration with the secretary of the association should take the necessary steps to register regret and disapproval of the finding.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the belfry, for his generous hospitality and for presiding at the meeting, and to the ladies for their help at tea, was carried enthusiastically. The Vicar responded and declared the meeting closed.

Further handbell ringing filled the time until 7 p.m., when the members dispersed, after thanking Mr. E. Barnett for bringing his handbells for their use and entertainment.

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THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 2, 1941, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
At A.R.P. POST, 82, GREEN BANK,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

*HAROLD SENIOR... ..	1-2	FRED HODGSON	5-6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ...	3-4	ERNEST B. BETTS... ..	7-8

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal on handbells. First peal on handbells as conductor.

OXFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 2, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
At NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*BETTY SPICE	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
† WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ...	3-4	† ELEANOR J. MACNAIR ...	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by J. E. SPICE.

Witnesses—Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Spice.

* First peal of Major. † First peal on an 'inside pair.' ‡ First attempt for a peal. The average age of this band is 19 years and 8 months. The ringer of 7-8 was elected a member of the association before starting.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 4, 1941, in Two Hours,
At SELWYN COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 17 in A.

*REV. A. C. BLYTH (Selwyn) 1-2	ROGER LEIGH (St. Cath's)... 3-4
†KENNETH S. B. CROFT (St. John's)	5-6

Conducted by ROGER LEIGH.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.' † First peal on six bells. The conductor's first peal and first attempt.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, November 8, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At THE BELL FOUNDRY, WHITECHAPEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor size 17 in A.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER... ..	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
WILFRED WILLIAMS	3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT	7-8

Non-Conducted.

Umpire—Charles W. Roberts.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 9, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
At 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

HAROLD J. POOLE	1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON	5-6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS	3-4	ALFRED BALLARD... ..	7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10			

Composed by F. W. PERRENS. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witness—C. W. H. Powell.

SHAFTON, NEAR BARNESLEY, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, November 9, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,
At 28, CHAPEL STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

DANIEL SMITH	1-2	HAROLD CHANT	3-4
*SIDNEY BRIGGS 5-6			

Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

Witness—Arthur Gill.

* First peal of Minor 'in hand.' Arranged specially and rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. D. Smith, whose birthday fell on the previous day.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM WILLSON.**A DISTINGUISHED LEICESTER RINGER.**

A great loss has been sustained by the Midland Counties Association, and by the Exercise in general, by the death on Thursday week of Mr. William Willson, of Leicester, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Willson had been in failing health for some time, but it was only recently that his condition gave rise to grave anxiety.

In the councils of the Midland Counties Association William Willson was for long a great force, and years ago his energies accounted for much of its activity in Leicestershire. He had been a notable ringer, composer and conductor, and had shared in many distinguished performances, both in the tower and on handbells.

He was born on August 12th, 1868, and began ringing at the early age of ten years, and in his long career he rang about 350 peals. His contribution to the Exercise has, however, by no means been confined to his activities in the belfry. Mr. Willson acted as editor of the short-lived periodical, 'The Bellingr', and he contributed frequently to other ringing papers, including 'The Ringing World.' He wielded a trenchant pen and was a doughty fighter. He could take as well as give hard knocks, and when he entered a controversy the sparks usually began to fly. He was no respecter of persons and in the early days he was looked upon as a stormy petrel in ringing politics. His letters and articles were always entertaining, even if his views were not always acceptable, and he had a highly developed sense of humour which enabled him, when occasion arose, to write purely in lighter vein. He could, too, turn a neat verse, and some of his poetry in later years in serious mood has touched a high level.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Mr. Willson also turned his attention to composition and was the author of a number of peals of considerable merit, including Stedman and Grandsire Caters, and Double Norwich Major. He was the composer and conductor of the longest peal ever rung in this method. In 1899 a 17,024 was rung at Kidlington which aroused heated discussion. In 1904 Mr. Willson took a band to South Wigston with the intention of ringing if possible a 21,024, which he hoped in length of time as well as in number of changes would exceed the Kidlington performance. Owing to the illness of one of the band, however, the bells were brought round at 17,104—a longer length than the previous record, but rung in 10 hours 35 minutes against the Kidlington peal's 11 hours 12 minutes.

In 1909 Mr. Willson was one of the band who for the first time in history single handed 'rang the clock round.' This was the celebrated 13,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough, which occupied 12 hours 18 minutes, conducted from the tenor by Mr. William Pye and in which Mr. Willson rang the 7th. Other long lengths which Mr. Willson had rung, and some of which he conducted, were 1,001 Grandsire Caters, 10,176 Kent Treble Bob Major, 10,192 Bob Major and 11,008 Double Norwich Major.

He was also one of a Leicester company which made handbell ringing history. The band rang 'silent' peals of Stedman Triples 'in hand' in 1896 and 1898; in 1900 the first silent peal of Stedman Caters on handbells, and capped the performance in 1903 by ringing the first silent peal on twelve bells, a peal of Stedman Cinques. The band who rang in the peal of Cinques consisted of J. O. Lancashire 1-2, G. Cleal 3-4, S. Cotton 5-6, William Willson 7-8, J. Buttery 9-10, Alfred Miller 11-12. Now Mr. Lancashire is the sole survivor of the party.

MANY ACTIVITIES.

He conducted the first seven-method peal for the Midland Counties Association and took part in the first peals of Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise in Leicester. He was Ringing Master at the Church of St. John the Divine, to which tower he generously gave two trebles to make a ring of ten bells.

Mr. Willson served during the war 1914-18 as an air mechanic and he organised the memorable pilgrimage of ringers to the Menin Gate, Ypres, in 1931, when in the presence of many hundreds of reverent strangers a short and impressive service was conducted beneath the shadows of the Gate by the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, handbells were rung and a memorial wreath deposited. It was during this visit that the first peals (on handbells) were rung in Belgium and a peal was also rung on French soil.

Mr. Willson served the Midland Counties Association in various capacities, having been honorary treasurer and afterwards one of the vice-presidents. He also at one time served as a representative on the Central Council, where his outspoken utterances were always listened to with interest. He held strong views on the six-bell peal questions and condemned departure from the old orthodox forms in no unmeasured terms. But William Willson's bark was worse than his bite, and often he would criticise with his tongue in his cheek. In his young days he held extreme views on some subjects, but he mellowed with the years and on some vital questions his opinions changed considerably. He was always a delightful companion on any expedition, and ringing in the Midlands owes not a little to his endeavours in years gone by.

He leaves two daughters (Mrs. Lilian Hardy and Mrs. Hilda Jacques), both of whom are ringers who have distinguished themselves among the ladies of the Exercise.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 521.)

THE LADIES' GUILD.

One of the most striking changes in the social life of the Exercise during modern times has been the advent of lady ringers. Fifty years ago they did not exist; to-day they number several hundreds. The break with the old traditions and ideas of the belfry was a profound one, and was a small by-product of a great development which was going on in the general social life of the people of England.

In mid-Victorian times the life of the working and lower middle classes was based on the family and on a general agreement that the man's duty was to work all day to provide the means of keeping the home going, and the woman's duty was to work all day looking after the house and the swarm of young children that usually were found there. For neither husband nor wife was there much time or opportunity for recreation or amusement, nor as a rule did they seek it.

The spread of education, the reduction in the size of families and the steady, if slow, raising of the standard of living, led to a demand for shorter hours of work and more recreation; and here it was inevitable that the men should benefit first. The marked improvement in the quality of ringers which began to be noticeable soon after 1890, may be attributed in no small degree to this. A class of men now began to appear in the belfries who a few years before would have had to devote their whole time and energy to work and the home. The mid-Victorian ringers (with, of course, notable exceptions) were not the class of men who were looked on as model citizens and family men.

The movement, begun among the men, spread in due course and, after a fairly long interval, to the women. They, too, began to seek some escape from the hardships of the Victorian family life; for it had hardships, though they were sweetened by many blessings. And so, as the nineteenth century drew to its close, girls, instead of setting themselves to get married as soon as they reached the age of eighteen (as their mothers had done), were everywhere taking up sports and recreations in the same way their brothers did.

It was a natural development, and probably would have attracted little attention, but it was complicated by another movement among a very small, but vocal, number of women who began to make a demand for what they called the emancipation of women and sex equality. These women were all of the middle class and the products of the higher education which had been introduced. What they wanted was freedom to enter the so-called learned professions, the law, and medicine and the like; and because they found obstacles and vested interests in the way they turned to a demand for political equality and votes for women. The Women's Social and Political Union was formed in 1903, and for the next ten years a small number of very earnest and devoted young women made themselves an increasing nuisance in their demands for the vote. There were scarcely any limits to which they were not prepared to go, and their exploits included such things as assaulting Cabinet ministers, damaging famous pictures, breaking windows, burning down houses and churches, and the like. They had many supporters, but the mass of the nation, both male and female, and especially the older people, resented the whole thing, and

looked with disfavour and displeasure on attempts by women to force themselves into spheres of life hitherto reserved for men.

What has all this, it may be asked, to do with the Ladies' Guild of Ringers? Well, it is necessary to understand it before we can appreciate the attitude of the Exercise to the advent of lady ringers, and the Central Council's reaction to the formation of the Ladies' Guild.

As we look back now we can see that lady ringers were inevitable, and had it not been for the strident suffragists they probably would have slipped into the belfries without much comment, though their advent did run counter to the tradition and prejudices of the older men. There were complications, too, caused by the objections of clergymen to women taking an active part in church;



MISS E. K. PARKER,
Principal Founder of the Ladies' Guild, 1914.

objections based 'an age-long ecclesiastical custom, and going back to St. Paul. At St. Saviour's, Southwark, and elsewhere, there was a rule which forbade women to enter the belfry whether they rang or not. Some parsons, and Law James among them, while they tolerated women ringers, insisted on their wearing hats. Whether James was always able to enforce this rule I do not know.

The first lady to score a peal was Mrs. Williams, wife of Mr. George Williams, who rang the trebles to Grand-sire Triples on handbells in 1892. The first to score a tower-bell peal was Miss Alice White, who rang the treble to Holt's Original in February, 1896, when she was fifteen years old. She afterwards took part in about twenty peals.

Soon after the beginning of the present century lady ringers began to be fairly numerous. The attitude of the men was for the most part unfavourable. They feared, or said they feared, it would lead to the lowering of the standards of ringing and striking, and the relaxing of the discipline of the belfry, and they resented (though a good many of them would not have admitted it) the intrusion of women into a sphere they considered belonged to themselves.

But where the ladies scored was this: though nearly all the men objected to women ringers in the bulk, they did not usually object to the individual women ringers they

met. I imagine very few, if any, of these early lady ringers ever knew the general feeling of the Exercise about them. This general feeling did not matter in the least, for it was only a passive one, and where a lady did become a ringer it was almost always because she had the active support of the captain of the band, who not infrequently was her father.

The Ladies' Guild was formed in October, 1912, and in 1914 was affiliated to the Central Council. The whole thing went through apparently quite smoothly, and as a matter of course, but behind the scenes, there was no little amount of opposition and conflict of opinion. In the end the ladies scored an overwhelming victory over the feelings and prejudices of the great majority of the members of the Council, a victory so overwhelming and so complete that I doubt if they ever knew there was any opposition at all.

For their victory the ladies had only one person to thank—Miss Edith K. Parker, the founder and secretary of their Guild and its mainstay ever since. I said that Sir Arthur Heywood was the only man who could have founded the Central Council. It is equally certain that Miss Parker was the only person who could have given the Ladies' Guild its standing and position. She had not long been before the Exercise, but she had already proved herself able to take her place on terms of equality in any band. As ringer, conductor, and organiser, she could bear comparison with any man. Even as a heavy bell ringer, she largely made up by skill for lack of physical strength. She was in herself a flat contradiction to the widely held opinion that women would never be any good in a belfry. The new Guild sponsored by her could not be treated with good-natured contempt.

Miss Edith K. Parker was born on November 12th, 1891, at Crawley, in Sussex, where her father, Mr. James Parker, was leader of a very skilful band which rang many Surprise peals and among them the then record length of Superlative, 9,312 changes, in 1894. Mr. Parker had more than one exceptionally clever child, but the brothers did not take to ringing. They left that to their sister.

Miss Parker learnt to ring in 1908 at Edmonton, whither her family had removed, and she made such rapid progress, under the fostering care of her father, that she rang her first peal, one of Superlative Surprise Major, on May 1st, 1909. A year later, on June 11th, 1910, she called her first peal, one of Stedman Triples, from a non-observation bell. After that she went on to call Superlative and London Major. The present generation, who know her as Mrs. George Fletcher, do not need to be told of the position she holds in the Exercise to-day. Her full record is outside my present subject, but I must mention two of her performances so exceptional for a lady ringer. She rang the 24 cwt. tenor at Lincoln Cathedral to a peal of Stedman Cinques, and the 30 cwt. tenor at Wedmore, in Somerset, to a peal of Stedman Triples.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF A WALKDEN RINGER.

The death took place on October 31st at his residence in Hodge Road, Walkden, of Mr. Matthew Berry, a well-known local ringer and a member of the Parish Church company.

Although not a great peal ringer, he was very regular in service ringing and in attending branch meetings. On the day before he died he was working and was taken ill after coming home.

The funeral was at St. Paul's Peel, Little Hulton, on November 3rd, and before leaving the house a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Miss A. Potter 1-2, J. Potter 3-4, P. Crook, sen. 5-6, T. Jones 7-8.

Among the many floral tributes was one sent by the ringers in the shape of a bell. Deceased had rung 24 peals in the standard methods.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The whole Exercise will join us in congratulating Canon Coleridge, who reached his eighty-fourth birthday last Monday.

Three other prominent ringers also celebrate their birthdays this week—Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and Mr. Harry Chapman on Wednesday, and Mr. George Cross, the Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, last Sunday.

Both Universities, Oxford and Cambridge, saw peals scored last week. At Selwyn College, Cambridge, a peal of Bob Minor, referred to elsewhere, was rung by the University Guild, and at New College, Oxford, a peal of Bob Major was scored for the Kent County Association.

In connection with the latter, it is noteworthy that Miss Macnair, the ringer of 7-8, knew nothing at all about ringing when she joined the Oxford University Society last March. As she has had no practice in vacations, she has only actually had 13 weeks of ringing.

Another handbell peal recorded this week was rung at an A.R.P. post in Liversedge, Yorkshire.

Capt. Wilfred Hooton, the hon. librarian of the Central Council, has recently undergone an operation in an Aberdeen hospital. We are pleased to state he is now making satisfactory progress.

In our list of bells destroyed by enemy action, we omitted St. Olave's, Hart Street, London. This was one of the most regrettable of the disasters, for the ring was a very handy one and was often available for peal ringing.

The Cambridge Youths rang on November 5th, 1725, at Great St. Mary's, a 'complete' peal of Grandsire Triples. Where the word 'complete' is used in these early performances we may conclude that the composition was the one from the 'J.D. and C.M. Campanalogia,' which is false, as a 5,040. The next peal at Cambridge was described as a 'true' peal.

The famous Burton-on-Trent band rang 6,720 changes of London Surprise, the extent with the tenors together, on November 8th, 1888.

Six thousand and three changes of Stedman Caters were rung at Christ Church, Spitalfields, on November 13th, 1797, and on the same date in 1820, 10,080 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major at Huddersfield.

Jasper Snowdon, author and historian of change ringing, died on November 16th, 1885, at the early age of 41.

Samuel Thurston called 7,360 Oxford Treble Bob Major at St. Andrew's, Norwich, on November 16th, 1837.

DEATH OF MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin. Mr. Lindoff was one of the foremost men in the Exercise and was distinguished alike as a ringer and a composer.

ANCIENT OAK BEAMS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in this week's 'Ringing World' an inquiry about oak beams and how bell frames are supported in large towers.

When our ancient cathedrals and churches were built there would be much more woodlands in England than at the present day, therefore a much wider choice.

The eight corner posts forming the lantern over the octagon tower at Ely Cathedral are 63ft. long, and, according to the guide book, probably came from Chicksand in Bedfordshire.

With regard to how bell frames were supported in large towers, I give Ormskirk Parish Church as an instance. This church has the unique feature of having both a tower and spire. The local legend is that the church was built by two old maids named Orm. As one wanted a tower and the other a spire, they got over the difficulty by building both side by side.

The tower is 26ft. square inside and contains a ring of eight, tenor 25½ cwt. The main beams carrying the bell frame are supported by oak struts 10in. square. There are seven on both sides. I do not think this has been done to get the thrust lower down the tower, as the walls are about 7ft. thick at the base.

S. FLINT.

Sefton Lume, Maghull, Lancs.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

At the November meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, held at Wath-on-Deane on Saturday, members were present from Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk and the local company. Touches were rung on handbells in the afternoon until 5 p.m., when the ringers adjourned to a nearby cafe for tea.

The business meeting was held in the ringing chamber, at which Mr. S. Briggs presided. An apology for absence was read from the president, who was busy at work. Best thanks were extended to the local company for the arrangements made, and it was arranged to hold a committee meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, December 13th, to make arrangements for the annual meeting.

The methods rung on handbells were Treble Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Spliced Major, Bob Royal, and a course of Bob and Gainsborough Royal spliced.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS SUCCESSFUL ANNIVERSARY GATHERING.

Extraordinary War-Time Activity.

Despite the handicap of war-time conditions in London, the 304th anniversary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, celebrated on Saturday, was an outstanding success. Eighty members and friends gathered, not only from the London area, but from many distant places as well. Luncheon was served at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, and was presided over by the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, who was supported by Mr. E. H. Lewis (president of the Central Council), Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mr. A. B. Peck (hon. secretary), Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Mr. G. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Central Council), Mr. C. T. Coles (hon. secretary, Middlesex County Association), Mr. R. Richardson (Master, Lincoln Diocesan Guild), Mr. E. P. Duffield (Colchester), Mr. J. A. Trollope and Mr. G. N. Price.

The hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes) occupied the vice-chair, and others present included Messrs. G. W. Cecil (Junior Steward), H. R. Newton and H. G. Miles (Trustees), J. W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Association), F. W. Rogers (hon. secretary, Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild), G. H. Cross (Master) and G. W. Steere (hon. secretary, Royal Cumberland Youths), R. T. Hibbert (hon. secretary, Oxford Diocesan Guild), J. Lewis Cockey and E. C. S. Turner (Faling), H. Hoskins (Greenwich), C. M. Meyer (Rochester Row), R. Stannard and H. R. Crick (Barking), F. C. Newman (East Ham), W. Clayton and H. Jordan (Reigate), C. Dean, D. Wright, D. Cooper, F. E. Collins and H. J. Skelt (Croydon), C. H. Kippin (Beddington), R. Bullen (Ely), C. E. Smith (Godalming), E. J. Taylor (Bradford, Yorks), E. R. Rapley and C. Longhurst (West Grinstead), G. E. Fearn (Birmingham), C. H. Dobbie (Teddington), L. R. G. Taylor (Bromley), F. Dench (Saffron Walden), B. P. Morris (Kettering), W. R. Melville (Kings Worthy), W. T. Elson (Fulham), A. H. Pulling (Guildford), A. W. Heath (Cardiff), W. Yeend, C. W. Martin, W. Williams and D. Cliff (Cheltenham), W. Hibbert and F. Munday (Basingstoke), Henry Hodgetts (Oxhey), J. Hoyle (Ashtead), J. D. Macdougall (Hornchurch), R. Post (Oxford), W. H. Coles (Hayes, Middlesex), H. Pitstow (Banstead), W. S. B. Northover (Bridport), W. A. Hughes, H. Reynolds, E. Owen, R. Wilson, H. Markwick, F. Shorter, W. Allen and R. Allen (St. Lawrence Jewry), J. Thomas (Enfield), G. Skeef (Spalding), L. Fox (Stepney), M. Atkins, R. F. Deal, J. Rumley, W. H. Pasmore and C. W. Roberts.

During the lunch the Master 'took wine' with the oldest member of the society present (Canon Coleridge), the members of over 50 years' standing (Canon Coleridge, Messrs. E. A. Young, R. T. Hibbert, H. R. Newton, R. Stannard and G. Skeef), the president of the Central Council, the Master of the Cumberland Youths and St. Lawrence Jewry band, who, although they have lost their tower and bells, still cling together. All were present at the luncheon save one.

After lunch, the toast of 'The King' was drunk with real enthusiasm.

SOCIETY'S LOSSES IN AIR RAIDS.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith proposed the toast of 'The Ancient Society of College Youths.' He first conveyed to the gathering greetings from Mr. Frank Dawe, of Woking, who is now nearing his 80th birthday. The large gathering of the society, which had met under such unusual conditions, was not only a tribute to the heritage which had come down to them, but was also a tribute of admiration to their courage in holding on to their traditions during the past two years. They had severely suffered by air raids, but the old oak, planted in 1637, had stood up to the shocks of war very bravely, and though it had been blistered and scorched, it had only been toughened in its fibre. The society had lost many of the peals of bells on which they were wont to practise, their headquarters had gone down in the flames which swept over London and with it many of their cherished records. But in the face of great adversity they had never wavered, they had met regularly amid the ruins. He remembered attending one of their meetings, when in the nearby streets firemen were still turning their hoses upon the flames. All ringers must admire the tenacity of the old society and their devotion to the cause in the face of almost unsurmountable obstacles. A society which could carry on in such conditions need have no fear of the future. The College Youths would go on, and he was sure that when the war was over they would take their part in the reconstruction of the Exercise which must inevitably be undertaken. Pride in their past, steadfastness in the present and confidence in the future would ensure their continued success and prosperity.

The Hon. Secretary responded to the toast. He said that they had carried on under great difficulties, but he hoped that before long they would be ringing the bells again. Unfortunately, many of the bells on which they used to ring had been destroyed, and the fact that they had been able to hold their meetings regularly was due mostly to two things: the help they had received from their treasurer, Mr. Hughes, and from 'The Ringing World.' He thanked Mr. Hughes for his great kindness in coming forward when they had been bombed out of two places and really did not know where to turn for a new home. Mr. Hughes offered them his hospitality, in which Mrs. Hughes joined. When they returned to normal conditions again he thought perhaps they would not want to change. He thanked 'The Ringing World' for the way in which the meetings had been reported, and

he said they would not have been able to carry on without the aid of the paper because it would have been quite impossible to keep in touch with the members.

During the past year, continued the secretary, they had only rung two peals, both on handbells, and these by their provincial members. One was by a band in Swindon and the other was Bob Minor by Mr. Bullock and his two sons. In addition to the annual meeting, they had held 25 meetings during the year, three at The Coffee Pot—destroyed on Sunday December 29th—four at Holborn Buffet and six at Mr. Herbert Langdon's office, which was destroyed on the night of May 10th after a meeting there, and 12 at the foundry. At these 25 meetings the secretary had been present 25 times, the treasurer 24, the Master 23. Mr. E. A. Young had also attended 23 times and Mr. H. G. Miles 20. Altogether 77 members had attended the meetings, which he thought was a very good record. Mr. Peck went on to read a telegram from the Barking ringers wishing the gathering success, and letters from Mr. A. Prince (Bath), Mr. E. Murrell (St. Lawrence Jewry), who had met with an accident, Mr. W. J. Nevard (Essex), Mr. Roland Fenn (brother of the Master), Major J. H. B. Hesse, and one on behalf of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was seriously ill.

PROVINCIAL SOCIETIES.

Mr. Nevard, in sending his good wishes, said he regretted not to be able to be present because of a slight accident to one of his fingers. He had just been looking through his attendances to the annual gathering, and he believed that the first was at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, in 1899; he still had the programme of that gathering. There could be but few left now who had been present on that occasion. He had in his possession also 28 other programmes of anniversary gatherings he had attended since.

The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. Harold Warboys, who is serving with the Middle East Forces, conveying his good wishes and Christmas greetings to the Master and members of the society, especially those who had so staunchly supported the meetings through this troublesome period. It was very heartening to the members in the Forces to read of the meetings in 'The Ringing World.' He was pleased to report that he was well and as comfortable as desert life would allow. He had not met any other members out in the Middle East so far, and added, 'May our thoughts, prayers and efforts be directed towards our motto, Vivamus Unanimes. May we soon assemble at the rope's end again.'

The Secretary concluded by reading a list of ringers who had died during the past year, among them 15 who were members of the society, and the company stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect.

Mr. H. R. Newton brought a message of apology and greetings from Mr. R. T. Woodley, of Lowestoft, a former secretary of the society, who had just celebrated his 82nd birthday and his golden wedding.

The company then drank to the health of Canon G. F. Coleridge, the oldest member of the society present, in anticipation of his birthday on the following Monday.

The Master next proposed a toast to the 'Provincial Ringing Societies,' and mentioned that in that gathering societies were represented from as far North as Yorkshire and as far West as South Wales. He thought such a representative company showed the spirit of goodwill and fellowship which existed among ringers everywhere. He referred to the loss of the bells in the City of London, and he said he felt quite sure that when it was possible to ring church bells again some of the provincial societies who had not suffered quite so badly as the College Youths would be ready to lend them their bells, so that the College Youths could carry on their practices (applause).

THE BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

Mr. G. W. Fletcher, hon. secretary of the Central Council, responded to the toast. He would, he said, have preferred the president, who was present, to have replied to it because, as president, he could speak for all the societies, but since it was left to him he thanked the society for honouring the toast. He assured them that the Council was endeavouring to do what they could to get church bells ringing again. Those, however, who were in the Services knew perfectly well that when the heads of the Services made up their minds to do a thing they did it and it did not matter what anyone else said. He thought it was now well known that the responsibility for imposing the ban on church bells ringing rested with Mr. Anthony Eden. Mr. Eden thought about it and thought it would be a very good thing. Mr. Fletcher did not know whether Mr. Eden discussed the matter with his departments: his information was that he did not discuss it with the Minister of Home Security, and when the ban was made it was too late to do anything more about it. There was, he believed, under consideration another method of giving warning in the event of airborne invasion. He did not know whether it would eventually be used in every district, but he was hoping that if it was adopted it might be possible to ring the bells again in some places. He said he wanted to clear up one or two things connected with the difficulties which seemed to have been created. It had been stated that the public did not know what to do when they heard the church bells ring. That was perfectly true, but they were not supposed to know. The warning was for the Services, and the Services knew what they had to do if they heard the bells. Then again it had been said that the use of bells would prove most unsatisfactory. The responsibility of deciding whether they would be satisfactory or not for giving a warning rested with the Minister of War. Apart from that, how-

(Continued on next page.)

FUTURE OF LONDON RINGING.

(Continued from previous page.)

ever, he believed there was some doubt whether they would allow bells to be used, because the ringing of the bells might interfere with certain listening services. He was quite sure everyone would agree if there was any doubt about this they would be the first to say, 'We will do without our bells.'

Continuing, Mr. Fletcher said they all knew perfectly well that the College Youths had suffered very heavily in the loss of bells in the raids, and, speaking for the eight or nine societies in and around London, when the time came that they could get back to the belfries they would see that the College Youths' organisation and activities could go on until such time as their own towers were in a state when they could be used again (hear, hear). When that time came he hoped that as far as London ringers were concerned they would all meet together and be 'good boys' so that they could meet in all the towers whilst still retaining their own identity. He felt perfectly sure that this would lead to a revival of ringing as far as London was concerned. He suggested that it might be possible to set up some sort of organisation in this connection so that ringers coming to London from the provinces could be directed to the towers where they could get the type of ringing to which they were used instead of, for example, the six-bell man going to St. Paul's Cathedral and coming away disgruntled because he was not asked to ring, which, of course, he should not be. The provincial societies on their part would, he assured the College Youths, do their utmost to help them over their present difficulties with regard to bells (applause).

ABSENT FRIENDS.

The Master next proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends.' He said he knew that, though they were absent in body, they were present in heart and spirit, and from that meeting the society sent their greetings and good wishes.

The Master proposed 'The Ringing World.' He said that Mr. Goldsmith had a very difficult job in carrying on his work, but he had succeeded marvellously well. How he found the material, let alone the paper, passed his comprehension. It was, said the Master, very pleasing to see Mr. Goldsmith among them again in good health, and he hoped he would be spared to carry on 'The Ringing World' for many years to come. He appealed to all the members of the society, and indeed to all ringers, to support the paper by purchasing a copy every week.

Mr. Goldsmith (the Editor), in replying, said there were a great many difficulties in producing the paper every week, especially in view of the fact that there was practically no ringing being done. However, with the help of his friend, Mr. Trollope, they had up to the present time been able to produce a readable paper every week. He paid a public tribute to the service which Mr. Trollope had rendered, not only to 'The Ringing World,' but to the Exercise at large, in carrying on during the early months of this year. But for Mr. Trollope's services during his (the Editor's) illness there would have been no 'Ringing World' and the Exercise would by this time probably have been without any paper to hold it together.

MASTERS OF CENTURIES AGO.

Mr. E. A. Young next submitted a toast to the Masters of the Society of 100, 200 and 300 years ago. This toast, he said, had been introduced since they celebrated their tercentenary, and he hoped the sentiment that prompted it would go on until they were able to include the Master of 400 years ago. Mr. Young proceeded that the Master of a century ago was Thomas Britten, and some of those present that day had been acquainted with members of the society who knew Thomas Britten. He was a contemporary of that famous historian Osborn and was elected to the society in the same year as Richard Mills, who did so much to set the society going after it had been through one of its periods of low water. Thomas Britten rang several peals and was in the peal of Treble Bob for which Mills himself gave eight silver medals, one or two of which were still extant. One of these medals was worn as the badge of the Master up to the tercentenary and was now worn by the Immediate Past Master.

Going back to the eighteenth century, they found that in 1741 the Master was Thomas Overbury. They could not say much about him, but he had left them a memory. He was elected in 1718, in which year a dozen members were elected. Eleven of those members became quite famous, and four of them, including Overbury, occupied the Master's chair, while five of them were stewards. One was Matthew East, who called the first peal at St. Bride's in 1724. Overbury was not famous as a peal ringer, but then very few peals were rung. He must, however, have been very interested and have been a great deal amongst the members that they should honour him by putting him in the chair.

When they made another leap back of 100 years, shortly after the society was founded, the Master was Thomas Joyce. He was one of the founders of the society and in the name book his name appeared fourth in the sequence of members. That made him (the speaker) rather suspect that the name book which came down to them was in its early days a survival of the record of the Masters of the society. The original records were lost, but it might be in more leisureed times they would be able to find out more about this interesting point. Although they did not know what these men were endeavouring to do by way of ringing bells, they did know they were laying the foundations of the Exercise.

The toast was drunk in silence.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

This concluded the toast list and the business meeting of the society was then held, with the Master in the chair. The secretary informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, with which he had forwarded the ringing books he had promised to the society to replace some of those which they had lost in the fire. If by any chance any of the books were duplicated, Mr. Morris said he would be glad to have them returned to him so that he might place them in St. Margaret's belfry, Leicester. Mr. Morris asked the secretary to convey to the members his greetings and sincere good wishes and express the hope that when better times prevailed he would be able to meet them all again.

The Master proposed a very sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Morris for his kindly act towards the society. They were very keen to replace their library which was lost, and they appreciated more fully than he could express Mr. Morris' generosity.

Mr. A. A. Hughes, in seconding, said they owed a debt of great gratitude to Mr. Morris. He, Mr. Hughes, had the books in his possession now.

The following is the list of books sent by Mr. Morris:—

'Clavis Campanologia,' 1788 edition.
'Key to the Art of Ringing,' William Jones, John Reeves and Thomas Blakemore.

'Art and Science of Change Ringing,' William Banister, 1874, with the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe's book plate on cover.

'Change Ringers' Guide to the Steeple of England,' Troyte, 1879. Reprint of Stedman's 'Tintinhalogia.'

Troyte's 'Change Ringing,' two editions.

'Elements of Campanology,' William Sottanstaal, 1867, two volumes.

Shipway's 'Campalologia' reprint.

The following were nominated for election as members: Messrs. Ernest C. S. Turner and G. J. Strickland.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

Mr. E. H. Lewis then occupied the chair for the election of officers for the ensuing year. He said he was sorry he had not been able to attend many meetings in the last two years, but he had been with them in his thoughts quite a lot. The reason for his absence was that he had been away from London. For a time he was in Scotland, during which his house was taken over by the War Office, and since then he had been living in Buckinghamshire, which brought him within Canon Coleridge's district. Moreover, he had not been able to give much time to ringing, as he thought everyone should be giving everything possible to get on with the war job first. If they had any spare time after that, ringing naturally came next and everything else a long way behind. Mr. Lewis then submitted the names of the officers nominated for the year, namely: Messrs. E. G. Fenn, Master; A. B. Peck, secretary; A. A. Hughes, treasurer; J. A. Waugh, senior steward; G. W. Cecil, junior steward; H. R. Newton and H. G. Miles, trustees.

Their election was carried unanimously and was acknowledged by Mr. Fenn, who said he would continue to do his best in the office and to carry out the traditions of the Ancient Society.

Mr. Lewis proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring officers for what they had done in the past year and said the list of attendances was perfectly marvellous in the conditions under which they had met. The best way the members could show their gratitude was not only by re-electing them, but by giving them all the support that was possible during their next year of office.

Mr. R. T. Hibbert also added thanks to the officers and urged the members to back them up in the forthcoming year. Although he could not attend every fortnight, he came up to London as often as he could and was always pleased to meet his friends, whether of the College Youths or any other society. He did not care what society they belonged to as long as they proved themselves men. What he asked them to do between now and the next gathering was loyally to back up the officers and enable them to carry on as efficiently as in the past.

Mr. G. E. Steere (hon. secretary, Royal Cumberland Youths), speaking on behalf of the visitors, thanked the society for permitting non-members to remain for the business meeting.

The Master said they were always pleased to see members of any society at their meetings and they were always welcome.

This concluded the business and handbell ringing was then indulged in.

Holt's Original non-conducted on handbells is always a formidable job to undertake, and it must be fourfold so immediately after the excitement of an annual dinner. Nevertheless, as our peal column shows, four members of the society achieved the task last Saturday. They had one false start, which lasted about 35 minutes. After that all was plain sailing. Mr. C. H. Roberts was the umpire and Mr. W. H. Coles heard a good deal of the ringing. Two or three others arrived at the foundry in time to hear the finish and congratulate the band.

HISTORY.—Between us and the old English there lies a gulf of mystery which the prose of the historian will never adequately bridge. Only among the aisles of the cathedral, only as we gaze upon their silent figures sleeping in their tombs, some faint conceptions float before us of what these men were when they were alive; and perhaps in the sound of church bells that peculiar creation of mediæval age, which falls upon the ear like the echo of a vanished world.—James Anthony Froude.

ANNIVERSARY OF MEMORABLE PEAL.

LONG LINK IN AUSTRALIAN RINGING.

Last Tuesday was the seventh anniversary of one of the most memorable peals in the annals of change ringing; at least it will always appear so to those who took part in it. On Armistice Day, Sunday, November 11th, 1934, the first twelve-bell peal ever rung outside the British Isles was accomplished at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia. It was the principal goal of all that long journey made from the Motherland by nine English ringers, and it was a tremendous achievement to score the peal in face of numerous difficulties and some previous disappointments.

On the day that the peal was rung, the Duke of Gloucester had opened the magnificent Shrine of Remembrance erected to the memory of the 18,000 Victorians who went out in the Great War and did not return. The peal was the main object of the tour, but it was found on reaching Australia that there would be difficulties in the way of fitting it in with the services of the Cathedral and the other celebrations. Two attempts were therefore made prior to Armistice Day, one of which was lost through some intemperate spectators coming into the belfry, and the other because the clapper of the 11th broke. It was fortunate, as events proved, that these attempts were made, otherwise it is almost certain that the 11th clapper would have gone on the vital occasion.

The band was made up of six Australian ringers (who until the arrival of the visitors from England had never before rung more than a plain course on twelve bells) and six English ringers. Saint Paul's Cathedral bells are a really magnificent peal, and the ringing was fully worthy of them. There was never one really seriously anxious moment until the last course, when unexpectedly there was a trip among the big bells and the whole thing was in jeopardy. However, the peal was saved with not more than one lead of bad ringing, and never was the conductor more thrilled than when he called 'This is all' at the end of three hours and thirty-nine minutes' ringing. Only one of the band, the leader of the party, Mr. W. H. Fussell, had ever rung a peal of Grandsire Cinques before, seven of them had never rung a peal on twelve bells, and the Australian lady, Miss Frey Shimmis, had never rung a peal of any sort.

There was another memorable feature about the band, and that was that Mr. James L. Murray took part in the peal nearly 45 years after having called the first peal ever rung in Australia. It is interesting also to know that Mr. Murray still puts in a frequent appearance for ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral despite his great age; he is now about 80 years old.

Mr. Murray tells an interesting story about that first peal, which was rung at St. Philip's Church, Sydney. Seven of the Melbourne men went up to Sydney for a holiday and travelled by sea. They rang at St. Philip's Church on Sunday, and, on coming out of the church, saw a man standing outside looking at the tower. Harry Adams, an old Kidderminster man, asked him if he was a ringer, and to everyone's surprise he said he was. He was Jabez Horton, an old Cumberland Youth. His services were at once enlisted, a peal of Grandsire Triples was fixed up, and Mr. Murray had the distinction of calling the first peal in Australia.

FELKIRK RINGER MARRIED.

The wedding took place at Felkirk on Saturday, October 18th, of Corpl. Cyril Cook, R.E., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Cook, of Ryhill, and Miss Elsie C. Dixon, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Dixon, of Birkenhead. The Rev. Canon H. R. H. Coney, Vicar of Thornhill, officiated. The bride was given away by her father. The service was fully choral and the organist was Mr. C. Butterwood.

Immediately after the ceremony handbells were rung in church by Messrs. D. Smith, H. Chant, P. Woodward and R. Ford, four members of the local company. Mr. A. Gill, of Wath-on-Dearne, was present.

A reception was held at the Wesleyan Hall, Ryhill, and many gifts were received.



MR. JAMES L. MURRAY.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader of the 7th inst. has brought to mind only too acutely what has been in the thoughts of many of us for some time past. Mr. Summerson has virtually asked the question, 'Why should the bombed parish churches be restored?'

From the purely materialistic viewpoint the answer must be 'There is no reason to restore them and a very good one for their non-restoration.' Should this view prevail with the authorities the whole of the City churches would be scrapped as opportunity offered and their sites sold for considerable sums of money. This sounds ridiculous to the average Briton, but not so much so to anyone who has been in Church circles in the City for any length of time. We have seen the continual 'nibbling' away of one after another on doubtful pretexts, the last being 'All Hallows', Lombard Street. Besides there remains still green in our memory the attempt to get rid of 19 of them at one swoop. Great sums of money would be realised for their sites. No doubt this is a very potent argument with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and what a fine opportunity the present situation is for carrying it out. That this is no vision may be gathered from the fact that a site like St. Lawrence Jewry is worth probably £70 to £100 per square foot, or round about £250,000.

Let us now consider what evidence we can find to justify restoration from the utilitarian point of view. I am afraid there is very little. Without doubt there are far too many for the resident population, which has gradually dwindled as large modern buildings replace the old houses with their resident 'housekeepers.' In addition, the City is no exception to the general decline in churchgoing. Beside the residents there is also a number of outsiders who become attached to a certain church or parson, but come from a distance. Their allegiance is doubtful and they go as fancy dictates, mainly. They are not a great number and it will be found that if the congregation of St. Michael's goes up by ten, then that at St. Peter's has gone down by about the same.

I will go so far as to assert that the total Sunday congregation of the City churches could be easily accommodated in St. Michael-upon-Cornhill alone. The same thing applies to the weekday services by which the churches endeavour to justify their continuance. The same people who go at 1.15 p.m. to St. Stephen's, Coleman, will be probably found the next day at St. Margaret's, Lothbury, or St. Stephen's, Walbrook. There is a class of habitual churchgoers which varies little in number, but certainly not large enough to justify all the churches being fully maintained.

There is still a third point of view, i.e., the æsthetic. He would be a bold man who would dare to dogmatise as regards the æsthetic value of the churches generally. However, the average man would not be seriously perturbed at the disappearance of certain of them. It would be quite another thing if St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Bride's and others went, however. Why, they are London, or at any rate an essential characteristic of it. Unfortunately this viewpoint usually gets lost consideration, and historic claims also are brushed aside for the sake of expediency.

But what has all this to do with bells and bellringers? In the first place if there are no towers there can be no bells. Not that all the churches in the City had bells, or even if they had could ring them. In fact, the church bells in the City, apart from three or four bright spots, have been scandalously neglected for years past—the excuse being the usual one: no money. It is quite obvious we cannot go back to the days of Annable and Holt when it seems all bells, or nearly all, were ringable, but if the old societies like the College Youths and Cumberlands are to flourish there must be facilities for practice apart from headquarters. In this respect the College Youths have suffered severely in the loss of so many towers where the bells were ringable.

Finally, would it not be wise for ringers and ringing societies to 'go' moderately and not be found in the camp of either of the extreme viewpoints? In other words, let us try to obtain restoration of some churches and bells.

Stanmore, Middlesex.

E. MURRELL.

THE FIRST PEAL RUNG.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As peal ringing takes a prominent part in the activities of most ringers, it would be interesting to know with some degree of certainty when the 'first ever' was accomplished.

The interesting article on the early days of the College Youths makes the claim that the first peal was rung in 1690 at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. Most ringers have, I believe, been under the impression that the first peal was rung at Norwich some 20 years later than that date.

Mr. Trollope is probably the only person who can put the facts before us to judge, and presumably the claim that the 1690 peal was the 'first ever' is backed by further facts not printed, since the facts which are given are not very convincing.

Perhaps we can have further light shed on the subject so that we can settle when and where the first peal was rung.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

[We think we can promise an article on the lines asked for by Mr. Bailey.—Editor 'The Ringing World'.]

CHURCH BELLS ARE NECESSITIES.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Leslie W. Bunce says the question is, 'Should parishes treat bells as necessities and insure them against enemy action or should they treat them as luxuries and trust to good fortune?' The answer is obvious. The Government have for the past 16 months considered bells as definite necessities, even to the extent of 'reserving' them for their prior use. Mr. Bunce prefers the word 'reserved,' so a little enlightenment on this cherished word may serve to clear his mind on the entire subject. My dictionary informs me that 'reserve' means 'to retain,' or 'keep in store,' and 'retain' indicates to 'keep in possession.' All bells hung in church towers for ringing are reserved, i.e., in possession of the Government, and, therefore, a charge on the State, as are all other Government possessions. If, as Mr. Bunce states, the number of bells damaged or destroyed is small, then the amount of compensation due from the Government is correspondingly small.

Mr. Bunce says we can expect that the same spirit and generosity that supplied the bells will replace them, yet he affirms in his next paragraph that they are not private property, but belong to England. This, in my opinion, should be construed as 'the property of the Church of England' (which unfortunately, or otherwise, does not embrace the whole of the English people), and are, therefore, private property, held under the trusteeship of the Church.

As to church towers becoming 'military objectives' and the opinion of Mr. Bunce 'that no German bomb has been dropped with the intention of damaging a church tower,' I presume that this opinion is also extended to cover railway stations, yards, bridges, docks, warehouses, power stations, oil drums and gasometers, etc. If this applies, it is a very poor opinion of 'German thoroughness.'

Finally, I would like to draw Mr. Bunce's attention to a resolution on this subject, passed unanimously by the annual meeting of the Kent County Association, held at Gravesend on June 29th (which I attended), and printed in 'The Ringing World' on July 11th this year, and which was to be circulated to all Kent Members of Parliament, the president of the K.C.A. (the Archbishop of Canterbury) and the diocesan authorities.

In conclusion, may I take the opportunity of thanking 'Anti-Silent' and Mr. Bunce for bringing this matter to the notice of the Exercise, and trust that the discussion has clarified any doubts as to luxuries, necessities and liabilities.

Bromley.

FREDK. E. PITMAN.

THE SMALLEST BELL TOWER.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In answer to question No. 3 by your correspondent 'Enquirer' in this week's 'Ringing World,' from a long professional experience of bells and towers, the smallest tower to contain a ringing peal of bells that I know of is at St. Ewe, near Mevagissey, Cornwall. The dimensions are as follows: Height, approximately 40ft.; walls at base, 8ft. thick.

The inside dimensions are: Belfry, 6ft. 6in. x 6ft. 6in. x 7ft. high; ground floor to belfry level, 5ft. 10in. x 5ft. 10in. x approximately 30ft. high.

The bells are a ringing peal of six, tenor 7 cwt. 16 lb., cast at Croydon, 1926. The frame, an iron one, is in three tiers, the top tier being in the belfry proper, and the middle and bottom tiers in the 5ft. 10in. spans.

The ringing is done from the ground floor, the ropes being in a 4ft. 6in. diameter circle. It has surprised many that in so small a space the ringing is comfortable. It is an easy matter to get among the bells, and there is an equal balance of sound of all the bells, both inside and outside the tower.

I think this must be the tower your correspondent has heard of.

SYDNEY R. ROPER.

Croydon.

A LIGHT RING OF SIX.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In reply to 'Enquirer' in your issue of November 7th, may I say that at the Church of St. Nicholas, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, there is a ring of six bells, tenor 4 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb. They are rung for ringing and several peals have been scored there.

GEORGE PULLINGER.

Bishopstoke, Hants.

HANDBELL RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

On Saturday, November 8th, at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1,344 changes: Herbert Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 3-4, Arthur V. Davis (conductor) 5-6, Miss Faith Childs 7-8. The ringing was an 'au revoir' to Harold Roberts, of the Bournemouth St. Peter's band, and also a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Reed, of Eastleigh.

The band was disappointed not to record the 'quarter' on Reg. Reed's wedding day, November 1st, but that attempt broke down after a thousand changes had been rung. Miss Mary Davis witnessed the performance.

WELLS CATHEDRAL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'Enquirer,' there is a very light ring of five at Tibberton in this county, all cast by Warners, 1877. The diameter of the tenor is 29 inches, and I estimate the weight as about 5 cwt., though a friend of mine who also saw it said he did not think it weighed that much. It is a very narrow tower and the bells are difficult of access. I do not say they are the lightest five, but they must be pretty close.

There are one or two heavy fives in Somerset with tenors close on 25 cwt.

Your article on the bells of Wells Cathedral is very interesting, but seems to imply that, apart from the Treble Ten and a very few peals of Stedman Caters, nothing else has been rung. In the Rev. F. E. Robinson's book, 'Among the Bells,' page 223, there is an account of a peal of Grandsire Caters. Washbrook rang the tenor and called the peal, and this was the first time this ponderous bell had been rung to a peal single handed. He went there again later and turned her in to Treble Ten, a wonderful feat. A few years ago Mr. Walter Farley called a peal of Grandsire Triples on the back eight, and if I remember correctly the footnote stated they were the heaviest eight rung to a peal.

With reference to the first peal rung there (Stedman Caters), I once heard an old hand say that he could never understand why Washbrook turned the tenor over to Greenleaf, as he was not done up at all. He just handed his rope over and stood by the tenor box and finished the calling of the peal.

The actual weight of Wells Cathedral tenor is 56 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

E. V. RODENHURST.

Prees Green, Prees, Salop.

OTHER PEALS.

Dear Sir,—There was a slight mistake in your account of Wells Cathedral. I have had the pleasure of ringing both Caters and Triples there. The eight are a noble ring.

A. H. PULLING.

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

CHURCH BELLS AND 'AIR RAIDS.**THE SOUTHAMPTON RINGS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in your list of destroyed rings, and was surprised and sorry to see that St. Mary's, Southampton, bells are gone.

I went over to Southampton last week to see what had happened to all the rings of bells in the town, and noticed at St. Mary's that although the church was completely burnt out, the tower appeared to be untouched, as the louvers were still in the belfry windows and the glass in the ringing chamber windows was intact. I, therefore, concluded, apparently wrongly, that the bells were safe.

Of the other rings in the town, that of Holy Rood Church, in the High Street, has unfortunately been completely destroyed, I believe, together with the restored 14th century church. These bells were a ring of eight, tenor 144 cwt., and were cast at various times between 1742 and 1847. The dates were: Treble, 2, 4 and 6, 1742 by Thomas Lester; 3, 5 and tenor, by Thomas Mears in 1843; and 7 by C. and G. Mears in 1847.

The remaining church in the town with a ring of bells, St. Michael's, has been miraculously preserved, though the surrounding area has been devastated. The bells are a ring of eight, tenor 17½ cwt., which have, I believe, been silent for several years owing to lack of ringers.

P. N. BOND.

HAMPSHIRE RINGERS' WEDDING.

The marriage took place on November 1st at St. Mary's Church, Bishopstoke, Hants, between Gunper Reginald A. Reed, R.A., and Miss Alice M. Scott. Both are members of the North Stoneham band of ringers and well known in Hampshire, the bridegroom being the Recorder of Peals for the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

It was intended that the wedding should be celebrated at North Stoneham Church, but owing to war-time restrictions it had to take place at Bishopstoke, in which parish the bride resided.

The service was fully choral. The bride was given away by her father, who is a petty officer in the Royal Navy. She was attended by five bridesmaids—one adult and four small girls, who looked very sweet in red velvet dresses.

The best man was Pilot-Sergt. Harold P. Reed, R.A.F. (brother of the bridegroom), who was recently severely wounded during air operations over enemy country, but happily is making good progress towards recovery. Like his brother, he is a ringer belonging to North Stoneham band.

A large congregation was present in the church and included a number of local ringers, amongst those present being Mr. G. Williams (Master of the Guild), A.C. Leslie Tremer, R.A.F., and Mr. George Pullinger (district secretary).

The reception was held at the Anchor Inn, Bishopstoke, and during the evening Mr. and Mrs. Reed left for London, where the honeymoon was spent.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed will take up temporary residence at Appledore, Kent.

A RINGER'S LIFE AT SEA.**JOHN FREEMAN'S VOYAGE TO SOMEWHERE.**

A letter from Sgt. John Freeman, of Lincoln, now in the Middle East, has just reached a friend in the Army 'somewhere in England.' It describes his life at sea on the long journey and was written while anchored in sight of land when nearing the end of the trip. He was looking forward to landing and said, 'I shall be very thankful when we do this, because I am reasonably fed up at the moment. Not that the sea voyage has been unpleasant—far from it—but we have done practically nothing at all. That is all right for a week or two, but, after that, time drags somewhat. I shall be glad to get on shore again if only to do a little work.

'We changed ships at the last port of call. Both have been quite comfortable as far as we have been concerned, and the bunk was the most comfortable bed I have had since being in the Army; we even had sheets. The food was pretty good and we had such luxuries as cheese and pickled onions. We were able to buy any amount of fruit and chocolate at the canteen.

'Our journey has been uneventful, the most noteworthy times being when we have put into port. At our first port of call we were not allowed to go ashore, but it was quite interesting nevertheless. Every day natives used to come alongside in small boats, some selling fruit, baskets, etc., and others diving for pennies. We were not allowed to trade with them. For one day I was on police picket to enforce this provision. When the traders grew too attentive the hoses were turned on them and they soon sheered off.

'At the next port we were granted shore leave and this was not unwelcome after several weeks on the water. . . . The place was a seaside resort and that made it very pleasant. Our time was spent in bathing, eating and drinking and visiting places of interest. The white people were very good to the troops and some of the fellows were adopted for the period of their shore leave and taken all over the place.

'On the first boat I met several chaps from home, including one who knows my brother quite well, and another who is the nephew of one of the ringers at home. I also met a ringer from Wisbech with whom I had rung one peal. Needless to say, we had plenty to "jaw" about.'

John Freeman is now somewhere in some desert in some distant land. His many ringing friends will wish him 'the best of luck.'

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

Members of Cambridge University Guild meet weekly for practice at Great St. Mary's on Wednesdays, making use of both the Seage apparatus and the handbells for teaching beginners.

At Selwyn College last week three members scored a handbell peal of Bob Minor. The peal was a personal triumph for Roger Reigh, the conductor, for it was his first peal, and he called it extremely well.

The Guild has a band for practising Major, and before the university year is over next June we hope to attempt a peal, as well as a peal of Minor in more than one method. This is a very gratifying prospect.

The members are grateful to the Rev. Blyth, the president, whose interest in ringing allows him to find opportunity in his already well-filled time-table to ring with them.

A CELEBRATION.

In St. Nicholas' Church tower, Liverpool, on Sunday morning, November 2nd, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, 1,260 changes (Dexter's): P. W. Cave 1-2, T. W. Hammond 3-4, T. R. Butler (conductor) 5-6, G. R. Newton 7-8. Also touches of Grandsire Triples, conducted by G. R. Newton. The ringing took place to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hammond (son and daughter-in-law of Mr. T. W. Hammond).

CROYDON RINGERS VISIT ISLEWORTH.

Ten members from the St. Peter's, Croydon, band visited All Saints', Isleworth, on Sunday afternoon, November 9th, to ring handbells with the local band for evensong.

Ringling was enjoyed for about three-quarters of an hour, the methods being Rounds and Queens on twelve, Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major. Then both bands attended evensong, and the visitors received a special welcome from the Vicar, the Rev. P. W. Shepherd-Smith, before he began his address.

After the service, tea and further ringing were enjoyed by all in the Mission Hall until black-out time.

The St. Peter's band are to be congratulated, as they are all beginners and are carrying on by themselves in the absence of Mr. Wills, their very able captain.

WATFORD. HERTS.—On Friday, November 7th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: Dennis Laud 1-2, Charles N. Leman 3-4, Richard G. Bell (conductor) 5-6. First double-handed by D. Laud. First as conductor. A compliment to C. N. Leman on the birth of a granddaughter.

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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MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next silent ringing meeting is at Earl Shilton on Saturday, November 15th. Bells at 4.30 p.m. Handbells, etc., at the Plough during the evening. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15th, at the Haymarket Hotel. Handbells will be available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting will follow at 4.15 p.m. All ringers are welcome.—A. M. Tyler, Hon. Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 22nd. Service 4.30 p.m., Parish Church, followed by tea and business meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Wednesday, November 19th? —T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Cradley (D.V.) on Saturday, November 22nd, 3 p.m. Tower bells available ('silent'). Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th. Bells (8, clapperless, tower) or handbells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.15, followed by business meeting. Everybody is welcome, but if you require tea please send numbers to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by November 26th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Regular practice meetings on the tower bells (10) with the apparatus will now be held on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., followed by handbells. All welcome.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

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TWO NOTABLE RINGERS.

Last week it was our sad duty to record the passing of two men whose names have for many years been familiar to all our readers, and few ringers will have heard the news without some expression of real regret. In these days happily the Exercise is so closely knit together and the sense of brotherhood is so genuine that even those who never came into personal contact with William Willson or Gabriel Lindoff cannot altogether escape the feeling of personal loss. And it is a loss, though of both men it can be truly said that their life's work was done, and they departed full of years and honour.

Lindoff and Willson were men who differed widely in almost every way. Lindoff was pre-eminently a composer, a man who spent much of his available time working out peals for others to ring, and perhaps no other composer had a gift equal to him for producing just those peals which best suited ringers' needs. How much that has contributed to the advance and development of peal ringing is not easy to estimate. But he was not merely a man of figures, though his long sojourn in Ireland debarred him largely from peal ringing; he was eminently a practical ringer; he had made an excellent record before he went to Dublin; he lost no opportunities of holiday peal ringing; and as a ringer of long lengths he had few equals. It was this happy combination of the practical and the theoretical which probably made him the outstanding success as a composer that he was. In the best sense of the word his work was utilitarian. He took little interest in some of the more abstruse discussions which from time to time have exercised the minds of composers, and he seldom engaged in controversy, though in his younger days he had more than one strenuous tussle with Henry Dains and Charles H. Hattersley over questions arising out of Treble Bob and Superlative. Even in these it may be said that the fight was not of his making but was forced on him. He was essentially of a modest and tolerant spirit.

William Willson was just the opposite. Equally free from malice and bad feeling, he was a bonny fighter, who especially in his younger days delighted in controversy and dealt his slashing blows right and left with rare gusto. When he had something to say he said it without mincing of words, and it would not be altogether unjust to hint that he sometimes stirred up a row just for the fun of the thing. But it is just as certain that no one enjoyed the fun more than those who caught his heaviest blows, especially when they could give back as good as they got.

Do not let us imagine that all this was mere fooling. There was method in it, and good came out of it, too.

(Continued on page 554.)

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According to the proverb it takes all sorts of men to make a world, and it takes all sorts of ringers to make an Exercise. Some of the sorts perhaps we could very well dispense with, but we should be much the poorer without men of the types of Lindoff and Willson. Both of them belonged to the generation which did its chief work in the years before the last war, years which seem now so remote. But they were important and fruitful years, and years when seed was sown of which the later generation reaped no small benefit. We ringers are what we are mainly because of what those men did who went before us. We benefit by their work, and it should be an incentive and encouragement to us to go and do likewise. Among those men who served their own generation and whose work remains for the benefit of them that follow, we do not hesitate to give honourable places to Gabriel Lindoff and William Willson.

HANDBELL PEALS.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 13, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. A. W. LLOYD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 18 in G.

*AUBREY W. LLOYD 1-2	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3-4	THOMAS W. LEWIS, R.A.F. 7-8

Conducted by G. J. HEMMING,

Umpire—James Hemming.

* First peal. Arranged for A.C.I T. W. Lewis, R.A.F., when home on leave

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 8067 CHANGES;

HAROLD J. POOLE 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON 5-6
G. STEDMAN MORRIS 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS 9-10

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Withesses—Frederick E. Wilson and Mrs. H. J. Poole.

Rung to the respected memory of its composer, Mr. William Willson, immediately after the funeral service and during the interment. The handbells were half-muffled by Mr. Harry Wayne.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT VERNON HOUSE, FRIAR LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.

*BERNARD BROWN 1-2	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH 3-4
RALPH NARBOROUGH 5-6	

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH.

* First peal of Bob Minor.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, November 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. HEMMING,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 18 in G.

*MISS KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON 1-2	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 3-4	*AUBREY W. LLOYD 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Witnesses—Alderman J. and Mrs. Hemming.

* First peal of Major. Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to Alderman James Hemming upon his election as Mayor of the Borough of Evesham and to Mrs. Hemming.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 12, 1941, in 1 1/2 Hours and One Minute,
At 9, PEMBROKE ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Miss L. K. BOWLING	1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON	5-6
WILLIAM BARTON	3-4	JOHN AMBLER	7-8

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,

At STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,
A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.
*ALFRED JORDON 1-2 | †ALFRED BALLARD 3-4
†FRANK K. MEASURES 5-6
Conducted by F. K. MEASURES.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor on handbells. First peal of Minor on handbells by the Hinckley District.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,
At 92, BUTCHER'S ROW.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

GEORGE W. MASSEY	1-2	EDGAR R. RAPLEY	3-4
CECIL R. LONGHURST			5-6

Conducted by EDGAR R. RAPLEY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, who is now serving with H.M. Forces in the Middle East.

**ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.
ITS BELLS AND ITS 'CHAIR.'**

In his book on Saint Michael's Mount, published in 1932, Canon T. Taylor gives a full description of the church and the bells, from which we take the following extracts. In view of recent correspondence they will be read with interest.

The present church (writes Canon Taylor) was built some time during the fourteenth century, probably towards the end of it. The ring of bells was cast for the tower between the years 1385 and 1408, and in 1433 Sir John Arundell bequeathed a sum of money towards the construction of the rood screen, which was removed early in the eighteenth century.

The same Sir John Arundell bequeathed a similar sum of money towards the maintenance of the 'light of St. Michael,' the beacon on the church tower. A bequest for the same purpose is found in the will of Peter Beville, Esq., which was proved in 1515. The lantern, octagonal in shape, of very hard stone, is situated at the south-western angle of the embattled parapet of the tower, and, being no longer required as a receptacle of the beacon light, has become associated with the good or evil fortune of newly-married couples, the first, bride or bridegroom, to reach it and to be seated in it after the marriage ceremony, acquires henceforth supreme control of domestic affairs. The real St. Michael's Chair is a craggy tor in the west part of the island, and is described by Norden as 'somewhat dangerous for access.'

Of the six bells, five were procured for the tower towards the close of the fourteenth century and dedicated in the usual manner. The names given to them were chosen from the heavenly hierarchy and commemorate those five orders of angels which in the Liturgy are found in the daily Preface to the Sanctus, wherein the worshipper is invited to unite with them in his tribute of praise to God. The five orders are Angels, Dominations, Powers, Virtues and Seraphim. When naming the bells the prior appears to have reckoned Michael among the thrones one of the highest of the hierarchy.

De Borlase fortunately preserved an account of the bells as he found them in the eighteenth century. They were then five in number, and of them the fifth, or tenor, had been recast in 1640 and bore coin impressions of that date. In 1785 the second bell was broken up and two others (now the second and third) substituted for it. The original inscription on this bell was, 'Sancte Nicholæ: Ora pro nobis; Ordo Principatum.' The third and fourth (now the fourth and fifth) bear the cross of William Ffounder, who has been identified with William Dawe, a London founder (1385-1408). The capital letters are Lombardic. As already stated, the tenor bell has been recast. There can be little doubt that it originally bore the name of St. Michael, the patron of the church.

St. Nicholas, whose name was invoked on the second bell, is the patron of sailors.

**THE LATE MR. WILLIAM WILLSON.
MUFFLED HANDBELLS AT LEICESTER
FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place on Monday, November 10th, at the Church of St. John the Divine. The service was fully choral and was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Harris, Vicar of St. John's, and the Rev. J. Axford, Vicar of the Church of the Holy Apostles, in which parish Mr. Willson had resided for many years.

As the cortege entered the church the organist played 'O rest in the Lord.' The hymns, 'On the resurrection morning' and 'How bright these glorious spirits shine,' were sung, and during the service a solemn half-muffled handbell course of Grandsire Caters was rung by Frederick E. Wilson 1-2, George S. Morris 3-4, Ernest Morris 5-6, H. J. Poole 7-8, J. Morris 9-10. One may in all sincerity and reverence here repeat the beautiful words written by Mr. Willson himself:—

'The bells in cadence sweet,
Pour muffled music down;
Their dirge a message oft repeat,
"After the Cross—the Crown,"'

Five of Mr. Willson's fellow ringers acted as bearers, viz., Edward Norman, Frank Howe, Ralph Hubbard, of St. John's, Frederick H. Dexter, of Leicester Cathedral, and Colin Harrison, of Loughborough Bell Foundry.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes were a wreath from St. John's Society, of which the late Mr. Willson was for so many years Ringing Master, and one in the shape of a standing bell from the members of the Midland Counties Association.

Among the congregation were representatives of many towers, including Messrs. A. H. Ward (Derby), R. H. Bartram (Melton Mowbray), R. Mount (Waltham), Fred Kilborn (Desborough), J. Pole and R. Barrow (Belgrave), C. Bird (Broughton Astley), A. Bailey (Knighton) and others. The Ladies' Guild was represented by Mrs. H. J. Poole, and the Midland Counties Association by Miss I. B. Thompson (hon. treasurer), Mr. A. J. Harris (Central Council representative), the secretary and vice-president, who took part in the service as mentioned above. Owing to illness Mr. W. E. White (trustee) and Mr. J. H. Swinfield (Central Council representative) could not attend, but sent letters of sympathy and condolence. Among the many local ringers present, in addition to those named, were Messrs. W. H. Clarke, W. Aldridge, J. Smith, J. Hill, of St. John's, and S. Cotton, T. Taylor, E. Rawson, J. Grant, of the Cathedral.

The deepest sympathy goes out to the relatives, especially Mr. Willson's four daughters, Lilian A., Hilda, Winnie and Muriel, all of whom were taught to ring bells, the first two having rung many peals. Immediately after the service a half-muffled handbell peal was rung in the church, the composition of the late Mr. Willson, the account of which will be found in the peal columns.

**THE MAYOR OF DUNSTABLE,
ALDERMAN A. E. SHARMAN RE-ELECTED.**

By a unanimous vote, Dunstable Town Council re-elected Alderman Arthur E. Sharman as Mayor on Nov. 10th. He was described as an ideal war-time Mayor, but the hope was expressed that, as a reward for good service, he might end his term of office on a note of peace and victory.

Alderman F. G. Keep, in proposing Alderman Sharman's re-election, said: 'It is a fitting tribute to a year's work well and truly performed. When he accepted office he put service before self, and now successful he has been in that direction can best be judged by the facts.'

Alderman Sharman had put Dunstable's rightful claims to the forefront, and in the committee room he had sought to attain the maximum results with the minimum delay of time. His chairmanship had been scrupulously fair and not in the least dictatorial.

'His attitude had always been one of calm determination and confidence in the future, and such virtues make him an ideal war-time Mayor.'

Recalling the Mayor's words on his election last year, 'My wife and I promise to place ourselves at the service of all that is good in the town, without distinction of class or creed,' Councillor Parrott said the promise had been fulfilled with conspicuous success, and he asserted that the co-operation and enthusiasm of the townspeople would be with them in the coming year.

Councillor Parrott added that the untiring efforts and self-sacrifice of the Mayor and Mayoress had won the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the townspeople, who wished them success and happiness during the coming year.

Seconding, Councillor F. Kenworthy said Alderman Sharman was not an old man in Council years, but from the very first the Council had recognised that in him they had a man who possessed a mind capable of dealing effectively with the many problems, and that not only had he a mind that was capable of dealing with them, but he had revealed a heart capable of dealing with them also.

The Mayor spoke of the changes war had brought. 'It would be a brave man who dared to predict what the future holds, and I am not going to attempt it,' said the Mayor. 'The testing time may come in the next year, and if it does, Dunstable people will face it with the great courage I know they possess, yet it is my greatest wish that before November, 1942, the world will be at peace.'

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

(Continued from page 545.)

When Miss Edith Parker founded the Ladies' Guild in October, 1912, she intended it to take its place among the other societies and associations on terms of equality. For that two things at least were necessary. One was to show that the new guild could ring peals unaided; the other was to secure recognition by the Central Council.

The first presented no great difficulty. Three months before the guild was founded the first peal entirely by ladies had been rung at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, with Miss Parker as conductor.

Against the fulfilment of the second object there were obstacles which Miss Parker did not realise, but she took the best course possible to overcome them by speaking to Sir Arthur Heywood at the Council's meeting in London in 1912, and asking his advice.

That put Heywood into a great dilemma. The whole idea of women as church bell ringers was distasteful to him. He thought them entirely out of place in the belfry. Mixed bands of men and women would in his opinion be most objectionable, and his prejudices rather resented the intrusion of women into what he considered was a sphere belonging exclusively to men. I do not doubt he was influenced not a little by the suffrage agitation which ran contra to his whole ideas of social order. In one of his speeches he obscurely hinted at it. No one could tell, he said, where the women would not push themselves, but he did hope they would leave the belfries to the men. In judging him, we must remember that in his class and in his time there was a general convention that men should always give way to women; and women should always allow to men a nominal primacy and certain reserved spheres of activity. The demand for sex equality was a denial of a most important social convention.

If the question had come to a head four or five years earlier, and if it had been raised by a man, there is little doubt that Heywood would have taken a decided line and discouraged the whole thing. As he said himself, he was a man of strong opinions, and he usually let the Council know what they were. But when Miss Parker spoke to him in 1912 he was taken at a disadvantage, and for probably the first and last time during the many years he was president he was not sure of himself and failed to give the Council a firm lead.

For one thing he was a gentleman, and it was a lady who asked his advice. Whatever his opinions might be, he could not but treat her with kindness and courtesy. And he felt, as did so many more, the difficulty of objecting to an individual lady ringer, though it was easy enough to object to lady ringers as a whole.

There was another thing which consciously or unconsciously influenced him. At that meeting the Council, by its resolution welcoming 'The Ringing World,' had shown him that his personal opinions and prejudices must not prevail against the general wishes of the Exercise. He had been taught a lesson and he showed he had not forgotten it. So he gave Miss Parker a kindly and courteous, but non-committal answer, and promised that her request for the recognition of the new guild and its representation would be considered by the Council.

There appeared to be one difficulty. The minimum number of members necessary for representation was

seventy-five, and the guild had not yet reached that. Would it be possible, asked Miss Parker, to waive the rule for once? In the event the difficulty did not arise, for membership increased at such a rate that Miss Parker withdrew her suggestion and decided to wait until the full qualification was reached.

The matter came before the Council at Newcastle in 1913. Mr. G. F. Coleridge was entrusted with the duty of opening the debate, but Heywood, in accordance with his usual custom, made a preliminary statement. He told the Council that Miss Parker had spoken to him and asked his advice. He had pointed out the difficulty about the membership qualification, and she had since agreed to wait until their numbers reached seventy-five. There was therefore no definite proposal before the Council, and what they had better do was to discuss the matter and ventilate it without passing any resolution. It was a matter on which a large number of ringers thought strongly one way or the other, and he did not think the representatives then present should take upon themselves to express a definite opinion as to what the association they represented thought about it. They might open up the question, and then go back to their associations and find out their feeling, so that later they could come to a definite decision.

It was wise advice, but not just the sort that he usually gave to the Council when any important matter had to be decided.

The debate was not a very illuminating one, for the majority of the members were in very much the same position as Heywood. They did not like the idea of women ringers (it cut across all their traditions and prejudices), yet they could not put their objections into any terms that looked reasonable. Their attitude could have very well been summed up in Lord Melbourne's famous saying, 'Why can't you leave it alone?'

Mr. Coleridge pointed out that ladies were already members of existing associations, and there was nothing to prevent one of them being elected as a representative member of the Council. Others argued that women ringers were already represented on the Council through the territorial associations, and did not need any special representation through the Ladies' Guild. That sounded like a good argument, but was not so really for, of course, the object of the Ladies' Guild was to secure the special recognition of women ringers.

Mr. George P. Burton came forward as the uncompromising opponent of women ringers in any and every way. His opinion was that it would be best if they were kept out of the belfries altogether. He said that his own tower of Mancroft had been threatened with their intrusion, but he was glad to say it had been saved from such an awkward predicament. So far as the Ladies' Guild was concerned, it was far too soon to think about giving them representation on the Council. They were said to have rung a peal, and that had made a few hot-headed people lose their heads.

C. E. Matthews spoke up for the ladies and mentioned Miss Alice White and others who were doing useful work in his association. C. W. O. Jenkyn took a similar line. Canon Elsee agreed with Mr. Burton to a large extent, and did not like the idea of mixed bands, but no one could say what the future had in store, and the time might come when women would serve on some of the most important councils of the Church.

Summing up, Heywood repeated that very few representatives would be prepared to vote without finding out what their associations thought. To vote for representation, he said, did not necessarily imply that they were in favour of mixed bands, and he tried to make a distinction between lady handbell ringers and lady tower-bell ringers. He had always been in favour of the former, and seemed to think it would be possible in that way to satisfy the ambitions of those ladies who were attracted by change ringing. But whether a guild which consisted mainly of handbell ringers should be represented on the Council was a question which required careful thought.

By the year 1914 the membership of the guild had exceeded eighty, and as the ladies wished for representation a formal application was made. It came before the Council at the Winchester meeting.

The old prejudices were still very much alive, and when a number of the Council members talked the matter over between themselves and said what they thought without restraint, they all declared that they intended to oppose the application.

On the day of the meeting I was standing in a group in the street outside the meeting place when Heywood joined us. 'What are we going to do about the ladies?' he said. 'I suppose we shall have to let them in.' That really decided the matter, but the forms had to be gone through, and in due time Heywood called for a definite vote. Whereupon Mr. Joseph Griffin moved that the Ladies' Guild should be admitted upon the same terms as any other association. Canon Baker seconded, mentioning that his own association, the Bedford, had just elected a lady as a vice-president.

The feeling in favour was evidently more marked than

at Newcastle, and those who spoke, including C. E. Matthews, C. W. O. Jenkyn, and A. T. King, generally supported the ladies. Not so Mr. Burton—

Among the faithless faithful only he;
Among innumerable false unmoved,
Nor number, nor example with him wrought
To swerve from truth or change his constant mind.

Fortified by the opinion of the committee of his association, he entered his protest against the admission of the Ladies' Guild to the Council. So far as he was aware they had not yet rung a peal, and he asked if they were suitable creatures to come and sit with men. The day before they had burnt down a church.

Paradoxically this speech clinched the whole matter and turned a certain victory for the ladies into an overwhelming triumph. The members who had been sitting on the fence slid down quietly on the women's side, and those who had been trying to screw up their courage to oppose, when they heard their side of the case put so nakedly and so brutally, stole over to the enemy. A solid mass of hands was held up when the question was put to the vote, with Mr. Burton as the solitary dissident. I looked round curiously to see what had become of those who the night before had pledged themselves to opposition. One and all they voted for the ladies.

CAMPANOLOGY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You ask (quoting 'The Sunday Times'), 'What is Campanology?' The answer is that Campanology is a vile, pretentious, bastard word, which should never be used by any self-respecting member of the Exercise. People who call our art Campanology, and themselves Campanologists, should be rigorously excluded from the society of all decent ringers.

The same applies to men who call bell towers 'campaniles.' T.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who was born 78 years ago last Wednesday.

We are pleased to hear that besides Mr. J. O. Lancashire another member of the band who rang the first silent peal of Stedman Cinques, Mr. Samuel Cotton, is still alive.

The first peal of Imperial the Third Major was rung at St. Giles', Norwich, on November 17th, 1760. At the conclusion John Webster, the ringer of the sixth, after ceasing his bell, fell dead. The tragedy is recorded in verse on a stone tablet in the belfry. Webster was a prominent man among the early Norwich Scholars. A letter from him to Dr. Charles Mason, of Cambridge, misled Jasper Snowdon into thinking that Benjamin Annable disapproved of the Singles in Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples. What Annable 'did not approve of' was the scheme for publishing Holt's peals by subscriptions. There were reasons for his attitude.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of London Surprise Major at St. Andrew's in that city on November 17th, 1835, and on November 18th, 1824, they rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 8,448 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

The Burton-on-Trent men, with Jasper Snowdon, rang 7,200 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Beeston in Notts on November 18th, 1882. At the time it was the longest length in the method.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886.

The Australian tourists rang Kent Treble Bob at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Sydney, seven years ago yesterday, and two days later they rang Stedman Triples at Darling Point.

Fifty years ago to-day eleven peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 4, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 2. The Grandsire Caters was at All Saints', Fulham, and was Mr. Frank Bennett's first peal on ten bells.

MR. JAMES GEORGE.

VETERAN'S 88th BIRTHDAY.

One of the most remarkable men in the Exercise is Mr. James George, not only for what he has done, but for what he is doing now and threatens to do in the future.

Next Thursday he will be 88, and despite all he has gone through in the last 18 months, including the amputation of his left leg, maintains his characteristically cheerful outlook on life, and says he is looking forward to ringing further tower bell peals when the war is over. That's the spirit, and it has pulled Mr. George successfully through his recent ordeals.

Mr. George, who now resides at Quinton Hall, Quinton, Birmingham, would like his ringing friends to know that he is making good progress, and he thanks all those who have sent him kind messages of sympathy.

His peal ringing career has been almost phenomenal, for in 50 years he ran up a total of 1,280. It began at St. George's Church, Camberwell, on February 16th, 1889, and ended—for the time being—at Leicester on November 30th, 1939, with Stedman Triples on handbells for his 86th birthday.

In between he did all sorts of wonderful things; the bigger and rougher the better he liked it. And there is one thing he seems to have made a practice of; he has a habit of being the last survivor of certain notable performances. He's the only one left, for example, of those who rang in his first peal. In 1896 he rang in three peals of Royal on the old bells of St. Philip's, Birmingham—notorious chest crackers some of them—and rang the eighth to one and the tenor to the other two. He is the last survivor of these peals. And there's lots of others. When his one thousandth peal was celebrated at Wolverhampton, he reeled off quite a list of peals and reminded the party after each that he was the only one left of the band. Well, I have rung some interesting peals with Mr. James George. He's nearly 25 years older than I and—and I don't like it. But let that pass.

One of the troubles about James George is that the longer he has lived the worse he has seemed to get. Years ago he rang in three peals of Stedman Cinques in 24 hours at Queen's Park; in 1911, when he was 57, he rang the tenor at Ashton-under-Lyne to the 12,240 of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 8 hours 39 minutes. Ten years later he rang the 42 cwt. tenor at Cornhill to a birthday peal of Stedman Cinques and promised to come back in 50 years for another. Well, who knows! And then on November 28th, 1925, the day after his 72nd birthday, he rang the old 53 cwt. tenor at Bow, Cheapside, to a half-muffled peal of Treble Bob Maximus, in 4 hours 7 minutes, for the funeral of Queen Alexandra.

One might add to the exploits of James George, but this will suffice to show the manner of man he was and is. If it is possible to triumph over handicap he'll do it, and his friends everywhere look forward to the time when his health—and the war—will enable him to get back to the belfry.

J. S. G.

DEATH OF GABRIEL LINDOFF.

A GREAT COMPOSER.

His Work for the Irish Association.

Gabriel Lindoff is dead and the Exercise has lost one of its greatest figures of all time—great in knowledge, great in achievement, great in personal charm. He passed away on Friday, November 7th, in a Dublin Home, whither he had been removed from hospital a week or two before when it was realised that recovery after a collapse was practically impossible. For a fortnight before his death he was seldom conscious.

Gabriel Lindoff's name has been a household word among ringers for more than fifty years, and whilst most members of the Exercise know him chiefly for the vast contribution which he has made to the science of ringing, those more intimately acquainted with him can best appreciate his painstaking devotion to the art, the extraordinarily vast explorations he undertook into the scientific aspect of ringing and the developments which were the outcome of his labours.

In this connection it should be remembered that the beginnings of his work took place in the days when men knew little of the production of methods and compositions by formulae. Everything they did was done largely by trial and error, and Lindoff himself was one of the first to prove that much of the work could be reduced to mathematical form and progression.

Apart, however, from all this mass of investigation, carried on within the quietude of his own home, Lindoff did a wonderful work for practical ringing in Ireland.

He was born in Leiston, Suffolk, on November 19th, 1868, so that had he lived until this week he would have been 73 years of age. He joined the Royal Engineers in his youth, and after his term of service went to live in Lincoln, until a great opportunity came to him.

When Lord Iveagh gave the majestic ring of ten bells to St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1897, Lindoff went to Dublin as instructor of the band at the Cathedral, and he had made Ireland his home ever since. Not only did he build up the band at the Cathedral very quickly, but he early on promoted the Irish Association, of which he was elected the first secretary 43 years ever since, as guide, counsellor and friend. Naturally in a land where change ringing was

little known and towers for the most part sparsely scattered, the difficulties were great, but slowly, yet none the less surely, Lindoff built up the organisation, which now extends from Londonderry to Limerick.

His sojourn in Ireland robbed him very largely of peal ringing opportunities, yet he had taken part in many historic performances and travelled to this country to do so. For a man of such restricted peal ringing opportunity he had probably shared in more record performances than any other, and in this sphere his capabilities were thought of very highly by William Pye, with whom he rang a number of long lengths. For instance, Gabriel Lindoff had never rung a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, but William Pye, one of the best judges of a ringer's ability, without hesitation put him in the record peal of 15,312 at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1929.

But then had they not shared in the earlier glories of the 11,111 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham in 1901, the 11,328 of London Surprise Major at King's Norton in 1903, the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1907 and had not Lindoff kept up his flair for long peals by taking part in the 11,232 of Superlative Surprise Major at Bolton in 1927 and the 17,824 of Oxford Treble Bob at Heptonstall about three months later? William Pye knew his man and Gabriel Lindoff did not let him down.

In addition to the long peals already mentioned, Mr. Lindoff was in two abortive attempts, one in 1923 when he took part in an 18,240 Kent Treble Bob Major in 11 hours 13 minutes at Mottram, which turned out to be false. In 1928 he took part in an attempt for 22,096 Double Norwich Major, which ended after 18,360 changes had been rung in 10 hours 52 minutes.



THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Lindoff organised many tours for English ringers in Ireland, which those who took part in them remember with pleasure, and he organised them with a genius that always spelled success. The principal part of his own peal ringing in higher methods was done on these and similar ringing tours in this country under the leadership of Pye and others.

Mr. Lindoff had been a member of the Central Council since 1920, as one of the representatives of the Irish Association. Previously the association had been represented by the Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry only from 1903 to 1912, but in 1920 they became affiliated once more and elected two members, of whom Lindoff was one, and he continued as one of the members up to his death. When the activities of the Peals Collection Committee were revived a few years ago, to get together a collection of compositions suitable for general use, Mr. Lindoff was made the 'convener.' The work was practically completed just before the war broke out, but, of course, has not yet been published.

Gabriel Lindoff bore a name outstanding in more than one respect. Every ringer knows him as a great composer, every conductor as a painstaking and reliable producer. But his very name itself had an appeal in it seldom found in English nomenclature. It was a unique and striking combination which created a fascinating impression, whether spoken or read—Gabriel Lindoff.

To ringers of long experience what a wealth of talent, what a flood of memories the name brings back.

MR. LINDOFF AS A COMPOSER.

His Wonderful Versatility.

To the majority of our readers Mr. Lindoff will best be known through his compositions, and it is as a composer that his name will most be familiar to future generations. There his fame is secure, for though he has not to his credit any one outstandingly popular peal like J. J. Parker's Grandsire Triples, Thomas Thurstans' Stedman Triples, or John Pritchard's Bob Major, more compositions by him have probably been rung than by any other man dead or alive. His interest in composition began when he was still a lad at Leiston, and the first peal he called was his own composition.

The interest begun so early never flagged for more than half a century, and probably received a great stimulus from his long exile in Dublin, since he was cut off active participation in peal ringing in the higher methods except when he could pay a visit to England or welcome a touring party in Ireland. Patience and thoroughness, added to natural gifts, enabled him to explore in turn most of the methods in ordinary practice and to provide just that sort of peal best suited for the conductor's use.

His first compositions were in Bob Major, for that was the method rung by the band he learnt with. Here one of his peals, a 5,376 in six parts reducible to 5,152, had some measure of popularity with other bands.

From Bob Major, Mr. Lindoff turned his attention to Treble Bob Major, and at, for him, a fortunate time. The method was then more extensively practised than any other on eight bells and for long had been a favourite one with composers. The wide scope and variety, and the enormous number of possible peals, together with the difficulties created by internal falseness, made the method a fascinating study for scores of composers whose work is so well and so clearly set out in Jasper Snowden's Treatise on Treble Bob. Indeed, so many men had been working in this field that 50 years ago it was commonly said that everything possible had been done and nothing was left for newcomers.

But it so happened that the standards set by John Reeves, when in the eighteenth century he first put composition in the method on a sound basis, had altered very little. His idea was to get the largest number of changes in the fewest number of courses and to make the sixth, and if possible the fifth, work the extent both right and wrong. The men who followed adopted and developed these ideas, and gradually the extent with the tenors together and peals with the sixth the extent in all conceivable ways were produced.

Then in the early eighties a three-part peal by Earle Bulwer appeared almost casually. It broke away from and reversed the old musical standards. Instead of trying to keep the most musical bells their extent in sixth's at the course end, he tried to keep the most unmusical bell, the second, out of that position. That set a new ideal which in time was followed more or less by all composers, and peals were produced not, as before, to have the sixth the extent right and wrong, but to have the second and third never in sixth's place.

A NEW FIELD IN TREBLE BOB.

A whole new field was opened up in Treble Bob composition, and of it Gabriel Lindoff took full advantage. There was keen competition to produce the first peal with the second and third never in sixth's, for at the time it was not an easy job. Mr. Lindoff was the first to succeed, but as his earliest peal started with bobs at Home, there was an outcry from his older rivals that it was not playing the game. The Central Council, however, formally decided that the plan was perfectly valid.

Mr. Lindoff then went further and produced some of the three-parts with 2-3 part-ends which now became the popular peals with conductors.

(Continued on next page.)

THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

(Continued from previous page.)

The increasing popularity of Superlative Surprise gave Mr. Lindoff another opportunity, and here he produced a large number which were rung. So he did in London Surprise, where he took full advantage of the discovery by Mr. F. Dench that the method has a clear proof scale if bobs at In and Fifths are called in every course. James W. Washbrook was the first to turn this to full account, and he used it to compose the 11,328 which was rung at Drayton in 1896.

London composition with continuous In and Fifths is practically restricted Bob Major composition, and 5,184 changes are the only handy length possible; but Mr. Lindoff introduced one or two full courses. That gives some risk of internal falseness, but makes a very large number of peals possible. William Pye was very partial to this style of composition and he called dozens of Mr. Lindoff's peals.

Gabriel Lindoff has the distinction of composing the longest peal of London yet rung, 14,112 changes, and he himself took part in the performance. The amount of true material in the method is strictly limited, and the way it can be put together is strictly limited too; it was, therefore, not surprising that Law James in his independent investigations should have discovered what is essentially the same peal, only when James put it together he was able to include one lead more.

Composition in Bristol Surprise Major so long as the tenors are not parted is the same as composition in Treble Bob without any fear of internal falseness. Here Mr. Lindoff did good work and many of his peals have been rung. Here, too, the longest length as yet rung was by him. As a composition it has been beaten by many changes.

Just as the development in Treble Bob composition gave Mr. Lindoff his first great opportunity, so the increasing popularity of the half-and-half peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques opened another great field for him, of which he did not fail to take full advantage. He composed the 18,027 of Caters rung at Loughborough in 1909, and the 11,111 of Cinques rung at Birmingham in 1901, as well as the 19,738 Caters rung on handbells at Guildford in 1912. The latter was a reduction of a 22,222; and to get this length, and yet have the second half of the peal in the handstroke position, the changes were started at backstroke.

Grandsire Triples was for many years considered almost the most difficult method for composition and few men ventured to tackle it, but here Mr. Lindoff produced more than one excellent peal, though for the most part conductors never look further than Parker's 12-part and Holt's Original.

The above description by no means covers all Mr. Lindoff's work as a composer. He has some fine compositions in Double Norwich, including one with the 60 course ends and a longer length (in-course) than had previously been obtained; and we must not forget the service he rendered to those bands who were seeking for new Surprise methods to practise. A very large proportion of the methods rung by the talented Suffolk bands at Leiston and Helmingham were worked out by him, and other bands have also benefited by his work in this field.

When we remember how important good compositions are to peal ringers we can begin to form some estimate of the debt the Exercise owes to Gabriel Lindoff.

FOUNDER OF THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

-FORTY-THREE YEARS AS SECRETARY.

Gabriel Lindoff, as is recorded above, was born at Leiston, Suffolk, where he spent his childhood's days. When in his 'teens his interest in bellringing was aroused while daily watching the work on the hanging of the local peal of bells, and he determined to teach himself how to ring a bell. This he did when about 17 years old at St. Margaret's, Leiston, where, unknown to local ringers, he taught himself how to control a bell, and when he first appeared in the presence of a team he created much amazement by his capabilities.

In 1886, the year of his first peal of 5,000 Bob Major at Leiston, he joined the Royal Engineers, in which later he became an Army schoolmaster, and was stationed near Gillingham, Kent, where he instructed the local band of ringers. His progress in change ringing was rapid and he was soon conducting peals of 5,000 changes. In the meantime he was for a time stationed at Aldershot and put in some spare work at Farnham nearby, where he called peals with the local men.

In 1896 he left the Army and took up a position in Lincoln, and there connected himself with the local ringing circles. His stay, however, was short, for in 1897 he left England and became instructor to the ringers at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where a new peal of ten bells (tenor 45 cwt.) had recently been presented by the late Lord Iveagh, K.P.

The founding of the Irish Association was due to his initiative. In 1898 he circularised five local ringing societies with a view to founding a national organisation. The response was encouraging, and on Saturday, October 22nd, about 25 ringers from Dublin and district, nearly all of whom knew very little of change ringing, met in St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School, Dublin, to give birth to the Irish Association. At this meeting Mr. R. R. Cherry (Lord Justice Richard Cherry as he afterwards became) was elected president and Gabriel Lindoff was elected hon. secretary, a position which he held throughout his lifetime. The office is now vacant for the first time.

The first peal of 5,000 for the Irish Association was rung on handbells in 1899. This was followed by a peal on tower bells in 1900 and from that time progress in change ringing and peal ringing was rapid. Eventually almost every ringing society in the country joined the association, making a membership at present of about 300 ringers.

Through his efforts the ten at St. Patrick's, Dublin, were augmented to twelve in 1909. The two trebles were presented by Lord Justice Cherry and a semitone was hung for ringing.

During the war years (1915-1918) no meetings were held by the Irish Association, as so many of its members were in the Army, while local trouble also made travelling long distances uncertain. Nevertheless, Mr. Lindoff kept the interest alive, and in 1919 the association once again met, but only for two years, for in 1921 trouble again occurred and the association did not meet until 1925. It has not, however, failed in its meetings since.

St. George's Society, Dublin, elected Mr. Lindoff their vice-president in 1930, and since that time this society has progressed in change ringing and now have two peals to their credit unassisted.

After a number of attempts at meetings of the association to elect Mr. Lindoff president, he was eventually elected to that office in 1934, but only on the condition that he held the office of hon. secretary at the same time. The chairman of the meeting on one occasion refused Mr. Lindoff's name as a candidate for president, adding that 'we want Mr. Lindoff for a more important office.'

As most of the ringers in the British Isles already know, a presentation, to which subscriptions came from almost every association affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bellringers, of which he was a member, was made to Gabriel Lindoff in 1938, in the form of a gold watch suitably inscribed and an illuminated address to mark the completion of 40 years as hon. secretary for the Irish Association.

He had over 400 peals to his credit, rung for almost every association, of which he was a member. He conducted 39 of his 65 peals rung for the Irish Association.

He was 'at home' when teaching recruits and never spared himself in his efforts to produce good ringers. He was much loved by the ambitious learner, with whom he would spend hours in explaining matters.

He was active up to the end of 1940, when his health commenced to fail, but this did not deter him from his activities until last March, when he was confined to bed for a few weeks and was absent for the first time from an Irish Association meeting. He recovered sufficiently to enable him to return to regular Sunday service ringing until about two months ago, when he became suddenly seriously ill.

His much lamented death occurred on Friday, November 7th, at a Dublin Home of Rest. His loss will be keenly felt by the Irish Association and in ringing circles in general.

He was laid to rest on Monday, November 10th, in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, the Rev. J. L. P. Atkinson, M.A., Dean's Vicar, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, officiating at the service. The coffin was borne to the grave by a party of bellringers, and about forty bellringers from Dublin and district attended the funeral, which took place in very inclement weather.

Mr. Lindoff is survived by one son—Gabriel George Lindoff.

AN APPRECIATION.

By C. T. COLES.

The hand of death has taken from us another great ringer in the person of Gabriel Lindoff. To many present-day ringers he was little known personally, but in days before the war a week seldom passed without his name appearing in the peal columns of 'The Ringing World.' For years he has been known as one of the leading and most reliable composers of peals. His collection of compositions of Stedman Caters and Cinques is surpassed in numbers only by the late John Carter's broadsheets, and his London Surprise peals number scores of thousands. In other methods, notably Superlative Surprise, he has given the Exercise many excellent compositions, whilst he has also been the composer of many long peals, including the London and Bristol Surprise records, and the 18,027 Stedman Caters rung at Loughborough in 1909, to which peal he rang the ninth.

My first recollection of meeting him was during a ringing tour in Hampshire in September, 1928, when I was invited to join the tourists in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Winchester Cathedral. Gabriel was, of course, his usual modest self, and this meeting with him proved to be one of many such delightful happenings. Less than a year later he rang in what turned out to be his first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, the 15,312 at Ashton-under-Lyne. It was owing to Gabriel's good efforts, and quite possibly due to his great friendship with the Ashton-under-Lyne ringers, that this peal was arranged at that tower. As an old campaigner and ringer of long peals Gabriel was able to stay the course in spite of his anxiety, expressed afterwards, to do his best in his 'first peal in the method.'

A year or two later 'Gay,' as he was affectionately called, joined the 'Pye' party on its annual tour, and he was a regular member of that party until the outbreak of war stopped ringing. One of these tours, a most memorable one in Eire and Northern Ireland, was arranged by him in 1936, and his great efforts on that occasion, resulted in a successful tour and a delightful week's holiday. He was one of that type of ringer dear to the heart of the leader of a tourist band, always ready to stand in a peal, or to stand out of a peal.

(Continued on next page.)

A PEAL OF TRIPLES AT WELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Wells Cathedral, and mentioned by Mr. A. H. Pulling in your issue of November 14th, was a very fine performance. It was intended to ring Stedman Caters, but the band turned up one short and Triples was substituted.

The peal was rung during one of the tours arranged by Mr. Pulling. I have not the details by me, but I believe it was on August 11th, 1925, and the band was Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. A. H. Pulling, G. Williams, E. P. Duffield, J. A. Cole, C. H. Dobbie, W. T. Beeson, G. Steere and O. Sippetts.

I heard the whole of the peal and it was the finest ringing that I have had the pleasure of listening to.

The striking was so good that it may have appeared monotonous to some people, because I remember that a lady who noticed I was interested in the ringing enquired of me if the bells were being rung by 'machinery.'

GEORGE PULLINGER.

Bishopstoke, Hants.

YORKSHIRE RINGER'S TRAGIC DEATH.

A verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned by the Craven Coroner on Mr. George Cecil Wallace, railway clerk, of Brackenley Lane, Embsay, who met his death on Monday week on his way to work after colliding with a G.P.O. mail van. The driver was exonerated from blame at the inquest.

The funeral took place at the Embsay Parish Church. Mr. Wallace was held in high esteem, as was shown by the number of colleagues who attended the funeral to pay their last respects. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. M. Lister).

Mr. Wallace was born at Derby and came to Skipton some years ago as a clerk on the L.M.S. Railway, where he worked for many years, being sent later to Leeds, and was engaged there up to the time of his death. He had lived at Embsay for some years, and was a member of the local Home Guard.

Up to the beginning of the war he was an active bellringer at the Skipton Parish Church, a duty which he had carried out for many years. He was also keenly interested in ambulance work in connection with the L.M.S. ambulance unit. He leaves a widow and three children.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The enclosed plain courses will, I think, be of interest to those who are interested in Spliced Surprise Major.

Might I again express my admiration of the way in which you are keeping 'The Ringing World' as interesting as ever despite the scarcity of news?

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

o/o 23, Grimshaw Street, Preston.

False Course Ends.

2345678	Aldenham	65432 (7)	32546 6
5738264	Superlative	43265 (2)	53624 (7) 24365 (4)
8674523	London		
7856342	Yorkshire	24365 (2)	
6482735	Belgrave		
4263857	Cambridge	32546 (1)	
3527486	Rutland	65432 (1)	53624 (2)

An Alternative.

2345678	Aldenham	65432 (7)	32546 (6)
5738264	Pudsey		
8674523	London		
7856342	Yorkshire		
6482735	Belgrave		
4263857	Cambridge	32546 (1)	
3527486	Rutland	65432 (1)	

For peals with the first of these courses it would appear that Middleton's peal of Cambridge is true, but no other. The variations with bobs Before cannot be used.

THE LATE MR GABRIEL LINDOFF.*(Continued from previous page.)*

Only on one occasion can I recollect him expressing a desire to stand in a particular peal attempt, and this was on the Irish tour already referred to, when he called the first peal of Cambridge Royal in Ireland, at the Cathedral at Enniskillen.

Gabriel Lindoff was, too, a delightful companion in the hours 'off duty,' and his store of anecdotes passed many an hour away. Many ringers will mourn him, and more than one tourist party will miss him. When our bells are rung once more, the sound of them will always bring back pleasant memories of a great and true English gentleman.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.**COMMERCIAL INTERESTS MAY OPPOSE RESTORATION.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sure that the views of Mr. John Summerson, expressed in his address to the Architectural Association, do not represent the views of the majority of members of that body, which has in a number of ways shown its appreciation of Wren's work. Most architects, I believe, would be glad to see a complete restoration of Wren's churches were this possible, but while we may, in view of Mr. Summerson's position, deplore his materialistic opinions, we must admit the futility of rebuilding in some of the cases where congregations are almost non-existent.

I hope and believe that we shall see the reconstruction of the more important churches, such as St. Bride's, Bow and St. Lawrence Jewry, with the best of their original features reproduced. In cases where a complete restoration is not possible, public opinion will probably ensure the retention of the towers (if they are of artistic value, as at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane). We must, however, anticipate opposition from the big banks and other commercial interests, who have for long coveted the best of the sites. It will be remembered that a few years ago some of our own 'vandals' made a determined onslaught on no less than 19 City churches! This was defeated (with the loss only of All Hallows', Lombard Street) largely through the opposition of the Corporation and the architectural and archaeological societies.

The steeple of Bow will certainly be put in order; but whether its condition will allow of a ringing peal equal in weight to the old remains to be seen. It is a fact that in many of these buildings (even St. Paul's) the internal work is very inferior to the excellent masonry we see outside, so that they are highly susceptible to the action of fire or explosives. We can't altogether blame our forefathers for this; they deserve our respect and admiration for their achievement in rebuilding about fifty parish churches (besides commencing a new St. Paul's) within a few years of the Great Fire, which must have sadly impoverished the City. We must admit that the bells of Bow rather overloaded the tower (though a modern frame would have overcome this to some extent), and I am prepared to see in the future a lighter peal than we have been accustomed to. After all, we can get a very good effect with a tenor of 35 or 40 cwt. should a reduction in weight be unavoidable.

It will be the duty of the London ringing societies, with the aid of the Central Council, to raise their voices in no uncertain manner at the proper time to ensure that the new Bow bells are worthy of the tower and its ringing history.

I think, by the way, that Mr. Summerson confused St. Mary Aldermanbury with St. Mary Aldermanbury. The former church is quite a good one, and has a fine tower; it is interesting as being one of Wren's incursions into Gothic. I hope that at some future time the stone finials on the tower pinnacles will be replaced; they have been missing for several years. St. Mary Aldermanbury was not one of the best examples of Wren's work.

A correspondent seeks information about my old Parish Church of St. Mary, Islington. The church is practically destroyed, but I am happy to say the steeple and bells have survived. The tower was never very strong, and I fear it will have been further weakened by its ordeal; it dates from 1754 and was the design of a joiner, Lancelot Dowbiggin. In my young days I used to sit below his monument, which bore a sculptured representation of his compasses, tee-square, etc. We were rather proud of the mahogany pulpit with its great sounding board carried on finely carved Corinthian columns. This had been for many years diverted from its proper purpose to serve as a table top in the workhouse. We have lost several excellent examples of this item of church furniture, not only in the recent troubled period, but in 'restorations' of former years. I believe all the other bells mentioned by your correspondent are intact, though some of the churches have suffered severely by enemy action.

R. F. DEAL.

Since writing the above I find I have been too optimistic regarding St. Vedast's, Foster Lane. After many attempts I have succeeded in getting into the church, and find that the tower, though outwardly showing no sign of damage, is internally in rather a bad state. The base is blocked by a mass of charred debris, in the midst of which one or two bells can be seen. Of course, it is impossible to tell what condition they are in.

The Rector is taking all necessary steps for the preservation of the bells and other remaining objects of interest. St. Vedast's bells were, I believe, the heaviest six in London (tenor about 16 cwt.) and the tower is considered one of the best of the smaller ones by Wren.

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

(Continued from page 539.)

The device used by John Martin to extend the available courses in the Tittums was what he designated 'Calling the 7th down out of the Tittums.' He calls the 7th Before, In and Out at 6 with a Double. The

64235978 Tittum position is broken up for 198 changes, and is then re-established, the total result being the same as if a 78 has been called. The bell behind the 9th is undisturbed so that if the 6th is in that position the music is tolerable. In other cases it is very 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: '10,080 as 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 11,070, and by Filling up the Other five Blanks it will make a peal of 12,060, 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.'

Martin set out his peals and touches by the 52637489 Bob leads, indicating by dotted lines in red ink the places where the 7th might be 'called down.' The example given here shows how they appear in the composer's book, and the reference to filling up the blanks will be readily understood. From 2653489 one may call a bob at 7, and so arrive at 36245978 in seven leads; or one may, from 26537489, call the 7th down, insert 198 changes, and still arrive at 36245978.

The famous 10,080 is given here as it appears in Shipway's book.

23456789

75293846	1	35426978	1	36524978	1
46738295	3	46357289	5	54367289	5

52493867	2	63457289	6	43567289	6
{ 67538492	3	{ 47638592	5	{ 57438692	5
{ 75638492	6	{ 76438592	6	{ 74538692	6
{ 56738492	6	{ 64738592	6	{ 45738692	6
43526978	1	53624978	1	63425978	1
{ 67458392	4	{ 47568392	4	{ 57648392	6
{ 74658392	6	{ 75468392	6	{ 76548392	6
46758392	6	54768392	6	65748392	6
				34625978	1

'The bobs from 46738295 four times repeated produce 42356978, when three bobs, viz., 8th and 9th before, with one at home, complete the peal. By omitting those bobs which are included in the six braces, the following numbers will be produced: omitting five of them, out of either part, will produce the 11,070; out of two parts, the 10,080; out of three, the 9,090; out of four, the 8,100; out of five, the 7,110; and omitting the whole of the bobs braced will reduce it to 6,120. By coming round from 42563 in the fourth part, with five of the braced bobs omitted out of the four parts, the number will be 5,309; and omitting another brace will reduce it to 5,111. J. Martin, Leicester.'

For his 10,080 Martin omitted the braced bobs in parts 1 and 2, where the 2nd and 4th are behind the 9th, and

lengthened out the blocks where the 3rd, 5th and 6th were fifth's place bells. For him the music was more important than the symmetry. This is what he writes of his 7,002 :—

'7,002 is more compleat when each Course is Lengthen'd 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 6,012, Except the Course with the 6th Behind ye 9th and In that Course I would Through the whole 990—By Calling 7th Down five times in that course—or Otherwise would call three of them in the Course of 6 behind 9th and Two of them in the Course of third behind 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.'

The plan of splicing non-Tittum blocks into Tittum peals is found also in the works of William Doubleday Crofts, Martin's friend and rival. Crofts was born about 1740 and died in 1809, and his ringing MSS., which fortunately are preserved in very good condition, show that he was a very able composer.

Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, examined the MSS. very carefully some years ago, and wrote as follows: 'The whole of the papers are extremely interesting and, considering the time they were written, reveal the writer as a wonderful man. At that time there could have been little or no chance of learning from an outside source, and yet the contents of the MSS. show Crofts to have the knowledge of and a keen insight into many things which would put him to the forefront, even to-day. . . . The most interesting is the writer's proof of Treble Bob methods by the lead ends.'

Reference to Croft's work on Treble Bob will be found in Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' where two of the old composer's compositions are reproduced.

The portion of Crofts' papers devoted to Grandsire Caters gives nearly 100 touches, all on the long course plan, all having the 6th behind the 9th, and all round at hand from 42563978. In opening courses, the composer uses 8-2 for placing the 6th behind the 9th. There are two peal compositions, 6,065, and the 10,260 rung at Nottingham in 1778. A copy of John Martin's 8,046 is carefully set out. It is unsigned, and there is no acknowledgment of the authorship.

Crofts, as is mentioned elsewhere, was a Nottingham attorney-at-law, and the setting out of his MSS has something of the precision and formality usually associated with law processes. The pages are beautifully written and carefully tabulated. They have not, however, the warmth and intimacy of Martin's book.

Thomas Sibson's name first appears in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob conducted by John Martin at Leicester in 1786. In 1709 Sibson called a date touch of Grandsire Caters in which Martin rang the 7th, and this is the last recorded touch in which the older composer rang.

Martin died in the October of that year, and Sibson seems to have assumed the post of composer and conductor to the Leicester Scholars. His peals of Grandsire Caters show no advance on those of his predecessors, and here and there he uses Martin's device of calling the 7th down.

(To be continued.)

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

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 22nd. Service 4.30 p.m., Parish Church, followed by tea and business meeting.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Cradley (D.V.) on Saturday, November 22nd, 3 p.m. Tower bells available ('silent'). Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th. Bells (8, clapperless, tower) or handbells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.15, followed by business meeting. Everybody is welcome, but if you require tea please send numbers to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by November 26th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 29th. Handbells in the Parish Room adjoining from 3 p.m. Short service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Bring your own sugar. Business and more handbell ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church School at Birstall on Saturday, November 29th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good muster is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at the Woodbarners Cafe, Apsley End, on Saturday, November 29th, at 4 p.m. Handbells will be available. I shall try to arrange for tea to be available.—W. Ayre.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on Saturday, December 6th. Service 4 o'clock.

Tea in the Institute 4.45. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st (not later)?—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when the accounts and balance sheet for 1941 will be presented. Service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m. Tea (free) at 4.45 in the Parish Room. All those requiring tea must let Mr. E. J. Ludd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, December 3rd. Eight silent bells will be available. There are a few more subscriptions owing, which the hon. district secretary would be glad to receive before the meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Pad-dock Wood.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Regular practice meetings on the tower bells (10) with the apparatus will now be held on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., followed by handbells. All welcome.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

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TWO LOST FRIENDS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is with deep regret that I read of the passing of two old ringing friends, Mr. W. H. Preston, of Melbourne, and Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

The former was a member of the Gillingham band formed by my brother, A. Haigh, about 1885, and after struggling along, trying to ring Grandsire Triples, he managed to ring one peal on December 7th, 1889. He left shortly afterwards for Melbourne and we had not heard much about him since.

I had been in touch with Mr. Lindoff ever since he joined the Royal Engineers about 1886. He joined the Gillingham band and remained a most valuable member until he left us, to our regret, for Lincoln. It is not possible for me to pay tribute to such a valuable friend and comrade. He was a most unassuming man. We rang many peals together, the Grandsire Triples at Aylesford in 1887 and the first peals of Oxford Treble Bob Major, Superlative and Cambridge for the Kent County Association. I know of no ringer who has done more for the Exercise, and his work will live long after we have gone.

W. HAIGH.

Etchingam, Sussex.

PEALS IN REGULAR PARTS.—Whenever it is possible, peals should be divided into equal parts, to be repeated at regular intervals. The propriety of such a division is obvious, as the bob-caller can more easily retain the peal in his mind, can better select the musical positions, and in conducting the peal can more readily ascertain the truth of the changes as they proceed by observing the last change of each part, which is termed the *part-end*.—William Shipway.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1941.

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VISITORS.

At the anniversary luncheon of the College Youths, the hon. secretary of the Central Council referred to the difficulties which will have to be faced when the war is over, and expressed a hope that all the London societies will co-operate in the work of reconstruction which will be necessary. He mentioned the problem of the visiting ringer, and suggested that some sort of organisation should be formed by means of which a provincial man coming up to London might be directed to the belfry where he could get the type of ringing which best suited him. Mr. Fletcher's suggestion was made in the interest of the visitor, but it seems to have been misunderstood, and to-day we print a letter of protest from Mr. A. V. Davis, of Bournemouth, who tells us that it smacks of ringing snobbery and would be a blow to individual progress. The visitor to London towers goes, he says, with the specific object of ringing at a particular church or to practise certain methods, and expects welcome and assistance.

Mr. Davis has, we think, missed the whole point of Mr. Fletcher's suggestion. The idea is not to restrict or discourage the visitor, but to do what can be done for him. But let us face the facts. It is a laudable ambition for a ringer to aim at ringing at some famous church or to attempt some higher method, but it is not always possible to oblige him, nor should he expect it. Take the case which is often quoted, and which both Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Davis mention, St. Paul's Cathedral. We say quite definitely that not only has no visitor, not even the most skilful, the right to be asked to ring there, but, strictly speaking, the band have no right on Sundays to ask him to ring. The bells are not rung for the sake of visitors. The ringing is a part of the services of the Cathedral, and the Cathedral authorities appoint a band to ring them in the best possible way. In this there is no distinction between the ringers and the choir, and would anyone suggest that a visitor should be allowed to take part in the choir singing just because he had a fancy to do so, although he might possess a voice as fine as any and be a thoroughly qualified musician? Even on practice nights, when more latitude can be allowed, only those men who are competent twelve-bell ringers should expect to ring at St. Paul's. It is not an easy place to ring at, and with the weight of metal and draught of rope is certainly not the place to learn to ring Stedman Canques. One inexperienced and incompetent man can easily upset the ringing and spoil the enjoyment of the whole band.

The same thing applies, though in varying degree, to every tower. Service ringers must first consider their duty to their church and see to it that the ringing is good.

(Continued on page 566.)

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If that is safeguarded they can meet the wishes of visitors.

Fortunately the spirit of brotherhood in the Exercise is so widespread that it is very rare that even the most exacting of visitors has any excuse to complain. Is there any other sport or anything else comparable to ringing in which a man can go into the society of persons totally unknown to him and expect them to welcome him and treat him as one of themselves? Yet the fact that a man is a ringer almost invariably ensures him a welcome in a strange tower.

This is one of the finest things in the Exercise and one which we should always prize and cherish. But do not let us forget that it is a privilege, not a right. Every time a man goes into a belfry not his own, and rings with the local men, he is receiving a kindness and a courtesy at their hands. But the thing is so common that too often the courtesy is taken for granted and the kindness not acknowledged. Visitors, however, are not the only people who have rights. The local men have some, too, and it may not always suit them to put aside their own objects just because some stranger has a wish to ring a particular method.

The aim of Mr. Fletcher's suggestion was to meet these difficulties and to ensure, as far as it is possible, that visitors should have the full benefit of all such facilities as are available in London steeples.

HANDBELL PEAL.

CRAYFORD, KENT

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At 10, KING'S CLOSE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	GEORGE H. CROSS 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	*EDWIN BARNETT... .. 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by G. H. CROSS.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.'

THE LATE MR. W. WILLSON. HIS ASSOCIATION WITH 'THE BELLRINGER.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I very much regret to read of the death of my friend, Mr. William Willson, who was a most untiring helper during our association in the publication of 'The Bellringer,' which is now but a faint history.

I had not been able to keep in touch with him lately owing to pressure of business, and perhaps to my inactivities in ringing affairs. As co-editor of 'The Bellringer,' Mr. Willson was most useful in his advice and spent much time in connection with the publication. His leaders were most interesting.

We had also some other good contributors; to name one or two: The Rev. A. T. Beeston, Samuel Slater and a lady who is famous for literature and some knowledge of bells.

I have not hitherto touched upon the whys and wherefores of the ceasing of the publication. Mr. Willson and I did our best to continue the good work, but there are many intricacies in connection with details for the ringing Press which are often times quite foreign to the average consumers of printer's ink. Owing to this defect in our working we failed to meet smooth waters, and reluctantly had to call 'Stand.'

I would like to pay my deep respects to a departed friend and extend my deep sympathy to those nearest and dearest to him who are left in bereavement.

Beeston, Notts.

W. C. HUNT.

ITALIAN AND GERMAN BELL BOOKS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have in my possession a book on bells and bellringing (in Italian) by the famous Italian bellringer, Augusto Bonacini (Frate Albaro); also two or three German books on the same subject. If there is any member of the Exercise who would be willing to translate portions of these books would they kindly communicate with

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

THE CLAIMS OF NORWICH AND LONDON.

During the last two and a half centuries something like one hundred thousand peals have been accomplished. Many of them are famous and mark important stages in the history of the art, but none is quite equal in interest to that which begins the series, the first true peal ever rung. When, however, we try to decide which performance is entitled to the distinction we are faced with a problem to which there is no absolutely definite solution, though some reasonable conclusions can be reached.

We know without any doubt whatever that on Aug. 26th, 1718, the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Peter Mancroft a true peal of Grandsire Triples. As evidence we have the contemporary peal board and we have the figures of the composition. It has never been claimed that this was the first true peal, for there are accounts of earlier ones, but for them the evidence is not so conclusive, and we have to decide between rival claims.

About one hundred years ago Edward John Osborn investigated the matter and decided that the oldest record on a board is that of the Grandsire Bob Triples rung at Mancroft on May 2nd, 1715, and the oldest record in writing is that in the peal book of the Union Scholars of a peal of Hick Triples, rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, on September 12th, 1718. The first board put up in a London belfry was at St. Bride's to record Grandsire Caters, by the London Scholars on January 11th, 1717. Norwich would therefore seem to have beaten London by two years.

Jasper Snowdon agreed with Osborn. He mentioned that the College Youths in their rule book claimed to have rung Grandsire Triples at St. Sepulchre's-by-Newgate in 1689 or 1690; but without definitely denying the claim he made it clear that he did not accept it, and the Exercise generally has followed him and given the honour to Norwich.

Neither Osborn nor Snowdon is quite accurate in what he says. The Mancroft board is indeed the oldest in existence. It is still in the belfry, and, though it has in more recent years been restored and repainted, it may be taken as sound contemporary evidence. But the entry in the Union Scholars' book, though it records a performance earlier than any in other books, was not written until many years later. The oldest written record of a peal is the first one in the Eastern Scholars' book; but as James Albion, when he wrote up the Union Scholars' records about 1750, evidently used earlier and contemporary manuscripts, the peal book, as we have it now, is good and sufficient authority. I may point out here that on one rather important point Jasper Snowdon was led astray. He mentioned that John Holt's name in the list of members, instead of being in ordinary old English characters like the others, is highly ornamented, and he concluded that Holt must have been thought a great acquisition to the society. But the list of names was not written until after Holt had been several years with the company and made his reputation. When he joined in 1745 he was a young and unknown man, and it was more than two years before he rang his first peal.

Jasper Snowdon was wrong when he said the College Youths claimed to have rung Grandsire Triples in 1689. If they had we could decide the matter, for we know that no true peal in that method had been composed so early. The claim was for Plain Bob Triples and, as we shall see

presently, it is by no means certain that there was no true peal they could have rung.

The peal of Grandsire Bob Triples at Mancroft in 1715 is the earliest of which we have full particulars. As I said just now, the board still exists, and the definite claim is made that it was the third whole peal the Norwich Scholars had rung, 'but the first whole peal that ever was rung to the truth by any ringers whatever.' The admission is made that there had been other peals, but they all (it is asserted) were false, not through faulty ringing, but because, though the composition 'had been studied by the most acute ringers in England ever since triple changes were first rung,' it was all to no effect, and 'now at last it's found out to the truth by John Garthon.'

That is the claim, but the question still remains: Was Garthon's peal itself true? We do not know definitely, for the figures are lost, but I have given some close attention to the matter, and I think we may be reasonably sure it was. I dealt fully with the problem in 'The Ringing World' of August 2nd, 1940.

I should very much like to know whether there are any references to Plain Bob Triples in W. D. Crofts' manuscript. Crofts was in some way related to Garthon and inherited some of his papers or copies of them, including the Grandsire Triples rung in 1718. If any of our Nottingham friends could throw light on this matter I should be much obliged.

So much for the Norwich claim. And now let us consider the College Youths claim to have rung Bob Triples at St. Sepulchre's twenty-five years earlier.

The evidence depends entirely on the older of the two manuscript accounts destroyed or badly damaged in the air raid on London last December. This manuscript was printed in full in 'The Ringing World' of October 3rd last, and I gave a full description of it. The essential part is the quotation made in 1796 by George Scarsbrook from the Oxford Ringers' Register book, consisting of a short account of the College Youths written in 1738 by some man unknown but who was well acquainted with London ringers. The evidence is not contemporary, for it has been copied at least twice, but we may safely say that we have the testimony of a man who wrote forty-eight years after the event that a peal of Bob Triples was rung at St. Sepulchre's in 1690. Forty-eight years is a long time, so long that unless we can find some means of bridging it the evidence is robbed of most of its value.

A satisfactory bridge can, I think, be found in the person of John Sacheverel, who had joined the College Youths in the closing years of the seventeenth century and held the office of steward in 1702. Thirty years later he was living at Cumnor, near Oxford, and he had retained his interest in bells and ringing to such an extent that he was then generally recognised as the greatest authority on the subject in the university town. When Dr. Shippen, the Vice-Chancellor, had the idea of augmenting the six bells at the University Church of St. Mary, he would do nothing until he had consulted Sacheverel, and because the latter merely sent a message and did not follow it up, the project failed. Sacheverel must have known of the peal at St. Sepulchre's if it had been rung, and can hardly have failed to be acquainted with those who took part; and if, as is most likely, he directly or indirectly supplied the information on which the account of 1738 is based, then we have an unbroken chain of evidence reaching from the time the peal is stated to have been accomplished.

(Continued overleaf.)

But there are serious difficulties to face. The first is this: if this peal was rung in 1690, how is it that all memory of it seems to have been lost in the Society of College Youths, and only came back to them as late as 1796? Benjamin Annable and his fellows evidently knew nothing of it, or if they had heard vague rumours did not believe them. When in 1731 Annable called a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's, it was booked as 'the first that was rung in that steeple.' This may only have meant the first of Grandsire Caters, but when in 1730 the company rang 5,040 changes of Bob Triples at Southwark they definitely claimed it as 'the first that was performed in this method.' There is also the fact that Peter Bradshaw, who was a leading College Youth in 1690, and who was one of those who acted for the society when they undertook to recast the ninth in 1695, was elected Master in 1723, a little more than a year before Annable and his band rang their 5,060 of Grandsire Cinques. He probably would have been in the 1690 peal, and in any case would have known the truth. How is it that he did not tell the others about it? Here probably is our greatest difficulty in believing the report, yet I do not think it is so great as appears at first sight. There are unmistakable signs that soon after 1720 the Society of College Youths went through a crisis not unlike that of just over a hundred years later. The older high-class members were dying out, and the society, as it had been for nearly a century, had practically come to an end. It easily might have lapsed altogether, but its existence was saved by the influx of a number of young men, quite different in type and social status to those who had gone before them. Between the old members and the new there was little sympathy or intercourse, and most probably there was a distinct break in tradition. In any case Annable and his fellows were concerned about the present and were looking towards the future. They knew little and cared less about what the society had done in the past. No books or manuscripts seem to have survived this crisis, beyond a bare list of the names of members. It is evident from Laughton's manuscript that the aristocratic members whose names appear in the list down to 1710 and later had ceased to take any active part long before 1730. When we consider how little a young and active ringer to-day usually knows of what was done thirty or forty years ago, we need not wonder that Annable, who had no books or records to consult, was ignorant of the 1690 peal.

The next difficulty lies in the early date of the performance. We have no definite account of any peal having been rung before 1715, but from then onwards there is a steady succession of records. If the College Youths rang a peal in 1690, is it likely, we may ask, that so long a time as twenty-five years would have elapsed before the next? That argument rests on a misunderstanding. The Norwich peal in 1715 was not (as we have seen) claimed as the first rung. On the 1718 board in the same belfry it is stated that 'the extent of this peal, being 5,040 changes, have oftentimes been rung with changes alike,' and the 'Campanalogia' of 1702 distinctly states that before then peals of Grandsire Triples had been rung, but 'the only way that hath been practised is by making of a double change at the end of the half-peal' (given in the book), and repeating the calling. The result was a false five-thousand. Doleman, the author of the book, and John Patrick, who gave him assistance, both knew it was false, but many ringers did not know; and the peal was extensively rung throughout the country down to the time

that Holt's peals appeared. The St. Sepulchre's performance, though the first, was not an isolated one, and its early date need not create any particular difficulty.

When we look for positive evidence there are several things which make the record seen likely. We know that in 1690 the College Youths were practising at St. Sepulchre's, for on two occasions they recast bells there at their own expense, and we have ample evidence that the art was advanced sufficiently to bring the extent of Triples within the ambition of a keen and skilful band. Peal ringing as a normal thing in a ringer's career was still a long way ahead, but the men of 1690 might quite well have attempted a five-thousand in the same spirit as a band to-day might attempt a fifteen-thousand.

The fact that the exact date of the performance and the time taken are given seems to lend corroboration, though too much should not be made of that. Yet if the time had been a guess of a later man he would hardly have put it at three hours and three-quarters. Annable's band took three and a half hours to ring Caters on the same bells, and probably would have rung Triples in a quarter of an hour less time. But in older times the bells were rung with two or more men to each of the big bells, and were rung right up. The time given may easily be correct.

Finally, there is the question: Was the peal a true one? That we cannot say, and so far the Norwich claim must stand. But there is a composition which the College Youths might quite well have rung and which, with some hesitation, I am of the opinion they did ring. It is true. At the beginning of his manuscript book now in the British Museum, Benjamin Annable copied out a peal on seven bells which he calls Restoration Triples. It is quite different in style to anything else in the book, and is on a plan which was obsolete before Annable began to ring. Its name shows that it dates from as far back as the reign of Charles II., and Annable, who was nothing if not up to date, would hardly have attached any importance to it unless it had been in some way or other a traditional composition which he had got from the older College Youths.

The plan of the peal is a very simple and effective one. Throughout the bells rung full courses of Plain Bob Triples. There are no bobs or singles, but the courses are joined together in this way: At the first course-end, instead of the bells running round the second and fourth lie still, the others plain hunting. At the second course-end the second and sixth lie still; at the third the second and seventh; and so on, until the fifth course-end where, if the second and third only lay still, the bells would run round. Instead 2,3,5 lie still and a dodge is made. The whole is then repeated three times until at the twentieth course-end 2,3,4,6 lie still. That produces 234675, the first part-end of a three-part peal.

It is the plan of the old Plain Changes. The treble is the whole hunt, the second the half-hunt, the third the quarter-hunt, and the fourth the half-quarter hunt. The second rings Plain Bob Triples undisturbed throughout.

This composition I am very much inclined to believe is the one rung by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's on January 7th, 1690, and if so they have the credit of ringing the first true peal. But no definite conclusion is possible.

BELLS AFTER THE WAR.**UNITED FRONT NEEDED***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Your correspondent, 'Plain Hunt,' evidently doesn't like plain speaking, but I warn him that this is no time for half-heartedness, smooth words or appeasement. In very many ways this matter can be paralleled with the national situation for which we are at war—definite issues are at stake. The 'enemy' has thrown out a direct challenge or 'declared open war' on the future expansion of the art; in fact, we can say its future security in some places; therefore, we need the necessary material to meet him. Thanks to 'The Ringing World' that this is made possible. When your correspondent says, 'The arguments seem to be leading us nowhere.' If he will look through the report of the Kent County Association meeting at Chislehurst, published in your issue of November 14th, and follow the letter of Mr. F. E. Pitman as well as those of other correspondents besides myself, he will see different—indeed, what is the purpose of his own letter if it is not to stir public opinion?

'Plain Hunt' says 'he believes "Anti-Silent" began this discussion and he ought not to be so annoyed, as he apparently is with those who disagree with him. I will remind your correspondent that we are not dealing with any 'hims,' we are dealing with fundamentals about which there must be universal agreement if the fraternity is to win through this utilitarian ramp and nonsense. It is insufficient to conclude by saying, 'I thank Mr. So and So for bringing this matter to the notice of the Exercise,' and perhaps letting our case rest there; or by an odd association registering regret and disapproval with the founders of this ramp or policy; by an occasional letter to the Press, Members of Parliament or even the Primate; by registering regret from just a campanological point of view. We must fight the 'enemy' in terms that he will best understand, with the 'sword of the spirit,' holding him at bay with the present-day spiritual value of the bells as well as the social, as explained in my previous letters.

The 'enemy' can talk rigid economy, utilitarianism, lack of finance or whatever else he likes—all these are but earthly things or reasons against the erection of further 'wayside pulpits' (as we ringers often call our belfries) in the newly-constructed areas which are bound to spring up after the war. 'Let no man deceive you with vain words; be ye not partakers with them,' we are told. With these words of holy writ ringing in our ears, our case must be for ever kept in the front line. There can be no 'putting up the shutters,' 'no slacking,' 'no appeasement.' Like our brave Russian Allies, we must be for ever bringing the 'enemy' to grips, not only at association meetings, but wherever else he may be found.

There are many among us who are capable of giving a talk or lantern lecture in aid of the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Brigade,

parcels for prisoners of war, relief among those rendered homeless by air raids, the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Police Court Missions, Prisoners' Aid Society and a large number of other funds one could think of. How many among us have thought of bringing the 'enemy' to grips in this way? I say it without fear of contradiction—that *now* is the time. Let it never be said of any one of us that we were 'too late'! In a cause so valuable as the maintenance of and erection of our 'wayside pulpits' and the bringing of many a young man or woman by the fascination of campanology into the Church, there can be no room for 'Quislings'—and this is the true description of these people, whether 'Plain Hunt' likes it or not, either among our own ranks or those of the ecclesiastical authorities. United we stand, divided we fall. Where things are right internally a great work is still being done, despite all the difficulties. Where there is disunity and wrong leadership, where money is put before all else, we can expect to find things go down.

In conclusion, I must say that what is wanted to-day is the spirit of that worthy bulwark who has just passed from our ranks, 'He was of no respecter of persons,' we are told, 'and was looked upon by some as a stormy petrel in ringing politics. He was a doughty fighter who could take hard knocks as well as give them, and when he entered a controversy the sparks usually began to fly.' Oh, if there were only more among the Exercise to-day of that type! Are they in the end respected? Yes! as was said of another only a week or two ago, 'the more he opposed me, the more I learned to like him! What better proof do we want? Are not many of those spoken of in the Bible men of this type? I suppose I shall have my opponents tell me—but they never called people 'Quislings'! How often did our Lord say, 'Thou hypocrite'? Perhaps some of my opponents will tell me what is the difference. 'ANTI-SILENT.'

THE LIGHTEST RING OF BELLS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—Fairfield Church was pulled down and rebuilt in 1913, and as I was a regular attendant there at that time I was asked by the late Vicar to learn to ring one of these three light bells. The tenor is 3 cwt. 11 lb. Before I could manage one of them I was invited to ring at other churches, and soon I was made hon. secretary and treasurer of the Romney Marsh and District Guild, which office I held for 10 years. I was often asked the weight, so I wrote to the bell foundry.

I cannot tell 'Enquirer' any more about Fairfield Church, but if he cares to find me in Appledore I will take him to Fairfield and help him to have a measure up, but he had better come before we get the heavy rains, as the church is often surrounded with water in the winter and he might want his waders.

H. BALCOMB.

High Street, Appledore.

John Taylor & Co.**LOUGHBOROUGH**

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Will 'College Youth,' of Bath, Somerset, who has sent us a letter complaining of our report of the silent Holt's Original rung on November 8th, be kind enough to send us his name, which was omitted from his letter.

We understand that owing to special all-day intercession services in Leatherhead Church to-morrow (Saturday) there will probably be no ringing until after the tea. Mr. A. H. Smith tells us that owing to the absence of the Vicar, he did not know of the arrangement until it was too late to postpone the meeting. After tea all will be clear and there should be a moon.

All correspondence regarding matters concerning the Irish Association should be directed to Mr. F. E. Dukes, the assistant secretary, 23, Skreen Road, Cobra, Dublin, pending the election of a successor to the late Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

In connection with the peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung for the Kent County Association at Crayford last Sunday week, it is interesting to note that the previous peal in the method 'in hand' for the association was called by the late Mr. Alfred Grimes 28 years ago.

The name of Alfred Grimes is not so well known, perhaps, to ringers of to-day, unless their ringing memories go back to the days before the last war. Alf Grimes, for a period, seemed to spend nearly all his time in peal ringing, and is the only man who ever rang 250 peals in the space of two years. This he did between January 1st, 1912, and December 31st, 1913. In the first year he rang 114 and in the second 136.

At the time he was living at Haggerston, London, and rang peals at the week-ends with the Pye band and in the mid-week at Waterloo Road, with lots of handbell peals and odd tower-bell peals sprinkled among the rest, to say nothing of the sundry 'tours' during the autumn. An average of nearly five peals a fortnight kept up over two whole years was an amazing performance.

Lt-Col G. F. Jerram, R.M., C.M.G., now of Helston, Cornwall, is a member of the family who were for three generations Vicars of Chobham, Surrey, and played a leading part in the life of the village referred to in our issue of November 7th.

On November 23rd, 1775, the first peal on the famous twelve bells at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, was rung. The method was Grandsire Cinques.

On the same date in 1732 the City Scholars rang 6,012 Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate. It was the longest length in the method at the time.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus on handbells was rung at Sheffield on November 24th, 1816; and on November 24th, 1843, the Norwich Scholars rang Stedman Caters at St. Andrew's in that city.

A very fine heavy bell feat was performed by Philemon Mainwaring on November 25th, 1737, when he turned the 28 cwt. tenor at West Ham in to 15,120 changes of Bob Major.

The Union Society of Shrewsbury rang 6,006 Grandsire Cinques on the old twelve at St. Chad's on November 25th, 1799, and on November 26th, 1792, they rang 5,040 Bob Major at St. Mary's.

The London Scholars rang 6,204 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on November 27th, 1729.

One hundred and twelve years ago the first peal was rung at St. James', Bermondsey.

William Doubleday Crofts died on November 29th, 1809.

An early peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Wye in Kent on November 30th, 1738.

Fifty years ago to-day 14 peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 5, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Cambridge Surprise Major 1, and Minor 1.

A LANCASHIRE VETERAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—John Harrison, Ashton's oldest ringer, if spared to the 28th, will attain his 90th birthday. Born at Chelford in 1851, he first learned to pull a bell at Marple, in Cheshire, and scored his first peal at St. Peter's, Ashton, in 1886, and his last at the age of 79 at Mossley in 1930. Since then his longest length was 81 leads of Bob Major on his 81st birthday.

I saw him recently and he feels he could still ring a 500. Mr. Harrison met with an accident and broke several ribs shortly after his 81st birthday. He rang up to the ban on ringing.

I have read with interest (sad though) of the list of lost London churches. Perhaps at some time you may be able to give the dates when the churches with destroyed bells met their fate.

W. W. WOLSTENCROFT.

103, Victoria Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

DEATH OF MR. J. W. SHARP. CAPTAIN OF TOWCESTER BAND.

Ringling in the Towcester district has sustained a loss by the death of Mr. J. W. Sharp, the leader at the Parish Church.

At the funeral, which took place on November 11th, Messrs. C. Johnson, J. Garlick, V. Burt and A. Johnson acted as bearers, and the other ringers present included the Rev. H. S. Vinning and Messrs. E. C. Lambert, G. Mansfield and A. Mansfield. Among the large number of wreaths were one from the Green's Norton ringers and one from the Towcester band. Mr. Sharp had done a lot of teaching in the district and had rung several peals.

VISITORS TO LONDON.

RINGING FACILITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was certainly most encouraging to read the account of the Ancient Society's very successful anniversary meeting, and no doubt many provincial members like myself feel grateful to those who are carrying on the society's affairs so well and are thus more confident of the future of church bell ringing.

The speeches were excellent and constructive, but I felt not a little disturbed at one suggestion made by Mr. Fletcher that an organisation should be set up in London so that a visiting ringer could be sent 'to a tower where he will get the type of ringing to which he has been used.' Now, sir, I submit that this will not do at all; it smacks of 'ringing snobbery' and seems to me to be a blow at individual progress, and if individual progress be hampered then the Exercise in general must suffer.

When I entered my tower to learn to ring the band indulged in nothing but Triples and had such an organisation as suggested by Mr. Fletcher existed in the other districts round about I should never have rung anything but Triples. Similarly it is easy to visualise a six-bell ringer being a six-bell ringer all his life, it being 'the type of ringing to which he has been used.'

The visitor to London's towers generally goes with a specific object in view, be it to get a ring on a certain peal or to practise another method, and, rightly, I think, he looks for a welcome and assistance from the resident ringers.

The organisation suggested would be a dangerous one, it is easy to imagine the result—all the crack ringers enjoying themselves in one tower and all the learners banging about in another.

If a ringer goes to St. Paul's on a practice night I submit that he should be given an opportunity to ring, that is what he has gone for and the officers there should assume he is competent to ring until it is obvious he is not. My experience, in a tower which in the past year or two has attracted hundreds of visitors, has been that with tactful commonsense prevailing the ringing of all methods can be kept at a very decent level and all visitors allowed an opportunity according to and sometimes a little above their capabilities.

I trust nothing will be done in London town to hamper the novice after the war, for we shall be glad of all the recruits we can muster.

116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

DEATH OF MR. J. MARTIN.

A LIVERPOOL LEADER.

By the death of Mr. James Martin, Liverpool has sustained a very regrettable loss. He died in hospital after a fortnight's illness on November 13th at the age of 75 years. Mr. Martin was born in the village of Muckleton, near Norton-in-Hales, Staffordshire, and there learnt to pull a bell. He went to Liverpool in 1888, then joined the Lancashire Association, and when he died the association lost one of its most able and capable members.

In the years 1919 and 1920 Mr. Martin was vice-president of the Lancashire Association. He was also bell adviser to the Liverpool branch.

For many years Mr. Martin was the mainstay of the ringing at St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, the bells of which have now been destroyed by enemy air raids. Among the many fine achievements in which he took part at Walton was a 5,040 in seven Surprise Minor methods, non-conducted, in 1913.

After the last war Mr. Martin joined St. Nicholas', Liverpool, company, and rang in many notable performances. He was one of the band that rang in peals of Cambridge Surprise Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus in the same tower.

Mr. Martin composed many peals in a variety of methods and also conducted a large number, including a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Nicholas', which was the first by all the band, the first peal of Double Norwich by the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, and the first peal of Superlative Surprise by that branch. The Double Norwich was at Port Sunlight in 1906 and the Superlative at Bebington in 1914. Mr. Martin rang 139 peals for the Lancashire Association and had rung very many for the Chester Diocesan Guild.

In his later years he rang at Christ Church, Bootle, where he and his company made the most of their six bells.

Mr. Martin will be greatly missed. He was an excellent ringer on all numbers of bells, a great teacher and friend to all young ringers, and was always pleased to help them. He was laid to rest in Bootle Cemetery on November 17th, and among the many floral tributes were wreaths from his fellow-ringers at Bootle and his former colleagues of St. Nicholas'. The deepest sympathy is extended to his family in their sad bereavement.

A LIGHT RING AT DUBLIN?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter of 'Enquirer' in 'The Ringing World' of October 31st about a light peal of ten in a private house in Dublin, my father tried to find out about them when he first came to Dublin in 1897, but he could find no trace. He even advertised in the newspapers, but with no success.

Whether they ever did exist we do not know.

GEORGE G. LINDOFF.

90, Elford Terrace, Dublin.

THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

A FRIENDSHIP OF OVER FIFTY YEARS.

As a very old friend of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff—our friendship extended well over fifty years—I would like to add a few words to your leading article and other appreciations in your last issue.

As Mr. Coles remarks, Mr. Lindoff was little known to many present-day ringers, but I first met Gabriel Lindoff when he was stationed at Aldershot, serving in the Royal Engineers, in the late eighties of last century. In those days he visited George H. Barnett, of Farnham, Surrey, and through him we rang a peal of Grandsire Triples together at Farnham on November 8th, 1888, with the local band of that time. Those were happy times for ringers visiting Farnham, and they were made so by the welcome always given to them by Mr. Barnett, whose early death was a great blow to the Winchester Guild and to Farnham tower in particular.

Some years elapsed before I again met Gabriel Lindoff, for I migrated to Brighton in 1889, but we never lost touch in correspondence. In 1899 Lindoff and W. H. Barber came to Brighton on holiday. Gabriel was full of his personal charm as described by one of your correspondents. We rang three peals during their short stay, viz., Stedman Triples at Uckfield on one day and Superlative at Havant and Chichester on the following day. I have no doubt our old friend W. H. B. will remember it.

In 1906 we met in Dublin, where we made two unsuccessful attempts for Stedman Caters. This was after visiting Arklow, where we had rung two peals of Double Norwich, J. W. Washbrook coming on with us to finish the week in Dublin. Lindoff had fixed us up with excellent hotel accommodation and joined us as much as possible and showing us the sights of Dublin, not the least interesting of which was the trip over Guinness' Brewery, where Mr. Lindoff was then employed.

Since that date, and especially during the last 20 years, I have met Gabriel Lindoff almost yearly and we have rung many good peals together from Major to Maximus in many counties. He was always the same quiet unassuming friend and counsellor, always willing to give any little tips as to methods and composition. Of our last tour together in Liverpool district in 1939 I have very pleasant recollections, as I think he and I were about the last to 'turn in' at night during the five nights I was in Liverpool. Our last peal together was at Runcorn on the morning of August 26th, after which I wished him 'Good-bye' for the last time. I finish these few lines by quoting his own words to me on the death of my dear wife six years ago, 'Not dead, but gone before.'

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

HIS HELP TO HELMINGHAM RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was grieved to read of the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff and would like to pay a small tribute to his memory, for his kindness and help to our company at Helmingham during the last few years when we were looking for new methods to ring. He was always kind and obliging and spared no efforts in providing us with what we wanted. Without such men as him we should never have got as far as we have in our Surprise ringing at Helmingham, and I feel that more credit is due to him than to our own efforts in what little progress we made.

I only met him once, just for a handshake, when the ringers' rally was held at Croydon. Although he had expressed his intention of coming to Helmingham for a peal with us on some future occasion, unfortunately the war prevented the fulfilment of this wish, much to the regret of us all. We shall always feel grateful to his memory and feel that the world is a better place for his passing through it and leaving his mark.

T. W. LAST.

EVER WILLING TO HELP.

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret I read of the death of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff. Although it had only been my privilege to know him for a short time—just over six years to be exact—I realise the Exercise has lost a great ringer and friend.

He was one of the men of whom few are to be found, for he was ever willing to help the beginner, whether it was in method ringing or composing or conducting. I am sure the heart of the Exercise goes out to those who mourn his death.

E. W. PYE.

THE LATE T. J. ELTON.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL.

Before evensong on Sunday, November 23rd, a short but impressive ceremony was conducted by the Vicar of Walsall (the Rev. Preb. H. J. Carpenter) in the belfry of St. Matthew's Church, when he dedicated a peal tablet to the memory of Mr. T. J. Elton, for 38 years a ringer and chorister at St. Matthew's.

The dedication took place in the presence of a representative gathering of ringers from the Archdeaconry of Stafford, relatives and friends.

Between the two services a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells in slow time by the following: J. S. Eastwood 1-2, H. Knight 3-4, F. Brotherton 5-6, G. E. Oliver 7-8.

The Vicar referred to Mr. Elton's work in the belfry and choir and to the death on active service of his son, Mr. S. Elton, who was a ringer at St. Matthew's before moving to Guildford.

The tablet of bronze with white lettering records a half-muffled peal of Stedman Cinques.

ALBERT GEORGE DRIVER.

SOME OF HIS WORK, AS REMEMBERED BY 'MINORMANIA.'

I suppose that the Leytonstone band had more to do with the introduction of Bert Driver's work to the Exercise than any others, although others went much farther with it eventually. He often used to say to me, in later years, that he wondered just how much of it would have been known but for the lucky chance of his letter to my old friend, George Dawson, hon. secretary of the Leytonstone band, and to George's good-humoured laziness. Since it was my personal good fortune to enter very fully into Driver's earlier work, perhaps I may be allowed to add to those tributes so justly paid to this great and gentle man. It is a long while ago, I write mainly from memory, and beg to be excused any mistakes of fact; but it goes something like this.

A dozen or so years ago, Dawson wrote to 'The Ringing World' about an eleven-surprise 720 supposed to have been rung elsewhere, and he received from Driver a diffident, retiring sort of letter, agreeing that the 720 was not possible, but *not* for the reason Dawson gave. Enclosed were some figures, showing a lead of a method with red ink lines ruled amongst them. Next practice night George tossed this letter over to me, saying, '... Here, you've let me in for something; now jolly well get me out of it. ...'

We were to cut along the red lines, insert this for that, and, behold, where Carlisle Surprise had been we now found Cuneacastle. This was typical of the man—simple visual examples, no matter how much trouble. Thus we rang the first 720 which spliced methods with different 'starts.' He had offered more new types, for which I begged, and back came his 'masterpiece,' as he liked to call it, and of which he was very proud—justly so. It was so much wholly his own, and so very ingenious that I make no apology for offering a short description of it.

The five leads of the plain course of Cambridge Minor, when cut in halves where the treble lies behind, give ten half-leads, which can be so rejoined that a plain course of Ipswich results (the well-known splice by courses). But if the top halves of this lead and that be joined to the bottom halves of so and so, we have two complete leads each of Cambridge and Ipswich, leaving two halves which *cannot be joined at mid-lead*. This 'unjoinable' pair, if joined, would cause the fourth bell to pivot (or make the place) at mid-lead, instead of the 3rd (as Cambridge) or the 5th (as Ipswich), and Bourne Surprise is a 4th pivoting method. Moreover, the diagram of the 4th bell, both in Bourne and the unjoinable, is the same, and the nature of the rows is alike in each. Thus six complementary leads of Bourne produce the same rows as six of the unjoinables, and we rang the first 720 on the composite-course plan, as well as many other types also.

Meantime, with the object of saving Driver trouble, I suggested that he looked up an article of mine on Minor splicing, so that he might judge how little visual example was necessary. This he did, and (as he put it), 'to his horror,' he found there one or two examples which were not in his tables (London-Cuneacastle was one, I think). He would start all over again, he said, and explore *every* avenue this time! I asked to join him, and he gladly agreed. Thus began a correspondence of some years, pleasant to both I hope, and extremely interesting and instructive to myself. I shall always be grateful for the opportunity.

The field was a large one—the correspondence voluminous. Our letters travelled both ways—what we wrote came back again with marginal reply if possible, or the point carried forward to another letter, carefully referenced. Any data to be retained was copied off, to save the other trouble. One point—one paragraph, with its reference number. One or two letters each week; flimsy foolscap paper to save the (double) weight. Hundreds of sheets, and every single one well worth while. I kept very little of his—they all travelled back to him, but I did gain knowledge. My part was to check, criticise and suggest (he called my suggestions '... flashes in the pan, which often set the house afire ...'). His part to create, and produce in true mass-production style.

We tackled the Treble Bob methods first. The book was ignored (as some methods were missing from the edition he had), and every possible method was produced by formulæ and section-diagrams (I still have these and the tables of elimination). Step by step *the diagrams* (not the figures) were analysed, sorted and sifted, for all combinations of lead, 3-lead, 6-lead, course, composite-course, and mixed-place splicers (I wish I could show how scientifically he tackled this job). Complete tables resulted, showing those methods which would splice with which, in all sorts of ways. I say 'complete,' but it is typical that he would not bother with the one or two odd ones which 'ought' to go, the splice being there but the composition not. It was the principle which fascinated him, the others were not worth the trouble. So thoroughly and carefully had we worked that I wanted to say 'completion!' but he would not admit of it, and some years later he enjoyed his 'I told you so' when Kenneth Lewis came along with (at least) one type which had been missed. It was the same with his six-surprise 720. We thought that his and J. W. Parker's were the only two, but he said 'Caution!' Sure enough Albert Relfe produced the third.

Combinations of key-compositions were produced, useful and useless—they must all be there to satisfy him. To please me, the practical

ringer, he analysed (again) *the diagrams*, step by step, to produce complete tables of methods with like work 'above' the treble, and with like work 'below' the treble, showing, say, all methods with 'Cambridge work above'; and all, say, with 'London work below.' No wonder that, at one time, I could ring scores of Treble Bob methods without looking them up. Then we gave mass-production a miss for a while, and (for relaxation!) discussed plans for compositions, q-sets, 65's and what not.

The way he proved his extents is typical. I was conscientious in my checking, and once caught him napping with a dud 720 (a 'rush job'). He asked me what system I used, and chaffed me no end when I told him. He used a proof-scale of six columns, the first being 30 lead-heads, divided into six P. rings (i.e., plain courses), pricked from the three normal part-ends, and also from the three first-wrong-bobs in each part. These rows he called the 'heads,' the other five columns the 'tails.' Col. 2 were the thirty handstrokes, obtained from Col. 1 by transposing by handstroke 124365. Columns 3, 4, 5, 6 were the rows of Col. 1 transposed by 132546, 146253, 153624 and 165432 respectively—each transposition 'in line' with its mate in Col. 1. The lead-ends of a 720 could then be marked with the P. ring number (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6), and, naturally, no line across the proof-scale could be visited twice. If line 1 of Col. 1 was used, line 1 of all other columns must be avoided, and so on. So that, no matter what 'handstroke' the method brought in as a 'lead-end,' and no matter which way 'up' the leads were, there was no fear of repetition. Moreover, no matter where (in the 720) they came, each lead was identified with its P. ring by the number, so useful when substituting one method for another from the tables.

For certain reasons I had to leave him to do the plain methods alone. He would not touch Major until he had exhausted the Minor problems, and it was not until some long time afterwards that we re-started, on what was to be our last real job of work together—the re-shaping of my system of Major proof, the version of which is the one (I suspect) mentioned lately by Mr. Alan Pink. Here I enjoyed some little 'start,' as he had practically never looked at Major at all; but he soon left me behind, because I was forced to his points of view by unshakable logic. While he was a non-ringer, I think that it is not true to suggest that he could not handle a bell. I seem to remember that we persuaded him to ring the tenor behind when he came to Leytonstone to see us ring his masterpiece. But he *was* a 'non-ringer,' and, although he mellowed later on, at that time he was intolerant of the illogical practices to which the 'practical' ringer is so prone. His unfailing good humour alone saved many a squabble, when I fought for the practical view, against his entirely new angle of approach. For instance, at one time we toyed with the idea of publishing our (joint) system of proof. I wanted to show the ideas 'practically,' but he refused to allow them to be 'twisted about'—for example, years in the belfry had ingrained in me the coursing order of 2468753—I had *seen* the bells come down like that, the 8 before the 7, and so on. But Driver insisted that, since proof was based solely on the position of the tenors 7-8 (7-8 mark you, not 8-7), why reverse them and all the other coursing pairs, seven of them, just to keep coursing order 'practical': everybody wants the tenors right, so keep them all the right way, and also, as 7-8 are the pivot of all proof, show the coursing order thus, 7864235. This was one of many points, and the upshot was that I went over to him lock, stock and barrel, and put the combined system into type. One copy went to Driver (I hope 'young Teddy' finds it), one I kept, and one travelled about—it is now in Lincolnshire, I believe.

I am very glad to know that 'young Teddy' is to have Driver's MSS., as I know that Driver thought a lot of him, but it will be a heavy responsibility if Driver kept a tithe of what I saw—MS., diagrams, formulæ, card indexed methods, proof scales, compositions and what not. I know that one of Driver's first major-jobs was to produce all of the hand-back Surprise methods and record them (in formulæ, of course). I can only remember one job against which he violently shied. I tried to persuade him to produce a 'zero' proof-scale, against which the proof of any method could be clamped—a colossal job, even if possible. I have often wondered whether he gave this '... flash in the pan ...' any more thought. He was quite capable of it!

One final word. He was a tram driver only by force of circumstance. John Cross, of Hornchurch, accompanied me on a visit to Driver, one Saturday afternoon, to see a Woodhouse ringing machine, and I spent an unusually silent afternoon (for me) listening to the two engineers deep in constructive technicalities. Driver was extremely unlucky, and even in his hobby was inclined to be overlooked. The Central Council did him the honour (!) to appoint him *assistant* demonstrator of the Carter ringing machine, and I well remember how he looked forward to this opportunity, only to be bitterly disappointed by the restrictions. It is typical of the Council that no other use was found for his undoubted genius, which, if employed, would have ranked high with the best—if *it must have been known to many members*. I suppose that kissing goes by favour, and Driver never sought favour. As a teacher (and potential writer of text books) he was supreme, and that goes for *all of those* I have read, high regard though I have for the names of Jasper Snowden, J. A. Trollope and other writers.

Well—God rest his soul. The Exercise has lost a great campanologist, and I have lost a great friend.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEEDED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—World events have reached such an important stage that the question of the future of bellringing as we know it may seem unimportant at the present time, yet I would venture to suggest that now is the time to inaugurate a sound constructive policy in preparation for the day of victory which will surely come.

What is being done in the meantime? Actually very little, if we are honest with ourselves and review the matter carefully. District and other meetings have been held in all parts of the country by the stalwarts of campanology (I like the word) under extremely adverse conditions, some excellent articles have appeared in 'The Ringing World,' discussions have taken place, but little has been done of a constructive nature in preparation for the events of to-morrow.

It is difficult at the present time to estimate the work of those two outstanding men, J. S. Goldsmith and J. A. Trollope, but I have no doubt whatever that their efforts will go down in history as one of the most outstanding events of the Exercise. It would be foolish to presume that after the cessation of hostilities ringing will follow in the footsteps of 1939 and that all we have to do is to enter the belfry and all will be well.

Drastic changes will take place, the extent of which we cannot foresee, and it is worth noticing that business associations have recognised this and are making preparation accordingly. Can we do the same?

Yes, I think we can. A national association should be formed immediately to contain all societies in one body, casting aside, for the future of the Exercise, all association with the past. This may seem rather drastic to some members, but on reflection the issues at stake could not be successfully dealt with by the disjointed machinery we have at the present time.

I suggest that a full-time secretary be appointed and an executive body be elected to represent the Exercise.

I visualise that from this would emerge a body powerful enough to carry through the great work which would be thrust upon them in the time to come.

F. W. HOUSDEN.

Wanstead.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Another very pleasant and successful meeting was held last Saturday at the Whitechapel Foundry by the College Youths. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was in the chair, and was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), Mr. E. A. Young, Mr. H. Miles, Mr. G. Price, Mr. H. R. Newton and others. Mr. J. Shepherd turned up from Swindon, Mr. C. H. Kippin from Beddington and Mr. G. M. Kilby from Ruislip.

Warrant Mechanician C. F. Guy, of H.M.S. 'Victorious,' wrote congratulating the society and its officers on the work they are doing to keep the old order in existence and expressing his good wishes for the future. He was sorry he could not be at the annual lunch as he had intended.

Mr. William Keeble also wrote giving his best wishes and congratulations.

Mr. Ernest C. S. Turner, who had been nominated at the luncheon, was duly elected a member, as were Mr. Cecil C. Mayne, of Harrow, and Mr. Christopher P. Heath, Penarth, Glamorgan.

The loss sustained to the Exercise by the deaths of Mr. William Willson and Mr. Gabriel Lindoff was mentioned, and the members stood in silence as a tribute to their memory.

All were pleased to hear from the Master that his son, who has been serving in the 'Ark Royal,' is safe.

The fine collection of ringing books given to the society by Mr. Ernest Morris was on view, and his generosity was much appreciated.

After the business meeting there was some handbell ringing, and, among other things, courses of London Surprise Major and Double Norwich were rung.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The two letters by Mr. Murrell and Mr. Deal are most valuable and sensible contributions to the very difficult question of the London City churches and their future.

Mr. Deal has a knowledge and understanding of these buildings which is truly admirable, but I hope he will not mind my disagreeing with him about St. Mary, Aldermay. That church still stands, but if it had been destroyed we could have spared it far better than some that have gone. To my mind, it is chiefly interesting as showing how far Wren was out of his element when he tried to build in the Gothic style. It has an elaborate ceiling which looks like a Gothic vault and is quite effective, but is in plaster: and the tall tower with its rigid vertical lines is a poor affair compared to scores of really Gothic steeples. It is said that the parishioners insisted that Wren should copy as nearly as possible their old tower. I do not think it would be much good as a bell tower.

I should be sorry to see it pulled down, for it is a familiar landmark in the City of London, but how much better it would have been if St. Dunstan's-in-the-East spire, or St. Magnus', London Bridge, stood in that prominent position.

'X.'

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

HOW THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your reference to St. Paul's Cathedral bells and the fine photograph of the north-west tower have brought back happy memories of the time I spent in London and of the kindly welcome I received, even to the extent of being allowed to ring the 62 cwt. tenor, from the Ancient Society of College Youths. I am appending a copy of the report of the first meeting held in connection with the St. Paul's Cathedral bell scheme, which appeared in 'Church Bells' of November 6th, 1875. This report will probably be of interest to your readers, especially as it refers to rings of bells described as excellent, but which, during the past few years, have been replaced by something better—at least according to most ringers' judgment.

The Parsonage, Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

A. S. ROBERTS.

APPEAL BY THE LORD MAYOR.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the Mansion House in inauguration of a fund for the furnishing of St. Paul's Cathedral with a ring of bells and chimes for striking the quarter-hours. The Lord Mayor took the chair, and was supported by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Rev. Canon Gregory, Sir E. Beckett Denison, Q.C., Mr. Philip Cazenove, Dr. Stainer, Mr. F. C. Penrose, the Rev. J. Erskine Clarke, Vicar of Battersea, and others.

The Lord Mayor, in opening the proceedings, remarked that it had always struck him as a curious anomaly that while many of the larger City churches, such as Bow Church, Cripplegate Church, St. Botolph's Bishopsgate, St. Sepulchre's, St. Bride's, and St. Dunstan's, had excellent rings of bells, the largest Cathedral in this country—St. Paul's—had but one bell. He had heard it stated that the citizens and those at work in the City would be distracted in their occupation by the sound of church bells, but he really believed very few people were of that opinion. He had been especially struck with the want of a ring of bells for St. Paul's when recently he escorted the foreign and provincial mayors and magistrates to divine service in that Cathedral. Instead of the beautiful chimes and carillons which they listened to abroad with so much interest, they only heard one solitary, dismal bell. He trusted that the wealthy citizens of London would take this matter into their consideration. The steeples were ready to receive the bells, and it only required a comparatively small sum of money to give St. Paul's a ring of bells and chimes which many provincial and enterprising towns had readily contributed for their own parish churches.

The Dean of St. Paul's said the want of a ring of bells for the Cathedral had struck almost everybody. St. Paul's was unique in its architecture; in its name it was unique among cathedrals; and unique also in this, that there was no church of its rank on this side of the Alps which was so deficient in bells. On Thanksgiving Day the City was gaily decked, and the Cathedral was full within and without, but excepting the cheers of the populace there was no music to greet Her Majesty on her approach to the Cathedral until she entered the western door, when the organ spoke both wisely and well. To all intents and purposes the fabric of St. Paul's was dumb on that occasion. He thought it was their duty to bring the matter before the citizens of London, and he believed they had only to mention their need to have it supplied. St. Paul's only desired to be put upon an equality with Worcester Cathedral, which had a splendid new ring.

ST. PAUL'S DESTITUTE OF BELLS.

Sir E. Beckett Denison, Q.C. (later Lord Grimthorpe), in moving that it was desirable that a ring of bells should be supplied to St. Paul's Cathedral and, in addition, a set of chimes, contended that while so many of the large towns of the kingdom were providing—some of them even out of the rates—beautiful rings of bells for their parish churches, it was hardly creditable to the residents in London that St. Paul's Cathedral was to this moment absolutely destitute in that respect. He cited, as instances, Bradford, Rochdale, Manchester, Doncaster, Exeter and Worcester, describing the ring in the latter Cathedral as the finest in England. He combated the impression that bells for churches could be founded better abroad than in this country.

Mr. P. Cazenove seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Dr. Stainer, organist of St. Paul's, who entered into some details, suggested that they should have first a good English ring of bells, which would cost about £3,500 and with chiming apparatus £500 additional, and next, if money were forthcoming, that they could have a ring of Belgian bells with chimes, at a further cost of between £3,000 and £4,000 more. The projects, however, were entirely separate; and for himself he should be glad, in the first place, to get the rings without the chimes.

The Rev. J. Erskine Clarke moved that Dr. Stainer's proposal for a ring of bells and the arrangements of chimes be generally approved and suggested that the ringing societies of London—the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Royal Cumberlands, the Waterloo Society—should be interested in the proposal, as he had great faith in the enthusiasm of ringers, whether rich men or poor men. This was seconded by Mr. Penrose, surveyor to St. Paul's Cathedral, who stated that the steeples and belfries were admirably suited for the proposed purpose; and it was adopted.

Canon Gregory moved that a committee be at once formed to promote the work and to collect subscriptions, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for presiding.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.**THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 562.)

Thomas Sibson succeeded John Martin as composer and conductor to the Leicester Scholars.

He strove hard to produce short musical touches, and the 1,133 given here is interesting because it shows the modern short-course plan quite clearly coming into favour. Other touches given in his book reveal mild efforts to use other positions besides the Tittums, but these bits of work are quite undistinguished.

So the 18th century drew to its close. It was an interesting era, in which experiment led to convention and convention to revolt. In literature, form and style were predominant. Bach and Handel established the shape and style of the Oratorio. Haydn completed the creation of symphonic form and gave the orchestra a life and importance of its own.

In social life there was much wit and much artificiality, much loose living and much rigid conforming to convention. Towards the end of the century these things were giving way to new forces. The classical rigidity of Pope was broken by the romanticism of Blake, Wordsworth and Coleridge. The young Beethoven was looming up to take the symphonic form of Haydn and make it the vehicle for the expression of intense human emotion. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were heralding a return to a more primitive life; and the century ended with the dreadful volcanic uproar of the French Revolution.

In such an age large things and small followed the general trend, and change ringing was no exception. Cater ringing was, as has been shown, almost entirely in the Tittums, and the conventional long-course plan was for the most part adhered to. The use of the Single was not merely prohibited; it was not mentioned or even considered in any way necessary. Annable's views on Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples show that the Single was regarded as a rather disreputable ally, and one to exploit only when peals could not be obtained without its aid. Its possibilities were known even as far back as the beginning of the century, for 'Campanalogia Improved' (1702), when introducing Grandsire Caters, remarks:—

'By making of bobs it will go to 181440, and then by making a Triple Change, it will double the Peal to 362880.' The 'Clavis,' too, demonstrates to its own satisfaction the impossibility of bringing Triples and Cinques round at hand: 'If we could obtain a single change . . . it would be full as easy to obtain a triple or quintuple change . . . but the system of odd numbers is so inimical to the nature of the thigg, as renders it totally impossible.'

The theory of odd and even rows, therefore, was well understood; it was seen quite clearly what a Single could do; and yet so remote was the thought of employing it that the 'Clavis' suggests the augmentation of a perfectly good Tittum, 6,660 to 12,312, by running the whole of the second half in the plain course position!

This ostracism of what is now a perfectly legitimate call is not easy to understand. It may be that the old

prejudice of Annable's day was as strong as ever; it may be that Treble Bob, about which there was so much excitement at this time, needed no such call. The fact remains that no composer would sell his soul to His Satanic Majesty the Single in return for an enrichment of his music.

Shipway, in his 'Art of Ringing,' 1816, was the first to champion the cause of the Single. His views are given quite clearly in Part 2 (page 3): 'Some ringers have thought that singles should not be used unless the object cannot otherwise be attained: but I differ in opinion; as they not only afford a pleasant variety but also an opportunity of introducing a greater number of musical changes.' In Part 3 (page 66) he explains the conventional long-course plan and then adds: 'Thus, by means of the five bob bells, the peal may be extended to upwards of 6,000 changes; and with two singles, any true number may be doubled, if called the same after as before the first single, without any danger of its becoming false, except by the operation of the bobs, as before explained, which turning the backstroke changes to the hand, should be observed.'

828.

23456789

32456978 1.4.5S

24356 78

43256 78

23456 78S

34256 78

42356 78

Round by calling

8 and 9 before.

He demonstrates his point by the touch given here, which seems to be the earliest recorded touch in which singles are used.

The argument is clinched by the publication of a 5,147, a peal with four singles.

Of this composition Shipway remarks: 'The first of the following peals is round at hand on the foregoing plan in which (whilst in the tittum position) the 5th and 6th are the only bells behind the 9th, being their extent in both courses. This is, probably, the first peal ever composed with only two

bells behind the 9th, which alone sufficiently proves the utility of singles.'

Another departure from the old order is revealed in the peal by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, published in Shipway.

Here a bell is fixed *in front of the 7th* for twelve courses at a time, a plan impossible under the old long-course system. The short-course plan has here been definitely adopted, and the new sixth's place bell is put into position by an 89. This splendid peal contains sixty 89's and sixty 978's.

5,003.

23456789

42356978 1.4

34256 9-3

23456 9-2

43652 89

63254 89

26354 9-3

32654 9-3

62453 89

46253 9-3

24653 9-3

64352 89

36452 9-3

Thrice repeated, calling the first course 8-3, produces:—

23564978

32564879 1.3.4

52463 98

42365 98

34265 8-3

34265 8-3

Henry Cooper.

This peal composition, by Henry Cooper, of Birmingham, is dated 1816, and is very interesting. For the first

(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.**

All communications should be sent to **THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.**

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th. Bells (8, clapperless, tower) or handbells available after tea. Service 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.15, followed by business meeting. Everybody is welcome.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 29th. Handbells in the Parish Room adjoining from 3 p.m. Short service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Bring your own sugar. Business and more handbell ringing.—T. J. Loker, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at the Woodbarners Cafe, Ap'ley End, on Saturday, November 29th, at 4 p.m. Handbells will be available. I shall try to arrange for tea to be available.—W. Ayre.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when the accounts and balance sheet for 1941 will be presented. Service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m. Tea (free) at 4.45 in the Parish Room. All those requiring tea must let Mr. E. J. Ludd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, De-

GRANDSIRE CATERS

(Continued from previous page.)

time a composer incorporates a block of changes in the Handstroke Home position.

Both Tebb's peal and Cooper's peal will strike the observer by reason of the modernity of the plans. Away back in the 1890's, Mr. J. A. Trollope, in an article on 'Variation,' drew attention to the debt owing to the early composers, and pointed out how little fresh material has been provided in the standard methods. The plans of the pioneers have been taken, used, and adapted, and credit has not always been given to the giants of old for all their weary labours. A study of old compositions reveals in startling fashion how much these old stalwarts knew, and how up to date they were in so much of their work. It is right that their knowledge should be put to good use in the light of modern ideas, but the debt should be freely acknowledged.

(To be continued.)

ember 3rd. Eight silent bells will be available. There are a few more subscriptions owing, which the hon. district secretary would be glad to receive before the meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Pad-dock Wood.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock for those who notify me by Wednesday, December 3rd. Business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, December 6th. Bells available for 'silent' practice 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting after.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than December 9th. All members and ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James'). The business will include the election of officers for the ensuing year, presentation of annual accounts and 'Shall the Branch continue to hold its monthly meetings?' Handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, hon. secretary of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, is now Listoke, 1, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1941.

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STEDMAN.

It is just ten years since the ringing Exercise united in doing honour to the memory of Fabian Stedman by restoring the tower and bells of St. Benet's Church, Cambridge, with which he was so closely associated in the days when he was playing a leading part in the early development of change ringing. Stedman was reputed to have been born in 1631, and until 1931 no memorial marked his great contribution to the art. His name had lived through the centuries because of its application to the method of which he was the author, but beyond that there was nothing which singled him out above other of the early founders of change ringing as we know it to-day.

In 1931 the bells on which Stedman rang at Cambridge were hanging more or less derelict in the frame which was there even before Stedman's days; the Saxon tower was cracked through shrinkage of the subsoil, and neglect. The idea that Stedman's tercentenary should be marked by a complete restoration of the tower and bells was seized upon with enthusiasm, and ringers, not only of the British Isles but also those living in distant lands, readily joined in providing the funds to carry out the work. Never before had the Exercise subscribed so universally and so liberally to any project as it did to this scheme.

Ten eventful years have passed since the setting up of the memorial. Researches have led to the discovery of certain new facts about Stedman. The most significant is that he was not the author, as was so long supposed, of 'Tintinnalogia,' the first known book on change ringing. But he sponsored its publication and 'put it on the market,' and in that way the work of Richard Duckworth, a ringer of that day, was brought to the notice of the print without Stedman's help it is idle to speculate, but Stedman, although he did not actually write the book, was responsible for its appearance, and for that alone he placed the ringers of the period in his debt.

His contribution to the art, however, went much further than that. Ten years later he wrote 'Campanologia,' which incorporated the advances in methods made during the interval and in which the method which bears his name appeared for the first time. It is curious, looking back over the generations of composers who have come and gone since then, that no other method distinguished by the author's name has really survived the acid test of practice. It is not chance. Stedman has lived because of its appeal and, as an odd-bell method,

(Continued on page 578.)

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will retain its popularity as long as ringing lasts. It was, of course, only as a five-bell method that it was practised in Stedman's time, and it is a coincidence that the first two peals of Triples, both in Norwich, were rung just one hundred years after his birth—in 1731. The 210th anniversary of the second of the peals is on this very day. It was rung at St. Michael Coslany on December 5th, the first having been rung, and hotly disputed, at St. Peter Mancroft five weeks before. There is no definite proof that either of these were true, although there is little likelihood that they were, and the first peal of Stedman Triples known to be true was rung by the College Youths on December 4th, 1803. Long before that date, however, the method had been extended to nine and eleven bells, and peals of Caters and Cinques had been rung.

There is a certain amount of speculation as to Stedman's association with ringing after his term of office as Master of the College Youths in 1682. One can hardly imagine that it was the end of his ringing career, but as far as research has gone his name does not appear again in connection with the art. But Stedman left his mark upon ringing as few other men have done. What would we not give in these days for some personal details about him? What manner of man was he? We can all conjure up visions to fit our own conjectures, but that is as far as we can go. Stedman, however, remains a very intimate figure in ringing, picture him how we will, and now at the moment of so many anniversaries of the man and his method, it is well to recall something of what is owed to him by the thousands to whom this method has given so much pleasure to ring.

HANDBELL PEALS.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 19, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes.

AT 3, BELL STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

*HIRZELL EDWARDS 1-2	ARTHUR H. EVERETT 5-6
*ARNOLD BRUNTON 3-4	GEORGE GREEN 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by A. H. EVERETT.

* First peal on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 23, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*FREDERICK G. SYMONS 7-8

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.' The 50th peal rung together by Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 29, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Reverse and Double Bob, and five of Plain Bob. Tenor size 15 in C.

*ELEANOR J. MCNAIR

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE

(Somerville) 1-2

(St. John's) 3-4

JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Minor. This is the first handbell peal of Minor and the first peal in more than one method for the society; all the band are resident, junior members of the university. Also the first university peal in which a lady has taken part.

PRESTON, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 29, 1941, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in seven methods, viz.: (1) Duke of Norfolk and College Exercise (Treble Bob); (2) College Exercise and Norbury Treble Bob; (3) Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob; (4) Sandal and Oxford Treble Bob; (5) London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob; (6) Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob; (7) London Scholars' Pleasure and Oxford Treble Bob.

EDWARD COWPERTHWAITHE ... 1-2 | C. KENNETH LEWIS ... 3-4
CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE ... 5-6

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

There were 44 changes of method. First peal of Spliced Treble Bob Minor by the association. First peal of Spliced Treble Bob Minor by all the band 'in hand.' Rung after meeting short for Major.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, November 29, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,
AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor size 19 in A.

FRANK E. PERVIN ... 1-2 | ALBERT WALKER ... 5-6
FRANK W. PERRINS ... 3-4 | GEORGE F. SWANN ... 7-8

*GEORGE E. FEARN ... 9-10

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee—Bernard C. Ashford.

* First peal of Stedman on handbells. Rung in honour of Mr. James George's 88th birthday. The band thank him for his kind hospitality after the peal, which should have been Stedman Cinques, but they met one short.

AYLSHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Six Minutes,

AT 4, FAIRLEIGH TERRACE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different extents.

JACK N. A. PUMPHREY ... 1-2 | ALBERT ROUGHT ... 3-4
WALTER C. MEDLER ... 5-6

Conducted by WALTER C. MEDLER.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4 | *HAROLD HOWSON ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal of Triples.

CELEBRATING FATHER'S BIRTHDAY.

The three small sons of Mr. David Vincent, of Hale, Cheshire, stole a march on their father, and while he was away at business every day taught themselves to ring changes on handbells. They also induced their mother to join in, and when they 'broke the news' to father a few months ago they were able to ring courses of Bob Major.

It has not, however, been quite so easy to keep them going, school homework and other diversions making it difficult to catch them all in the right mood at the same time. But the boys celebrated father's birthday on November 21st, when the following were rung:

A course of Bob Major: P. David 1-2, Gordon G. 3-4, John J. 5-6, Mrs. Vincent 7-8; a course of Grandsire Caters: P. D. 1-2, G. G. 3-4, J. J. 5-6, father 7-8, Mrs. Vincent 9-10; 108 Bob Major: P. D. 1-2, G. G. 3-4, father (conductor) 5-6; 240 Bob Major: Father (conductor) 1-2, G. G. 3-4, J. J. 5-6, Mrs. Vincent 7-8. P. David is aged 8 years 6 months, John J. 11 years 10 months, and Gordon G. 14 years 3 months.

We shall look forward to hearing of a peal attempt before long.

MEMORIES OF WELLS.

SOME PEALS RECALLED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I enjoyed reading your article on the peal at Wells Cathedral 50 years ago, also the letters you have published. They brought back to me a lot of pleasant memories of the time I resided there. That was a splendid photo of the west front; the photographer, whoever it was, made a good picture of it, showing up the tower wherein I consider is the finest and heaviest peal of ten in England. In 1913 the late Mr. C. F. Winney spent Christmas with me, and I well remember we only had six for early ringing. I rang the tenor of the back six and called two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. That was Winney's introduction to Wells bells.

They were not always hung as they are now. The tenor was on the left just inside the ringing chamber door. The usual tenor man was a powerful man, a blacksmith, by name Steve Slade. He usually had three to help him. It is said that a hollow place was cut out of the wall behind the box to give him room to bend. It may be true, the hollow place is still there.

I can remember when the bells were being rehung, and seeing them hauled around the city on lorries before being taken up into the tower. A photograph of the bells on the lorries, and of the ringers, taken at the west front door after the procession, is still hung in the practice room.

I began to be interested in ringing about the time the first peal was rung on them. A pint bottle of oil with the corks cut to allow the oil to drop on the bearings was hung on each side of the tenor. It was all gone by the time the peal was finished. Washbrook was afterwards engaged as instructor. He used to take the students at the Theological College in the afternoon and the local ringers in the evening, and that was how change ringing was introduced into Wells.

Some time later Washbrook came to Wells and rang a peal of Double Norwich Major at St. Cuthbert's. During his stay some of the local ringers got their first peal of Grandsire Triples, after which they were invited to supper at his house by our leader, the Rev. A. Coode, and we had the pleasure of seeing Washbrook tap off some change ringing on the piano. He gave us some Triples and Caters, and finished with a touch of Double Norwich.

As to the number of peals rung on the bells, there have not been a lot. I expect I have rung more than anyone else. I have had the pleasure of taking part in seven, six of Caters and one of Triples rung on the back eight in 3 hours 28 minutes, conducted by myself. The peals of Caters were conducted by such well-known ringers as A. Walker (Birmingham), W. Cave and J. Burford (Bristol), F. E. Dawe (London), and J. T. Dyke (Chilcompton).

One incident stands out clearly in my memory after a peal of Grandsire Caters on May 8th, 1920. It was a splendid peal from start to finish. Three of us locals were in it. I had arranged it to commemorate the jubilee as Bishop of the Right Rev. W. H. Stirling, D.D.

Just before starting Mr. Cave told me that Mr. J. Carter had composed the peal specially for Wells Cathedral bells. It is a very musical composition of 5,039 changes. After the peal two of us missed the rest with the result that we went to one place, the rest to another. As we went into the room a gentleman was talking, and this was what he said, 'I was motoring into Wells from Bristol. On reaching the top of the Mendips leading down into Wells I heard your bells. It was a lovely evening so I stopped the car and listened to them until they stopped, which was just over an hour. I know nothing about bells or bellringing, but I have never listened to anything so beautiful before. Had the ringing continued I should have still stayed and listened.'

He must have heard the last part of the peal. We thanked him for his kind remarks, had a 'cup of tea' with him and left.

34, Union Street, Stourbridge, Worcs.

W. FARLEY.

WEST HAM TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have seen peal reports giving the West Ham tenor as 26 cwt., but I have been informed on one occasion, I believe by the late William Pye, that when the 15,120 Bob Major was rung in 1737 the tenor was not the present one, but much lighter. Is this correct?

With reference to the late Mr. Driver ringing the tenor at Leytonstone, if my memory serves me, he rang the treble to a course of Doubles with 'Minormania' standing behind him. A. PRIOR.

12, Wallwood Road, Leytonstone.
[The original tenor by Samuel Knight at West Ham was recast by Mears, but the weight was approximately the same. It is usually given as 28 cwt.—Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

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• CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA. •

A KEY TO THE ART OF RINGING.

The Exercise owes much to the men who have written about the art of ringing. From the publication of the 'Tintinnalogia' in 1668 down to the time of Jasper Snowdon and the work of men still living, there has been a steady succession of books which have preserved and spread a wide knowledge of change ringing throughout the belfries of the country. In quality as well as in style these books differ considerably; some are far more valuable than others, but among those which have proved most useful and which have had the greatest influence, a very high place must be given to the 'Clavis.'

'Clavis Campanalogia, or a Key to the Art of Ringing,' was published in the year 1788. It was written during the eventful years when men's rivalries and the clash of personal ambition had largely regrouped the leading London companies, and had led to the dissolution first of the Society of London Youths, and then of the 'ancient' Society of College Youths; and it appeared almost exactly at the time when the division of the London Exercise between the two societies of Cumberland and College Youths, with one or two lesser and subsidiary companies, had been stabilised in the form it was to keep for over a century.

Towards these changes the book itself was an important, if indirect, contributory cause. William Jones, the chief author, had been more active than perhaps any other man in the formation of bands got together from different sources with the consequent frequent migrations of leading ringers from one company to another, and we can hardly doubt that his activity was largely in the hope of promoting the interests of the book. The famous visit to Norwich in 1785 had its inception in the idea of gaining new material and new support and subscribers to the venture; the visit led directly to the practice of Stedman in the metropolis; and the practice of Stedman led directly to the dissolution of the ancient Society of College Youths. The rivalries and quarrels of the two other authors of the book—John Reeves and Thomas Blake-more—were the immediate cause of that dissolution.

William Jones at the time held a prominent and, to a large extent, unique position in the London Exercise. He was a man of some standing and education, but, unfortunately, apart from his ringing career and his book, nothing is known of him. He probably lived at Kensington or in one of the villages in the neighbourhood, and it is not unlikely that the opening of the new ring of eight at St. Mary Abbot's first brought him into contact with ringing; for though a William Jones was elected a member of the Cumberland Youths in the year 1754 and again in 1767, it is unlikely that it was the same person. A man of the name lived in Newgate Street and was a ringer though apparently he took part in no peals. He may have been a relative.

The first notice we have of William Jones is when he set himself to awaken the ancient Society of College Youths into renewed activity. Since the schism in 1756 it had led a more or less quiet and uneventful life. It held its meetings and its annual feast with dignity, and it numbered good ringers among its members; but they had few ambitions as peal ringers, though in 1771 they accomplished the first peal of Real Double Bob Maximus, the composition of which seems to have been false.

Jones joined them in 1775 with some other enthusiastic young men, and in the next year the society was recon-

structed. A new peal book and a name book were procured and a new and revised set of rules drawn up. A finely printed copy of these rules is extant and now in the British Museum.

During the years 1775 and 1776 seven peals were rung, three of them at Mortlake, two at Kensington, and one each at Bermondsey and St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. Jones rang in four and called two. Then apparently there happened one of those quarrels which were so frequent in the old societies, and the band broke up. Jones left the College Youths.

At that time there was another band in the eastern part of the town which was active in peal ringing. It contained several first-class ringers whose names figure prominently in the records of the time, among them being Christopher Wells, George Scarsbrook and John Reeves; and it was to them that William Jones now turned. Perhaps it was through his influence that they were able to move their headquarters to St. Bride's, Fleet Street, although the belfry was already the practice place of the 'junior' Society of College Youths. William Jones was young and energetic, he liked to be the leading man among his fellows, and in addition he had another and higher ambition. He wanted to write a good book on ringing, and for that he had many qualifications. He could write good English in the somewhat grandiloquent style of the time, he knew a good deal about the practical side of the art, and he had some pretensions to be a composer.

But he realised that if his book was to be a success he needed something more. Christopher Wells' recent discovery of the liability of Treble Bob to internal falseness had thrown all ideas of composition and proof into the melting pot. A few peals stood secure—Annabell's Bob Major, John Holt's Grandsire Triples, Baldwin's Treble Bob—but most of the others were suspect and not without reason. To have printed what had been rung up till then would have been to court disaster. Practically the whole of the ground had to be surveyed and new compositions worked out for every method. It was a task beyond his individual capacity, and would have taxed the ability of any of the leading composers throughout the history of the art. Fortunately there was a man at hand capable of doing the job, and so John Reeves got his opportunity.

Reeves had already shown something of the stuff that was in him, but as yet he had not fully grasped the laws of composition and proof. Of his early peals some at any rate were false, and, since the figures of others are lost, we may reasonably suspect their truth. But now there was a chance of getting his work published in a permanent form, he devoted all his energies and skill towards composition and with brilliant results.

How early William Jones formed the intention of writing the 'Clavis' we cannot of course know. Probably the idea gradually shaped itself, and in any case it must have been several years before he could gather together the necessary material. He was in an entirely different position from every other man who has attempted to compile a text book on ringing. When Shipway, or Hubbard, or Sottanstaff set out to write his book he had at his disposal a mass of material which needed revision and arranging and supplementing. But in 1780 there were practically no compositions which had been printed, and of those in manuscript very few could be accepted as true. Nor were men at all willing to part with their figures, for

the risk of them being found out to be false was too great.

At the time there was a great need for a new text book, and the reason why it had not already appeared was not because there was no demand for it, but because there had been no one capable of writing it. The J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' was an excellent book when it first appeared in 1702, but during the following eighty years ringing advanced by leaps and bounds, and in 1780 the book was about as much use to a competent band as a treatise on bows and arrows would be to a modern artillery officer. Yet booksellers found it worth their while to issue reprints, which, in default of something better, found a ready sale, and as late as 1766 the fifth edition appeared, with Joseph Monk as editor. A few perfunctory attempts were made to bring the book more up to date, but the attempt was hopeless, and nothing short of complete rewriting would really have been of any use.

For his new book William Jones needed all the information and all the support he could get, and he now turned to the Cumberlands. He joined that society on February 4th, 1778, and five days later rang a peal with them. Normally, if a man left one company and joined another, he had to break with his old associates, but in this case Jones remained on friendly terms with the London Youths.

Among the Cumberlands, no doubt, he talked with Partrick and George Gross and tried to find out what peals they had composed and rung; but the man who promised to be of the greatest assistance was Thomas Blakemore, who, besides being a clever ringer with some knowledge of composition, was a Piccadilly bookseller. His trade experience would be invaluable in making the

(Continued in next column.)

THE LATE MR. LINDOFF.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be allowed to add my regret at the passing of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff. Your editorial of November 21st does no more than justice to this ingenious exponent of our noble art. His name will go down to future generations as a master among men, for as teacher, composer and conductor he had few if any equals, yet withal he was most unassuming and modest.

I believe I first met him when we made the first attempt at Halesowen, at Christmas, 1902, for the 14,112 London, which failed after 5 hours 20 minutes through a shift course. I had since met him on several tours in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and at various times had had some correspondence with him on the subject of compositions.

He once sent me some peals of London, in all about 1,700. I should like to ask our Irish friends, particularly those of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, if they can give us any particulars of Mr. Lindoff's books and manuscripts; probably Mr. R. Murphy could enlighten the Exercise on this point.

Mr. Lindoff, while once on a tour in Cheshire, before starting for a peal of Superlative, asked me to look through the composition (he was conducting). I asked, 'Why?' He replied, 'Just to make sure, Bill. You are a conductor. I do not claim to be one.' That little incident was typical of 'Gay,' and while living memory lasts will never be forgotten by

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

THE LARGEST TOWER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to 'Enquirer,' while not claiming St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, to be the largest tower, it is perhaps worth mentioning. The ringing chamber is 30ft. square by 33ft. high, with rope guide 15ft. from floor. It is well furnished with interesting pictures, diagrams, etc., on the walls, and plaster reproduction of pre-Reformation bells on turn-table pedestals round the room. The bells (ten) are by Taylor. The tenor was 42 cwt. 2 qr. before it was retuned. They are hung in oak frame.

J. M.

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

new book, and so Jones enlisted his services and sent him to the London Youths to join Reeves. Presently Jones rejoined that society, and soon afterwards the whole company, including Reeves, Jones, Blakemore and Christopher Wells went over to the ancient Society of College Youths.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends of Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, will join us in congratulating him on his 76th birthday, which falls to-day. Mr. Jones has rendered long and invaluable service to the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association, and now ranks with Mr. G. W. Cartmel, of the Hertford County Association, as the association secretary with the longest service.

Many ringers will learn with real regret that Mr. Claude I. Davies, for many years treasurer of the Lancashire Association, is lying very seriously ill in hospital. It will, unfortunately, be many months before he has recovered. We wish him very sincerely a sound and sure recovery.

A well-known schoolmaster ringer who recently joined the Forces has had to attend some classes for instruction. We hear that on one occasion he was sent out of the room for inattention. Served him right too.

On December 1st, 1732, the Society of Kentish Youths rang a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Tripples in the eighth month of their practice.

Ten years ago last Monday William Pye called at Willerden the first peal of Spiced Surprise Major in nine methods. It was also the first which contained the extent on the 3-lead course plan.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal on handbells was rung at Sheffield on December 11th, 1811.

The first peal of Stedman Triples which we definitely know to have been true was rung by the College Youths at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on December 4th, 1803, and on the same date in 1919 the first peal by Freemasons was rung at St. Clement Danes'.

Six years ago to-day the first peal of Melbourne Surprise Major was rung.

Two hundred and ten years ago to-morrow the Norwich Scholars rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, the second of the first two peals of Stedman Triples.

Fifty years ago to-day eleven peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 3, Bob Triples 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1, Stedman Triples 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Royal 1, Minor 1.

Ten years ago 36 peals were rung. They consisted of Stedman Doubles 4, Triples 14, Gaters 3, Cinques 3; Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 3, Bob Major 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Oxford 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1; Cambridge Major 1; Norfolk Surprise Major 1; and peals of Minor 2.

* LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Rev. Arthur Scott, M.A., president of the Lancashire Association since 1936, has resigned from that position on his appointment by Queen's College, Cambridge, to the benefice of Oakington, near Cambridge, in the diocese of Ely.

Mr. Scott, who is a native of Hull, was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, and Ridley Hall, Cambridge. The Bishop of Manchester ordained him in 1930, and his first curacy was at Christ Church, Harpurhey. In 1934 Mr. Scott was appointed lecturer of Bolton and senior curate of Bolton Parish Church, and whilst there was elected president in 1936 in succession to the late Canon H. J. Elsee, M.A.

In 1938 the Bishop of Manchester appointed him to be Rector of St. Luke's, Miles Platting, a large industrial parish in the city of Manchester. Mr. Scott will preach his farewell sermon at St. Luke's, Miles Platting, on Sunday, December 14th, at 3.30 p.m.

MEETINGS IN BRISTOL.

MORE SUPPORT NEEDED.

To the Editor.

Sir,—At the annual meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, to be held on December 13th, a decision is to be taken whether to continue holding monthly meetings or not.

If the meetings are to continue it will depend largely on the support the branch is to have from the older members of the ringing fraternity in Bristol.

For two years, at least, the branch has been carried on by the younger members and visitors, who have often been half of the total gatherings.

Contrary to the general belief, the branch does not even have the support of the association officials living in or near the city.

Considering the amount of work put in by the secretary in making arrangements for the meetings and providing teas, the support he has had from the 'brass hats' is deplorable.

As the city is for the time being losing the services of a few of its small number of supporters, it will be up to the older members to come along.

At the last meeting comment was made on the outstanding success attained by the College Youths, and if London (which has had the worst of enemy attacks) can set such a splendid example to the remainder of the provinces, why is it that a city like Bristol, with approximately 90 ringing members, can only see four or six members at its meetings?

Therefore, if the flag of the branch is to be kept flying the branch officials must have more active support.

T. HARRIS.
D. G. CLIFT.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.

The meeting of the North and East Division of the Middlesex County Association last Saturday was not held exactly among the ruins of the City of London, for St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and the surrounding district still bear much of their accustomed aspects, though there are war scars here and there, and the church has had more than one incendiary bomb through the roof, happily without doing any permanent damage. One has to take a fairly long walk westwards before coming abruptly into a vast district which looks like a nightmare or a part of the Sahara desert. Poor old Cripplegate steeple stands up forlorn above the skeleton of the fine old church, yet not without giving hopes that it may again be restored to something like what it was.

At St. Botolph's a representative gathering came together, numbering something over thirty, and including Mr. C. T. Coles, the general secretary, Mr. Harry Kilby, the Ringing Master, whose office, alas, in these days is a sinecure, Mr. Ernest Turner, Mr. W. H. Hewett, Mr. Oram, Mr. James Bennett, Mr. G. M. Kilby, Mr. W. Nudds, and welcomed friends from further afield, among them Messrs. Edwin Barnett, Corpl. Barnett, S. Dawson, Audsley, Corby, Bagworth and Arthur Hardy.

The Rev. Dennis Oldacre, curate-in-charge, had placed the parish room at the disposal of the members and was present to welcome them. Mr. James E. Davis and his consort made all the necessary arrangements and provided the tea.

After some handbell ringing a short service was conducted in the church by Mr. Oldacre, who gave an appropriate address. Tea followed and then a short business meeting, presided over by Mr. C. T. Coles, assisted by Mr. T. J. Lock, the hon. secretary. A proposal had been made to hold the business meeting early in the afternoon instead of after the tea, but that did not find favour. The arrangements for the next and annual meeting were left in the hands of the secretary. Mr. Coles referred feelingly to the loss the Exercise had sustained by the deaths of James Hunt, William Willson and Gabriel Lindoff, all life members of the association. Mr. Hewett asked for information about the destroyed bells of the City, and Mr. J. A. Trollope stated briefly what was known about them.

Mr. Coles proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Dennis Oldacre, Mr. and Mrs. Davis and the lady who accompanied the singing in the church for all their kindness and hospitality. Mr. Oldacre, who remained till the end, replied, and said he would always welcome the Middlesex Association to St. Botolph's.

The handbell ringing during the evening included touches of Bob Major and Double Norwich, Grandsire Triples and Caters, and Stedman Triples and Caters.

ST. BOTOLPH'S BELLS.

St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was built between the years 1725 and 1729 from the designs of James Gold. Architecturally it does not rank very high among the City churches, being rather pretentious and overlaid with detail. The tower is placed at the east end over the chancel, the idea (a perfectly sound one) being to give it greater prominence from the street. But to preserve the interior effect of the church the whole of the bottom part of the west wall of the steeple had to be omitted, and the structure is not rigid enough to carry a ringing peal of bells properly.

The ring of eight was cast in 1783 from an older six, with the addition of new metal. Robert Patrick was given the order, but as he apparently had no facilities for casting bells himself, he took Thomas Osborn, of Downham Market, into partnership for the job. Osborn was an excellent craftsman and the octave is quite a good one.

The original six had a good reputation in their time. Strype mentions 'the beautiful gift of Mr. William Hobby, citizen and ale-brewer of London, viz., the tenor bell in the steeple, bearing his own name and called Hobby, which he caused to be founded at his own cost and charges, and afterwards to be recast two several times only to make it tuneable with the other bells in the steeple, which was performed accordingly, and they are now as perfect and pleasing a ring of bells as can be wished. When he gave the bell to the parish he enjoyed this condition that at what time soever any man deceased that had borne any place of eminence and office in this parish and afterwards happened (by any cross or misadventure) to fall into decay, that yet he should have the benefit of the bell's service freely bestowed on him at his burial not paying any costs or duties thereof to the church. No doubt this man had an honest meaning and most charitable mind.'

Another benefactor to the belfry was Richard Murnford, at one time sexton of the parish, who in 1678 gave a treble bell with its frame and hangings and a new ringing floor. We may suppose, though we are not told so, that he was a ringer and that his gift was prompted by his love of the art. Evidently for a sexton he was a well-to-do man, and when he died in 1683 he left £100 to the Weavers' Company to clothe four poor men annually for ever.

William Laughton and the Ramblers rang Plain Bob and Cambridge Surprise on the bells in 1734. His opinion was that they were 'as good as e'er was cast.' This is the first account we have of any Cambridge being rung, though probably it was already a popular method with the most skilful bands.

On the day the new octave was opened, February 7th, 1783, three peals were rung, one by each of the then leading societies. First the College Youths rang 5,120 Oxford Treble Bob, then the Cumberlands (Continued in next column.)

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

THE EVIDENCE IN MSS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have recently had your leading article upon 'preservation of MSS.' and now the very interesting summary of our present knowledge as to the earliest peals. Mr. Trollope is here at his best, and we are much indebted to you both.

In to-day's contribution Mr. Trollope (one almost sees him gowned and bewigged) sits on the Bench and gives us, impartially, his 'summing-up.' Many of us are on the jury and the verdict will be 'promulgated in due course.' I, for one, have already made up my mind.

As my name has been mentioned in connection with the fortunate preservation of the wording of the two lost MSS., a few remarks may be of interest. Long before I was asked to rewrite the historical foreword of the College Youths rule book in 1928, I had made myself familiar with all the old books of the society. I then thought it necessary to inspect the Osborn MSS. This I did and, at the instigation of Mr. A. A. Hughes, the society acquired a typed copy of the section dealing with our own history, but that, too, has now gone, though I still possess my own carbon copy.

As will be readily surmised, I was at once struck with the value of the two accounts entered on the opening pages of 'Peal Record Book, No. 1' (see inventory in rule book). I judged both to have been written by the same hand, for there was a close resemblance, so, if I am right, Mr. Francis Marshall, in addition to compiling the second one, wrote them both. The style and wording are quite distinct, for he is flowery and verbose. Mr. Trollope says that he knows nothing of him. I can only add that Mr. Marshall, described as 'of Westminster,' was elected in 1835. There were only nine peals rung in that decade, and his name does not appear in those very lean years of a century ago.

In 1931 Mr. Trollope's first articles on the old societies began to appear, and I drew his attention to our MSS., ultimately giving him copies and procured him an invitation to visit The Coffee Pot and inspect our books. I felt that the more he knew of us the better, and my optimism is now justified.

In the meantime I made a search for 'The Oxford Ringers' Register,' and for the Scarsbrooks, of whom the said George was, I found, elected to the society in 1777 (with Samuel Muggidge, both of Southwark), but a visit to Oxford found no trace of the so much desired register. I did, however, find the Scarsbrooks in the records of the Oxford Society.

If books were only vocal, what a tale they could tell. 'Peal Record Book No. 1' was a most handsome volume in its time, for it had had great ambitions, being sumptuously bound in calf with green morocco panels, front and back, and delightfully tooled and enriched in gold, its size, large 4to. The front panel read (six lines), 'The Ancient Society of College Youths, 1776' (of this and the tooling I have a rubbing). The back panel, I believe, had 'George Heath Steward.' The book seems to say, 'I was made as a peal book for the Ancient Society on the occasion of the election of Mr. Heath as Steward, he having come over from the Junior Society of College Youths, of which he was in 1756 a foundation member, and, hoping to be Master, gave me as a token of goodwill to his old rivals.'

The book remained unopened and unused. We cannot say whether Heath came to the Mastership; these are the blank years. He rang peals with neither society during all the years until, as described in Mr. Trollope's History, in 1791 he came into the limelight, page 76. ('Oh! Have you not heard of the Jolly Young Waterman?')

Then it was (romanticism being in the air) that old Scarsbrook probably mentioned about the register down at Oxford. His brother would send him a transcript, which eventually found its way into George Heath's book. It was then called 'Copy Peal Book,' and Peal No. 1 was that, now under debate, on 'January 7th, 1689-90,' rung at 'St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate, London.'

Elstree Hill, Bromley.

E. ALEXANDER YOUNG.

'CAMPANOLLOGY.'

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—Whilst agreeing with 'T' in his denunciation of the words 'campanology' and 'campanologist,' 'Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary' contains the following:—

'Campanology'—'the subject or science of bells or bellringing.'

'Campanologist'—'one skilled in the same.'

Therefore 'T' must allow that the use of these words is correct when alluding to both our art and ourselves.

H. RUMENS.

Upper Walthamstow.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

(Continued from previous column.)

rang 5,040 Grandsire Triples, and then the 'ancient' College Youths rang 5,216 Oxford Treble Bob. The last was conducted by John Reeves. Evidently it was the peal given in the 'Clavis' and probably was the greatest number of changes that had then been got into 13 courses.

For several years before the war the belfry has been in the care of Mr. James E. Davis, and the company he got together proved themselves one of the best peal ringing bands in the country. The frequent peals were made possible by the adoption of Mr. Davis' silencers, which, first tried here, have since been installed in many towers.

BELLS AS 'LUXURIES.'

A COUNTRY RECTOR'S VIEWS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I apologise for referring to some correspondence in 'The Ringing World' of nearly two months ago, but my attention has been drawn to a letter under the above heading in your issue of October 10th last.

I am aware of the fact that organs such as are in use to-day in our churches were often preceded by an 'orchestra' and very often by the barrel organ with its limited repertoire; I had one in my previous parish which had been 'converted' for the sum of £50 or so, and which is still doing yeoman service. Mr. Leslie W. Bunce says that I am quite wrong in stating that bells replaced trumpets. If I had said so, I would at once agree, but I enclose a copy of the magazine, with the article in question, from which you will observe that I did not make any such statement. Trumpets are not mentioned at all.

I think the misunderstanding might not have arisen if it had been realised clearly that I was writing of the average country church organ and bells ('nor are we going to be dragged away from our old love—the church bells of the countryside'). I write from a country parish and the whole tenor of the article in question is the organ and bells of the country church. The organs, particularly, in most country churches, as here, are not of the elaborate and very expensive type, i.e., 'luxuries'; even so, I maintain that it is going to be extremely difficult to find donors to replace any destroyed and not insured, since, to quote further, 'we are all now in the same boat' and will continue to be so for a considerable time after the war.

I have no knowledge of any mysterious conspiracy to silence church bells. I did state my conviction, however, that the compulsory silencing of country church bells during the war is an unfortunate mistake from a psychological standpoint.

A. A. LINEY.

Brampton Rectory, Northampton.

The following is the article referred to by Mr. Liney. It expresses a view of a difficult subject which will most certainly commend itself to all our readers. Whatever we may think about the possibility of insuring bells and organs, we shall agree that 'luxuries' is an unfortunate word to apply to them, even though it has several shades of meaning:—

The statement of the Diocesan War Damage Committee published in last month's 'Diocesan Leaflet,' distributed with our magazine, gave a list of fixtures regarded as part of the church fabric and which, therefore, need not be insured under the Government scheme. 'Bells,' continued the statement, 'are luxuries, provided by the generosity of church people in the past, and, if destroyed, should be replaced by similar generosity in the future. They should not be insured against war damage. Organs should be treated in the same way as bells; they should not be insured.'

So bells and organs are 'luxuries.' Relatively, it is to be supposed, since it is possible for service to be held without either; just as it is possible to sleep elsewhere than on a bed, and to produce 'music' by means of a comb and a piece of thin paper. The quarrel is not with the question as to whether bells and organs should, or should not, be insured; it is with that word 'luxuries' as applied to them. In regard to organs, it can be affirmed confidently that all the plain-song in the world can never supplant the accompanied harmony beloved by English people, and the organ never found its way into our churches, ousting the old scraped fiddle, etc., in the gallery, to be dubbed a 'luxury' in the estimation of the English temperament and character. After all it is an organ and the king of all instruments invented for the worship of God and the pleasure of man; totally unlike the bastard contraption to be found in cinemas.

And what about our luxurious bells? And who, since we all are now 'in the same boat,' is going to be in a position to replace church bells after the war? If we are unwilling to concede that an organ is a luxury, nor are we going to be dragged away from our old love—the church bells of the countryside. Condemned to perpetual silence, except as a warning of the advent of 'paratroops,' they are sadly missed, and it is a thousand pities that some other means of giving warning have not been devised. The silencing of the bells would seem to be a psychological mistake of the first magnitude. These 'luxuries' represent not war but peace; they are symbolic of the message of faith and victory, of the love of God and of the call to respond to that love in His worship when 'tis the blessed hour of prayer.'

MAKE THE BEST OF THINGS AS THEY ARE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I trust none of your readers will be led astray by the frothyrodomontade of your correspondent who calls himself 'Anti-Silent.' If we were to follow his advice we should simply make fools of ourselves. Foaming at the mouth, talking about 'enemies' who have 'declared open war,' calling other people offensive names, and quoting the Bible, won't do us any good. What we must do is to take things as they are and make the best of them, to recognise that just now there are matters of more immediate importance than bell-ringing, to hold fast to our art and our friendships, to keep our hearts high and to wait for the better times that will surely come.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

BELLS AFTER THE WAR.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 'ANTI-SILENT.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Didn't I say so? Although by my letter in your issue of November 7th I tried to show that I am as keen as anyone in the view that bells are necessities and not luxuries, and to that extent supported his view, I had the temerity to tell 'Anti-Silent' that he was using the discussion to belabour his opponents by flinging cheap and not very effective epithets at them, such as 'Quislings of the Exercise,' and didn't I say I supposed I should now come in for castigation? Well, he's tried it on.

I said in my first letter that the arguments we are getting do not seem to lead us anywhere. And I ask 'Anti-Silent' how far his argument that those who have stated that bells are luxuries are Quislings of the Exercise has got us? I was going to say 'either him or us,' but he tells us there are no 'hims' in this business. If he would take his own advice to hear and drop personalities it might help him.

By the way, I like his high sounding phrase, 'We are dealing with fundamentals about which there must be universal agreement if the fraternity is to win through this utilitarian ramp and nonsense.' It looks good to me. I visualise George going out to slay the dragon—and, being unable to find a dragon, trying to kill his neighbour's cat.

When I ask how many associations have taken action in this matter, 'Anti-Silent' points only to one which seems to have made any real move. What has been done by his own association (if it is not the Kent) he doesn't tell us. Why doesn't he devote some of his energy to moving the association (if any) to which he owes allegiance?

The idea of giving lantern lectures (presumably on bells and their relation to the Church, although he doesn't say so) in aid of some charitable object may be a good one—if you can get the right audience. But does 'Anti-Silent' imagine that in a parish where, if we are to believe him, we have to face this 'utilitarian ramp and nonsense' he or anyone else would get even his nose into a lecture hall, let alone give a lecture, as an introduction to a 'fight with the sword of the spirit.' Tut, tut, Mr. Editor, if this is the best 'Anti-Silent' can put up, I'm sorry for his cause.

To do any good, he must, as he says, carry the war into the enemy's camp, but lantern lectures won't get him far: he won't get hold of the people who matter. The people he must lay hold of are the parsons and the members of the Church Councils in those places where the 'utilitarian ramp and nonsense' is supposed to 'ramp and nonse.' I'm all for that. Get right in on them; lay about lustily and tell them how to get towers and bells without money.

The enthusiasm and eloquence of 'Anti-Silent' ought not to be wasted in trying to say nasty things in 'The Ringing World' to the one or two correspondents who do not happen to agree with him. Let him set up the fiery cross and lead the crusade into the parishes where he knows (if he really does know any) this utilitarian ramp and nonsense is going on. Apart from writing letters to 'The Ringing World' (letters which are abusive or entertaining according to the way you look at them), what has he done?

PLAIN HUNT.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The suggestion of Mr. Housden in your last issue that one way of reconstructing the Exercise after the war would be by forming a national association is one worth considering, but there are many objections to such a course.

A National Association has several times been suggested in the past, but the idea has never taken well. A National Association, if it led to national unity of action, would, perhaps, help the Exercise to get on its feet again, but old allegiances die hard, and it may be difficult to persuade ringers to scrap their county and diocesan organisations.

If it is suggested that they be retained and affiliated to a National Association, it might be argued that the Central Council already stands in the position as the unifying body. Anyhow, Mr. Housden's suggestion opens up a subject which I hope we may see ventilated and discussed in your columns.

F. T. WILLIAMS.

VISITORS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—While not disagreeing with Mr. A. V. Davis' remarks, which to a great extent I endorse, we must not lose sight of Mr. Fletcher's aim, as you so ably put it in your leader, which was to be of assistance to the provincial visitor to London and his desire to 'try' one of the London churches.

This aim, in itself, is a laudable one, but it also smacks of conservatism in the London towers, and Mr. Davis goes a step further and calls it 'ringing snobbery.'

Personally, I think it is the care of the standard of ringing and the traditions which have been handed down in the London churches which prompt this view.

On the other hand, the necessity for a visiting ringer to have to obtain a 'visa' or be directed by a select body of London ringers seems out of place in the democracy of ringing, which has become such a marked feature of the Exercise.

FREDERICK E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

STEDMAN'S BELLS.

TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION RECALLED.

To-day is the tenth anniversary of the tercentenary celebration at Cambridge of the birth of Fabian Stedman. The event aroused universal interest throughout the Exercise and was marked in many parts of the country by the ringing of peals of Stedman Doubles, Triples, Cateters and Cinques.

In Cambridge itself over three hundred ringers gathered representing nearly all the associations to do honour to the memory of the great pioneer, the central part of the celebration being a service at St. Benet's Church, where the bells were rededicated after renovation.

At the sole cost of ringers throughout the length and breadth of the land and overseas, the ancient Saxon tower had been restored, and the six bells, five of which were there in Stedman's time, rehung



ST. BENET'S SAXON TOWER.

in the massive old oak frame which, for the protection of the tower, was brought many feet lower down and quarter turned.

It was on these bells that Stedman himself had practised change ringing, and the tablet on the wall of the tower which commemorates the tercentenary bears the following inscription:—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND TO COMMEMORATE THE TERCENTENARY OF THE
BIRTH OF FABIAN STEDMAN OF CAMBRIDGE A RINGER
AT THIS CHURCH WHO BY HIS LABOURS LAID THE
FOUNDATION OF THE ART OF CHANGE RINGING THE
BELLS IN THIS TOWER WERE RESTORED BY THE
RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN IRELAND AND OVER-
SEAS.

DECEMBER 1931

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Greenwood), the dedication performed by the Rural Dean (Canon Adams) in the absence of the Archdeacon of Ely, and the sermon preached by Canon G. F. Coleridge.

The ringing which followed was first done by representative hands, and afterwards everyone who wished had the opportunity of trying out the bells, which the Vicar said not only belonged to the parish, but would be held in trust for the whole world of ringers.

Further reference to Fabian Stedman will be found in our leading article.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH.

LOSS OF THE OLD PEAL BOOK.

We are very sorry to hear that the old peal book belonging to the Bromley ringers, which was reported to be safe when the church was destroyed in an air raid, is damaged beyond repair.

When the fear of air raids became imminent the ringers took precautions for safeguarding their property. The handbells were removed to a private house and they are safe. For the far more valuable peal book permission was sought to have it placed in the church safe, which was granted. But the church official to whom it was given, instead of putting it inside the safe, just laid it on the top, and when the church was blown to bits by a bomb no thought was given to it. It was left exposed to the weather and has been ruined by rain water.

The book dated from the latter years of the eighteenth century and recorded the performances of the Bromley Youths, a skilful and energetic company who from the year 1773, in which they commenced, until well into the following century were active peal ringers. Their first peal was 5,040 Bob Major on September 22nd, 1774, and they followed it up with many more in the same method and of Grandsire and Union Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung not only in their own steeple, but in many other places, one so far afield as Hertford. Among their most notable achievements were 12,672 Bob Major in 1783, the first peal of Real Double Bob Major with two bobs in a lead, the first muffled five-thousand, and the first 'John' peal.

For many years William Chapman was their leader and conductor. He was a carpenter by trade and it was for him that the muffled peal was rung.

Outside the London societies there were very few original peal books which could compare with this in historical interest and value, and its loss is very much to be regretted.

The incident and the destruction of the bells at St. Clement Danes' show that it is not enough to take precautions. Ringers must see that the precautions are efficient ones.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT APSLEY.

A small but very enjoyable meeting of the Western District of the Hertford County Association was held at Apsley on Saturday.

The members met at the Woodbarners Cafe at 4 o'clock and discussed conditions in the district, made inquiries about other members and recalled other similar occasions.

Mr. F. J. Reeve, of Tring, presided over the very informal formalities.

The members stood in silence as a tribute to the memory of the late president, Mr. C. H. Horton, and of Mr. Henry Golding.

The secretary was asked to continue his efforts to obtain use of the bells at St. Mary's, Hemel Hempstead, for silent practice. The Vicar has already given permission for the tongues of the back six to be taken out, but the Home Guard refuse to hand over the keys, as 'they are in charge of the tower.'

Although full explanation has been given by the district secretary of the intentions, and the responsibility accepted for there being no resultant sound, the Home Guard remain adamant. Failing any satisfactory agreement, the secretary was asked to obtain information from higher authority.

A resolution was passed for submission to the General Committee that 'in view of the financial position of the association and also of the scarcity of paper, the annual report shall not be printed until the end of hostilities.'

The care of bells and ropes was discussed, members being urged to give both regular attention.

A list of 18 district members serving with the Forces was compiled. The members were delighted to have with them Sapper F. J. Tompkins, R.E., of the Apsley band, on leave from 'somewhere in Scotland.'

Tea was the next item—sausage and mash—very well served, and received due attention.

The handbells were then brought into use until 6.30, when the company adjourned. The cafe proprietor had kept open during the afternoon for the benefit of the members, and was cordially thanked.

Another meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

WARKTON BELLRINGERS' WEDDING

On Saturday, November 15th, at All Saints' Church, Stoneycroft, Liverpool, Mr. Archibald Stanley Toseland was married to Miss Margaret Dodd, of Gorton Road, Liverpool. The bridegroom, who is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Toseland, of Warkton, is a member of the local company of ringers, and also of the local Home Guard. The bride is the only daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Edward Dodd. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. B. Whitley, and two hymns, 'O perfect love' and 'For the beauty of the earth,' were sung.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Paul Dodd, and the bridesmaid was Miss Elizabeth Wright, her cousin. Mr. Norman Ferris (a friend of the bridegroom), of Kettering, was best man.

After the reception the happy couple left for Rhos-on-Sea for the honeymoon.

Amongst the presents received was an electric table lamp from the Rector and ringers of St. Edmund's, Warkton.

WHEN THE CHURCH BELL RANG.

A VILLAGE INCIDENT.

A correspondent in 'The Church Times' tells a tale of what happened recently in a country village, as an illustration of the value of church bells for giving an alarm.

The alertness of the Home Guard detachment in a village just outside Northampton received an unrehearsed test when the verger was accidentally locked in the church. The verger had gone up the tower to attend to the clock, unnoticed by the parish priest, who was saying Evensong by himself in the choir. The porch gates are fitted with black-out shutters as a light lock for the only door of the church in use, and these the Rector duly padlocked behind him as usual at the conclusion of the service. When the luckless verger in turn tried to leave the building he found himself a prisoner.

The only people to pass through the churchyard during the next half-hour were some children, who promptly took to their heels when the verger called out to them, evidently 'thinking thieves were in the house of prayer.' It was by now nearly dark and, rather than risk a comfortless night in the church, the verger thought his predicament justified him in ringing a few strokes on one of the bells.

There was an immediate response. Home Guardsmen came at the double from field and allotment, night workers waiting for the Northampton bus swelled the parade and, from a nearby cottage, the housewife brought up the rear with a stirrup pump. The only man in the village unaware of what was taking place until the next day was the unwitting cause of the business—the parish priest.

Any doubts as to the value of the church bell as a warning signal have certainly been dispelled by the incident and, though the verger was perhaps guilty of a technical offence, the Home Guard Commander and his men rightly regard it as a proof of their preparedness if the alarm has to be given for even more serious purposes.

HANDLING A BELL.

SLOVENLY RINGING AND BAD STRIKING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the issue of 'The Ringing World' for November 7th are a few lines quoted from William Shipway referring to the handling of a bell. It has been my experience to notice the awkward styles of many young ringers in this essential detail, and I have on several occasions spoken to the individual concerned. In one or two instances they have appreciated my kindly appeal to them to alter their style, all to their own benefit.

I fail to see how, for instance, with a stance with both feet very close together, and standing upright, more like a toy, with no movement of the body at all, they can handle their bell as it should be. This style of ringing, in my opinion, has a tendency to cause bad striking. Novices should not be allowed to ring changes until they can handle the rope and command the bell properly. I have even seen Surprise ringers who would do well to alter their style and show a little more gracefulness in handling a bell. The soldier on the parade ground has only one way of doing his drills, and that's the right way, on the word of command and the movement done perfectly. You will hear the sergeant bawl out, 'As you were,' and the movement has to be done again; but not so the ringer, he has the idea that he will do it as he likes, right or wrong, gracefully or not.

I was taught to keep my hands close together at hand and back, feet a few inches apart, with one foot slightly in advance of the other to retain my balance, and to reach up reasonably high with my hands to let my bell go just over the balance and keep her up when the occasion arose. I don't claim to be infallible, but I think the words of Shipway might well be read and digested, and that slovenly ringing be discouraged. 'ONCE A NOVICE.'

HEAVY RING OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to 'Enquirer,' Felmersham, Beds, has a heavy ring of five, tenor 263 cwt. We rang 1,200 changes on them about 12 years ago, and I believe that was the longest touch.

Blumham, Beds, has five, tenor 22½ cwt., and a peal has been rung there. Bremham Church, Beds, is the only one named St. Owen in England as far as we know. Another church named St. Owen is in Rouen. I have been told that they are the only two churches known of that name.

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 575.)

In Part 2 of Shipway's 'Art of Ringing,' the following touch of 900 is given by the bob leads. It is not, perhaps, a very distinguished piece of work, but it is interesting; for it is the earliest recorded touch of the In-

900.

23456789

53426798 2.4.5

34526 98

54623 87

64325 87

36425 7-3

62435 8-3

42536 87

54236 7-3

verted Tittums. This placing of 789 is not comparable to the Tittum position, but it has been used with grand effect in muffled ringing, and one feels that Mr. Trollope is hardly fair when he calls it very poor stuff.

The Tittum Position and the Hand-stroke Home Position have never lost their places as the supreme favourites among Cater ringers. Nevertheless, from the middle of the 19th century composers experimented with other placings of the back bells. One of the earliest examples is found in Hubbard's 'Art of Ringing,' 1876. The figures are No. 94 in the Central Council Collection of Peals. In a perfect three-part composition Hubbard uses in each part the positions 798, 879, 987, 978, 897 and 789, with the 6th at home throughout. As a musical production it is perhaps not very striking, but it is interesting as an attempt to break away from the Annable tradition, and it probably pointed the way to further and more successful experiments.

At the end of the century there was a veritable epidemic of Grandsire Cater compositions, and most of the possibilities of the Tittum Position were exhausted. Between 1892 and 1900, for instance, nearly one hundred compositions were published, most of them aiming at the extent of the 6th at home or behind the 9th (or both), or else at securing these qualities in the smallest number of changes.

In 'The Bell News' of September 24th, 1898, 'Plain Speaker' wrote: 'We are getting a surfeit of compositions of Grandsire Caters. To me they all seem the same thing over and over again, and a knowing blade in this part of the science thinks so too.' Despite this criticism it cannot be denied that some fine compositions were produced at this time. Indeed, as far as Tittum and Hand-stroke compositions are concerned one needs nothing better than these.

Composers of the period took their work very seriously, and were fierce in the defence of their progeny. Thus, it is unfortunate that the correspondence columns of 'The Bell News' of the time are disfigured by frequent controversies and quarrels, often expressed in very inelegant terms, and conducted with acrimony that would not be tolerated to-day. Some good, of course, emerged from these heated arguments. In the first place public criticism was keen and outspoken, and the standard of composition had to be high in order to avoid attack and ridicule. Secondly, the desire to get ahead of rivals led to search for musical forms away from the Tittum and Handstroke Home positions. The results of this research can be studied in 'The Bells News' and in the Central Council Collections of Peals, Part 1.

This peal collection was published in 1903. In 'The Ringing World' of June 6th, 1941, Mr. J. A. Trollope

(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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when the accounts and balance sheet for 1941 will be presented. Service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m. Tea (free) at 4.45 in the Parish Room. Eight silent bells will be available. There are a few more subscriptions owing, which the hon. district secretary would be glad to receive before the meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Paddock Wood.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 6th. Bells (with silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Sedgley on Saturday, December 6th. Bells available for 'silent' practice 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting after.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. S. Churton, 1, Birks Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, not later than December 9th. All members and ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James'). The business will include the election of officers for the ensuing year, presentation of annual accounts and 'Shall the Branch continue to hold its monthly meetings?' Handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon.*Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Annual branch meeting at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School on Saturday, December 13th, at 6 p.m. Handbells available.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Waddesdon on Saturday, December 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Gibbard, 30 Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, hon. secretary of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, is now Listoke, 1, Edgehill Road, Ealing, W.13.

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'RINGING WORLDS,' unbound, 1915-1941.—Offers to Mrs. D. M. Driver, 60, Coleman Road, Belvedere, Kent.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

discusses the book, and of the Caters and Cinques sections he writes: 'The peals of Grandsire Caters and Cinques had been collected by Arthur Knights, and evidently were printed just as he sent them in. Davis and Carpenter had carefully corrected the proofs of their own figures, but apparently they never troubled whether Knights' were corrected or not, or (as is most likely), they left the job to Dains. The result was 39 bad mistakes in the figures of 114 peals. That rendered the whole thing valueless for, of course, unless a conductor can have absolute confidence that the figures are accurate and true no collection is of any use to him.

'The figures are given without any particular arrangement, and in any case there is a sameness about peals of Grandsire Caters which makes a collection of them very uninteresting to the average ringer.'

This seems rather hard on the collection. It is true that the book contains many errors, and the student should take care to obtain the corrigenda leaflet now issued with each copy. Nevertheless the 100 peals of Grandsire Caters printed form a basis for much interesting study; and their diversity of plans and musical arrangements (unequalled, perhaps, in any other method) is sufficient refutation of Mr. Trollope's concluding remarks.

(To be continued.)

BELLS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The tower at Peel was taken down and rebuilt in 1911 and the same frame was put back. The bells were cast by Warners and the tenor is about 8 cwt. I have had a talk with Mr. Young, the former leader of the band, who is an old man now, and he told me the bells were pealable, and said if I wanted them for a peal after the war I could have them. There is a tenor bell hanging in the Church of St. Minian's, Douglas. A very imposing tower overlooking the bay, the bell was cast by Mears and Stainbank. There is no one in the parish who can ring it, but the gentleman who I met there takes a big interest in bells and he hopes for a peal of six some day. He said he would like to hear it rung up.

There is also a peal of eight in the new church at Kirk Bradden hung dead, and I am told there is a peal of five at Lezaryes. There are some records in the museum at Douglas, but I have not had the time to look through them.

Clarke Street, Douglas.

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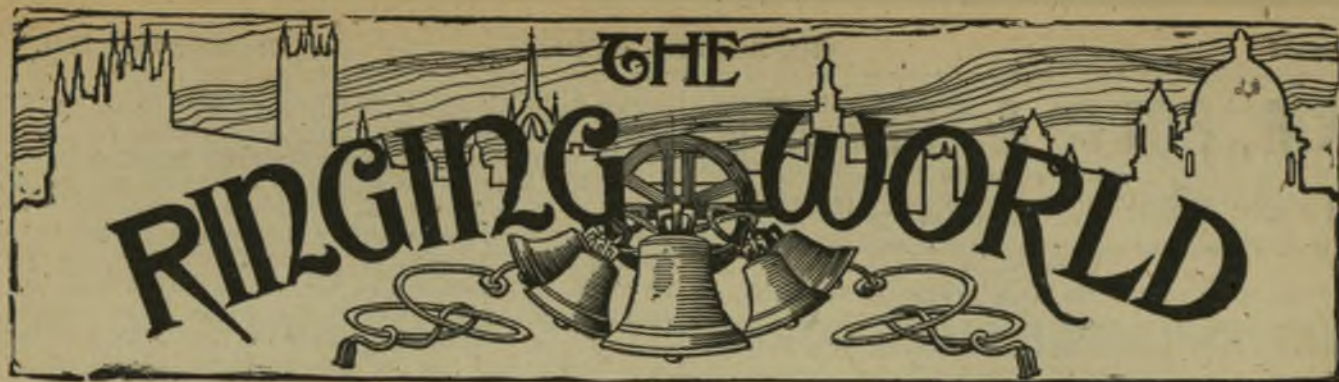
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No. 1,603. Vol. XXXVI.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

The activity of the Watford District has been one of the most encouraging signs of life in the Hertford County Association during the depression caused by the war. The district has met with considerable regularity and, while it has offered excellent opportunities for handbell practice by reason of the talented members who reside in the area, there must be something beyond this in its virility to continue to draw such excellent attendances at its meetings. On the last occasion that the district met it developed discussions on more than more subject; at least some formal resolutions were adopted. One expressed a desire for the publication in 'The Ringing World' of Dr. Slack's two-part peal of Stedman Triples, as marking an important development in the history of the method. While agreeing that this peal is something new in composition, its 'importance' as a development of Stedman Triples is not, we think, so obvious. Let us not be misunderstood. Dr. Slack's peal is the outcome of genius and skill, but it is not a development in composition which can have the effect, for instance, of the discovery of the twin-bob principle, or even of the application of odd-bob courses to peal construction. That, however, is not the reason why hitherto the figures of the peal have not appeared in our columns. We have felt that it would serve little if any useful purpose. To the ordinary reader, indeed even to the average conductor the mere printing of the figures would convey very little except the idea of an indigestible mass of six-ends. The peal has been called once, and few, if any, conductors, are likely to undertake it again, except maybe to add it to their records as something of a freak performance. Those who want to call it for this purpose can always obtain the figures from manuscript, and the composition might quite appropriately find a place in the Central Council library.

Another resolution of the meeting, and one which was carried unanimously, was an instruction to the district representatives on the association's committee to oppose the payment of the next subscription to the Central Council in view of the 'torpidity' of that body. It is true that the Council's activities have been almost, if not entirely, suspended owing to the war, but so have those of a good many associations, and it hardly seems loyal in days of stress to deny the Council support merely because the war has made it impossible to hold the customary meetings. After all, the subscription to the Council is little more than a 'token' contribution at any time, and while they complain of the ordinary members who make excuses in these days for not paying their dues, the associations themselves should set an example and meet their moral

(Continued on page 590.)

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responsibilities. It will be all the easier to get going again after the war if the Central Council can function as a fully organised body immediately the opportunity occurs. But if there are secessions now, time will be required to bring the Council back to its full representative strength at a moment when we may require it urgently to act as the mouthpiece of the Exercise in the days of reconstruction. The attitude of the Watford District is, we feel, particularly regrettable in that it sets a bad example not only in Hertfordshire, but to members of other associations who may be thinking of the present rather than the future.

Having said this, we must add that we do feel that ringers generally would welcome some greater signs of life than the executive of the Council has shown. It is not so much evidence of persistent activity that is required, because that is rendered impossible by the demands upon the members by the war effort, but it would be encouraging from time to time to learn what is going on quietly behind the scenes, for we do know that the interests of the Exercise have not been entirely neglected. If the Council as a body does not meet, it is only because it is felt that it would be wasted effort to try to call together a hundred or more members whose energies are bent on war work and who therefore could not give a couple of days each for such a purpose. That does not make it any the less desirable that the Exercise should know what the executive is doing to keep the organisation in being and in touch with the affairs which may have a serious influence on ringing in the future.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 30, 1941, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. F. I. HAIRS 1-2	R. GORDON CROSS 5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS 3-4	MRS. R. G. CROSS 7-8

Conducted by FRANK I. HAIRE.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(BRISTOL GUILD OF HANDBELL RINGERS.)

On Tuesday, December 2, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT 21, WATBEN ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 17 in A.	
ROYSTON G. BRYANT 1-2	ALBERT M. TYLER 5-6
*THOMAS HARRIS 3-4	DONALD G. CLIFT 7-8

Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First handbell peal away from 1-2. Rung to commemorate the forming of the Guild in November, 1940.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 5, 1941, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	R. GORDON CROSS 5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS 3-4	MRS. F. I. HAIRS 7-8

Conducted by R. GORDON CROSS.

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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM

• CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.

(Continued from page 581.)

THE NAMES ON THE TITLE PAGE.

William Jones cherished two great ambitions. One was to issue a really good book on ringing; the other was to be the most important and prominent man among London ringers. These two ambitions merged into each other and contributed to each other.

The leadership he aimed at was not the sort that Benjamin Annable or George Partrick had exercised. Annable was leader of the London Exercise by virtue of being the most skilful ringer, the best conductor, and the most outstanding composer. When he spoke men listened because they recognised him as an authority. Jones had no such qualifications. He was a good ringer, a competent conductor, and he knew something about composition, but there were several other men who far surpassed him in these things. He was no heavy-bell ringer, and he did not take part in any of the peals of outstanding merit, such as the Cambridge Surprise at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, or the Stedman Caters at Horsleydown. What he aimed at was to be the patron of other ringers, to get together the most skilful band possible and to share vicariously in the glory of their achievements.

In this ambition he had no small degree of success. Rather pompous and superior in manner and dictatorial in temper, for a time he dominated a large and important number of first-class ringers. There is nothing elsewhere like the record of fulsome flattery which the peal board at Horsleydown paid him—he at the time still living and a comparatively young man. 'May this panel (so it read) transmit their names (those of the men who rang in the peal) to posterity with that of the ingenious Mr. W. Jones (who did not take part) on whose abilities his inimitable commentaries so happily concludes with: Here the Cynic and the Panegyrist stop and join in eulogies to such distinguished merit.'

But the position was a radically unsound one. The leading London ringers were far too independent and individualistic and the traditions of the old companies, especially of the College Youths, far too strong for a patron to be permanently possible, and when the crisis came Jones' ambitions and dreams of domination crumbled into nothing.

The character and personality of John Reeves are one of the enigmas of the history of London ringing. His record shows that he was a keen and skilful ringer; we know that he had a first-class mathematical brain; and he ranks as one of the foremost composers of all time. But of the man himself we know almost nothing. He was born about 1740, and he died about 1820. He lived at Whitechapel or nearby; he joined the Cumberlands in 1761; and from then until the time of his death he was one of the best-known ringers in the metropolis.

But what sort of a man he was, what his station in life, what his trade or occupation, what degree of education he possessed—these things we do not know. There are no tales told about him, no traditions, no letters or manuscripts of his survive. At one time or another he held the foremost place in each of the leading companies except the 'junior' Society of College Youths; but he never held that position for long, and the last ten years and more of his ringing career were spent in obscurity, only relieved by two performances of outstanding interest.

We are rather compelled to suspect some defect or

deficiency in the man's make-up. It may have been a domineering or quarrelsome nature; or a bitter or sarcastic tongue; or just merely coldness and lack of sympathy which failed to attract men, and gave to his rivals a decisive advantage. It is significant that, though his peals were widely known and widely rung, yet ringers in general seem to have been chary of allowing him any credit for them; his name is never mentioned as the composer, except on one or two occasions when he himself called the bobs; and it was not until his old age that Shipway in his book generously acknowledged his outstanding merits.

Though the evidence is so very weak, I am inclined to think that Reeves belonged to the lower orders, that, like John Holt, he was without any particular education, and that his success was due to his natural abilities and to his industry.

To give an account of his ringing career would be to tell the tale of London ringing during the last fifty years of the eighteenth century, and that is outside my present subject. Nor do I propose to deal in any detail with his compositions which, however, will amply repay careful study. His first peal as composer and conductor was rung as early as 1764, and was one of Bob Major in three parts with sixty-six bobs only. This, we may reasonably conclude, was identical with one John Holt had called several years before, but it was the forerunner of a brilliant series of compositions.

Two years later the London Youths rang a 6,608 in the same method, conducted by Thomas Harrison, and containing 'the full extent of changes with bobs on five bells.' Reeves did not take part, nor was his name mentioned, but he was the composer. It was a very fine achievement, not only to produce such a peal at that early date, but especially to have proved that it was the extent. In merit the composition ranks with Holt's Original. This was only one of a very excellent group of Bob Major peals.

In the year 1767 Thomas Harrison called for the London Youths at Lewisham a very interesting peal of Treble Bob Major. The length was 5,120, but it was a reduction of a five-part composition containing 6,400 changes and the sixty course-ends. The lead-ends are true, but men had not yet realised the necessity for proving the interior rows, and the peal is false. But only just so. By using the alternative calling in the last course of each part the repetitions can be avoided, and this will give John Reeves' well-known five-part composition with 6,720 changes and the sixty course-ends.

The peal is interesting for another thing. In its original form, though false for Major, it supplies the familiar four courses which have been used time and again to produce the twelve course-ends with the sixth at home in Royal and Maximus. Ignorance of the liability to internal falseness no doubt spoilt most of Reeves' early peals of Treble Bob, but later on he was to master the proof of the method with the tenors together, and to produce a splendid series covering practically the whole range of composition in the method as understood in his day.

For the making of a good book on change ringing, William Jones and John Reeves formed an almost perfect combination. Jones had literary ability, but it would have been futile without technical knowledge. Reeves had technical knowledge far beyond any other man of his time, but it would have been sterile without literary skill.

(Continued on next page.)

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

JOHN REEVES AND THOMAS BLAKEMORE.

(Continued from previous page.)

Where the one was most deficient, there the other was best equipped, and this fact not only clearly defined their several roles, but ruled out any causes of dispute and jealousy between the two.

The part played by Thomas Blakemore was a subordinate one. A Piccadilly stationer and bookseller, he belonged to the lower middle classes, and necessarily had some education and knowledge of books. He was the publisher of the 'Clavis,' and his value to the combination lay in the fact that he understood the technique of putting a book together, of dealing with the printers, of proof reading and of securing subscribers.

But it may well be doubted whether he was content with his subordinate position. He was just as ambitious as the other two to be the leading ringer of the day. He probably looked on Reeves as his inferior, as people of the lower middle class did on people of the lower class, and he probably was not disposed to treat Jones as his superior as Reeves was. He was a composer and a conductor, and in both roles his ambitions clashed with those of John Reeves.

Thomas Blakemore was the disruptive force among the authors of the 'Clavis.' For five or six years the three men worked together on the book and within, first the Society of London Youths, and then the ancient Society of College Youths. We can imagine the growing jealousy and rivalry between Reeves and Blakemore, kept within bounds for long by the influence of William Jones, and then coming to a crisis after the Norwich visit, and ending finally in a hot dispute and the break-up of the ancient Society of College Youths.

And now that the book was finished and on the market, the three men parted company and went each his own way. All three had yet many years to live as ringers, but they never again associated together, and probably never again so much as met. Reeves joined the Cumberland Youths, Blakemore became the leader of the reunited Society of College Youths.

For William Jones these changes meant the end of his ambition to be the leading man in the London Exercise, and he accepted the situation completely and finally. He continued to be an active ringer for twenty years more, and rang several peals; but, except for a short time when he was a member of the Society of Cumberland Youths, he confined himself to the belfries of the western suburbs, and chiefly to Kensington, where apparently he lived. It is perhaps significant that, although both he and Reeves called peals for the Cumberlands in 1789 and 1791, the two did not take part together in any performance.

No doubt William Jones found compensation for his disappointments in the 'Clavis Campanologia.' The man who sees in print for the first time the book on which he has been working for years has a sense of pride and satisfaction which is all his own, and which amply repays him for his troubles and his set-backs. Here, Jones may well have thought, was his real claim to fame. Far better than any board at Horsleydown, the book would 'transmit his name to posterity.' But in this, too, he has been singularly unfortunate. The 'Clavis' was the most famous of all books on ringing, and was known to almost every member of the Exercise. The author was almost entirely forgotten.

For this there were two main reasons. Jones associated two other names with his own on the title page. The impression was created that the book was the work of a committee, and the idea of a committee suggests something impersonal. We cannot, of course, say definitely what share and what responsibility each of the three men had in the book, but if Jones had followed modern usage he probably would have put his own name on the title page as author, put Reeves' name at the foot of the compositions, and acknowledged Blakemore's help in the preface.

The second reason was that, while Jones chose an extraordinarily fine name for the book, one which appealed to the imagination of the Exercise, his own name was prosaic and commonplace to the last degree. Why there should be something distinctive about such a name as Adam Smith or Samuel Johnson, and nothing at all about such a name as William Jones is hard to see; but so it is, and ringers always refer to the book as the 'Clavis,' never as Jones' book. Yet they talk about Shipway's book and Hubbard's and Troyte's; and perhaps never know what titles those books actually possess.

As I have said, we cannot definitely say how far the responsibility for the 'Clavis' as a whole is shared by the three authors, but the main contribution of each is clearly marked. Tradition has credited John Reeves with the authorship of all the compositions to which a name is not put. The book itself does not say so. What it does say is that 'there will not be wanting those who may lay claim to some of our productions and charge us with plagiarism; but should even that be the case, we do assure the candid and impartial public that whatever occasion we have had of introducing anything not our own, we have always introduced its author, except the matter was too old to do it with tolerable certainty.'

The reference seems to be to the fact that other men had conducted as their own composition peals which are usually considered to be by Reeves; and especially perhaps to the elder George Gross. Elsewhere in the book there is an oblique reference to a peal of Grandsire Triples which Gross claimed to have been composed by him, but which, it is hinted, was only a simple variation of Holt's ten-part.

* In the Cumberlands' peal book the 12,000 of Treble Bob Royal rung at Shoreditch in 1784 is said to have been composed and called by Gross, and that probably was only one of several instances where Gross used Reeves' work for his own purposes without acknowledgment. Here, no doubt, is the cause of the jealousy and rivalry which undoubtedly existed between the two men.

We have not got Gross' version of the matter, and as all but one or two of his compositions have perished we cannot give any definite opinion of his merits as a composer; but it is significant that Shipway who, though a younger man, was contemporaneous with Reeves and Gross and knew them both, ascribed in his book all the disputed peals to the former. I have, however, a suspicion that Gross, who was an ignorant and unlettered man, had snubbed Shipway when, as a novice, he asked him about composition.

BOURNEMOUTH.—At St. Peter's Hall on November 25th, 504 Grandsire Triples: H. R. Mitchell 1-2, Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay (conductor) 3-4, E. G. L. Coward 5-6, F. S. Wilson 7-8. On December 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay 1-2, E. G. L. Coward (conductor) 3-4, F. S. Wilson 5-6.

STYLE IN RINGING.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—‘Once a Novice’ appears to consider that a ringer, whose stance or style is not quite as the book prescribes, is a slovenly ringer and advocates that all ringers should ring their bells with military precision.

Whilst agreeing that slovenly ringing which produces bad striking is to be discouraged, my own view is that the only thing that matters is whether the man at the rope's end can control his bell in such a way that he can strike it perfectly.

If by departing from the text-book he can ring more comfortably for long periods and strike his bell perfectly whilst doing so, I see no reason why he should be called a slovenly ringer.

The illustration of the soldier and his drills is hardly fair comparison to apply to ringers, since I think it is generally accepted that military discipline is founded on fear, and I feel sure that no ringer would advocate bullying a novice into shape.

My own view is that each ringer must form his own individual style of handling a bell, but that all must adhere to the sound advice given to me, ‘Have one ear up top and one down here,’ and be able to act on what they hear.

J. E. BAILEY.

Dartford.

HANDBELLS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Now that handbell ringing has come so much to the fore, could we not have an article or series of articles on the makers of handbells? I imagine there must have been many famous makers in the past. I have a peal of 28 myself made by one of the Symondsons, and I am told they must be at least 100 years old.

There must be many peals as old or older about, and much could surely be written of them which would interest us ringers. In closing may I offer my humble congratulations on your efforts to keep ‘The Ringing World’ so interesting.

H. J. SANGER.

The difficulty of complying with our correspondent's request is that makers of handbells have not left their mark upon the product of their handicraft to the same degree as the founders of church bells, neither have the bells themselves survived to anything like the same extent. The collection of material for an article would thus be a somewhat difficult task. If, however, any of our readers can comply with Mr. Sanger's suggestion we shall be pleased to publish it. Perhaps some of the possessors of ancient peals of handbells could send us details of the bells and their makers.—Editor, ‘Ringing World.’

LEAVING BELLS UP.**DOES IT DO HARM?***To the Editor.*

Sir,—Some of us had a discussion a few days ago about the bells and were wondering if it did any injury to leave them up from Sunday to Sunday (any of them that were not required for the clock or any other purpose).

Some of us decided it would injure the bells, and several said that it would not. Therefore, we would be very glad if you would let us have your opinion on the matter, also we would like to see you publish same in ‘The Ringing World.’

JOHN JOHNSTON.

Bridge View House, Chapelgod, Dublin.

DEATH OF MRS. F. W. J. REES.

‘The Daily Telegraph’ of December 3rd announced the death on November 30th, at Swanage, of Alice Hawthorn Rees, at the age of 98. Mrs. Rees was the widow of Frederick W. J. Rees, who 50 years ago was a prominent member of the Exercise. He had learned to ring as a schoolboy, and after 25 years' service in India resumed his practice of the art on his return home.

He was one of the earliest members of the Central Council, representing the Winchester Diocesan Guild until 1894 and being an honorary member from 1896 until his death in 1903. He did much of his ringing at Guildford, where he gave two trebles to S. Nicolas' to make a peal of ten.

BASINGSTOKE BOYS AT HOME.

On Sunday, November 30th, Guardsman F. Munday, G.G., Pte. C. J. Munday, R.A.O.C., and A.C. Ron Kingham, R.A.F., found themselves home for a few hours' leave at the same time, and a handbell practice was quickly made a great objective. A raid was made on the Sergeant-Major, Home Guard, and W. Hibbert was torn away from his fireside. A good practice was then enjoyed, with touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. The reunion was very enjoyable.

A week earlier Corpl. E. Gower, R.E., was home for seven days, and as no handbell ringing was available in Basingstoke, he and Miss Joyce Cottrell made the journey to Reading and took part in Stedman and Grandsire Triples there.

Sergt.-Pilot D. Nash, R.A.F., is now due home for seven days' leave, and the hope of all these ringers of North Hampshire is to be able to get together again in more settled times and enjoy Stedman Caters and Cinques ‘in hand’ as in the days of yore.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Rt. Rev. Bertram Simpson, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington and Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, has been nominated to the See of Southwark. Dr. Simpson, who was at one time Rector of Stepney, is well known to London ringers. He is a vice-president of the Middlesex County Association and has more than once preached at their annual meetings.

Ten years ago to-day the Norwich Diocesan Association rang 11,264 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Saxlingham Nethergate. The peal was composed and conducted by Mr. Nolan Golden.

Fifty years ago to-day nine peals were rung, one in each of the following: Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Darlaston Bob Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Major and Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

On December 8th, 1883, the College Youths rang at All Saints', Fulham, 11,111 changes of Stedman Caters, at the time the longest length in the method. James Pettit conducted, and Mr. F. E. Dawe, the only survivor of the band, rang the second.

The first peal of Edinburgh Surprise Major was rung by the Suffolk Guild at Leiston on December 8th, 1923.

John Cox, for many years one of the most prominent members of the London Exercise, was born on December 9th, 1813.

On the same date in 1833 the Painswick band rang the then record length of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 10,224 changes.

The first peal at St. Paul's Cathedral was rung on December 10th, 1881. The first peal of Real Double Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Magnus', London Bridge, on December 10th, 1770, and on the same date in 1934 the Australian tourists rang Bob Major on the South Indian Ocean.

One hundred years ago yesterday, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,136 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, the last peal in the method in the steeple. When, we wonder, will the next be rung there?

To-day is the ninety-third anniversary of the long peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham, the first outside London.

The secretary of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association intends to resign at the annual meeting to-morrow and will therefore be glad to receive nominations for the office.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL NON-CONDUCTED. CONGRATULATIONS FROM ONE OF BAND OF 55 YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am most interested to read in your issue of 14th November that at long last Holt's Original has again been rung on handbells 'non-conducted,' and I would like, if you will so kindly allow me the hospitality of your columns, publicly to offer hearty congratulations to the ringers, Messrs. Turher, Williams, Thomas and Clift, on their success.

I understand from Mr. Hughes that not only was the peal accomplished without a slip, but that, what is also very important, the bells were well rung.

On March 11th next it will be 55 years since Messrs. Winney, McLaughlin, Buckingham and I rang the peal, and it remains with me a proud memory as the best peal I ever rang, and I trust it may long so remain with the present band. JOHN C. MITCHELL.

126, Canterbury Grove, S.E.27.

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH. THE LOST PEAL BOOK.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice your remarks concerning Bromley Parish Church, its bells and peal books. As I write I have before me the sad spectacle of the remains of the historic peal book containing the records of peals rung since 1773. Our church authorities have kindly called in an expert to inspect and report on the damage caused by water and exposure. The cost of the best treatment for these historical pages would be high (about £150), and would only be guaranteed for a period of about five years. Our church and bells have been destroyed and we ringers realise that we shall retain these remnants only for a short while, but before the 'last rites' ceremony I shall endeavour to secure copies of the peals (where possible) which the book contains.

P. SPICE,

Secretary, Society of Bromley Youths.

W. D. CROFTS MANUSCRIPTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to the question of Plain Bob Triples rung by W. D. Crofts, the method is not mentioned in his manuscript, but there is a method named Double Bob Triples, with method, touches and a 5,040.

Also there is a method called Gatherers Tripples, composed in 1717 and rung at Norwich in 1718, the first of its kind ever rung with two Doubles. Rung in London 1719. Is this the method and peal in question? If so, the figures of the 5,040 are all in the manuscript.

I shall be pleased to be of any service I can.

FREDERICK A. SALTER.

110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your correspondent 'X,' may I say that my remarks re St. Mary Aldermary were intended to apply to the exterior of the church. I have not been inside for some years, and do not recollect the details. I do not attempt to defend lath and plaster vaulting, or to suggest that Wren's Gothic is comparable with the best of the ancient examples.

Wren's Gothic towers are usually of good outline and proportions, but sometimes display incongruous detail, as at Westminster Abbey, where Italian features crept in. Admittedly the tower of St. Mary Aldermary is rather monotonous in design, and might have been improved by external offsets, which would at least have given the appearance of strength. As I have already mentioned, it has suffered by the loss of the terminals of the pinnacles, which were of no great beauty in themselves, but gave a kind of 'finish' to the composition.

I am not so sure that this tower would be unsuitable for bells at least of moderate weight; it probably compares favourably in strength with the tower of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, which is very lightly built, yet accommodated a peal with a 24 cwt. tenor with remarkably little oscillation.

The site of St. Mary Aldermary was spoilt many years ago by the erection on the churchyard of an unsightly office building, which prevents a proper view of the church and tower from any point. The original appearance is fortunately recorded by old photographs; I believe one can still be seen in a place of refreshment entered from Bow Lane, immediately opposite the tower. This gives a much better impression than we get at the present day. I don't agree with 'X' that either St. Dunstan's or St. Magnus' would have been more suitable for the position.

Such churches as St. Mary Aldermary show that our love of pointed architecture has never quite died out, though for a period the 'Gothic' was looked upon as barbaric: this was so to some extent in Wren's day (though Wren appreciated the constructional ingenuity of the ancient builders). Even such churches as St. Dunstan's-in-the-West and St. Luke's, Chelsea, built when church architecture was in very low water, are interesting as connecting links between the Gothic, which expired in the 15th century, and the 'Gothic Revival' of the 1870's, which produced many fine churches and, it must be admitted, a vast amount of commonplace work.— R. F. DEAL.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT LEATHERHEAD.

A very successful meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th, twenty members and friends (including the general secretary of the Guild) being present.

The usual service forms having been mislaid, the Rev. A. E. Chapman conducted a shortened form of evensong, with Mrs. Arnold at the organ.

A good tea was enjoyed at the Duke's Head, but another engagement prevented the Rev. A. E. Chapman from presiding over that function. However, he arrived in time to take the chair for the business meeting which followed.

The meeting first stood in silence in memory of two old friends and members who had 'passed on' since the last meeting, Mr. Arthur Dean, of Leatherhead, and Mr. F. G. Woodiss, of Sutton.

The retiring district officers were re-nominated for 1942, and it was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Leatherhead on February 21st.

The Vicar's (the Rev. G. H. B. Coleridge) absence was much regretted. Many present learned for the first time of his serious illness, and the secretary was asked to convey to him the meeting's sympathy and best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the Rev. A. E. Chapman for his services, especially as he had been called on at the last moment, the original preacher, the Rev. Hickox (priest-in-charge) having succumbed to a bad throat. The organist was also thanked.

Some of those present then went on to the tower for 'silent' ringing, while others stayed for handbells before joining them.

The secretary would like to mention the spontaneous appreciation given by the non-ringing occupants of the vestry on hearing the service ringing coming from under the tower, which inclines him to believe that one of our recent correspondents 'is making mole-hills into mountains.'

BELLS AS LUXURIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was pleased to see the letter in 'The Ringing World' from the Rev. A. A. Liney, and though he wrote to contradict something I said on October 10th, I agree entirely with him. My excuse is that I was not quoting from his parish magazine, but from what your correspondent, who calls himself 'Anti-Silent,' said was in that article. It was 'Anti-Silent' who added to Mr. Liney's words the ridiculous statement that bells replaced trumpets in churches and who claimed as supporting his extravagant ideas what is really a sound and reasonable view of a rather difficult question.

LESLIE W. BUNCE.

'BRING BACK THE BELLS.'

A STIRRING CALL.

A. P. Herbert's column in the last issue of 'The Sunday Graphic' contains a stirring call by this great writer to 'Bring Back the Bells.' It begins thus:—

Bring back the bells. The bells are dumb
Until the parachuters come:
And even Huns may be excused
For bombing belfries so abused.
Bring back the bells: for there remains
No music but the aeroplane's
To make us contemplate the sky
And wonder what is what and why.
Let there be steel in Aaron's rod,
And fighters in the ranks of God;
But leave the little church in peace
While we have soldiers and police.

And then, after calling for other means of warning,
'Without inviting Huns to search
For targets in the parish church,'
concludes with the appeal,

Bring back the bells; for Christmas spells
So many things that sound like bells.

QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

Notice has been given by Rear-Admiral Beamish, M.P. for the Lewes Division of Sussex, to ask the Prime Minister whether in view of the high standard of the Home Guard and the general preparedness in the country, church bells may not ring again. He suggests Christmas Day as a suitable occasion.

BELLS AND INVASION.

The following letter was printed last week by 'The Times' in a prominent position on its leader page. It is good evidence of a widespread feeling among influential people that the use of church bells should be restored if it can be done consonant with public safety.

'Dear Sir,—Now that the Home Guard is well established over all the country, would it not be well to provide every man on watch with a whistle so that he may give warning of the approach of paratroops? The warning would be quickly spread from one Home Guard to another even while the enemy is in the air. When minutes and even seconds may decide the success or failure of such attacks from the air, can we afford time to run to a church and ring the bell?

'Again, the sound of a bell does not travel far against the wind, and the knowledge that bellringing is at present our only provision for warning the neighbourhood will make every church tower in the country a target for bombs, with a loss to England that would be permanent and greater than we think.

'May not the church bells be restored to their proper use, beginning perhaps on Christmas morning? The country has lost much by their silence and it would give us new heart to hear them ringing over all our land again.

HUGH LEWEN.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A successful meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when members attended from Sevenoaks, Sundridge, Shipbourne, Leigh, East Peckham, Lamberhurst, Wadhurst, Paddock Wood, Chislehurst and Dartford. Among those present were Messrs. T. E. Sone, T. Groombridge, sen., J. Wheadon and R. H. Dove.

The tower was open at 3 p.m. and the bells, although silent, were made good use of until 4 o'clock, when a service was held and an address given by the Rev. E. F. Yorke, Vicar of Tunbridge Wells, who gave the members a hearty welcome and said he was proud to meet the members of the association.

Tea was served in the Parish Room, 25 doing ample justice to same. The Vicar, being unable to stay to the meeting, was elected an honorary member of the association before the business meeting. Mr. W. Latter was unanimously voted to the chair. The accounts and balance sheet for 1941 up to date showed the receipts were £10 1s. 10d. and the expenses £2 13s. 10d., leaving a balance in the secretary's hands of £7 8s.

Mr. T. Groombridge said this meeting brought a memory back to him of 50 years ago, when Mr. W. Latter taught him to handle a bell rope and in the same year he rang his first peal on Christmas Eve.

Mr. W. Latter said he joined the association 58 years ago. He did not know how many pupils he had had, but he gave Mr. Groombridge the preference of being the best one of all.

Penshurst was selected for the next meeting, to be held some time in March.

Mr. A. Batten proposed a very hearty welcome to the visitors and said he did like to hear a man give his appreciation for what had been done for him years ago. He thanked Mr. B. Collison for arranging the tea, and Mr. Collison replied, saying what he had done was a pleasure.

Touches on handbells were rung before and after the meeting, some members returning to the tower, and the bells were kept going until 7 o'clock, when a good and successful meeting was brought to a close.

BELLS JUBILEE AT DARLINGTON. FIFTY YEARS OF CHANGE RINGING AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

It will be fifty years on December 15th since the ring of six bells of Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, were opened by the ringing of an extent of Bob Minor, and although the tower has not been one of the leading towers of the Exercise, in the broader sense of the term, perhaps a few notes on the activities leading to the installation of the bells and since might be permitted.

The church was opened in 1838, and one bell, weighing about 6 cwt., from the Whitechapel Foundry, did duty from that time until the present ring of six was installed in 1891. Efforts were made by ringers in the town to retain the bell as one of the ring, but they were told by the Vicar that the matter was in the hands of a capable bell committee, consisting of the organist and some of the leading lights of the parish, who had apparently convinced the Vicar that their knowledge of bells was, to say the least, profound. In any event, all efforts to retain the bell were of no avail.

The money for the new ring was bequeathed many years before the bells were actually installed, but there was much opposition to the placing of bells in the tower, by leading residents in the vicinity of the church, and others who did not think the donor a suitable person to make such a bequest. The result of the opposition was that the money eventually got into chancery, and by the time it was released about one-third of the amount had been lost. Had the whole of the bequest been available there would have been sufficient to instal a light octave instead of a light ring of six with a 7½ cwt. tenor which materialised.

Messrs. John Warner and Sons were entrusted with the order for the bells, and owing to the loss of so much of the money it was thought that nothing but a cheap job would be the result. However, the general opinion is that an excellent job was done and a really nice toned and well-balanced ring provided. It is worthy of note that in the whole of the fifty years during which the bells have been in the tower it has not once been necessary to call in the bellhanger; the only 'serious' damage being a broken stay many years ago. Of course, they have been carefully looked after and oiled regularly, but it is safe to say that over a similar period there is not a ring of bells within a radius of many miles which have been rung so regularly for services, practices and peals.

SOLE SURVIVOR.

Of the ringers who started as a band, Mr. G. W. Park is the sole survivor and he tells many amusing stories of the early days. One concerns the old gentleman who was desirous of becoming a ringer and who insisted on ringing a tied bell, complete with his top hat and frock coat; all arguments designed to persuade him to remove these articles of clothing for his own comfort and safety were unavailing. His aspirations towards ringing ended somewhat abruptly when by some means or other the rope became entangled in his clothing and he was lifted to the ceiling and deposited rather heavily on the floor. He thought it was much too dangerous a pastime.

Then there is the story of the enthusiasts who obtained the belfry key from the Vicar and took the tower by storm on a Tuesday night. They created such a horrible disturbance that two ringers of St. Cuthbert's belfry, who heard the commotion, proceeded to the tower and were alarmed to find that there was no one present who had previously handled a bell. Their description of the scene which met their eyes was somewhat reminiscent of pictures of continental ringers swinging on the ropes in comical postures. When they enquired the object of the performance they were told quite seriously that it was a practice to enable the ringers to become sufficiently proficient to ring the bells for Christmas, which was some four days hence! There have been many stories told of rapid advancement in the art, but surely this would have been the record.

Eventually those whose intention it was to take seriously to change ringing were formed into an organised band, and the others who regarded the whole thing as a novelty were informed that their presence was no longer desirable. The newly-formed band practised assiduously under the guidance of a competent instructor on both handbells and tower bells and generally made rapid progress, ringing their first extent as a band, a 720 of Bob Minor, conducted by Mr. G. W. Park, on Advent Sunday, November 27th, 1892, although individuals had rung extents elsewhere prior to this. Various of the standard methods were rung regularly, but it was not until January, 1896, that they rang their first peal. This was not rung at Holy Trinity, but at the nearby village of Heighington, and was a 5,040 in seven different methods, conducted by Mr. G. W. Park.

As time elapsed the band were not content to ring the plain and Treble Bob methods then generally rung and proceeded to practise Surprise methods, being one of the first towers in the North to ring Surprise Minor regularly. The tower was the first winner of the original Sunday Service Ringing Certificate awarded by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association against such daughty competition as that provided by the Goftons of Whitley Bay. This certificate was won with a score of points never since equalled in the scheme, and it has an honoured place in the archives. Many certificates have been won since which testify to the ringing done for services, but 'No. 1' holds pride of place.

One of the most successful periods in the history of the tower until
(Continued in next column.)

SURPRISE EXTENT IN SIX METHODS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In 'Minormania's' tribute to the late Mr. A. G. Driver he mentions that I had produced a 720 in six Surprise methods. As it has never yet been published I thought some of your readers might like to see it. It was composed in 1936.

Although I produced it, the main credit should go to Mr. Driver, as he was always ready to show me the way when I got into difficulties. But for his ready help and encouragement my interest in spliced Minor would never have gone beyond our 21-method peal rung in 1930, Lamberhurst.

A. RELFE.

23456	Horton	—45623	Cheddleton
—56423	Hanley	—64523	Horton
—56234	Hanley	—23564	Cheddleton
—56342	Horton	—52364	Hanley
—42356	Hanley	—52643	Hanley
—42563	Milton	—52436	Cheddleton
54326	Milton	—45236	Milton
—63542	Hanley	—62453	Hanley
—63425	Cheddleton	—62534	Hanley
—46325	Hanley	—62345	Milton
—46253	Horton	—53624	Horton
—53246	Hanley	—24653	Milton
34562	Allendale	—36245	Cheddleton
—34625	Westminster	—23645	Hanley
—34256	Westminster		
45362	Hanley	—23456	

In the Collection of Minor Methods (Surprise Section), Horton is No. 45, Hanley No. 44, Milton No. 46, Cheddleton No. 43, Allendale No. 18 and Westminster No. 26.

THE LATE MR. DRIVER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think both Mr. Joyce and Mr. Prior must be mistaken with regard to Mr. Driver as a practical ringer. My father, whenever Mr. Driver's ability was mentioned, always remarked, 'He is the only man I never succeeded in teaching to handle a bell.' He was a frequent visitor on practice nights at local towers, and almost the last he attended at Crayford during father's lifetime was the only occasion that anyone round here saw him with a rope in his hand. This was only for a whole pull, and our tenor stay still bears witness of this attempt.

I well remember one of his visits when he got us to ring Grandshire Triples with the hunt bell before the Treble. He called it 'Grandmother Triples.' It was subsequently found that John Carter had rung peals of it as 'New Grandshire.'

On another occasion he got us on to Reverse Stedman. There was some difference of opinion as to which was the correct reversal, and I well remember his 'simple visual example' of the correct way, by holding the course in 'Standard Methods' in front of the belfry mirror.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

DARLINGTON BELLS JUBILEE.

(Continued from previous column.)

recent years was during 1907-8, when the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson was curate of the parish. Rapid strides were made in Surprise ringing and the first peal by the association in seven legitimate Surprise methods was rung. Since then every effort has been made to maintain the Surprise methods as the main forte of the tower, and prior to the outbreak of war a peal in seven Surprise Minor methods was rung on handbells, being the first of its kind by the association. Spliced Surprise ringing was engaging the attention of the band and two peals in twelve methods had been accomplished with the hope of more to follow when 'Stand' had to be called until more propitious times.

AN ASSOCIATION STRONGHOLD.

The tower has had an unbroken period of membership of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association since 1892 and has always been a stronghold of the association, having provided during this time a president, two general honorary secretaries, an honorary treasurer, four vice-presidents and two district secretaries. Mr. G. W. Park has been the guiding influence in the activities of the tower since the early days and it is due in no small measure to him that such a consistent record of ringing has been maintained. He always endeavoured to maintain a high standard of striking and his motto always has been quality before quantity. Altogether forty peals have been rung on the bells, and Mr. Park has the unique distinction of having taken part in them all.

Unfortunately, a visitors' book has not been kept, but had there been one many names famous in the Exercise would have appeared therein.

The published performances of the tower may not have been 'headliners' when compared with others, but the records show an uphill fight against ringers leaving, others passing away and, of course, those afflicted by apathy, but, generally speaking, there has been a devotion to the main object of ringing for services. And, taken all round, the fifty years have produced a not invaluable contribution towards the maintenance and advancement of the art in the north country.

R. P.

POINTS FOR PEALS.

CONTROL IN THE FUTURE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The introduction of points into the national rationing scheme has set me thinking whether it may not be well, later on, to apply something of the same kind of thing to peal ringing. Not that points are new to peal ringing. They were systematically applied to peals in my young days and we have read all about them again recently in the review of the first fifty years of the Central Council. But it is not quite that kind of point reckoning I have now in mind. In the past the more peals you rang the more points you got; but my idea is that peal ringers should now be rationed.

Before the war they were running away with themselves and filling your columns unduly. Moreover, not all peal ringers had sufficient regard for beginners. I would like to see some control exercised. In order to do this I would suggest that ringers should each be allowed, say, a hundred points, represented by coupons, with which to start off the year, and when the points are exhausted—well, there would be no more peal ringing for them that year.

Peals, of course, would have to be classified. For instance, a peal of Bob Major might be put on the basis of a tin of canned beans and call for the surrender of four points; while a peal of Surprise Major ought, on that basis, to be worth at any rate the same as a Lease and Lend tin of 'Spam' and mean giving up twelve points, while a spliced peal ought to be equal to the 24 points of a 14lb. tin of 'Pork Sausage in its natural juices,' the natural juices, as I have found from experience, being just lard, and plenty of it. Incidentally, this has taught us that lard is the juice of the pig.

Of course, there would have to be something done for beginners. We might treat them like miners, agricultural workers, engine drivers and suchlike, who get extra cheese, and give them an additional allowance, say, first peals coupon free; first peals in the method, or first as conductor, half points, although I shouldn't give any extra points to those who do little else but ring first peals in the method. It's too easy for them.

Someone else may perhaps be able to work the scheme out in greater detail, but where there is a shortage of bells, particularly in London, something ought to be done to make the opportunities go round.

It would, I imagine, be one of the duties of any future national association to issue the coupons, and, of course, it would be the obligation of the steeplekeeper to collect the coupons from the ringers at the end of any peal in his tower.

Some people will, of course, say that such a plan would restrict ringing at a time when everything ought to be done to encourage it. I had thought of that. For instance, I have suggested free points for peals for beginners, but I would go further. I would give an additional two points to every ringer for every time he put in a full attendance at Sunday service ringing. That would encourage some of the peal ringers to do a little more for the other side of the business.

One thing would have to be carefully watched and that is that there should be no 'black market' in coupons. Heavy penalties would have to be inflicted if illicit trading was discovered. Purchasing half a dozen coupons for a pint of old and mild at the Blue Boar, for instance, must be made definitely not worth while.

I make a free gift of this scheme to the organisers of peal ringing in the future, subject to an arrangement by which I may have a double issue of coupons every year in exchange for the copyright.

'A POINTER.'

BERGH APTON, NORFOLK

FAREWELL PRESENTATION TO THE RECTOR.

On Wednesday evening, December 3rd, many of the Bergh Apton ringers met at the School House to pay a farewell tribute to the Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Heard on their leaving the parish.

The members (including those in H.M. Forces) gave them a silver bell-inkstand, suitably inscribed, and a book token, and, in making the presentation, Mr. H. C. Boggis spoke of their great kindness and friendship during the five years they had been at Bergh Apton. They had taken a very keen interest in the ringers, entertaining them at the Rectory weekly for handbell practice since the ban on tower ringing. Mr. Heard, who is learning the art, always accompanied the ringers to the meetings of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and was a member of the Standing Committee.

Although he regretted that the Bergh Apton ringers had sustained a great loss by their departure, Mr. Boggis was very pleased to say they would still be living in the district, and he hoped to see them from time to time.

In returning thanks for the gift, Mr. Heard said he was deeply touched by what Mr. Boggis had said, and would always remember the happy times he had spent with the Bergh Apton ringers. He looked forward to seeing them at future association meetings.

It was regretted that the members with the Forces could not be present, but all hoped that happier times were not far distant when they would be together again.

The evening concluded with touches on the handbells, which were given to the company by the Rector in 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames were thanked for their kind hospitality.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF WATFORD DISTRICT.

At the annual meeting of the Watford District of the Hertford County Association, held at Bushey on November 29th, Mr. C. C. Mayne was in the chair, and was supported by the secretary (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) and 25 members.

The secretary reported that ten meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of fifteen, handbell ringing at these meetings ranging from Bob Major to Spliced Surprise and Grandsire Cinques.

It was also reported that the eight bells at St. Mary's, Watford, had been taken out of the tower for safety, and that the bells of St. James', Bushey, had been insured against damage by enemy action.

The members present stood as a mark of respect to the late Mr. P. Buckell, a member of the Stanmore band, reported killed in action. The secretary and committee were unanimously re-elected.

Mr. C. W. Taylor spoke on the desirability of sending a report of the meetings of the district to 'The Ringing World' for publication, and it was agreed that this should be done.

Mr. E. Jennings proposed the following resolution and Mrs. Mayne seconded:—

'That this meeting is of the opinion that Dr. G. W. Slack's two-part composition of Stedman Triples marks an important development in the history of the method, and suggests that the figures be published in "The Ringing World" as soon as possible.'

The resolution was carried without dissent.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. E. Jennings and seconded by Mr. L. Luck, was also carried unanimously:—

'That in view of the torpidity of the Central Council of Church Bellringers since the commencement of the present war, the representatives of the district on the County Committee be instructed to oppose the payment of the next subscription to the said Central Council.'

Before and after the meeting handbells were put to good use and a very enjoyable time was spent.

BRISTOL HANDBELL GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the Bristol Guild of Handbell Ringers was held on Sunday morning, November 30th.

The secretary read his annual report and presented the year's accounts, which were adopted. Mr. T. Harris said that members had reason to be proud of the progress made, as about seven peals had been rung since the Guild was formed.

It was agreed to compile a modified report to be issued to members.

The question of a membership certificate was discussed, and it was decided to issue one at a nominal sum when printed.

The Master, Mr. D. G. Clift, resigned, and Mr. R. Bryant was elected for the ensuing year. The secretary was re-elected.

Mr. R. Bryant kindly agreed to assist the secretary by taking over the Guild peal book, and to complete the writing of the peals rung by the Guild.

The Secretary said that he had received a letter from Mr. S. Riches, who apparently is stationed in the Middle East. He expressed a wish to be nominated as one of the Guild's first members, and those present unanimously agreed to elect him and to waive his subscriptions until he returned to Bristol. He said he was receiving 'The Ringing World,' and so, through the medium of the ringers' journal, members and ringers from Bristol send best wishes for a safe return.

A peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to commemorate the founding of the Guild in November, 1940.

DEATH OF AN OLD WALKDEN RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Potter on November 26th as the result of an accident.

He was coming downstairs and when about four stairs from the bottom collapsed. When picked up he was found to be dead. At the inquest a verdict of natural causes was reported.

Deceased joined the Lancashire Association in 1884 and was a member of the Walkden band since then. He was laid to rest in the Parish Churchyard on November 29th. Before leaving the house a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Miss A. Potter 1-2, P. H. Derbyshire (Worsley) 3-4, J. H. Ridyard (Worsley) 5-6, T. Jones 7-8. He was carried to his last resting place by his brother ringers, James Denner, John Denner, A. Burton, J. Lee, P. H. Derbyshire, J. H. Ridyard, T. Jones and F. Critchley.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Lawton, and the organist, Mr. F. Ainscough, played 'O rest in the Lord' and 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' Deceased's favourite hymn, 'Abide with me,' was also sung. He was 78 years of age.

Mr. Potter had rung in the following 110 peals for the Lancashire Association: Seven Minor methods 2, four Minor methods 1, Bob Triples 2, Darlaston Bob Triples 2, Duffield Major 3, Double Norwich 4, Superlative 4, Bob Major 5, Kent Treble Bob 20, Oxford Treble Bob 2, Grandsire Triples 16, Stedman Caters 1, Stedman Triples 48, total 110.

WINNERSH, BERKS.—On December 6th at The Briars, Westfields Road, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: Mrs. B. C. Castle (conductor) 1-2, B. C. Castle 3-4, T. Davies 5-6. The first 720 by ringers of 1-2 and 5-6. First in hand by 3-4.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I see one of your correspondents has again raised the question of a National Association. We have heard about this thing several times before, but nobody ever does anything. Surely the benefits must be apparent to everyone, all we want is somebody to take the thing in hand and carry it through.

It is no good, I think, waiting for the old members of the Exercise to act, they are too much set in their old ways and satisfied with things as they are. Now is the time for the younger men to come forward and take the lead. The organisation of the Exercise should be reformed from top to bottom, the proper persons put in charge, and if it means scrapping some of the old fogies we can't help that.

Who is there that will give us a lead?

'LOOKING FORWARD.'

WEST HAM TENOR.

We are informed by Mr. Albert A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry, that the old tenor at West Ham by Samuel Knight weighed 25 cwt. 22 lb., and that the bell was recast in 1847 by Mears and now weighs 26 cwt. 2 qr. 5 lb.

WARKTON BELLRINGER'S WEDDING.

On Saturday, November 15th, at All Saints' Church, Stoneycroft, Liverpool, Mr. Archibald Stanley Toseland was married to Miss Margaret Dodd, of Gorton Road, Liverpool. The bridegroom, who is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Toseland, of Warkton, is a member of the local company of ringers and also of the local Home Guard. The bride is the only daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Edward Dodd.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. B. Whitley, and two hymns, 'O perfect love' and 'For the beauty of the earth,' were sung.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Paul Dodd, and the bridesmaid was Miss Elizabeth Wright, her cousin. Mr. Norman Ferris (a friend of the bridegroom), of Kettering, was best man.

After the reception the happy couple left for Rhos-on-Sea for the honeymoon.

Amongst the presents received was an electric table lamp from the Rector and ringers of St. Edmund's, Warkton.

PEALS AT BIDDENDEN.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In a corner of Biddenden belfry there is a peal board recording four peals rung by the Biddenden Youths in the years 1786 and 1787. Two were 5,040's of Bob Major, one 6,720 Bob Major, and one 5,376 Kentish Treble Bob. It does not say who composed the peals, or who conducted them, the only distinction being that the tenor ringer's name is in printed letters.

I should think this band must have rung peals in other towers, but I have not been able to trace any. Perhaps someone else can do better.

R. EDWARDS.

West House, Tenterden.

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GRANDSIRE CATERS.**THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.**

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 587.)

The collection of peals of Grandsire Caters published by the Central Council in 1903 forms a basis for much interesting study of the diversity of plans and musical arrangements.

Broadly speaking, there are six plans of composition given in the book, and each of these plans offers a great variety of treatment. To print them all would not be possible, but for the benefit of the student it is proposed here to tabulate them and to show where outstanding examples of each may be found. The numbers refer to the numbers of the compositions in the Collection.

1. *The old Classical plan.* Nos. 1 to 8. The peals by Annable, Holt and Reeves have already been discussed. Some 19th century composers turned back to this plan, and their compositions will be found here and in Nos. 25 to 31.

2. *Tittum Plan Short Courses.* Of these there is a large selection, and the best of them exploit the 6th and the 5th. Hubbard's 5039 (No. 33) and Johnson's 5003 (No. 37) are good examples of the 5th and 6th the extent in 5th's place. In both compositions the arrangement of the main blocks is very symmetrical, but Johnson's peal suffers from a clumsy opening course. Carter's 5,003 (No. 60) and Johnson's 5,003 (No. 61) are both splendid examples of the 6th her extent Wrong and Right. In No. 60 the extra courses needed to make up the five thousand form a little block in the middle of the peal. In No. 61 Johnson makes up his number by running three course in the Handstroke Home position. Note that in this peal there is no call on 89 or on 978.

3. *Tittums and Handstroke Home.* The most satisfactory Handstroke Home music is produced when the 6th is behind the 8th. There are 24 such courses, nearly enough for half a peal. A popular form of composition, therefore, is the 'half-and-half' peal, where rather more than half the 5,000 is in the Tittums and the remainder in the Handstroke Home. Carter's 5,039 (No. 53) has the 6th twenty-four courses behind the 9th in the Tittums, followed by the standard 24 Handstroke Home courses. Six courses at the beginning, with 5th in 5th's place, make up the required number. Hattersley's 5,021 (No. 54) has the same Tittum and Handstroke Home properties, but by turning the bells into the Inverted Tittums for five courses in the middle of the peal the composer preserves the 6th in 5th's place throughout. Both these compositions have clumsy opening courses.

4. *Inverted Tittums.* James George's 5,003 (No. 75) is a very good example of neat construction. The composer gives the extent of the 6th, Right and Wrong, and concludes with six courses in the Handstroke Home. The peal is in short courses throughout, and it would be rather difficult to find a better Inverted Tittum plan. In 'The Bell News' of December 14th, 1895, Mr. William Willson published an excellent 5,075 in the Inverted Tittums and Handstroke Home, with a footnote, 'Specially suitable for a muffled peal.'

These are the two chief plans for Inverted Tittums peals, but the more popular is the second one, the 'half-and-half' plan.

5. *Tittums and Handstroke Home alternately.* This is a very beautiful plan, and one that attracted that fine composer, Arthur Knights. In the Central Council Collection No. 55 is the only example of Mr. Knights' work on this plan. Here the bells are turned almost every course. His usual plan, however, was to run a short block of courses in the Tittums followed by a block of the same size in the Handstroke Home. 'The Bell News' of March 4th, 1899, published a splendid 5,021 by William Kent in which the bells are turned every six courses. A deservedly popular 5,057 by William Mickelwright is on the same lines.

The best compositions of this type aim, of course, at keeping the 6th in 5th's place throughout, and as there are not enough courses of this type to make up a 5,000, the odd courses are usually woven into the beginning of the peal.

6. *Other positions of 789.* The best of these contain the 7968 position. W. T. Elson's 5,021 (No. 98) is an outstanding composition. Twelve opening courses in the 7968 position lead to twelve Tittum courses with the 6th at home. Six transition courses follow, and then the 6th is behind the 9th for twelve courses. The last twelve courses are in the Handstroke Home. George Cleal's 5,021 (No. 96) has alternate 7968 and 6978 courses, and after the first six preliminary courses has calls at 2.3.4 in each course.

Nos. 72, 83, 85, 90, 92 and 93 reveal some interesting experiments in the use of the six positions of 789. Unfortunately some of these positions are of little musical value, and the merit of such compositions lies chiefly in the ingenuity of their construction.

A study of the Central Council Collection will perhaps, produce the impression that the possibilities of Grandsire Caters were exhausted by the end of the 19th century. A study of subsequent compositions, however, will correct this impression, and will clearly indicate that the Collection needs revising, rearranging and augmenting. The work of the later composers concentrates on the exploitation of musical positions like 7968 and 7896. Among these composers may be mentioned Frederick Dexter and Ernest Morris. In 1911 Dexter produced a splendid 5,039, a regular production in two halves, the first half running in alternate 6978 and 7968 courses, and the second half having 7896 and 7698 alternately. Ernest Morris' 5,022, also published in 1911, is in three regular parts, using 7968, 7689, and 6789, and having the front bells in the same position in each part. The same composer's 5,021, published in 1913, opens with seven courses in the 7968 position, and then proceeds to run the extent of the 7896 and 7698 positions.

Of recent years, experiments have been made in the use of the inverted forms of 7896 and 7968 for the purpose of muffled ringing; and as late as 1935 George W. Debenham composed and conducted two very interesting com-

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. All members and ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting of the Branch will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James'). The business will include the election of officers for the ensuing year, presentation of annual accounts and 'Shall the Branch continue to hold its monthly meetings?' Handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Annual branch meeting at Rodbourne Cheney Sunday School on Saturday, December 13th, at 6 p.m. Handbells available.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Waddesdon on Saturday, December 13th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Gibbard, 30 Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 20th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, December 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous column.)

positions in which he used the extents of 57968 and 97568 course ends.

I have attempted to survey the development of composition in Grandsire Caters from the first establishment of a musical form, and have, I hope, shown how more and more interesting and complex the compositions have become. Far from being the 'same thing over and over again' (as 'Plain Speaker' wrote in 1898), or 'very uninteresting to the average ringer' (as Mr. Trollope wrote in 1941), peals of Grandsire Caters, considered musically and constructionally, seem to offer a wider and more varied field for study than peals in any other method. The possibilities of Tittum and Handstroke Home compositions are probably (though not certainly) exhausted, but the use and combinations of other placings of 6789 still provide the composer with a wealth of musical material.

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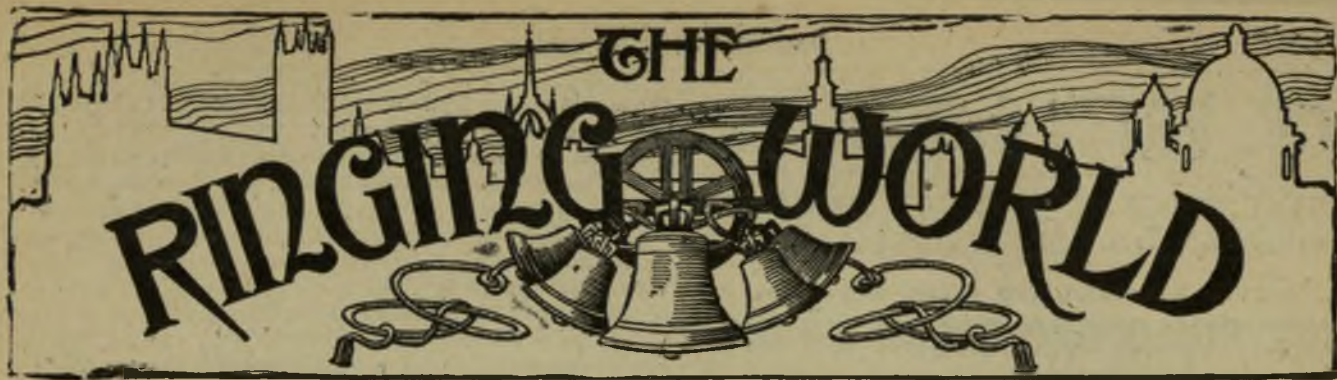
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 1941.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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THE BAN REMAINS.

It was hardly to be expected that, coming at such a moment as it did, when Japan had just entered the war against us with such momentous possibilities, the question raised in Parliament, suggesting the lifting of the ban on bells, should have led to any alteration in the position. It is doubtful if, under any circumstances, a favourable reply would have been given, but no time could have been more unfortunate or unpropitious than within a few hours of a new enemy treacherously entering the field. That there was a fairly widespread desire that the ban should be lifted by Christmas was obvious from the views which had been expressed in a number of the great national newspapers, and there may have been some hope that at long last the bells could safely be used for their normal purpose, but the authorities are of opinion that there is no alteration in the position, or of the possible need for the use of the bells since the matter was raised in the House of Commons a year ago. For every reason we regret it, but most of all for the fact that the enforced silence of our towers robs the people of this land of the heritage of a thousand years—the cheerful, comforting, inspiring sound of the bells.

What advantage, exactly, the ringing of the bells will give in the event of airborne invasion we must leave the Army authorities to decide, but if it is to call out the Home Guard it is, in itself, a very doubtful expedient, if speed is the essence of the alarm. As Mr. A. P. Herbert so well put it in his recently published trenchant verse, there are other and quicker means in these days of calling men to arms. If the ringing of the bells were to be a warning to the public to stay indoors there might be some justification for their use, but it has been officially stated that the sounding of the bells in no way concerns the ordinary public.

However, futile as it may seem to us ringers as an effective warning, the ringing of the bells for this purpose is still to be retained as an emergency measure, and we all have to bow to the decree which keeps the bells hanging in silence. For eighteen months now the ban has been imposed, and it would seem that there will have to be a vast change in the situation before there is the least likelihood of its being lifted. It has been, of course, a staggering blow to the art of ringing, and when the war is over let no one imagine that we in the Exercise can return to the ropes and start again where we laid them down. There has been a hiatus from which it will take, perhaps, a long time to recover, but the speed of recovery will largely depend upon the effort that is made now by

(Continued on page 602.)

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those still left at home to retain interest and to keep alive the practice of change ringing.

It can be done and is being done in many places, perhaps more than is generally known, but there are, we fear, far too many centres where, when the ban is eventually lifted, and the war ends, there will be the greatest difficulty in restarting. It is the associations' duty to keep a watchful eye on all these spots and, even if nothing can be done with them under present circumstances, plans should be prepared so that these towers can be brought again into activity with the least possible delay. We are still in the midst of the war, but that is no reason why we should not look ahead; indeed we must, if we are not to sacrifice years of progress. There are some districts in which the associations are doing excellent work, but there are others where, we are afraid, serious effort is lacking. The discouragement of the ban is admittedly great, and for the present there is no prospect of its being removed. We would, however, like to see some of our organisations rising to greater heights to surmount the difficulties now before them. There will be no harvest to garner after the war unless spade work is put in now.

HANDBELL PEALS.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 11, 1941, in One Hour and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT VERNON HOUSE, FRIAR LANE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two extents.

PHILIP REED... .. 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4

BERNARD BROWN 3-6

Conducted by BERNARD BROWN.

HAVERCROFT, WAKEFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Friday, December 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 36, BRIAR LANE,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB
MAJOR, 5016 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2 | PETER WOODWARD 5-6

HAROLD CHANT 3-4 | RAYMOND FORD 7-8

Composer of peal unknown. Arranged from Peal 41 C.C. Collection
Conducted by HAROLD CHANT.

First peal of Spliced Major 'in hand' by all the band. Each course rung P.P.G.P.P.

HINOKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 12, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

AT 74, CLARENDON ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of St. Simon's, Morning Star, London, Plain Bob, April Day, Canterbury and Grandsire.

ALFRED JORDON 1-2 | ALFRED BALLARD... .. 3-4

LESLIE H. TREMEER 5-6

Conducted by ALFRED BALLARD.

Arranged for the ringer of 5-6, being his first peal in seven methods and first attempt for a handbell peal. He was elected a member of the M.C.A. before starting. Also rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. K. Measures and to the conductor.

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BICENTENARY OF HORSELL BELLS.

A SURREY COMMEMORATION.

Two hundred years ago last Sunday the six bells still hanging in the Norman tower of the Parish Church of Horsell, Surrey, were rung for the first time. They had been recast from four earlier ones by Robert Catlin, who had about two years earlier succeeded to the business in Holborn of Samuel Knight. Catlin cast a considerable number of bells for Surrey between 1740 and 1751, but Horsell retains the only complete six by him in the county.

Two hundred years ago there were almost certainly great celebrations in the village of Horsell when the new bells were rung for the first time, for had they not been provided for the 'parish'? 'Health and prosperity to all our benefactors,' says the inscription on one; 'Prosperity to the Parish of Horsell' is the wish recorded on another.

Last Sunday would doubtless have witnessed the suitable celebration of the bicentenary, in which the bells themselves would have played their part had there been no ban on ringing. But the event was not allowed to pass unmarked. Evensong, now held in the afternoon because of black-out difficulties, was specially adapted as a commemoration, and for a wild, wet December day there was quite a large congregation, who were 'rung in' by six of the local ringers with courses of Grandsire Doubles on handbells.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. A. Woodard), and the Psalms (including the 150th), the lessons and the hymns had been appropriately chosen. Special prayers were offered for those who, in times of peace, ring church bells and those who are called by their sound.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BELLS.

Preaching from Exodus xlviii., 33, ordering golden bells to be placed on the robe of the High Priest, the Vicar said it was very noticeable how much attention was paid in the Old Testament to the ritual of worship, its orderliness, its dignity, its beauty. God would have them give only their very best to Him. For instance, the bells on the bottom of Aaron's robe were to be of gold; and they were real bells because they were for a purpose. The bells of Horsell Church had a similar purpose, to let the people know when the service was about to start and when it was going to end. And not only did the bells do this, but they also, among other things, taught us reverence.

As they knew, continued the Vicar, that day was the 200th anniversary of the first ringing of the present bells in Horsell Church tower. Originally there were only four bells and they were taken down on October 23rd, 1741, and replaced by six new bells, the bells which were there to-day, and they were rung for the first time on December 14th, 1741. Even at such a time as the present it seemed to him they should not let such an occasion pass without thoughts of thankfulness for their bells, for those who put them there and for those who had served and worshipped in that church through these many years.

An occasion such as that was bound to send their thoughts back to those who in earlier generations had heard the sound of Horsell bells in their joys and sorrows—had heard them ringing out on Sundays and on weekdays calling them to share in the great festivals of the Church. They had heard them proclaiming and giving thanks for great national events, for coronations and jubilees, victories, armistices and peace. They had heard them celebrating important private events: they had heard them as wedding bells and they had heard the passing bell and funeral knell.

THE SILENCE OF THE BELLS.

Many of us, continued the Vicar, feel that it is a pity it has been considered necessary at this time to silence the bells so that they should be kept only to be rung as a warning, because church bells have an influence all their own, far greater than many people realise, an encouraging, uplifting, comforting influence and, I think, a restraining influence. Certainly they have an influence for reverence for God and for the holy things. A great scientist who began life as a shepherd and who used to hear the sound of the village bells floating across the valley, and who later studied the great mysteries of light and sound, declared that light and sound were like the vesper bells—messengers of God calling us to Him that we may praise His everlasting glory. May our Horsell bells soon ring out again to do that service for all who hear them, calling them to Him that they may praise His everlasting glory.

In some towers, continued the Vicar, the inscriptions on church bells were instructive. The inscriptions on Horsell bells might be informative, but they were not very edifying. He preferred the inscriptions on the bells in a church near Lincoln. On the first was 'Glory to God.' How right that was. The bells were to sound not for the credit of the people of the parish or the maker of the bells, but to the glory of God. That should be the note of all their lives as Christians and of all their worship. On the next bell were the words 'Peace on Earth'—the old song of the angels on that greatest of all nights in the world's history, which they would be celebrating next week. One followed upon the other. Glory to God—if they had that in their life they would have peace. When the world gave glory to God there would be a return to peace. By the grace of God he hoped Horsell bells would soon be ringing out that message once again—peace on earth. The third bell in the peal he was referring to was inscribed, 'The living I call,' suggestive of the glorious Easter lessons and of the only true life—'the living I call' to the life in Christ. These, added the preacher, were some of the things for which the

(Continued in next column.)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

PROMISE OF A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

The Oxford University Society has just enjoyed a term which augurs extremely well for the future. At the beginning of the term only three competent ringers were left to the society, but a vigorous recruiting campaign was initiated, with the result that about 20 new members were secured—three-quarters of them ladies.

Practices have been held in New College belfry every Wednesday evening, when the beginners have been instructed in the handling of a bell, and in handbell ringing—half-way through the term, the clock room, just above, was also blacked out, so that two bands could practise handbells simultaneously. The help of Miss Cross and Mr. W. C. Porter in the early stages, when beginners outnumbered 'old hands' by about five to one, was absolutely invaluable. The practices on Saturday evenings have been devoted exclusively to handbells, as usual, and here again it has always been possible to have two sets going at the same time. Other practices have also been held for the more advanced ringers.

The system of teaching which has been adopted may be of interest. Beginners have been made to ring two handbells from the very first practice. They could soon ring 1-2, 2-3 and 3-4 to plain-hunting courses on six, and were then put straight on to 1-2 for Bob Minor. At the end of the term, ten beginners, none of whom knew anything about ringing when they joined the society, could ring 1-2 and 7-8 to courses of Bob Major, and five more were at home on 1-2 for courses of Grandsire. Two of these beginners—both ladies—have shown especial aptitude. In seven weeks, starting from scratch, they both reached peal-ringing standard on 7-8 for Bob Major, and have rung several nearly perfect courses of Bob Royal, on 1-2 and 9-10 respectively, as well as rather more shaky courses of Bob Maximus and Grandsire Cinques.

Several peal attempts have been made, and one was successful. The original intention was to ring Bob Minor, but as such a peal had been rung by the Cambridge University Guild, it was decided to go one better, and an extent each of Reverse and Double Bob was added. An attempt for Bob Major had to be abandoned because of pressure of work. Next term a peal of Royal, as well as Major, is not out of the question.

To look further ahead, if conditions remain as they are, most of the present members are good for another two years or more at Oxford; in particular, the five most competent will all be up for another five terms at any rate, so the future should see some good performances by the society.

One reason is that the society is now largely composed of ladies. It is rather a pity that they are in such a majority, but it is really unavoidable in these days. Certainly, most have taken to handbells like ducks to water. Such is their enthusiasm that they are not content with practising at society meetings, but borrow the handbells and practise by themselves in their own colleges. The members from St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's—all beginners—actually rang courses of Bob Minor at their respective carol concerts at the end of term.

The last Wednesday meeting of the term was held in the Master's rooms in New College, when very little serious handbell ringing was done, apart from one or two 'exhibition' courses of Bob Royal. Instead, members were introduced to lapping, and various other bell-ringing games were indulged in. The Rev. E. Milford, a vice-president of the society and Vicar of St. Mary's, the University Church, at which the society rings for evensong every Sunday, was present during the early part of the evening, and later Mr. D. R. Boulton, the Dean of New College, was induced to come along. He declared himself extremely interested by what he saw, and said he would like to learn. A practice was arranged for him the next day, and he showed considerable promise.

The outlook for the future is thus very hopeful, and we feel we may be proud of the part the O.U.S.C.R. is playing in keeping the Exercise alive in these troubled times.

J. E. S.

BAN ON FRENCH BELLS.

According to 'The Universe,' Bishop Piguit, of Clermont Ferrand in Unoccupied France, has forbidden the ringing of bells in all the churches and chapels in the diocese between 8.30 at night and 5 in the morning. Communities which hold spiritual exercises during these hours are permitted to use bells which will not be audible outside the building.

The Bishop has imposed this ban in view of present conditions and difficulties of sleep, noise and health.

BICENTENARY CELEBRATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

bells stood—reverence, thankful memories, glory to God, peace on earth and the 'living I call.'

Immediately after the sermon a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by J. S. Goldsmith, A. H. Pulling, A. C. Hazelden and Mrs. Hazelden, and at the close of the service another touch. For this a large number of the congregation gathered round and watched the ringing with keen and appreciative interest. The local men who shared in the ringing before the service were Messrs. C. Jarman, E. and G. Oliver, W. Tucker, Spiers and Boylett.

The celebration by the bells themselves is to be deferred until after the war, but it will not be forgotten.

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from page 592.)

THE BOOK AS LITERATURE.

If we accept the claim of the authors that all the unnamed compositions in the 'Clavis' were their own production, there is still the question whether they were all the work of John Reeves, as tradition asserts. Both Jones and Blakemore had composed peals, and though the former took the matter rather lightly, the other was quite ambitious to be known as a leading composer, and frequently called his own peals. We should have expected that some at least of his work would be included in the book, and indeed the 5,088 of Treble Bob that he composed and called at Halifax in 1787 was said to be the three-part given on page 128, though the description does not quite tally. Again, he claimed to have composed the Stedman Cinques rung by the College Youths in 1788, and it seems more than probable it was one of the peals of Caters given in the book. There are other and similar instances. Most likely there was some collaboration between the three men, and both Jones and Blakemore made suggestions which Reeves adopted.

But whether or no all the compositions in the book were by John Reeves, it is quite certain that substantially the technical part of the work was his, and it was his investigations into composition which rendered the book possible. As a whole the peals form a striking monument to his skill, and they give him a place among the very best of composers. In the eighteenth century he stands head and shoulders above all the rest, except John Garthorn and John Holt; and he easily outstripped both of them in quantity and variety of his work.

The literary part of the book was the work of William Jones, which means that, in the ordinarily accepted meaning of the word, he was the author. For this view there is no definite statement in the book itself, nor has there been any tradition in the Exercise about the matter. But the fact is hardly open to question. The style the book is written in is sufficiently distinctive and marked to show it was the work of one man, and that man obviously was he whose name appears first on the title page. Besides, the style of the writing fits in with the little we know of the character of William Jones.

In judging the 'Clavis' as literature, we have the fact that it was the only book written on ringing during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by a man who was consciously and deliberately using words as a literary artist. Most men, when they have anything to say, say it in the form that comes naturally and unthinkingly to them, and they are satisfied if it expresses clearly their meaning. Many people who write, and the majority of people who read, imagine that writing is done in much the same way. But for good writing much more is required. The writer must choose his words not merely for their meaning, but also for their sound, and must frame his sentences not merely in accordance with the rules of grammar, but with regard to rhythm and cadence. There is a technique of writing as difficult and as complicated as the technique of any other art, and no one can be a great writer, or even a good writer, unless he is a master of that technique, although to some few this mastery comes almost instinctively, and the technique is most effective when it is least in evidence.

Very few of the books on ringing can be said to be well written from a literary point of view; but that can

be said of the 'Tintinnalogia.' Richard Duckworth, as a university man, understood the value of words, and the style he adopted, which seems so simple and easy, was by far the best to convey the meaning he intended. Fabian Stedman, though good, was decidedly inferior; and so, too, was the J. D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia.' Shipway's style is commonplace, and the other authors of the nineteenth century can hardly be said to have had any style at all, their letterpress consisting mainly of short remarks to introduce the figures in which really the whole value of their books lies. The incompetence of Thackrah, Sottanstell, Hubbard and Banister as writers is shown directly they attempt to explain something like, for instance, the In and Out of Course of the changes. They know what they are talking about. They know what they mean to say. But they are quite unable to say it. Jasper Snowden could say what he meant and say it clearly; but he had no very keen ear for words, and his sentences sometimes are untidy and slipshod.

Against all these books the 'Clavis' stands in sharp contrast. Whatever defects and limitations William Jones may have had as a writer, they did not arise because he did not understand that there is such a thing as good writing, or failed to set himself a high standard. To a modern reader his language may seem rather pompous and stilted, and lacking in ease; but we must remember that the standard of literary English in the eighteenth century was considerably different from what it is to-day. Dignity was the quality most aimed at. Dr. Samuel Johnson's writings set a standard which lesser men aimed at, and among them we may include William Jones.

As an example of Jones' style we cannot do better than take the familiar passage on John Holt and the whole peal of Grandsire Tripples: 'Ever since Grandsire Tripples hath been discovered or practised 5,040 changes manifestly appeared to view; but to reach the lofty summit of this grand climax was a difficulty that many had encountered, though none succeeded, and those great names (viz.), Hardham, Condell, Anable, etc., who are now recorded on the ancient rolls of fame, had each exhausted all their skill and patience in this grand pursuit to no other purpose than that of being convinced that either the task itself was an utter impossibility, or (otherwise) that all their united efforts were unequal to it, and it is possible that, had it not been for the author (of whom we are about to speak) that this valuable piece of treasure would at this day have been fast locked up in the barren womb of sterile obscurity! Not but they had a peal to be sure which they rung, but what credit or satisfaction can arise from repeatedly practising a false peal, when so many true ones present themselves in other methods? However, thus it was, till a poor unlettered youth appeared; no sooner did he approach this great pile, but as if by magic power, he varied it into whatever form he pleased, and made it at once subservient to his will. After paying this small, though just, tribute to the memory of this ingenious composer, the Exercise in general can scarcely be at a loss with respect to his name, nor once doubt but that we mean Mr. John Holt, whose extraordinary abilities, aided by his surpassing natural gifts, were such as much ever excite the astonishment and admiration of all professors of this art, whether novices or adepts.'

It is, of course, easy to find fault with this style of writing, and many will be inclined with Jasper Snowdon to dismiss it rather contemptuously as 'flowery'; yet it is certain that no other writer on ringing matters could have written it. A more serious objection to the style is that it is not the best medium for telling the exact and literal truth.

It is this literary quality which specially distinguishes the 'Clavis,' but, judged as a text book on change ringing, it is entitled to a very high degree of praise. Jones and his fellows were in a different case from all subsequent writers. The ground they had to cover was unexplored and almost untouched. How well they did their work is shown by the fact that the 'Clavis' was the model on which all the later books were founded, and down to the time of Jasper Snowdon there was not one which did not derive more or less directly from the older work.

In their preface the authors state the aims they had in view—'first, plain and methodical rules and instructions for the true attainment of the practical part of the science, from the setting of a bell itself to the perfect knowledge of the most difficult peals now in practice; the next thing that necessarily follows is the method of calling bobs for any practicable number of changes, and in every method now in practice; to which is subjoined infallible methods for proving and detecting false peals in general; this we conceive to be a matter of the highest importance to the Exercise in general, the want of which has been severely felt by the country gentleman in particular. . . . Throughout the whole it has been our endeavour to steer a middle course, viz., not so prolix as to be thought tiresome, nor yet so compendious as not to be understood.'

The authors declare that they are 'not guilty of so

much vanity as to pretend their work perfect,' but they profess a confidence that 'the work will bear us out in declaring that for the matter contained and method of performance it comes not behind, but exceeds whatever hath been attempted for the Sons of this Art.'

They were fully justified in their confidence. The descriptive matter is generally good, and but for one thing the book (within its own limits) would be quite up to date now. That thing is the way in which peals and touches are given. The plan of printing peals by the course-ends with dashes under the letters M, W and H, to show the bobs, was then unknown. The compositions are given either by the bob changes or by the course-ends only, or by a mixture of both. Where the course-ends only are given the reader must find out for himself from the scale of bob changes what bobs are used. This makes the book appear rather difficult and unintelligible. Shipway probably was the first person to use the modern notation, and this, more perhaps than anything else, makes his book for practical purposes superior to the 'Clavis.' In his preface 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.'

The weakness of the plan of giving peals by the course-ends only lies in the fact that the same course-end may sometimes be produced by two different callings, one of which gives true changes, but the other repetitions. Usually the 'Clavis' meets this difficulty by giving the actual rows when there are Bobs Before, or at least indicating those bobs with a star; but in one instance at least it requires considerable expert knowledge to tell whether the course is called W, B, or B, R.

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The Editor extends cordial greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all readers of 'The Ringing World.'

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On December 15th, 1735, the College Youths rang 8,008 changes of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark. It was the first peal on the twelve bells and the longest at the time in the method.

On the same date in 1806 the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,086 changes of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church, Spitalfields. Five days later the senior society of Cumberland Youths rang 6,334 changes of the same method in the same steeple.

The first peal in South Africa, one of Grandsire Triples, was rung at Woodstock on December 15th, 1904.

On December 16th, 1819, the Birmingham men rang the first 720 of Stedman Minor.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham in Sussex on December 17th, 1888. The method, which was often referred to as 'Bob Major spoilt,' had at one time a considerable amount of popularity.

To-day is the 88th anniversary of a peal which caused a lot of controversy. The Cumberlands rang Stedman Triples on handbells, with John Cox 1-2, Thomas Powell 3-4, Henry W. Haley 5-6, and Thomas Britten 7-8. Afterwards William Cooter, who heard the peal, asserted that Cox had shifted his bells and put them right just before the course-end. As it seems that his assertion was well founded, the honour of scoring the first peal in the method in hand belongs to the College Youths.

Thomas Britten, the ringer of 7-8, was Master of the College Youths 100 years ago. He was landlord of a tavern at Waltham Abbey and was succeeded in the house by Thomas Powell, the ringer of 3-4.

The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Saviour's, Southwark, was rung by the junior Society of College Youths on December 20th, 1836.

Fifty years ago to-day ten peals were rung. Two were Minor, two Bob Major, and one each Grandsire Triples, Canterbury Pleasure Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Superlative Surprise Major and Grandsire Cinques.

The Double Norwich was the first peal in the present tower at Hammersmith. The bells, on which several peals had been rung, hung formerly in the old steeple.

BAN ON BELLS TO REMAIN.

'POSITION STILL THE SAME.'

There is to be no lifting of the ban on church bells.

On Tuesday in last week Rear-Admiral Beamish (M.P. for Lewes Division) asked the Prime Minister whether he is satisfied that the high standard being attained by the Home Guard and the general preparedness of the country now justify the restoration of church bells to their normal functions, and will he consider Christmas Day as a suitable occasion for a change.

The Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Attlee), in a written reply, said: I would refer my hon. and gallant Friend to the reply which my rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave on 5th December last year in answer to a Question on the subject, a copy of which I am sending him. The position is still the same as stated in that reply.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL NON-CONDUCTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Kindly allow me, through your columns, to offer my sincere and hearty congratulations to those four 'Youths' who accomplished the 'Original' non-conducted. Compliments of the season.

F. W. RICHARDSON.

16, Harefield Road, Brockley, S.E.4.

LEAVING BELLS UP.

To the Editor.

Sir,—From my own experience I am of the opinion it is much wiser to leave bells down for the following reasons:—

1. When a bell is up and if she sets deep and is a cannon-headed bell hung on a wood stock the bell is apt to get odd struck or false owing to the small amount of bearing surface or contact the cannons have to the wood stock, and should the bell be at all loose on the stock this trouble would be accentuated and lean over further in the direction she is leaning already.

2. This trouble would not be so likely to happen if the bell is a flat-headed one, because the bearing surface of a flat-headed bell to the stock is greater than a cannon-headed bell.

3. The above troubles would be further reduced when the bells are fitted to cast-iron headstocks, which is fairly universal practice to-day, but I think it is wiser to leave bells down.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

DEATH OF MR. CLAUDE DAVIES.

TREASURER OF THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Claude I. Davies, the hon. treasurer of the Lancashire Association, who passed away on Sunday, December 7th, at the age of 50 years. He had been in hospital for several weeks following a seizure while carrying out his duties as schoolmaster at Norris Green Council School. At first it was hoped he would recover, and for a time he showed signs of improvement, but it was not to be, and Lancashire ringing circles are left the poorer by his passing.

Claude Ivor Davies was born at Caerleon, South Wales, on April 25th, 1891, and was taught to ring by his father, the late Mr. Evan Davies, who formerly assisted Mr. J. W. Jones, the present hon. secretary of the Llandaff Association. The deceased served in the last war as sergeant in one of the Welsh Regiments, and after demobilisation went to Liverpool in pursuit of his profession and married his cousin, Ethel, daughter of the late Mr. William Davies, thus becoming his son-in-law as well as nephew. He started his ringing career in Liverpool by ringing, with Mr. Ernest Bounphrey, the tenor behind to a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Nicholas' on December 26th, 1919. Since then he had rung in 63 peals for the Lancashire Association as well as many for the Chester Guild.

Mr. Davies acted as hon. secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association for many years. It was during his tenure of that office that the Central Council visited Liverpool, and it was due largely to his excellent work in making the arrangements that the visit, at least socially, was a great success. Claude Davies was always happy in doing this particular kind of work, and it was due to his zeal and enthusiasm that the Lancashire Association dinners were inaugurated and carried through so successfully.

For the past few years Mr. Davies had carried out the duties of hon. treasurer of the association to the entire satisfaction of its officers and members. The association is indebted to him for the work he put in in connection with the affiliation scheme. This had the strong backing of the late Canon Elsee and strengthened materially the association's financial position.

Mr. Davies was a Freemason and was senior warden of his lodge. He was largely responsible for the ringing of the second Masonic peal, which was the first in the provinces, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Garston in the early part of 1929.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral service took place at St. Dunstan's, Edge Hill, followed by the interment at Childwall Churchyard. The service in church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. A. C. Buckmaster), assisted by the Rev. G. L. Tidey (curate) and the Rev. John Davies (Chaplain of Walton Hospital), a personal friend of the deceased. As the cortege left the church the organist played 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' and variations of the well-known Welsh hymn tune 'Aberystwith,' a very fitting tribute to Mr. Davies' Welsh associations.

At the graveside the Rev. E. A. C. Buckmaster and the Rev. J. Davies officiated, and they were joined by the Rev. R. M. Hunter, Vicar and Rural Dean of Childwall. The Rev. Parker Johnson (Vicar of St. Matthew's, Highfield, Wigan) was also present. He had been associated with Mr. Davies at Walton and St. Mary's, Walton-on-the-Hill, as well as in Masonic circles. The family mourners were the widow and Miss Gladys Davies (daughter). The large congregation included many representatives of the Masonic Order and scholastic and other friends of the deceased. After the committal a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by Messrs. E. C. Birkett, F. Varty, T. B. Worsley and G. R. Newton. Other ringers present were the Rev. D. P. Roberts and Messrs. J. Meldrum, T. W. Hammond and H. Hudson.

Mr. Davies will be much missed in Lancashire, particularly in Liverpool. Sincere sympathy is extended to the widow and daughter in their bereavement.

DEATH OF A WALKDEN RINGER.

BAND'S THIRD LOSS IN SIX WEEKS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Robert Denner, of Walkden in Lancashire, who passed away on December 10th at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Denner had been in failing health since last May, when he retired from his position in the weights and measures department. He was then presented with a gold watch in token of the services he had rendered.

He joined the local band in 1917 and had been an active ringer up to the ban on the use of church bells. He was not a great peal ringer, but had taken part in eight for the Lancashire Association, all on the tenor.

He was laid to rest in the parish churchyard on December 13th. Before the funeral left the house a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Miss A. Potter 1-2, P. H. Derbyshire 3-4, J. H. Ridyard 5-6, and T. Jones 7-8. The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Lawton, and the hymn, 'I heard the Voice of Jesus say,' was sung. The deceased leaves a widow and son to mourn their loss.

Among the many floral tributes was one from the ringers in the form of a bell. This is the third Walkden ringer who has passed away within six weeks.

A NATIONAL ORGANISATION.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE DONE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—An anonymous correspondent this week should do a bit of looking backward. Are the benefits of a National Association so obvious? Apparently not so, or surely the matter would have been taken in hand long ago.

The 20 years between the close of the first great war and the beginning of the present strife was, I venture to state, a period of great progress in the Exercise. In every sphere of ringing advancement was made. Nearly all our associations showed large increases in membership; in all parts of the country new bells were installed, both by additions to existing peals and by entirely new peals being hung. The number of twelve-bell peals in the country was very considerably augmented.

As regards ringing itself, new methods, both easy and difficult, were rung by the score, and even a casual glance at the columns of 'The Ringing World' would show regular newcomers to the list of peal ringers. Who was responsible for all this but those old fogies whom your correspondent so roundly chastises? What is more, this record of progress was made under an organisation of separate associations, governed by that much abused body known as the Central Council.

If your correspondent is of the opinion that a National Association would be better for the Exercise, what is he (or she) going to do about it? Why shout for somebody else to do the job? There are plenty of the so-called old fogies who would be prepared to give way to younger men if the members of their associations would allow them to do so. I have always understood that if a thing is worth doing at all it is best to do it yourself, if you are capable of it. If incapable, it is hardly fair to abuse others for not doing what you cannot do yourself. So I ask your correspondent who signs himself (or herself) 'Looking Forward' to get on with the job. Further, if he (or she) must have somebody to give him (or her) a lead, please let the leader know who it is that is so anxious to be led.

Highams Park.

C. T. COLES.

A SLUR ON THE OLDER MEMBERS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was interested in the letter from 'Looking Forward' in your issue of December 12th, 1941, about a National Association. He says, 'All we want is somebody to take the thing in hand.' I expect he knows the old saying, 'If you want anything done well do it yourself.'

His second paragraph is, in my opinion, a slur on the older members of the Exercise, for they, with their long experience, know that time does not stand still and are more ready for new exigencies than stubborn and headstrong youngsters.

Although I am just celebrating my 55th anniversary of commencing to ring, I am a great believer in what 'Looking Forward' says, 'the Exercise should be reformed.'

It will not be such a very long time before he becomes an old fogey himself. Tempus fugit.

Ipswich.

G. E. SYMONDS.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LOSS FROM THE LIBRARY.

We hear that the copy of Stedman's 'Campanalogia' which belongs to the Hertford County Association is missing from the library at St. Albans. There seems to be no trace of it having been lent to anyone, and if any member has borrowed the book or knows anything about it the association's officials will be glad if he will communicate with them. The book, which is bound in its original leather case, is a valuable part of the library, and every effort should be made to secure its return.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

CHEW DEANERY BRANCH RE-ELECT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of Chew Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 6th. The towers represented were Long Ashton, Nailsea, Barrow Gurney, Wrington, Yatton, Churchill and Congresbury, with visitors from Bristol. Ringing commenced soon after 3 p.m. with the use of the silent apparatus. Great credit is due to Mr. Norman Yeo, one of the local ringers, and a friend for the very satisfactory way they have fixed up this apparatus. Everyone was delighted at the splendid way it worked. It was entirely locally made.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Hugh Knapman, and the address was given by the curate (the Rev. A. Wigram). Tea was afterwards provided in the Church House.

At the meeting which followed the chair was taken by the Vicar. All the officers were re-elected, namely, Mr. H. W. Knight, chairman and Ringing Master; Messrs. L. Derrick and H. Windsor, vice-chairman; Mr. Percy G. Yeo, hon. secretary and treasurer; and Mr. G. Yeo, representative on the General Committee.

Mr. R. Lukins, of Yatton, was elected a member of the association.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Yatton in April, and a practice meeting at Long Ashton in February.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to Mr. A. Waite, the organist, and to Mrs. Percy Yeo and friend for their kind attention at tea.

HERTFORDSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

THE TWO-PART PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I crave the favour of your space and the indulgence of your readers to reply to your leading article in your current issue, apropos the publication of the figures of the above peal.

In your leader you state that in your view 'the publication would serve little if any useful purpose and to the ordinary reader, indeed, even to the average conductor, the mere printing of the figures would convey very little except the idea of an indigestible mass of six ends.'

The foregoing appears to me to be (ipso facto) nothing but rubbish and leaves me wondering if you have ever studied the figures which were sent you by the conductor.

Mr. M. F. R. Hibbert arranged the peal for publication in 35 courses for each half-peal, each course consisting of twelve sixes, and from these figures of Mr. Hibbert's one fails to find that indigestible mass of six ends.

There is another point to which I strongly object, and that is your remark of a freak performance: Slack's peal is beyond doubt an original composition, one which prior to 1938 was considered to be impossible. It contains nothing but ordinary Stedman calls, and, therefore, cannot in any circumstances be classified in the category of a freak peal.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

Bushey.

Yes, we have studied the conductor's arrangement of the peal, and to the average conductor it is almost as indigestible as the peal shown by its six-ends. The composition is cut into strips of twelve sixes each, nearly all of them being divided in the middle of the bob-sets and nearly every strip having a different calling. In whichever form it is given we adhere to the opinion that the composition is 'indigestible' for the average conductor. No one doubts the brilliance of Mr. Hibbert's feat in calling the peal, but has anyone else wanted to call it or been denied the opportunity because it has not been printed? As to our statement that the peal is a freak, we think we need only point to the fact that it contains 600 calls in 840 sixes, a large proportion being in that long discredited form of six-bob sets, of which there are something like 50 in the peal.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

A DEEPER ISSUE.

Dear Sir,—As one who was at Bushey on November 29th and who has just read this week's issue of 'The Ringing World' I can't help asking, 'What has happened to the writer of the leading article this week?' I am no purveyor of soft soap, but I usually look for something in this article and am rarely disappointed, but, sir, who has deputed this week?

Firstly, you try to justify the non-appearance of the figures of Dr. Slack's two-part peal of Stedman Triples by saying in effect that it is not of general interest and that anyone who wishes to call it can get the figures the best way they can.

This was not your attitude to the late Rev. H. Law James' seven-part peal, nor to the late S. H. Wood's peal of Stedman Caters. These may or may not have served any real purpose, I do not seem to have noticed any development along these lines, but they were certainly more interesting than some of the material which fills your pages sometimes.

There is a deeper issue involved now though, for I heard it whispered at Bushey that the figures of this peal would not be published, as one prominent writer had previously stated that such a peal could not be obtained. In my opinion, along with that of many others, that individual now can claim that his view is substantiated.

Now for the Central Council. You admit that the Watford District have given a lead in association activity in war time, and as one who has occasionally had the privilege of attending these meetings, I hand out no bouquets for that admission, for you could not have done otherwise. Having granted Watford District this much, I ask—who is in a better position to criticise the inactivity of the Central Council than a body who is showing the way?

You say that the subscription to the Central Council is little more than a 'token' payment. Be that as it may, have we had even a token in return in the form of a meeting—even of a committee, and, if so, has anyone heard of it?

I quite realise that a full Council meeting would be impossible at the present, but I do consider that a brighter lead could be given by some of the official element, and if it only led to some of the associations sitting up and taking notice I don't think the Watford District would be adverse to paying double subscriptions.

To sum up, sir, your leader writer of last week may have done his best under difficult conditions, but as a white-washer he's a wash-out.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Our correspondent requotes our reasons why we have not published Dr. Slack's peal, but he has advanced no argument, except inferred comparison, why we should have done so. Our point is that the composition, clever as it is, is of extremely limited interest. We agree that other things which have appeared in 'The Ringing World' may have proved of limited interest also, but in this case the figures by themselves convey very little to the general reader, and the fact that they are available in manuscript should meet all the needs of those who desire to call the peal. The fact that anyone had stated that such a peal could not be obtained did not in any way enter into the Editor's decision, and those who may hold this view would do well to disabuse their minds of the idea.—Editor, 'Ringing World.'

THE STORY OF THE LADIES' GUILD.

LAY AUDIENCE ENJOY 'RINGING WORLD' ARTICLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recently I had the pleasure of introducing 'The Ringing World' to a lay audience with conspicuous success. It was the article on the Ladies' Guild and its achievement of recognition by the Central Council which gave me the opportunity.

A few days earlier a discussion group to which I belong had considered a paper by a lady member on the subject of 'women after the war.' So advanced in thought had this paper been that even the other ladies had opposed its main idea. The next week I was due to entertain the group myself, and it occurred to me that the story of the lady ringers would be of interest. On my evening I invited the company to listen to a true story, and when, at the end of the discussion, the moment came to read it I faced an eager audience.

Never was a story so much enjoyed. Several times I could not read for laughing, but as everyone else was laughing too it did not matter. Mr. Burton was proclaimed a champion of champions by the men, and by some of the ladies too. Those ringers who slid off the fence quietly on the women's side found favour in the eyes of at least one of my listeners. But the founder of the Ladies' Guild captured the admiration of all.

When the excitement had subsided sufficiently I found myself answering many questions about bells and ringing, and that, I felt, was the best reward I could have wished for.

E. S. J. HATCHER.

Ditton, Maidstone.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN HOLLOW.

OLD MIDDLETON RINGER.

On December 3rd last the death took place at his house in Hunter Street, Middleton, Lancashire, of Mr. John Hollows. He was 85 years old and had been a member of the local company since he was 19. He joined the Lancashire Association in 1897. He was very regular in his attendances at service and practice meetings and had rung 43 peals of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

The funeral took place on December 8th at the Middleton Cemetery after a service in the Parish Church, and the Lancashire Association was represented by Messrs. W. H. Shaker, J. Smith, W. Berry and J. H. Barstow. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Bishop of Hulme, who gave a short address. Members of the family were present, and some of his old associates who were in the habit of meeting in the park to discuss matters and indulge in games.

Handbells had been provided, but the police barred the ringing.

THE FIRST TRUE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. F. A. Salter for replying so promptly to my enquiry about W. D. Crofts' manuscripts.

I did not expect to hear they contained any references to Plain Bob Triples, but it was as well to make sure, and now I think we have all the evidence we are ever likely to get about the composition rung at Norwich in 1715. The Grandsire Triples of 1718 remains the first peal that we can be sure was rung and was a true composition. The 1715 Bob Triples we may be reasonably sure was true, but we have no definite proof. The 1690 peal by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's is much more uncertain, but is more likely to have been true than once was supposed.

Which society had the honour of ringing the first true peal must remain an insoluble problem. Mr. E. A. Young told us that the verdict will be promulgated in due course, and that for himself he had already made up his mind. But I am afraid it will have to be an open verdict.

The method and peal in Crofts' MS. called Gathern's Tripples and referred to by Mr. Salter are what was rung at Norwich in 1718 as Grandsire Triples.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE BELLS OF LONDON.

The following passage from James Anthony Froude's 'History of England' reads somewhat like we may hope for when by the grace of God in the not too distant future victory and peace come once more: 'The glad news spread like lightning through London, and the pent-up hearts of the citizens poured themselves out in a torrent of exultation. Above the human cries the long silent church bells clashed again into life: first began St. Paul's, where happy chance had saved them from destruction, then one by one every peal which had been spared caught up the sound, and through the summer night and all next day the metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.'

BUY AN EXTRA COPY

OF

'THE RINGING WORLD'

and send it to a Serving Member of your Tower

THE UTILITARIANS. THE OBJECTIONS TO SINGLE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—‘Plain Hunt,’ like Messrs. Smith, Parkinson and Bunce, evidently thinks he can play the part of bowler and wicketkeeper at both ends. It can’t be done! Certain passages in his first letter lead me ‘to put out feelers’ whether your correspondent was a whole-hearted supporter of the Exercise or whether he was just doing a little creeping or reconnaissance work, so to speak, for the opposition in allied uniform? His last letter leaves no doubts in my mind as to the issue. There is only one way to treat him, and that is in the way our Government have sought over the past few days to treat the States of Finland, Hungary and Rumania—a tool in the hands of the ‘enemy.’

In one of my early letters I quoted a remark made by the Bishop of Chelmsford. Were this Bishop to read your correspondent’s two letters I am convinced he would say, ‘Here is a parallel case!’ Your correspondent can call this castigation or whatever else he likes, two things are outstanding—first, a ringer does not write in a negative tone or pass adverse comment upon the fundamental principles underlining the security and future expansion of the art if he is a 100 per cent. supporter; and, secondly, to court or support the utilitarianist is to support the ‘enemy.’

We are living in days when it seems the fashion to call workhouses ‘hospitals,’ common meadows ‘parks,’ prisons ‘homes of correction’ and so on; and by renaming things lead (or try to lead) everyone to believe they mean something totally different. This is equally so of the ‘no more bell or bell silence advocates,’ who have used the words utilitarianism and rigid economy for a definite purpose—to stifle the Exercise and to gain their own ends! Is their utilitarianist policy or preaching to serve a spiritual purpose? No!—it is at the bottom of things to satisfy their own desires, and, therefore, I consider the Exercise and ‘The Ringing World’ is perfectly justified in ‘putting the searchlight upon it.’

My experience is the tower or turret with one bell is more open to complaint from outside than the tower with a peal. Even if a minority are to be found who dislike to hear change ringing or hymn tunes to be sounded upon bells, there is something soothing and spiritual about their purpose to the majority, which is true utilitarianism. I have heard no one yet say that there is anything soothing about the sound of one bell. Of course, we know the one-bell tower or turret cuts right across the responsibility of the utilitarianists and rigid economists in the churches of having to raise money now and again. We are warned by many of our State leaders that this is as much a spiritual war as it is a political one; therefore, to quote the material side only as Leslie W. Bunce does in your issue of December 5th is to view the issue with one eye and but a squint in that; but I trust that none of your readers (to borrow his own phrase) will be led astray by his advice, and especially when it comes ‘to putting up one bell in town churches and three bells in country parishes.’ When the war is finished and we get back to ringing I hope to send Mr. Bunce an invitation to come down here and ring a peal, but he mustn’t be surprised if when he gets here he finds it is at a one-bell tower and there is no one there to meet him. Yes, I might even think of arranging it one April 1st.

To ‘Plain Hunt’ I must say what I said earlier on to Mr. Smith—‘I am sorry for his inability to judge between vilification and criticism’ when he talks about dropping personalities. But if he, like Mr. Leslie W. Bunce, thinks we should all sit back with shut mouths and ‘take matters as they are lying down,’ he had better have another think. I’ll remind them both, or any others who may think that way, that the right to criticise is one of those precious things we are fighting to preserve and for which we are at war.

Your correspondent asks, ‘Why don’t I devote some of my energies to moving the association (if any) to which I owe allegiance?’ I will remind him that I owe my allegiance to the Exercise as a whole—that this is not an individual association question. I thought I made that clear in my last letter when I said, ‘It is insufficient for any one association to send a letter of disapproval and regret in the ecclesiastical authorities’ support of this utilitarian ramp or policy, and for that reason I support the letter of Mr. Housden.

The machinery which to-day runs the Exercise is like about 50 uncoupled trucks on a railway line with an uncoupled engine acting as the Central Council trying to take command of them at one end. We all know that such an engine is not wholly in command of the position—it can only drive in the one direction.

The idea of giving lantern lectures upon bells and their relation to the Church, says ‘Plain Hunt,’ may be a good one if you can get the right audience. Has he ever tried it? I doubt very much if he has. It is now eight years since I gave my first talk upon the subject whilst staying at a convalescent home. Very quickly the suggestion took with those in charge of the home and the patients numbering 48. The matron stipulated that any who did not want to listen need be under no obligation to do so. Only two refused. I had the satisfaction of hearing some time later of three of my audience taking up change ringing. Since then I might say I have given 15 similar talks, some with the introduction of lantern and slides, coupled also with tunes upon handbells, and have been asked afterwards, ‘How soon can we have another?’ A friend of mine at Leicester, who is well known to the Exercise, I know has found much the same result. On

(Continued in next column.)

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EXETER BRANCH.

‘We hope soon to revive and maintain the ringing of our beautiful bells. Mechanical ringing can never be an act of worship. Our bells are one of the achievements of the Middle Ages.’ Thus said the Rector of St. Sidwell’s (the Rev. M. V. Narracott) when he addressed the assemblage of ringers to the Exeter Branch on December 6th.

Tea was served in St. Sidwell’s Parish Room and some 25 sat down, among them being Messrs. Edwin Shepherd, W. Richardson, C. Glass, W. Drake, Tom Laver, Tew Biffin, J. Harris, C. Lilley and other veterans. Later the Rector joined the company.

The secretary, Mr. W. H. Howe, reported that three meetings had been held during the year. The balance sheet was held over.

The officers, Messrs. E. J. Ryle (chairman), W. H. Howe (secretary and treasurer), W. Richardson (Ringing Master), E. Biffin, H. J. Rowe and T. H. Pook (representatives to the General Guild Committee), were thanked and all re-elected. Sergt. C. J. Hosgood, whom all were pleased to see, was re-elected as the assistant secretary.

Exeter was decided upon for the next meeting on April 11th, 1942.

Mr. E. Hill (St. Thomas’) was elected as a new member. There was an expression of opinion that the present levy to the Central Guild Funds should be reduced by 3d. per capita.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector and the organist for the parts they undertook in the service. The Rector replied and offered the use of St. Sidwell’s bells for silent practice.

Once again friendships were revived, and though the big bells were silent methods were practised on the handbells. How soon may we hope for better times?

HANDBELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. H. J. Sanger’s letter in your issue of December 12th, 1941, I possess a peal of ten old handbells in remarkably good tune. Some have the letters R.W. inside, whilst one has W.R. inside. These bells appear to have been cast before there were facilities for turning them up smoothly inside, as they are left rough there. The outsides are more or less O.K.

Upon making inquiries, I have been told that these handbells were cast by a Robert Wells, who lived near Mildenhall in West Suffolk. The one with W.R. is accounted for by the letters being wrongly inserted in the mould.

I purchased them from the executors of the late R. Christian, a ringer at Great Yarmouth.

If anyone could tell me if they are about 150 years old I shall be grateful.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

SPLICED SURPRISE MINOR.

A NEW EXTENT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following extent of Treble Bob Minor will probably prove interesting to those bands who are on the look out for something outside the standard extents. It contains a number of bobs (21) which has not, hitherto, been rung in an extent for this group of methods.

SPLICED OXFORD AND SANDAL TREBLE BOB.

720	—25346 Ox	—63542 S
23456	—32546 S	—42563 Ox
	—46532 Ox	—54263 Ox
56342 S	—54632 Ox	—25463 S
—42356 S	65243 Ox	—63425 Ox
56234 S	26354 Ox	—46325 Ox
34265 S	—32654 Ox	34562 Ox
—25634 Ox	—63254 Ox	—53462 Ox
62453 Ox	26435 Ox	—45362 Ox
—46253 S	—42635 S	34256 Ox
—53246 Ox	—35642 Ox	—23456 Ox

C. K. LEWIS (Preston).

First rung at Preston on November 19th on handbells by E. Roger Martin 1-2, C. Kenneth Lewis (conductor) 3-4, C. Crossthwaite 5-6.

THE UTILITARIANS.

(Continued from previous column.)

two occasions I have seen my efforts crowned with new bells, and a fund for bells being started as the result; so when ‘Plain Hunt’ makes the absurd statement, does anyone believe it possible to get a nose into a lecture hall, let alone give a lecture, I say he just doesn’t ‘now the position. The same applies to his other question, what have I done? Furthermore, I will refer him to my letter of August 15th if he wants to know what I am doing. I notice he doesn’t tell us what he is doing. I am wondering whether he is one of those who wants bells, but doesn’t want the trouble of helping to get the money for them, and whether that is the reason for his talk about laying hold of the parsons and tell them how to get towers and bells without money? Such a remark is certainly not the kind of remark we might expect from a hundred per cent. supporter of the Exercise. It is just the sort of thing we might expect from those preaching the policy of utilitarianism or rigid economy.

‘ANTI-SILENT.’

We regret we have had to curtail ‘Anti-Silent’s’ letter somewhat. We would ask correspondents to keep their letters within reasonable limits.—Editor ‘Ringing World.’

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 599.)

The earliest evidence of the ringing of Grandsire Caters is provided by the activities of the College Youths towards the end of the 17th century. At that time the Society was practising the method at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, and in 1695 bore the cost of having the 9th bell recast and rehung. It was the rival society, the London Scholars, however, that rang the first known peal of Grandsire Caters. This was at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on January 11th, 1717. All records of the London Scholars have perished, and there is no trace of the men who rang or of the composition. The number of changes, 5,040, suggests a composition very different from the peals given in 'Campanalogia' (1702), and it is much to be deplored that this valuable piece of ringing history is lost. All that is known of the performance is given in the following extract from the Osborn MSS. :—

'The first known peal of the London Scholars was a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's, in Fleet Street, Friday, January 11th, 1716-17. The frame put up was taken down and destroyed when the church was repaired in 1796. This was supposed to be the only peal of Caters to be rung whilst St. Bride's contained ten bells, and was said to be the first known peal of Caters ever completed by any company in the kingdom, which was probably the case, as no other peal upon ten bells appears upon record to precede this performance.'

On January 25th, 1725, the College Youths rang their first peal, 5,060 Grandsire Cinques, at St. Bride's, and in this peal the second bell was rung by Benjamin Annable, then a young man of 21. Less than a month later this young man took the lead and conducted a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Magnus-the-Martyr. This is the second peal of Grandsire Caters to be rung, and fortunately there is a complete record of the band and the composition.

'St. Magnus-the-Martyr in London. Monday, February 15th, 1724. This Company rang a peal of 5,058 Grandsire Caters, being the first that was done in that Steeple. Mr. William Woodwoe Treble, Mr. Robert Catlin 2, Mr. Edmund Chadwell 3, Mr. John Ward 4, Mr. John Pearson 5, Mr. Peter Merrygarts 6, Mr. William Loughton 7, Mr. William Thompson 8, Mr. Benjamin Annable 9, Mr. Matthew East Tenor. Composed and called by Mr. Benjn. Annable.'

'The 8 biggest bells were made in the year 17 and the 2 trebles in the year 17 by Mr. Richards Phelps in White Chappell. The two Trebles were given to the Parish by the Eastern Youths and the British Scholars.'

The above account is copied from a pocket book formerly belonging to Mr. Osborn (the historian), and afterwards, through the Banks family, to the late Councillor Fenton, J.P., of Heston, Middlesex, and given by him to Mr. E. Alex Young, late hon. secretary of the Central Council of Church Bellringers. And so to the archives of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Mr. Young, who kindly sent the copy to Mr. Ernest Morris in January, 1940, remarks: 'Note.—This is very neatly and centrally written by Osborn (as is his usual style) and just fills the page 6in. by 4in. The spelling,

etc., is reproduced. There is little punctuation. The date is 1724.'

It will be noted that the date is given in the old style and that here and there there are some discrepancies in the spelling of names. The ringer of the treble was William Woodruff; of the 3rd Edward Chadwell; of the 7th William Laughton.

On March 17th, 1726, Annable conducted 5,094 Grandsire Caters at St. Giles', Cripplegate. Two men rang the tenor, one of whom was John Cundell. This was the first time that a bell was rung double-handed to a peal of 5,000. In the same year the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields was completed, and the College Youths scored the first peal on the new bells, 5,076 Grandsire Caters.* In 1727 the Society visited Cambridge, and on May 25th Annable and his men rang 5,040 at the tower of Great St. Mary.

In 1732 the City Scholars rang the second peal on the bells of St. Giles', Cripplegate, and this 6,012 Grandsire Caters was the record length for the method. Three men were needed for the tenor. A copy of the tablet is given by Snowden.

'Tablet in St. Giles', Cripplegate (Surmounted by the City Arms). Thursday, November 23rd, 1732. The Society of City Scholars rang in this steeple a compleat Peal of six thousand and twelve Cators. Jno. Arnold 1, Jona Keate 2, Robt. Mobbs 3, Thos. Nash 4, G. Elton Hill 5, Jos. Griffiths 6, Sal Thompson 7, Wm. Hilliar 8, Jno. Box 9, Ed. Nodes, Hy. Macfarland, Darn Newbolt 10.

'Mr. John Mabiatt, Mr. Robert Wyrill, Mr. John Robson, Mr. Thomas Sayers, Churchwardens.'

In 1733 the College Youths visited Oxford and attempted four peals, Grandsire Caters at Christ Church and New College, and another, which was probably Bob Major, at Magdalen. Bad luck attended them. At Christ Church the tenor fell into the pit after 3,200 changes; at Magdalen broken ropes limited the ringing to about half an hour; and the two attempts at New College failed for the same reason.

Interesting light is thrown upon this visit by the remarks of Thomas Hearne, the Oxford antiquarian and diarist. His writings show that he knew a great deal about ringing, and he listened to and recorded critically all the ringing in the town. Of the College Youths he writes:—

'1733, May 24th, Thursday.—On Whit Sunday last (May 13th) came to Oxford on foot fifteen ringers from London, and the day before came on horseback, one Mr. Skelton, about fourteen or fifteen years a Commoner of Queen's College, Oxford, and an excellent ringer, and at this time Register to the Bishop of London (Gibson) and a proctor in the Arches. The next day being Monday, May 14th, the Oxford ringers gave them a short peal at Magdalen College, as they did in the evening a short one at Christ Church, the Londoners laying still that day that they might refresh themselves after the fatigue of their journey. The day after (being Tuesday, May 15th) the Londoners rang a peal admirably Well at New College, of about 1,500 changes, from a little before eleven o'clock in the morning till twelve, and in the evening they did the same at Christ Church. On Wednesday, 16th, they (the Londoners) began to ring at Christ Church in the morning a quarter or more before

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 20th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, December 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

***Owing to the Christmas Holidays, all Notices intended for publication in next week's issue must be received not later than the First Post on Monday morning.**

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, January 3rd. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea you must all bring with you, as at previous meetings. Will members please note that subscriptions for 1942 will be due at this meeting. May I appeal to everyone, including our friends over the border in the Northern Division, to come and make this meeting a great success, and show the new Vicar of St. Peter's that the North-Eastern Division is very much alive?—Leslie Wright, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

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, January 3rd, commencing at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, January 10th. Bells (silent) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea in St. Giles' Parish Hall, Cow Hill, 4.30, followed by business meeting and handbells. Numbers for tea by January 3rd, please.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

GREETINGS.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and for a peaceful New Year to all ringing friends at home and abroad.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, London, S.W.6.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends at home and overseas from Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Grammar School, Guildford, Surrey.

I wish all ringing friends, both far and near, a happy Christmas and a victorious New Year.—C. T. Coles, Highams Park, E.4.

The Methods Committee send greetings to fellow-members of the Central Council and all friends in the ringing Exercise.—Ernest C. S. Turner, J. Armiger Trollope.

A friendly greeting at this glad season of Christmas to all ringing friends and peace and joy in the New Year.—Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs and Olive, Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis send the season's greetings and good wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends.—118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends from Harold S. Hobden, Aldershot (late Eastbourne).

To all my friends. Best wishes for your health and happiness this Christmas and always.—Fred Price, 273, Albert Road, Aston, Birmingham.

To all ringing friends far and near, best wishes for Christmas and the coming year from F. E. Dawe, Allendale, Kingsway, Woking.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT RINGERS send hearty greetings and good wishes for a Happy Christmas and a brighter New Year to all friends in the Exercise.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The District Master and secretary would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members at home and abroad best wishes and the best of luck throughout this Christmas and the coming New Year.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—To all members and ringing friends my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and may peace come soon.—E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

PERSONAL.

MR. ARTHUR DAVIS, of Bournemouth, would be grateful to receive a line from, or the address of, MR. FRANCIS S. BEAUMONT.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

twelve, and they rang till two most incomparably well, when the gudgeons being bad, the biggest bell (that is the tenth) fell down, but not through the loft, otherwise they proposed to have rung 5,040 changes. In the evening they rang the eight bells at Magdalen College, but two or three ropes breaking, they could not proceed above half an hour. On Thursday, May 17th, they began to ring at New College, proposing to ring the said number of changes, viz., 5,040 there. They began a little before twelve, and rang for about three-quarters of an hour, when one of the ropes broke, and so they were stopped. Afterwards they dined at the Weers beyond Friar Bacon's Study, and some (if not all) of them stepping over to Ifley they rang the six bells there (viz., 700 changes upon them).

'The next day being Friday, May 18th, they were resolved to ring the above-mentioned number of 5,040 changes upon New College ten bells as they had begun before to do. Accordingly they began a little before twelve, and rang full two hours in the morning wanting two minutes, when one of the ropes broke and put a stop to the peal, for which they were all very sorry, as they were at the fall of the great bell at Christ Church. For their ringing at both places, as well as elsewhere, was most surprisingly fine, without the least fault from beginning to end, such as never was before in Oxford, and 'tis a scandal that the bells should not be in good order. Saturday, May 19th, they went out of town. On Tuesday, May 22nd, the great bell at Christ Church was got up again, and in the evening the Oxford men rang all ten and endeavoured to imitate the Londoners, but they were soon out, and made poor work of it in comparison of the others.'

(To be continued.)

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1941.

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A GLOOMY YEAR FOR RINGING.

On the face of things there is little that is encouraging to be got out of a survey of ringing in the year that is just closing. Not a church bell has been rung anywhere throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the ban, as we learned last week, is to continue. Ringers from the towers have been called away to serve their country either under arms or in other capacities, and this, coupled with the fact that the bells themselves are completely idle and interest in ringing has in many places almost fallen to vanishing point, has reduced many associations to a condition in which they are unable to do little but hold on for the better times that we all believe lie somewhere ahead. Never surely in the history of the last two hundred years, at any rate, has ringing passed through such a gloomy time of inactivity. Never before have the bells of our land been compelled to observe so complete a silence and that is the real test of our loss. It is not that we are debarred from ringing peals; indeed there are many who think that peal ringing for any but the most exceptional reason would be entirely out of place under present circumstances. The absence of peal ringing in a time of world war is no hardship, but what we have lost and what matters most is the ringing of the bells on Sundays. The bells have always counted for something in the life of the people, more perhaps than is generally realised, and the loss has been keenly felt even if it has now been blunted a little by the passage of time. No good purpose will be served by labouring the argument that the ban is a clumsy preliminary to meet the end the authorities have in view, but it remains the most stunning blow that has ever been delivered at the art of ringing. It not only robs the land of the cheerful and encouraging sounds of the Sunday service bells, but its ultimate effect will be that ringing may lose, through this inactivity, no small proportion of its erstwhile devotees. That falling away of man power from the belfries seems to us one of the inevitable and most serious consequences likely to arise from the present position.

These are the things which first and most naturally strike one in a review of the year, but there is something to be placed on the other side of the account; things that may quite well give us ground, if not for optimism, at least for hope. There are still, in many places and districts, depleted bands of loyal and devoted ringers endeavouring by every means in their power to 'keep the flag flying,' from the company that meets every week for handbell practice amid the ruins created by the enemy in the City of Birmingham to the little bands who

(Continued on page 614.)

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gather from time to time in country villages for district meetings and have little to encourage them but the pleasure of a friendly handclasp, a chat over a cup of tea, and joining in a service. These men are doing a greater work for ringing than perhaps they realise. It is they who later on will be in a position to set the wheels moving again in belfry and associations, and upon whom much of the future will depend. We hope that they will not let disappointment creep in to stay their efforts because they are not getting all the support they think should be forthcoming from some who used to give their aid when times were more propitious. We hope they will hold on undeterred by lack of numbers until the bells may be rung again, for then their help will be more than ever needed, for the leeway to be made up will be enormous. Many who have left the belfry may never return; many who could do so may not because their interest in ringing will be completely dead. These little meetings, whether in town or country, carried on by the stalwarts amid discouraging circumstances, are one of the most hopeful signs for the future.

There is a field which might be made more of, and that is handbell ringing. Quite a number of bands have tried their hand at it with marked success, to their own encouragement and entertainment. It is one of the things which, where all are beginners, requires a deal of patience as well as regular practice, but it can be mastered and it opens the door to no end of interest. Throughout the past year our columns have recorded the successes which have come to those who have persevered, and we would like to hear that handbell ringing had penetrated into a far greater number of centres. It might often prove the one means of keeping the remnants of a company together, as well as laying the foundation of a wider field of interest in the future, and it is to the future that we must all turn our eyes. The present is dark for ringing, although, as we have indicated, here and there the flame is kept burning, if with diminished light. A heavy responsibility rests upon all those who are left at home to carry on in the extremely limited manner that circumstances now permit, and we trust that, despite all discouragements and handicaps, men will not lose heart or interest, but continue to make the best of the existing conditions till the day comes when the bells will be sought by everyone to ring for victory and peace.

HANDBELL PEAL.

PRESTON, LANC.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

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CYRIL CROSTHWAITHE ... 3-4 | *WILLIAM TAYLOR ... 7-8

Composed by C. CROSTHWAITHE. Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

* First peal 'in hand.'

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CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from page 605.)

SOME EXTRACTS.**Fixing the Standard Methods.**

The selection of methods in the 'Clavis' is excellent. Ignoring all the merely fancy methods that had been rung from time to time, such as Fulham, Middlesex and College Triples, Titchborne's Invention, Cumberland Pleasure, Cumberland Fancy and the like, and the unsymmetrical Eastern Bob and Double Eastern Bob, the authors printed those old systems whose worth had been fully tried and proved, and added several new ones—new at any rate to London and the majority of ringers—which were to become equally useful. These latter included Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Stedman on seven bells and upwards, and Superlative Surprise Major. In fact, the 'Clavis' may be said to have fixed the standard methods. Hitherto ringers in different parts of the country often had their own methods; henceforth there was one standard for the whole country. The book also had the effect (not so happy a one) that it practically put a stop to ringers experimenting with new methods and new styles of peals. There was in it so much more than the average band could ever hope to accomplish that men ceased to look for anything outside its scope. Shipway introduced several new systems, but not one of them has been practised. He himself called peals of his Place Triples and Place Major, but no other band rang them. No band practised his Court Bob, or his Double Court Bob, nor, except on two fairly recent occasions, was the method he called Shipway's Principle ever rung to a peal.

As an indication of the development of ringing which accompanied the appearance of the 'Clavis' it is interesting to notice that the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major rung in London was in 1786; the first peal of Cambridge Surprise ever rung was in 1780; the first peal of Stedman Caters in 1787; and the first peal of Stedman Cinques in 1788. All these, except the last, were actually before the book appeared, but they were intimately connected with its preparation. Among the subscribers to the book were men who had taken part in the first peal of Treble Bob Maximus only 31 years before.

Much of the interest in the 'Clavis' lies in the many remarks, scattered throughout the book, which throw light on the customs and opinions of the ringers of the time. A description is given of the correct way to handle a bell and the 'young practitioner' is told that 'he must observe first to place his right foot in the strap' and that he must have his right hand uppermost both at the sally and backstroke.

Footstraps have almost entirely disappeared now, even for use in ringing very heavy bells, but in this passage we learn that then they were universally used even for ringing light bells. Laughton tells us much the same thing, and it is evidence of how very much more pulling bells needed in olden times than they do at present.

The London custom was, and is, to hold the tail end in the left hand, but at Norwich it was traditional to hold it in the right.

Raising and ceasing in peal is mentioned, and here we have an echo of Stedman's Campanalogia—'It is requisite that the bells be raised as fast as conveniently can be, and not to strike till the second sway.' 'Raising

and ceasing in peal when properly executed is undoubtedly very pleasant and melodious; but melodious as it is, the adepts of the art in this city of London very seldom choosing to put themselves to the pains of it, is now chiefly practised by the country gentlemen.' All writers on ringing from Stedman onwards lamented that raising and ceasing in peal is a lost art in London, and to this day it is comparatively seldom practised by metropolitan ringers.

'Many people run away with a notion that anyone may be put to a treble, especially if a plain hunt, 'but,' says our authors, 'we repeat this admonition that the treble be rung by an able and experienced practitioner.' So far as peal ringing at least is concerned, the London ringers acted in accordance with this advice. In their performances the treble ringer was almost always one of the leading members of the band, and not seldom it was the conductor. For a long time in the College Youths' peals Winstanley Richardson rang the treble as if by right.

Later writers, however, while they copy or adapt the rules of the 'Clavis' for instructing beginners, disagree with them here. Hubbard says that there are good reasons for putting the learner to the treble, and he proceeds to give them.

On Holt's Original there is the following comment—'We have placed this first, nor need we hesitate to affirm that it stands foremost in point of merit of all Mr. Holt's compositions, the dividing of it into parts or courses for the purpose of retaining it in memory for calling, is a matter that has totally baffled all the skill and penetration of the present age, and the author himself (we are told) could not retain it sufficiently so as to call without book; and though he composed several peals of grandsire tripples, yet we have great reason to believe that this was his first because it was the first that was rung, which was at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday, the 7th of July, 1751.'

That the Original was the first peal of Grandsire Triples composed by Holt is almost certainly true, but in point of merit as a composition it is far surpassed by the Ten-part. A clever man with some knowledge of the law of Q Sets could no doubt by dint of perseverance and much experimenting discover the first. He could hardly have discovered the other without a great deal of knowledge of the mathematical laws of Grandsire composition.

William Jones did not know when he wrote that the Original had already been called by two men who took part in the ringing. If the London men had heard anything about it they did not believe it. Three years after the 'Clavis' appeared, James Bartlett rang the seventh at St. Giles-in-the-Fields and called the peal (with William Jones at the fourth), 'and thus gained the honour (which he really did not deserve) of being the first man to conduct the peal and take part in the ringing.'

In calling Grandsire Triples we are told 'it is usual in most parts of the kingdom for the bob caller to ring the observation' and call by the position of his own bell, 'a method which we can by no means approve.' The plan recommended is to call by the bells before. 'The former is too much like a lesson or ballad which is learned by rote, and we trust will be looked on by every

(Continued on next page.)

'CLAVIS CAMPANOLOGIA.'

(Continued from previous page.)

judicious person in the art as too absurd and unscientific to outweigh against the other.'

One of the outstanding compositions in the book is John Reeves' peal of Bob Major with the 120 course ends, and this is made the occasion for one or two very interesting remarks. It is pointed out that the first time 5-6 come home together at a course end the lead end is plained; but at the second time it is bobbed; 'which is the grand reason you cannot come round at the sixty courses, which has been so long the wonder and study of the curious; for if they could be either all called or all omitted, the thing would soon be done.' Here we have in effect an anticipation of Thompson's proof that a peal of Grandsire Triples with common bobs only is not possible.

The composition is the only peal of Major into which singles are introduced, and an explanation is given. 'We don't altogether approve of singles where the number can be obtained without; yet as this is the full extent without parting 7-8, we think and recommend it as a good peal for those who wish to ring a greater length than ever has been done by one set of men.'

The general opinion of the best authorities in the Exercise, then, and for long before and after, was that the natural and normal call for any method is the bob. Anything else should be introduced only when absolutely necessary, and usually only because the extent of the changes cannot otherwise be got.

What sort of alterations were used depended on what they were required to do. Singles were not needed in Grandsire Caters and Cinques, and so were barred, but soon after the 'Clavis' appeared it became the custom to start Cinques by laying 7-8 still. That put the bells at once into the tittums with the 8th after the 11th, and made an easy and graceful home-coming possible. The device was justified by the results it gave, and was tolerated by people who saw no necessity for singles.

During the eighteenth century and most of the nineteenth, practically all the peals of Bob Major rung were in-course, even when they were ten-thousands. The general feeling was that the gain in music when singles are used was not sufficient justification for breaking a sound rule, though no doubt there were men like the authors of the 'Clavis' who recognised that rules were made for change ringing and not change ringing for rules.

The first man who boldly used singles in the modern manner was Edward Taylor, whose peals, with the sixth 24 times right and wrong, were rung in the early years of the nineteenth century. Shipway, who knew Taylor, adopted the plan and applied it to Grandsire Caters; though Joseph Ladley, who called the peal, claimed that he had composed it himself. John Lates, of Oxford, afterwards so well known as a Stedman composer, produced peals similar to Taylor's. But though the work of these men ultimately influenced the Exercise, the more conservative views expressed by the 'Clavis' persisted until the close of the nineteenth century.

When William Jones wrote that Reeves' extent of Bob Major was 'a greater length than ever has been done by one set of men,' he did not forget some claims that had been made. 'There is a frame at West Ham for upwards of 15,000, but it is well-known by the time mentioned and the weight of the bells they could scarcely

ring thirteen.' 'To be sure the extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes, is recorded in a frame at Leeds in Kent as being performed by thirteen men in 27 hours and some minutes, one man having rung eleven hours, another nine, &c.; but those of the performers who have been spoke with on the subject give such unsatisfactory accounts that it is very little thought of, and it is generally believed, that if they did keep the bells going the length of time, the truth or regularity of the changes was very little attended to.'

The last reference is to James Barham's performance, the other to Philemon Mainwaring's feat.

Throughout the eighteenth century Double Bob was a favourite method with the more skilful bands, especially in London; and for some years before the publication of the 'Clavis' it was the custom to call the bobs in pairs, one when the treble was behind, the next when it was on the lead. This was termed Real Double to distinguish it from the older plan (which is also the present day plan) of calling the bobs only when the treble is leading.

But a dispute had arisen as to what is correct Real Double, and the 'Clavis' describes fully the rival views. The first system 'is to have the first bob when the treble is behind and the second perhaps at a 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. The other system is thus: Whenever there is a bob behind the bob before immediately succeeds so there must be infallibly two bobs in a lead.' The reasons for both are given, but the authors decline to express an opinion on the dispute.

The account of Oxford Treble Bob Major has a reference to the supposed right of the band that rings the first peal in any method to give it a name, a question which still interests ringers—'It is remarkable that when a new system is first broached and several companies are each contending for the first peal, the successful champions generally claim the privilege of giving it a name; this is exactly the case in the present instance; for according to the most authentic intelligence we have been able to collect, the first performance of this kind is recorded by a society then called the Union Scholars, who gave it the name of Union treble bob.' But 'allowing every sett or body of men that merit which is their due, we venture to affirm that whoever was in possession of a lead of treble bob on six, could certainly be at no loss, or find much difficulty in producing that on eight, ten, or twelve bells.'

This passage is of no great value as historical evidence. Jones knew no more about the matter than what could be learnt from the peal board at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East and the fact that the London ringers generally called the method Union Bob. There always had been men who denied the right of the Union Scholars to give it their name, and the more correct title gradually prevailed. The 'junior' Society of College Youths seem always to have used the name Treble Bob, and sometimes, but not always, they added the word Oxford. The ancient Society of College Youths in their records call the method Union Bob until 1760. In the Cumberlands' peal book the method is called Union Treble Bob until 1785, though as early as 1763 the title Oxford Treble Bob is used. William Jones, it is quite evident, had no doubt as to which was the correct name.

THE LATE CANON G. H. RIDOUT.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Recently I read in 'The Ringing World' of the passing of Canon George H. Ridout, at Johannesburg, South Africa. For nine years I knew him intimately. He was a true and faithful servant of our Master and of his parishioners in the parish of Ferreira's, Johannesburg. Deliberately he chose to work in a slum area throughout the 35 odd years he lived in that great gold city. His congregation consisted of coloured people and a few 'poor whites.' Repeatedly he declined preferment and, if I remember aright, a Bishopric. He was ever a happy man—happy in his work and happy in his life—true and faithful to God and man.

He was a man of wide knowledge—of art in paintings and sculpture, of literature, architecture and music. To be his guest at dinner was something to look forward to, for his conversation on the above subjects, particularly the music of Handel, Mozart, Haydn and the mighty Beethoven, were, of intense interest to me.

Apart from these things, his knowledge and interest in change ringing were very great. It was through the latter we became acquainted. On a certain Sunday evening at St. Mary's Parish Church I was surprised and delighted to hear a course of Grandsire Triples rung on handbells, just before the service commenced. The following week this was repeated. I had been resident there for two years and had never heard bells rung in changes. I knew of no bells.

Enquiry from the Vicar led to an introduction to Canon Ridout (though he was not then a Canon). We dined together and on my congratulating him on the perfect changes I had heard, he laughed loudly, admitting the bells were not retained in hand—pleading guilty in his own quiet way to perpetrating a 'pious fraud.' This led to the formation of a 'team' of three—myself on 1-2, Canon Ridout on 3-4 and Colin Kearns 5-6. In a few weeks we had got the first 720 of Bob Minor rung double-handed in South Africa. The Canon was very pleased and presented both Kearns and myself with a copy of F. E. Robinson's book, 'Among the Bells.'

Circumstances then compelled the withdrawal of Kearns, but rather fortunately another ringer arrived in the Golden City, F. P. Powell, who had called the first peal in South Africa about a year previously. I journeyed from Johannesburg, 1,050 miles, to ring in that peal. It was well struck and successful and the second attempt. Mr. Powell called on me at the bank (my place of employment), and I at once took him off to the Canon. Powell took the place rendered vacant by Mr. Kearns being compelled to withdraw, and off we started again. Within six months we had rung Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and were wrestling with another method (Double Court, I believe) when Powell suddenly

and mysteriously disappeared—he left Johannesburg. Thus our ambition of scoring the first 5,040 in seven different Minor methods was crashed to the ground. Possibly—I might almost say probably—we could have rung a 5,040 in any one of the four given above, but we preferred them 'all different.' So was lost our (Ridout's and my own) ambition.

Needless to say, we were grievously disappointed and, for myself, rather cross. Six months after this I left on a five months' holiday to Australia, preferring our bright and sunny climate to the dour and gloomy drab and cold English water. I have often regretted it and thought I chose unwisely in not 'risking' one winter in England when, possibly, I could have stood in a few peals of Stedman, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major. Ridout used to 'console' me in his quaint and inimitable way, by pointing out that even a 5,040 of Grandsire, the first in South Africa, was something, 'and about about our first 720's of Minor?' at which we both laughed. How many peals he took part in I never knew. I never rang with him on tower bells.

Canon Ridout was deeply interested in composition, and when in the mood did much work thereat. I have two or three of his peals of Grandsire Triples. I do not think he ever published any, but some of them, particularly one in five parts, I venture to think, were 'worthy' compositions. His objections to publish anything were, if I remember aright, purely 'academical.' He was a believer in 'uniformity' and, so far as possible, in 'symmetrical' calling. Doubtless, however, he has shown some of his work to others more competent to judge of their merit or demerits than I am.

He looked forward to joining the tourists from England to Australia, just seven years ago, but at the eleventh hour events occurred which precluded him making one of the party. In a letter to me he expressed his regret, and, needless to state, it was a great disappointment to me. Had Melbourne, or in a broader view Australia, been 'blessed' with a ringing cleric such as Canon Ridout (and very many others in England whom I need not mention), the history and progress of our beloved science in this fair land of the Southern Cross would, I venture to assert, been vastly different to-day. And, possibly, the sound of bells rung in changes would have been as dear to our people as it is to those of our Mother Country.

Vale! Canon Ridout.
Melbourne.

ERNEST F. BEHAN.

READING.—At 18, Manchester Road on November 13th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): Cyril Burgess 1-2, Walter Hunt 3-4, Albert Diserens (conductor) 5-6, Thomas N, Lanaghan 7-8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Lancashire Association rang its first peal (one of Grandsire Triples) at Bolton on December 22nd, 1877. Up to the end of July, 1939, it had rung a total of 3,966 peals.

Fewer peals have probably been rung on December 25th than on any other date in the calendar, or, at any rate, it runs a close race with February 29th, but one outstanding performance was achieved on Christmas Day, 1754, when the Society of Young Ringers of Saffron Walden 'did ring the true peal of Grandsire Triples comprised of 148 hobs with two singles,' 'to the no small mortification of their antagonists (some of the old society), who gave them all the obstruction in their power.'

This apparently was the third occasion on which the Original had been called by a man who took part in the ringing. Whether he had any 'visible aids to memory' is not stated.

A very long list of anniversaries fall on the three days after Christmas, and we can mention only a few of them: December 27th, 1760, the first peal of College Exercise, by the College Youths at Hackney; 1831, 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major at Elland in Yorkshire; 1885, 8,064 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Leiston; 1894, 9,312 Superlative Surprise Major at Crawley; 1901, 11,111 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham; 1910, 9,728 Superlative Surprise Major at Clent; 1923, 10,440 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Walthamstow.

On December 27th, 1718, the first peal of Major (5,120 Oxford Treble Bob) by the Union Scholars at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East; 1904, 17,104 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at South Wigston; 1909, 10,176 Double Oxford Bob Major at Brierley Hill.

On December 28th, 1749, 6,000 Bob Major at Twickenham; 1820, 6,600 Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham; 1872, 16,608 Kent Treble Bob Major at Earlsheaton in Yorkshire. This last apparently was false in the ringing.

Sir Arthur Percival Heywood was born on Christmas Day, 1849. As founder and for many years president of the Central Council, he occupied for many years a foremost place in the Exercise. A character sketch of him and an account of much of his activities have been given in recent articles in our pages.

Twenty peals were rung 50 years ago to-day. They were Grandsire Triples 8, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 4, Caters 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 5, Royal 1. One of the Stedman Triples was Tebbs' composition, and two were called by Mr. George Williams, one of them at Christchurch, the other at Ringwood. One of the Grandsire Triples was on handbells. H. L. James, E. B. James and J. Austin took part.

The two treble bells given by Mr. George Williams to Stoneham to make a ring of ten were dedicated ten years ago last Saturday.

Fifty years ago to-day (Boxing Day) the first peals of Stedman Triples on the bells at Christchurch Priory and Ringwood, Hants, were rung, and a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Peter's, Bournemouth. The latter was conducted by the late John W. Whiting. George Preston, we believe, is the only one living of that band. Of the company who rang the peals of Stedman at Christ Church, Ringwood, George Williams, George Baker, James George and A. P. Goddard are still living. The others were Messrs. T. Blackburn, R. W. J. Gollop, W. H. George and E. Merritt.

Peals were still peals in those days, and what about enthusiasm! We are told that for the peals of Stedman, George Williams, now Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, had to get up at 4 a.m. and walk seven miles to the railway station to catch the train that would take him to Christchurch.

MELBOURNE CATHEDRAL LOSSES.

The band at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, has again been robbed by death of a valued member, the third within two years.

The latest loss is Mr. J. T. Trotter, an Australian-born ringer, one of the oldest members of the society, who for many years was tower-keeper. He took great pride in the bells, and the English ringers who visited Melbourne seven years ago can testify to the care with which he tended his charges. The bells went perfectly.

St. Paul's Cathedral Society is suffering also from some lack of interest, we are informed. Usually now there are not more than half a dozen ringers present for service or practice, but among them is Mr. James Murray, who called the first peal in Australia over 50 years ago. The other most regular members of the band are Messrs. J. Spencer and Edgar Knott, who with Mr. Murray took part in the peal of Grandsire Cinques in 1934, and Messrs. Reeder, W. G. Waghorn and E. F. Behan. The last named has recently recovered from a serious accident sustained in the Bush in Queensland, which kept him many months in hospital in Brisbane and Melbourne.

FORMER NORWICH RINGER IN JERSEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Lovett, who now lives at St. Saviour's, Jersey, and was at one time a member of St. Peter Mancroft company of ringers, went to Jersey a few years ago. He and his family were there at the time of the German occupation in 1940. At that time his parents received a cablegram stating that they were coming to England. However, they were left behind and not until June this year was any further news received. All will be pleased to know they were well, but anxious to receive news from home. Many letters have been sent, but apparently not received.

A. E. COLEMAN.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

WHAT IT MEANS WITHOUT BELLS.

'Of all sound of all bells (bells—the music highest bordering upon heaven) most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the Old Year.'—Lamb.

What memories are stirred by the words! Once more the event is upon us, but stripped of its most inspiring accompaniment.

New Year without bells! Why, in normal times one would as leave have gone without Christmas dinner. It is now many months since the voice of the bells was heard. Little enough time, measured as time goes, maybe, but a great gap to the bell-lover.

One may say, 'Who minds?' As well ask the question, 'Who cares if no song were ever heard?' The nation would doubtless survive without singing, but would have lost one means of recreation and spiritual 'uplift.'

The case is somewhat different with bells, which have been the music of the common folk for centuries past. Do we not read how in former times thousands would gather to hear a peal rung? All down the years the bells have played a dignified and pleasantly agreeable part in our lives.

If this 'goes' for the ordinary man, how much more intensely so for the ringer, the man who loves his bell and his art. This awful hiatus to him must be as bad as a prison sentence. That this is no overstatement may easily be gathered from a perusal of ringers' doings. A new method is evolved! Immediately a band to ring it is found. A longer or more difficult peal is composed! The enthusiasts are ready to tackle it. One band rings a 6,000; their friends and rivals quickly aspire to a 7,000 or more; and the distances they will travel! We learn that before modern means of transport were thought of, a band *walked* from London to Oxford, to attempt a peal.

It is not beyond bounds of belief that, other means failing, their successors would do it to-day for the same reason. What can this reason be, this magnetic force in the appeal? Certainly not material gain, for there is little money in ringing. No ringers seem able to explain it, not even veterans of 60 or 70 years at the end of the rope. Perhaps it cannot be expressed in mere words.

But the devotees of St. Cecilia are a race apart, enjoying and revelling in another world from which all but fellow ringers are excluded. Maybe it is the physical satisfaction in the ability to control the movement of a body many times one's own weight, or the mental pleasure afforded by a successful journey through the intricacies of a peal, or perhaps a combination of both. Whatever this elusive quality may be, all depends eventually on the bells themselves.

Bells and their message, be it joy or sorrow, have become one of the amenities, without which we should all be spiritually the poorer. There is nothing can ever be quite like bells ringing—not the miserable ting-tang of still bells chimed, but the full-throated clangour of swinging bells. Why, they become live things!

What human effort could ever hope to emulate the 'chorus of the giants' of the Cathedral or even their smaller brothers of the village church. Meanwhile, St. Cecilia weeps!

But her tears may soon be dried, and when the word goes out her children will again spring to life. Perhaps

(Continued in next column.)

TEBBS' PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE.

From 'The Times' of December 22nd, 1828:—

'On Thursday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Junior College Society, ringers of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and Trinity Church, Newington, rang on the bells at the latter place a true and excellent peal of grandire triples on Steadman's principle, containing 5,040 changes, which was completed in three hours and four minutes, and is the greatest performance ever achieved upon any peal of bells in the Kingdom. The above peal contains 598 bobs and 122 singles and is the most perfect of the kind ever produced, but has never been rung until the present occasion, when every bob and single was regularly called and made. Two years have elapsed since the society first attempted to ring this peal, during which time they have assembled every Thursday evening to perform it, and in the various unsuccessful attempts which have been made they have rung upwards of 200,000 changes in this most difficult of all the systems in the art of ringing. This system of ringing was invented by Mr. Fabian Steadman, a native of Cambridge, about the middle of the 17th century.'

It is evidence of the decline in the standard of London ringing that what was probably as good a band as then existed in the metropolis should have taken two years to ring a peal of Steadman Triples, and then should have claimed it as 'the most difficult of all the systems in the art of ringing.' The College Youths had already, in 1803 rung a peal of Steadman Triples at Kensington.

Joseph Ladley called the Newington peal, and in the band were such well-known ringers as Samuel Austin, James Mash and Edward Lansdell.

The composition by Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, is in ten regular parts, each part consisting of six courses. In every course there are bobs at 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, and, in addition, in the last six of the first two courses of each part there is an in-course single, made by the four bells in 4-5 and 6-7 lying still. Another similar single is made at the half-way and end. It is a very regular and, in many ways, excellent composition, but is spoilt for practical purposes by the excessive number of bobs. It has been rung many times, and forty years or so ago Frederick Newman called it several times at different places in London and Kent.

The ring of eight bells at Holy Trinity, Newington, have not been rung for many years, and the number of ringers who have heard them must be very small.

AN ENGLISH BELL.

'I remember,' wrote Earl Baldwin in his book of essays 'On England,' 'many years ago standing on the terrace of a beautiful villa near Florence. It was a September evening, and the valley below was transfigured in the long horizontal rays of the declining sun. And then I heard a bell, such a bell as never was on land and sea, a bell whose every vibration found an echo in my innermost heart. I said to my hostess, "That is the most beautiful bell I have ever heard." "Yes," she replied, "it is an English bell." And so it was. For generations its sound had gone out over English fields, giving the hours of work and prayer to English folk from the tower of an English abbey, and then came the Reformation, and some wise Italian bought the bell whose work at home was done and sent it to the Valley of the Arno, where after four centuries it stirred the heart of a wandering Englishman and made him sick for home.'

Regarding this Lt.-Col. Gerald Thorp wrote to 'Notes and Queries': 'I have known Florence intimately since my childhood, but I never heard the story before. I recollect, however, being told that many of the church bells in the North of Italy about the Italian lakes were of English origin.'

Edward Ironsides, in his 'History and Antiquities of Twickenham,' published in 1797, says: 'The family of Corsini in Italy, I have somewhere read, raised themselves by purchasing bells at the demolition of religious houses in England.'

THE TUNING OF BELLS.—I know well by experience that not one ringer among a thousand rightly understands the scale of music; which if he did, he could immediately tell if a peal of bells were in right tune or not. I appeal to all gentlemen, masters of bell founding, whether it is not customary with them always to tune their peals in the sharp and cheerful key? To which they will answer—It really is (unless desir'd to the contrary by some very whimsical persons) from which it is clearly that tenor, lowest, or greatest bell must always be C (whether in concert pitch or not), all the lesser bells above that being in a regular diatonic order.—William Tan'sur, 'A Musical Grammar,' 1829.

(Continued from previous column.)

the long silence will enhance the joy of once more hearing their grand diapason. Many, alas, will not respond to the call!

When that call comes let not the Ringers be found wanting. May it be soon!

E. M.

HANDBELL RINGING.

A SUITABLE PEAL COMPOSITION.

BY THE REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE.

In these days of restricted tower bell ringing, many ringers have discovered afresh, and many more for the first time, the fascination to be found in handbell ringing. It must be the ambition of every such little company to ring a peal, not only for their own satisfaction, but also to mark their progress in a concrete way, and in a good many cases that first peal is one of Bob Major. Judging from my own experience many new conductors are at a loss to know the most suitable composition to call for such a peal, and I trust that the hints which follow will be of value to at least some of your readers.

In handbell ringing it is important to remember that each ringer has two bells to ring, and therefore any composition which keeps each pair of bells, especially 3-4 and 5-6, interconnected, is much easier to ring than one which has, say, the sixth fixed for several courses and at the same time allows the fifth—i.e., the other bell the ringer of the sixth is ringing—to alter its position relative to the sixth in each course.

A peal which is easy both to conduct and ring is a 5,040 by Mr. E. Maurice Atkins. This peal has 5-6 at home, either right way or wrong way round, at the end of every four courses; and the basis of the peal is a round block of four courses rung twelve times:—

23456 W M H

42635	—	—
56234	—	—
35264	—	—
42356	—	—

Apart from six singles called instead of bobs—two half-way and four quarter-way—these four courses are all the conductor has to learn in order to call the peal. Notice how the calls affect the bells in this round block. In the first course 5-6 are brought together by the two bobs at W and M, where the fifth makes both bobs and so comes to course immediately after the sixth. For a whole course 5-6 are together until they come to their parted lead—i.e., where the treble is coursing between them—and then at the three successive bobs at M, H and W, these two bells are made to run in and out. In other words, 5-6, instead of coursing immediately before the tenors, as they had been doing, now find themselves coursing immediately after the tenors. For another whole course 5-6 remain together in coursing order, when, in the last course of the block of four, the calls at W and M once more put them into their plain course position by causing the sixth to make the two bobs.

And now a word about the positions of the six singles. Four of the singles are used to reverse 5-6 in every quarter, i.e., in the first, fourth, seventh and tenth parts of the peal; and the call is made instead of one of the three successive bobs when 5-6 are running in and out. It can be called at any of the three bobs, provided it is in the same place in each quarter. The usual place to make the call is at the Middle in the second course, i.e., the first of the three bobs. The other two singles are utilised to reverse two of the small bells, and Mr. Atkins reverses 2-3 by calling the singles at the Wrong of the first course in the first and seventh parts. These singles are called after the part-end, in which 4-5-6 are all at Home, namely, 23456 (at the beginning of the peal) and 32456 (at half-way). These parts with the half-way singles also have the singles at Middle to reverse 5-6; the other two singles at Middle being called after the part-ends 32465 and 23465. In other words, the four singles at Middle are called after the part-ends in which the fourth has made the bob.

In order to call a peal it is not sufficient to know the positions of all the bobs and singles, call them correctly, and trust to luck that everything will go according to plan. The conductor must know whether or not the bells are in their correct places, and if they do get wrong, to correct them immediately. Some conductors make a practice of learning off certain course or part ends in order to check the ringing as it proceeds, but it is far more satisfactory to know all the time whether or not the bells are right, and the only way this can be done is to know the coursing order of the bells, and how that order is affected by each successive call. At first sight this might seem rather a tough proposition to the inexperienced conductor, but with a little practice and preparation it should not present much difficulty. There is one big difference between learning certain part-ends of a peal and knowing the coursing order of the bells: whereas the former have to be learnt off like a string of numbers, the latter can be worked out as the peal progresses. Naturally all the coursing orders in the world will not straighten out a peal of Surprise, but owing to the simple structure of Bob Major, the coursing order in that method is far more valuable than a knowledge of course or part ends.

Mr. Atkins' peal of Bob Major is very suitable for the beginner who wishes to work out his coursing orders as he goes along because they are so regular: The bells 2-3-4 keep the same order among themselves for the whole of each part, and 5-6 work quite simply in between them.

Now a word on how this coursing order may be worked out. If we look at the figures of a plain course of Bob Major and write down the bells which lead in each row we shall get the following:—

First lead :	2-4-6-8-7-5-3-1	bringing up the Wrong position
Second lead :	3-2-4-6-8-7-5-1	
Third lead :	5-3-2-4-6-8-7-1	
Fourth lead :	7-5-3-2-4-6-8-1	bringing up the Before position
Fifth lead :	8-7-5-3-2-4-6-1	
Sixth lead :	6-8-7-5-3-2-4-1	bringing up the Middle position
Seventh lead :	4-6-8-7-5-3-2-1	bringing up the Home position

Now these rows of figures represent the coursing order of the bells, and, apart from the position of the treble, the coursing order is the same throughout the plain course. The treble hunts through the other bells, being one place earlier each lead. If the conductor is ringing the tenors he can tell from where he meets the treble which of the seven leads is being rung, and which calling position he is coming to when the treble next leads. For example, if the conductor is ringing the tenors and in the plain course passes two bells (namely, 5 and 3) when hunting up before meeting the treble, and three bells (2, 4 and 6) after passing it, he is coming to the Wrong. Similarly, if he passes four bells before meeting the treble and one after, the next lead-end will be at Middle; while three before and two after shows that the Home is coming up. Armed with this knowledge the conductor is not only able to make certain that he is putting the calls in the right places, but can also keep the treble right should it stray.

Except for the position of the treble, the coursing order of the seven working bells never varies unless a call is made; and as the tenors are very rarely parted it is only necessary to keep in mind the coursing order of five bells, namely, 2-3-4-5-6. In the plain course, as we have already seen, that order is (8-7)-5-3-2-4-6-(8-7), the tenors coursing before the fifth and after the sixth: but all we need to remember is 5-3-2-4-6. A bob at Wrong affects the first three bells, namely, 5-3-2, and their coursing order becomes 3-2-5, with the tenors now coursing before the third instead of before the fifth. A bob at Home alters the middle three bells, 3-2-4 becoming 2-4-3; and a bob at Middle the last three, 2-4-6 becoming 4-6-2. Examine the bob at Wrong, 5-3-2 becoming 3-2-5. The bell which makes the bob is the bell which is placed two bells later in the coursing order, i.e., the 5th; the other two bells run in and out, 3 runs out, and 2 runs in. If, however, a single is called instead of a bob, the two bells that run in and out change places in their coursing order: instead of 5-3-2 becoming 3-2-5 as at a bob, it becomes 2-3-5 at a single.

Now let us take the first part of Mr. Atkins' peal and see what coursing order is produced by each call. We start from rounds and a coursing order of 5-3-2-4-6. The first call is a single at Wrong, and so we are dealing with the three bells 5-3-2. Mentally transpose the 5th after the other two bells (reversed because the call is a single) and we arrive at our new coursing order, which is 2-3-5-4-6. The next call is at Middle, think of 5-4-6, make the transposition, and we arrive at 2-3-4-6-5. After a whole course there are three calls in succession, and each call advances 5-6 in the coursing order, the other three bells making each bob in turn. Thus single at Middle, transpose the last three bells, and we arrive at 2-3-5-6-4. Bob at Home, transpose the middle three, and we have 2-5-6-3-4. Finally bob at wrong, transposing the front three, produces 5-6-2-3-4. The next two calls are at Wrong and Middle and the same bell makes the bob on both occasions. If 5-6 have been turned by a single, then 5 is brought to course immediately before the tenors, bringing up the part-end $x \times x \times 6 \times 5$; if 5-6 are not turned, then the bob bell is 6, bringing up the part-end $x \times x \times 5 \times 6$. In the first part of our peal under consideration, 5-6 have been turned and so the bob bell is 5; the bob at Wrong changing the coursing order from 5-6-2-3-4 to 6-2-5-3-4, and the bob at Middle further changing it to 6-2-3-4-5. Finally, at the end of the part, there is the bob at Home, affecting the middle three bells: 6-2-3-4-5 becoming 6-3-4-2-5.

We can now set out these coursing orders in the form of a table, showing the new coursing order after each call. For the first three parts of our peal they are as follows:—

Course end	Calling			Coursing order		
	W	M	H	Wrong	Middle	Home
43625	S	—	—	23546	23465	
65324	—	S	—		23564	25634
26354	—	—	S	56234		
43265	—	—	—	62534	62345	63425
24536	—	—	—	34625	34256	
65432	—	—	—		34562	35642
36452	—	—	—	56342		
24365	—	—	—	63542	63425	64235
32546	—	—	—	42635	42356	
65243	—	—	—		42563	45623
46253	—	—	—	56423		
32465	—	—	—	64523	64235	62345

The conductor should practise these transpositions mentally until he can carry them out practically without thinking about them, and then he will have no difficulty in doing them while the peal is in progress. It will be noticed that the coursing order of the little bells is 2-3-4 from the first single up to the bob at the part-end, when it becomes 3-4-2 for the whole of the second part, and 4-2-3 for the third part.

(Continued on next page.)

BELFRY BRAINS BUST. A BROADCAST FORUM.

Professors at Variance.

Did any readers of 'The Ringing World,' the other night, hear the broadcast of the exchange of ideas by the 'Belfry Brains Bust'? I doubt it, because if they had I feel sure there would have been many letters to the Editor on the subject and none has yet appeared. One night I was, as I often am, much to the disgust of other members of the household, twiddling the knobs of my receiver, when my attention was suddenly arrested by the Announcer saying, 'This is the Home and Forces programme. We are now going over to the bar parlour of the Dog and Partridge, somewhere out in the country, where we shall hear the Belfry Brains Bust discussing topics of great interest. The discussions are taking place out in the country so that the enemy shall not hear them and profit by the answers which may be given.'

Naturally I pricked up my ears. A 'Belfry Brains Bust'—I had never heard of it. Even the Editor of 'The Ringing World' could not have heard of it, otherwise he must, surely, have told us something about it. There was no time for further thought, however, for the Announcer said in that casual way announcers have, 'Over to the Dog and Partridge,' as if he was in the habit of going over to the Dog and Partridge, or its counterpart, at all sorts of times in between his announcing.

And then came another Voice, 'This is the bar parlour of the Dog and Partridge.' Of course, this was almost superfluous after what the Announcer had said, but presumably it was a necessary preliminary in order that all the world might know that it *was* the bar parlour of the Dog and Partridge. And then the Voice went on:—

'We have set up here a new Forum to deal with questions relating to the Belfry, where once upon a time bells used to ring and the ringers practised what promises to become, if the war lasts long enough, a lost art. The B.B.C. has been fortunate enough to obtain the services of prominent professors to answer the questions which have been sent in to us. I may say that since we invited these questions they have descended upon us as thickly as flakes in a snow-storm or as leaves in Vallombrosia.'

I suppose the Voice thought we could choose which we liked, the flakes or the leaves, although I am sure he was lying any way as to how thick they were. But he went on, knowing full well no one could contradict him:—

'We have christened this Forum the "Belfry Brains Bust," not because we think their brains will bust, but for the sake of alliteration, which always makes a title snappy, and so we have the B.B.B. of the B.B.C.'

There were sounds of muffled laughter from behind the microphone at this piece of sparkling wit.

And then the Voice went on: 'The Belfry Brains Bust consists of Professor O. K. Pistor, Professor E. E. Ling and Dr. N. B. G.—; on account of professional etiquette, I cannot give you his name. And to obtain the opinions of the man in the belfry, so to speak, we have also got with us in the Studio, which at the moment is the bar parlour, Mr. Bob Bellrope, who has been the leader of the bellers in this village for over seventy years. You will agree that with his vast experience Mr. Bellrope should be able to throw much light on the problems we shall have to discuss.'

At that it sounded to me as if a croaking voice somewhere near the 'miks' broke in to say, 'Hear, hear. I can that.'

And then the compere, or the master of ceremonies, or whatever they call the man who bosses the show, went on: 'We won't waste any more time, but we'll come to the first question, which is, "Why do flies go to the belfry in winter time?" That, I think, is a question which you ought to be able to answer, doctor.'

Dr. N. B. G.—cleared his throat and said he supposed flies went to the belfries in winter time because they had no better place to go. He admitted it was sometimes cold and sometimes draughty, but there might be worse places. At any rate, the flies were out of the way of small boys who might want to pull off their legs and wings. He understood there was on record a conversation between two flies who had taken to a cranny in a tower wall. The lady told her husband she was cold and that their abode was not exactly the kind of winter home she had expected to be brought to. He was rude and had evidently tired of her, so, in the language of Old Bill, made famous by Bruce Bairnsfather, he told her abruptly, 'If you know a better 'ole, go to it.' And then he went to sleep again.

Then Bob Bellrope was asked for his experience about flies in the belfry. 'I don't know why they go there, darn 'em,' he said, 'but they be a blessed nuisance when they starts waking up in the spring time. They crawl all over the place and sometimes they drop down inside my shirt collar, drat 'em. And then I have to take off me shirt to get rid of em.'

'Well now, the next question,' said the Voice, anxious apparently to avoid further personal details, 'is: "What have changes to do with change ringing?"'

Both the Professors started together to answer this and both stopped. Then, 'After you' they politely said in unison, so the Voice came to the rescue, 'Suppose we have Professor Ling first.' 'As you will,' said Professor Pistor with a touch, it seemed to me, of indignation.

'Well,' said Professor Ling, 'changes have a lot to do with change ringing. As a matter of fact, they are its essence, its whole being, the thing-o'-me-bob of the what's-its-name.'

'Yes, but there's other sorts of changes,' broke in Mr. Bellrope. 'Look at me, look at the changes in me. Ringing makes a lot of changes, and so does beer. I used to have a good complexion once, now look at my face, but I wouldn't give it up for worlds; no, I wouldn't give up me beer. And then look at my wife. Once on a time when I went home after ringing and just one at the Crown, she used to call out from her bed, "Is that you, darlin'?" I'm glad you've come home.' Now she's changed, and what does she shout when I get back after ringing and having one at the Crown, and one at the George and perhaps a couple here at the Partridge? She says, "So you've come home again, you old reprobate, have you? I shouldn't have thought it worth your while, they'll be open again in the morning."'

'Perhaps we had better not enter into that, Mr. Bellrope,' broke in the Voice, 'although I must say it rather leads up to the next question, "Why don't ringers drink as much beer as their fathers used to?"'

'That's a lie, they do,' hotly retorted Mr. Bellrope, 'leastwise all I know do. And look at me, do I look as if I don't drink as much as my father could?'

'Well, well, perhaps you do, and we will take it as the answer to the question,' said the Voice. 'Now here is a poser for the professors, "What are round blocks and transpositions?" That, I think, is one for you to tackle, Pistor.'

'Yes, that's a question which I think I can answer,' said the Professor. 'At least I think I ought to be able to, seeing that I invented them, or at least reduced them to law and order. What are round blocks and transpositions? Obviously in the first place there must be round blocks and, secondly, there must be transpositions, otherwise, of course, you could not have things called round blocks and transpositions. Why the blocks are round needs no explanation. Things that are round are—well, round. Now transposition means something totally different. It cannot be a transposition unless it has been transposed, so that when you have something which is called a transposition it is something which has been transposed either by this or by that. If it has been transposed by this it is, in a sense, this transposition; if it is transposed by that it is that transposition. Its meaning is, I think, therefore, quite clear.'

'But tell me, Pistor,' broke in Ling, 'what is the use of round blocks and transpositions? You tell us a round block is something round and a transposition is something transposed. But what use can you make of them?'

'My dear Ling,' said Pistor, 'that is where you show abysmal ignorance. Don't you know that transpositions coupled to round blocks can be made to prove anything? You can prove that the equator runs from the North to the South Pole and up the other side of the world; that the Atlantic is a swimming pool in the middle of the Pacific; that the sun is really the moon and the moon is the sun. All you need is to turn either of these things into a round block and transpose it.'

'Tosh,' muttered Ling under his breath, but it was audible over the air.

Then the doctor butted in. 'But, Professor, surely there is some further explanation needed. Where, for instance, do you get your round blocks and transpositions from?'

'That,' said Pistor, 'is really a secret which, in the interests of the country, it would not be advisable to disclose here in case it might be of advantage to the enemy. But I will add that my friend Ling can't disprove it.'

The Voice broke in, 'I am afraid we have not time to go into that to-night.'

'Hear, hear,' said Bellrope, oblivious of the fact that he was still on the air. 'Landlord, bring me another pint. Professor here has transposed the last one with his empty glass.'

The Voice, hurriedly: 'We are now returning you to the Studio for the next part of the programme.'

Well, that is what I heard on the wireless the other night—or I might not have done.

O.P.Q.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—Do those people who have been so loud in their criticisms know anything of what has been done by the hon. secretary of the Central Council to get the ban on ringing removed or modified, or do they wilfully shut their eyes and find fault for the sake of finding fault?

A MEMBER.

HANDBELL RINGING

(Continued from previous page.)

In the second half of the peal, when 2-3 have once more been reversed by the single, the coursing orders for these three bells are 3-2-4, 2-4-3, and 4-3-2.

One final word about Mr. Atkins' peal. If it is rung in full as twelve parts of four courses each, there would be 48 courses or 5,376 changes. The last part is therefore rung as one course only with a bob at Home, thus cutting out three courses and reducing the peal to 5,040 changes.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

THE HISTORY OF THE METHOD.

BY EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

(Continued from page 611.)

After the visit of the College Youths the Oxford men seem to have practised hard, and in the following January felt confident enough to accept a challenge to ring a peal. Hearne writes:—

'1734, January 2nd. Wednesday, 4 noon. Christ Church bells being now in very good order, yesterday some select Oxford ringers rung them all for a wager. They were every man of them townsmen, but had received some considerable instructions from Mr. Stone, M.A., a man in orders, a good ringer himself, fellow of Wadham College. The wager was that they could not ring the five thousand and forty changes, quater or cator changes upon them. They were to have six tryals, and if upon the sixth tryal they did not do it, they were to loose. Yesterday they began (being the first tryal) just at twelve o'clock, and finished the whole twenty-seven minutes after three o'clock. This is the first time that this number of changes was ever rung in Oxford. . . . The Oxford ringers yesterday made many mistakes, so that 'twas expected they must have given over several times.

'I did not hear them till they had been at it three-quarters of an hour, but afterwards I heard them quite out until they had done, and I observed fifty-two faults in the ringing, nine of which were very considerable ones. However, take it altogether, 'twas excellent ringing, and they may glory in it.

'The most considerable fault was occasioned by Dr. Gregory, Regius Professor of Modern History and Student of Christ Church, who yesterday broke in upon the ringers, to their great disturbance.'

Hearne reported and commented on all the ringing in Oxford as assiduously and impartially as any modern music critic. His remarks on bad ringing were scathing, but he always gave credit for a good performance.

The band that rang the above 5,040 is given as follows: 1. Hearn, a Taylor, 2, Vicars, second Butler of New College, 3, George, a Taylor, 4, Guy Terry, a Pot-ash maker in St. Clement's, 5, Yates, cook of Magdalen College, 6, John Broughton, Barber, 7, Richard Smith, Glover, 8, Barnes, second cook, Christ Church, 9, Arthur Lloyd, of Holywell, Carpenter, 10, Nicholas Benwell, who shows Great Tom.

Benwell was sexton of Christ Church, and Great Tom, it will be recalled, is the subject of Lawes' fine old round, 'Great Tom is Cast.'

Enthusiasm reached a great height after the success recorded, and in the March of 1735 the same band rang 6,876 Grandsire Caters. They had had three previous attempts. Of the first attempt Hearne speaks well. Of the second attempt he has caustic comments to make.

'They had so many gross faults that 'tis not worth

while to particularise them all, only thus much may be noted, that a bob was missed being called before they had got to two hundred, and that they strangely blundered a little after they had rung 600, and so again a little after they had rang 1,100 and so after 1,400 and 1,900; and at length when they had rang 2,714 (which wants 4,162 of the whole) they were quite out, it being then three-quarters after one. . . . Had they finished the peal and done it well I should have taken care to transmit to print (in one of my books that I print at the theater) the names of the several ringers to posterity, 6,876 changes having never as yet at one time being rung in Oxford. But as the performance was bad (considering the character each ringer bore for his skill in the art of ringing) as it will not be for their credit to have their names mentioned, so neither will it be for the honour of William of Wickham to discover who the persons were that perform'd so lamely on the day he died, which day ought to be observed with all possible decorum, and the ringing should be then as clean and true as can be, for which reason I shall pass over which might be further observed in silence.'

Illness prevented Hearne from hearing the third attempt and the final success, but he was careful to inquire fully into the quality of the ringing.

'March 22nd, Saturday. On Thursday last the Oxford ringers began to ring at New College at three-quarters after twelve o'clock, and rang completely what they had attempted several times before, 6,876 cator changes, finishing the peal about three-quarters of an hour after four o'clock. 'Tis the first time such a number of cator changes was ever rung in Oxford upon ten bells. I did not hear the ringing myself for the same reason I have specified above under March 12th inst., but I have heard from good judges, that, take it altogether, 'twas a glorious performance. For 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 a thing as it were next to impossible to go through such a long tedious work without faults.'

The band was the same as the one that rang the 5,040 in January, 1734, and Hearne concludes by telling how the ringers 'were much caressed when they had done, and were handsomely treated or entertained at New College.'

The Society of Painswick Youths, established in 1686, has many fine ringing performances to its credit. A tablet in Painswick Church records three peals of Triples in 1731 and 1733, and the following achievements in Grandsire Caters: 8,064 in 1734, 10,080 in 1735, and 12,006 in 1737.

These were the longest lengths of caters up till that time; but, as Snowdon points out, since it was customary for ropes to change hands during long lengths,

(Continued on next page.)

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23456 O H I F

34256	—
42356	—
42635	— x
23645	—
62534	x —
25634	—
63254	— —
32654	—
32465	— x
32546	— x
25346	—
53246	—
62345	— —
24365	— —
43265	—
52364	— —
23564	—
35264	—
35426	— x
54326	—
43526	—
52436	— —
24536	—
45236	—
23456	— —

This peal has the 6th her course-end extent right, and all the 64 and 65 course-ends.

GRANDSIRE CATERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

it is probable that these were not single-handed performances.

Meanwhile, in 1735 the Eastern Scholars had rung 6,012 at Southwark, and in 1737 the Norwich Scholars exceeded the Painswick 12,006.

The grand old church of St. Peter Mancroft had already seen some historic performances. In 1715 the first complete peal ever rung (Bob Triples) was performed there; in 1718 the first 5,040 of Grandsire Triples; and in 1731 the first peal of Stedman Triples. In 1736 the bells were augmented to ten, and in the following year the famous 12,600 was rung. The following is a copy of the tablet:—

'On March 8th, 1737, was rung a peal of Grandsire Caters, which for excellency of its ringers. Harmonious changes, and ye number of them, was certainly superior to anything of its kind ever done in the World; and to Remove all doubt of the truth of the performance several ingenious Ringers were abroad the whole time with proper rules to prove the certainty of ye same. Thus was the great peal perfectly compleated to the entire satisfaction, surprise and amazement of thousands of hearers in the space of 8 hrs. 15 mins. The number of changes were 12,600, rung by 9 men of the company then belonging to the company. The tenor singly, by a young ringer 8000, then a second ringer rung her to the end of the peal. The persons' names and the bells they rung as follows:

Tho. Melchior, 1; Wm. Pettingall, 2; John Gardiner, 3; Tho. Barrett, 4; Robert Crane, 5; Wm. Porter, 6; Tho. Blofield, 7; Edwd. Crane, 8; Chrstr. Booty, 9; James Jerrom, Robt. Liddamon, Tenor.'

There is no trace of the composition. Mr. C. E. Borrett says that the peal is referred to locally as the 'Hundred Courses.' It certainly is the same length as one hundred plain courses, but there does not seem to be any way in which a composition of this length can be obtained in full courses by the use of ordinary bobs. Nevertheless, it was a fine performance, and well in keeping with the grand traditions of the Norwich ringers. ● (To be continued.)

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.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, December 27th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, January 3rd. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea you must all bring with you, as at previous meetings. Will members please note that subscriptions for 1942 will be due at this meeting. May I appeal to everyone, including our friends over the border in the Northern Division, to come and make this meeting a great success, and show the new Vicar of St. Peter's that the North-Eastern Division is very much alive?—Leslie Wright, Lower Barn Farm, Dedham.

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, January 3rd, commencing at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, January 10th. Bells (silent) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea in St. Giles' Parish Hall, Cow Hill, 4.30, followed by business meeting and handbells. Numbers for tea by January 3rd, please.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch.—A meeting will be had at Yatton on Saturday, Jan. 3rd, 1942. Bells with ringing apparatus available 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. L. Pullin, High Street, Yatton, by Dec. 31st. — E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, Jan. 10th, 1942. It is hoped all the members who are able will make a special effort to attend. Six 'silent' bells available, also handbell ringing. Service and business meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GREETINGS.

The compliments of the season to all ringing friends from all at Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Season's greetings to all brother bellringers from W. H. Fussell, Slough.

SWINDON.—On Tuesday, December 2nd, in the vestry of Christ Church, a plain course of Grandsire Sextuples on handbells: G. Townsend 1-2, C. J. Gardiner 3-4, W. B. Kynaston 5-6, J. S. Roberts 7-8, M. C. C. Melville 9-10, I. C. N. Bell 11-12, D. W. S. Smout 13-14. This is the first course of Sextuples rung in Swindon, and every ringer is a resident in the town.

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